



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

## **ECOWAS President Commended GIABA for its Admission as a FATF Associate Member**

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Ambassador James Victor Gbeho has congratulated GIABA for its untiring commitment to the fight against trans-organised crime leading attaining the Associate Membership as an FATF Associate Member at the last FATF Plenary and Working Group Meeting held in Amsterdam, Netherlands from 21-25 June, 2010.

While addressing GIABA staff on 28 June 2010 in Dakar, the Republic of Senegal, Ambassador Gbeho said the admission of GIABA as an FATF affiliate membership is a laudable achievement and a source of pride to the Commission.

The President of the ECOWAS Commission urged the Director General of GIABA, Dr Abdullahi Shehu to sustain the tempo towards protecting the economies of member States from the laundering of proceeds of crime, stressing that GIABA has high reputation in the family ECOWAS institutions.

Ambassador Gbeho lamented the high incidence of drug trafficking in the region occasioned by porous borders, highlighted the need for a strong political will and expertise to combat the menace of organised crimes capable of destabilising the polity and financial systems of the region.

The ECOWAS President thanked the Government and good People of Senegal for providing a befitting office complex to GIABA noting that this gesture has contributed immensely to the successful implementation of the institution's programmes and activities.

Earlier in his remarks, the Director General of GIABA, Dr Abdullahi Shehu attributed the successes recorded by GIABA in the implementation of its activities and programmes of action to the support of member States and the ECOWAS Commission.

The Director General had earlier on briefed his august visitor on the activities and operations of GIABA, noting that the establishment of GIABA by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS in 2000 is to provide a level playing field to protect the economies of member States from the activities of criminals.

While reiterating GIABA's willingness to sustain efforts in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, the Director General of GIABA disclosed that GIABA's Associate Membership will be immense benefit to its members; particularly GIABA will now partake in all policy decisions.

Dr Shehu commended the President of the ECOWAS Commission and the government and people of the Republic of Guinea for conducting a successful and hitch-free presidential election towards enthroning democratic governance and rule of law.