



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

## GIABA Committed to Support Member States Develop National AML/CFT Strategies

The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) has reiterated its commitment to assist member States to develop national anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) strategy framework to guide efforts and actions against economic and financial crimes in the region.

In a remark at a 3-day workshop for the development of a National AML/CFT Strategy for the Republic of Ghana held in Accra, Ghana, July 5-7, 2010, Director General of GIABA, Dr Abdullahi Shehu said the strategy became imperative for proper planning and implementation of recommendations in the mutual evaluation report in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Dr Shehu reiterated the constraints and challenges faced by low capacity countries in the implementation of AML/CFT measures and urged each Member State to develop their Action Plans that will facilitate and promote national coordination among stakeholders in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Director General of GIABA pointed out that a national AML/CFT strategy would provide holistic approach to addressing identified weaknesses in a country's AML/CFT regime, identify relevant stakeholders to perform assigned and corresponding roles and responsibilities, and enhance the utilisation of scarce resources in terms of priority of needs.

He implored the national authorities of Ghana to expedite action on the development and full implementation of a National AML/CFT Strategy in order to put in place adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability.

Dr Shehu advocated for a strong political will and government's commitment through provision of trained manpower, adequate resources and other logistic support towards combating the menace of transnational organised crimes in particular money laundering and financing of terrorism in the region and beyond.

In their separate presentations during the opening session, both the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Kwabena Dufuor, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General Betty Mould Idrissu and the Minister of the Interior, Mr Martin Amidu expressed confidence that by the close of 2012, President John Evans Atta Mills' campaign promise of combating money laundering and drug trafficking would have been realised and assured that Ghana would take the needed corrective action to perform better in the next evaluation of GIABA.

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