

FATF Statement 16 October 2009

IRAN

The FATF is concerned by Iran's lack of engagement with the FATF and its failure to meaningfully address the ongoing and substantial deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. The FATF remains particularly concerned about Iran's failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF urges Iran to immediately and meaningfully address its AML/CFT deficiencies, in particular by criminalising terrorist financing and effectively implementing suspicious transaction reporting (STR) requirements.

The FATF reaffirms its call on members and urges all jurisdictions to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with Iran, including Iranian companies and financial institutions. In addition to enhanced scrutiny, the FATF reaffirms its 25 February 2009 call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from money laundering and financing of terrorism (ML/FT) risks emanating from Iran. FATF continues to urge jurisdictions to protect against correspondent relationships being used to bypass or evade counter-measures and risk mitigation practices, and to take into account ML/FT risks when considering requests by Iranian financial institutions to open branches and subsidiaries in their jurisdiction. If Iran fails to take concrete steps to improve its AML/CFT regime, the FATF will consider calling on its members and urging all jurisdictions to strengthen counter-measures in February 2010.

UZBEKISTAN

The FATF welcomes the significant steps that Uzbekistan has taken to establish the necessary AML/CFT framework and urges Uzbekistan to continue its progress towards implementing effective AML/CFT measures. The FATF welcomes Uzbekistan's upcoming mutual evaluation by the EAG that will be finalized in spring 2010. The FATF will continue to monitor the progress being made in Uzbekistan and will reconsider in February 2010 the measures that are currently in place to protect jurisdictions' financial sectors from ML/FT risks emanating from Uzbekistan.

TURKMENISTAN

The FATF welcomes Turkmenistan's progress in adopting AML/CFT legislation and secondary legislation that aims to implement the AML/CFT law. However, deficiencies remain in Turkmenistan's AML/CFT regime, including the absence of a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). Consequently, the FATF reiterates its 25 February 2009 statement informing financial institutions that these deficiencies constitute an ML/FT vulnerability in the international financial system and that they should take appropriate measures to address this risk. Turkmenistan is urged to continue to take steps to implement an AML/CFT regime that meets international AML/CFT standards. Turkmenistan is encouraged to continue to work closely with the Eurasian Group and the International Monetary Fund to achieve this.

PAKISTAN

The FATF welcomes the close co-operation between Pakistan and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), but remains concerned regarding the ML/FT risks posed by Pakistan and reaffirms its public statement of 28 February 2008 regarding these risks. In particular, the FATF expresses concern that Pakistan's Anti-Money Laundering Ordinance (AMLO) will expire on 28 November 2009. The FATF notes that Pakistan has initiated a legislative process to address this. The FATF strongly urges Pakistan to implement a permanent AML/CFT framework before the expiration of the AMLO and strongly encourages Pakistan to establish a comprehensive AML/CFT framework. Failing concrete progress, the FATF will consider taking action in February 2010 to protect the financial system from the ML/FT risks emanating from Pakistan.

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

The FATF welcomes São Tomé and Príncipe's continuing efforts to implement its AML law, including the development of an action plan with the Inter Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). However, the FATF remains concerned about the deficiencies in São Tomé and Príncipe's AML/CFT regime, particularly relating to terrorist financing. The FATF urges São Tomé and Príncipe to work with GIABA to address the remaining AML/CFT deficiencies.