



Chairman's Summary Paris Plenary, 20-23 June 2006

Following are key outcomes from the third Plenary meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) held under the South African Presidency.

FATF Membership

The FATF continues to examine the issue of further expansion of its membership and is progressing applications for membership received from China, India and the Republic of Korea. China continues to make progress toward satisfying entry requirements, and the FATF hopes to be able to conduct a mutual evaluation of China, the next step in the membership process, later in 2006. The FATF President visited India in April and the FATF hopes to take further steps towards membership in the near future. The Republic of Korea has reaffirmed its commitment to becoming a member of the FATF, and the incoming FATF President expects to undertake a formal visit there in June.

Enhanced Role for FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)

As part of its efforts to assist in the development of FSRBs, the FATF has examined applications for Associate Membership made by regional bodies and is pleased to announce that the FSRBs for the Asia Pacific (the APG), South America (GAFISUD) and Europe (the Council of Europe, represented by its MONEYVAL mechanism) are now associate members of the FATF. This new status recognises that these bodies have in place, amongst other things, mechanisms to ensure actual and effective implementation of the FATF standards among the bodies' members. This decision means that together the FATF and its Associate Members comprise 89 jurisdictions at the core of the FATF network.

The FATF network also comprises the FSRBs which have not yet become Associate Members. In this vein the FATF complemented the strong work of the Eurasian Group and the Middle East and North Africa FATF and will progress their applications for Associate Membership at coming meetings. The FATF also recognised the Intergovernmental Anti-Money Laundering Group for West Africa (known under its French acronym, GIABA) as an FATF-Style Regional Body.

Mutual Evaluations

The FATF continues assessing the level and effectiveness of implementation of its revised 40+9 Recommendations on combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Three more evaluations of countries' anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing systems were completed at this Plenary – Denmark, Spain and the United States of America. These are the eighth, ninth and tenth members to be examined in the third round of FATF mutual evaluations using the comprehensive global standards agreed to in June 2003. The Danish evaluation was carried out by the International Monetary Fund. Detailed summaries of the reports will be available on the FATF website, and the full reports will also be published there in the coming weeks.

Non Co-operative Countries and Territories (NCCT)

Nigeria was removed from the list of countries and territories that are non co-operative in the international community's efforts to fight money laundering. It now has an operational financial intelligence unit and has taken steps at the highest levels to fight corruption. The FATF will continue to monitor the situation of Nigeria over the next year.

Of the 23 jurisdictions designated as NCCTs in 2000 and 2001, only one remains. The FATF is encouraged by the progress made by Myanmar but continues to urge the country to fully implement its enacted reforms so that it can be removed from the list in the future.

FATF Typologies

The FATF published a report on Trade-Based Money Laundering, one of several studies underway to examine money laundering and terrorist financing methods and trends on a global scale. The Trade-Based Money Laundering report looks at the various aspects of international commercial activity that may be used as a cover or mechanism for the laundering of criminal funds. The work is based on case information and other material provided by over 30 countries. This report will be available through the FATF public website.

Other typologies studies on new payment methods, the misuse of corporate vehicles and money laundering and terrorist financing trends and indicators, are currently underway and the FATF will publish reports on these projects later in 2006. Three additional studies planned for the coming year; money laundering vulnerabilities in real estate operations, terrorist financing methods, and, money laundering risks associated with value-added-tax fraud.

The FATF will hold the 2006 joint typologies experts meeting with the Eurasian Group (EAG).

Links between anti-corruption and AML/CFT issues

Corruption associated with money laundering poses challenges to good governance. In this area – one of the priorities for the South African Presidency – the FATF has been working with the APG to examine ways to address the links between anti-corruption and anti-money laundering issues. The FATF decided during this Plenary to add anti-corruption elements to the methodology used in assessing implementation of the FATF standards. This development recognises the important risk that corruption can represent in building a sound anti-money laundering system.

The first FATF Plenary under the Canadian Presidency will take place in October 2006 in Vancouver, Canada.

Further information about the FATF and its efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing can be found at www.fatf-gafi.org.

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Paris, 23 June 2006***

Notes:

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2. The FATF is an inter-governmental body whose purpose is the development and promotion of policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD.

3. The thirty-three members of the FATF are: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; Denmark; the European Commission; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; the Gulf Co-operation Council; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Luxembourg; Mexico; the Kingdom of the Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Portugal; the Russian Federation; Singapore; South Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; the United Kingdom; and the United States. The People's Republic of China is an observer. The APG, GAFISUD and MONEYVAL are Associate Members.

4. The global network that is committed to combating money laundering and terrorist financing also includes other FATF-Style Regional Bodies; the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, ESAAMLG, the Eurasian Group, GIABA and MENAFATF. The Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors is a part of this network as well.