



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

The Members of ECOWAS Audit Committee Visited GIABA

Alongside from their second statutory meeting of 2010 hosted by the Intergovernmental Group of Action against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), members of the Audit Committee of the Economic Community of States African States (ECOWAS) participated in a briefing session organised on their behalf in GIABA conference room on 12 August 2010.

In his welcoming address to the members of the Audit Committee, the Director General of GIABA, Dr. Abdullahi Shehu, thanked them for their interest in GIABA through their participation in the briefing session. He expressed the hope that all participants would be well informed about GIABA operations, following their visit.

On behalf of the auditors, the Committee Chairman, Mr. Kalilou Traoré, noted that their visit was motivated by the will to acquaint themselves with the functions of GIABA in order to better understand the documents produced by the institution. Two presentations were made respectively on the history, achievements and prospects of GIABA and on the implementation of the administrative and financial management.

After these two presentations, the auditors commended the Director General for the volume and quality of work. For purposes of clarification, discussions focused on the following issues: modalities of GIABA financing by development partners, relationship between the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), the magnitude of money laundering in West Africa, the challenges faced by GIABA, relations between GIABA and other ECOWAS institutions and agencies, etc.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues and his own at the end of this interactive session, Mr. Traore appealed to all institutions and agencies of ECOWAS to implement more diligently the recommendations of the Audit Committee as adopted by the Council of Ministers. He also reiterated his congratulations to Dr. Shehu for GIABA's effective management style.

In his closing remarks, Dr Shehu thanked the members of the Audit Committee for the visit and assured them of his commitment to continue and accelerate the implementation of recommendations of the Audit Committee because *"without audit report, there cannot be good management."*

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