



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 held interactive session with delegations of US Congress and NIPSS Participants on AML/CFT framework

The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) play host to high level delegations from the United States of America Congress and Senior Executive Course 32 Participants of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Nigeria at the Conference hall of GIABA in Dakar, the Republic of Senegal.

The two events held separately on August 10 and 11, 2010 respectively focus on the operation and mandate of GIABA in the global fight against transnational organized crimes, particularly money laundering and terrorist financing in the West African sub-region.

It would be recall that GIABA recently organized a briefing session for Ambassadors of ECOWAS member States in Senegal and authorities of the Government of Senegal to informed them of the institutions' activities within the strategic framework of ECOWAS vision.

The forum afforded GIABA the opportunity to unfold its mandate, achievements and constraints in the sustained efforts to combat the scourges of money laundering and terrorist financing in the region.

In a separate remarks, the Director General of GIABA, Dr Abdullahi Shehu informed the delegations that GIABA is a specialized institution of ECOWAS as well as a FATF- Styled Regional Body (FSRB) established in the year 2000 by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with the mandate to protect the economies of member States from abuse and the laundering of the proceeds of crime and to strengthen co-operation amongst its members.

Dr Shehu reiterated that the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism is a difficult task, particularly in an environment replete with all threats, risks and all vulnerabilities, stressing that the challenges are many and daunting, but are tackled with determination as a

leader in promoting a regional alliance to fight these twin evils threatening the integrity of the international financial system and national economies.

“These efforts were recompensed on 23rd June 2010, with our admission as associate member of the FATF. This status gives GIABA a greater role in decision making in FATF and to undertake joint projects with the FATF to strengthen the positive impact on the implementation of the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing in West Africa” he added.

While thanking the delegations for the solidarity visit to rub minds on global issues of mutual interest, the director general expressed optimism that the gesture will be maintained towards achieving regional and international integration in the fight against these evil scourges.

In their responses, the leader of the US Congress delegation, Jacqueline Quinones and the director of research, NIPSS, Professor Olu Obafemi commended GIABA in its sustained effort to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in the region.

Highlight at the occasion is the presentation on the role of GIABA in anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in West Africa presented by the Head of Programmes of GIABA, Dr Buno Nduka.

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