



**Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)**  
**Groupe Intergouvernemental d'Action contre le Blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique de l'Ouest (GIABA)**  
**Grupo Inter Governamental de Acção contra o Branqueamento de Dinheiro em África Ocidental**

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**Regional Policy Workshop on Payment Systems and Cash Couriers in West Africa**

The ECOWAS Council of Ministers at its 63<sup>rd</sup> Session on November 20-21, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria, expressed serious concerns regarding the movement of cash across borders in the region despite the relative availability of cross border banking services. Consequently, the Council urged ECOWAS Institutions to collaborate with regulatory authorities, law enforcement agencies, and the financial institutions to take urgent steps to identify constraints inhibiting efficient cross border payments through the financial institutions and to make recommendations to address the problems.

In response to the directive issued by the Council of Ministers and in its continued efforts to assist member States to effectively implement Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures, GIABA will be organizing a Regional Workshop on Payment Systems and Cash Couriers in West Africa, March 10 – 12, 2010, in Abuja, Nigeria. The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. James Victo Gheho; the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Chairman, ECOWAS Council of Ministers, Chief Ojo Madueke will present Keynote addresses, while the Hon. Ministers of Finance of Nigeria, Dr. Mansur Muktar and his Malian counterpart, Mr. Sanousi Toure, will present the opening addresses at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, 10 March 2010.

GIABA is a specialized institution of the ECOWAS and a Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-Style Regional Body (FSRB) whose mandate include the following:

- Ensure the adoption of measures against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in accordance with acceptable international standards and practices, including the FATF 40+9 Recommendations;
- Facilitate the adoption and implementation by member States of measures against Money Laundering and Terrorists Financing (ML/TF), taking into account specific regional peculiarities and conditions; and
- Coordinate technical assistance to member States in combating ML and TF.

**DATE: March 10 – 12, 2010**

**Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria**

**OBJECTIVES**

The specific objectives of the Workshop include to:

- a. Increase awareness among stakeholders on the problem of cash transactions and cash couriers in west Africa;
- b. Examine payments and monetary management on cash transactions in financial institutions;
- c. Examine the existing framework, including legal arrangements for the control of cash movement in the region;
- d. Review the implementation of the FATF recommendations with regard to Cash transactions and cash couriers, in particular, Special Recommendation IX and assess its implications for the region;
- e. Identify the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in dealing with the problem;
- f. Propose future strategies for coordination and sustaining efforts aimed at dealing with the problem; and
- g. Make recommendations and propose policy options for improving the AML/CTF regimes with a view to minimizing the prevalence of cross border cash movements and transactions.

## BROAD THEMES

The following broad themes will be covered at the workshop:

- Summary Report of Findings of Typologies Exercise on Cash Transactions and Cash couriers in West Africa and Level of Compliance
- Enforcement of FATF SR IX: The Experience of Nigeria
- Overview of Regional Payments Mechanisms and Systems: Types, Issuers, Uses and Risks
- Overview of Nigeria's Payments Systems: Types, Issuers, Uses and Risks - -
- Money laundering through payment systems – Money Service Businesses' Experiences –
- Nigeria's Experience in Implementing Legislation against Cash Transactions- issues, Challenges and Options
- The Role of Multi-National Financial Institutions in developing Secure and Reliable Regional Payment Systems
- Regional Payment System in WAEMU Zone: Implementation Issues and challenges

## SPEAKERS

- President, ECOWAS Commission (Keynote address)
- Mr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
- Phillipe Dacoury-Tabley, Governor, BCEAO
- Mrs. Cari Votaca, World Bank, Washington D.C.
- Mrs. Farida Waziri, Executive Chairman, EFCC, Nigeria
- Dr. Abdullahi Shehu, DG, GIABA
- Mr. Philippe-Henri Dacoury-Tabley, Governor, BCEAO
- Dr. Abdullahi Shehu, DG GIABA
- D. I. Abdullahi (MFR), –Comptroller General of Customs, Nigeria
- Mr. Arnold Ekpe, Chief Executive Officer, ECOBANK Group
- Mr. Tony Elumelu, Group Managing Director/Chief Executive of United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) and Chairman of Board of ValuCard Nigeria Plc

- Mr. Jim Ovia, Managing Director/CEO, Zenith Bank, Nigeria
- Money Transfer Operators (MoneyGram/Western Union)
- Card Companies (Visa/Master Card)

#### WHO MAY ATTEND

The workshop is targeted at senior/executive level officials in charge of payment systems, including wire transfers, and those responsible for anti-money laundering issues from the civil service, private sector, civil society and international organizations, including :

- Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning of ECOWAS member States;
- Central Banks of ECOWAS countries;
- Deposit Money Banks/Financial institutions;
- National Security Coordinators' office;
- ECOWAS Commission, the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), the West Africa Monetary Institute (WAMI), the West Africa Monetary Agency (WAMA) and other regional and international organizations;
- International Financial Institutions;
- Development partners

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Participants should be sponsored by their respective organizations as part of their commitment to AML/CFT
- GIABA will be responsible for cost of lecture materials, group lunch, coffee breaks and social activities.

#### REGISTRATION

- Nominations should be addressed to the Director General of GIABA.
- **Closing date for nominations is March 5, 2010.**
- For Enquires please call: +221338591818 or +221338591821 or emails: [secretariat@giaba.org](mailto:secretariat@giaba.org) and [dalibo@giaba.org](mailto:dalibo@giaba.org)

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