



## **Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa**

### **GIABA to Build West African Anglophone Investigators Capacity on AML/CFT in Banjul, The Gambia**

The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) is organizing, from 1-4 December 2009, at Sheraton Hotel & SPA in Banjul, The Gambia, a training workshop for investigators on detecting and investigating ML and other financial crimes from West African Anglophone countries, namely Ghana, The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The seminar objectives are to:

- Raise awareness on how to identify money laundering targets;
- Equip participants with various investigation techniques and expose them to evidentiary requirements necessary to prove common elements of Money Laundering offences;
- Expose participants on how to use the computer to organize, analyze, and present large volumes of financial evidence;
- Create a networking and information sharing forum for law enforcement agencies.

Anti-money laundering efforts are aimed at deterring criminals from trying to use the financial system to launder their criminally derived funds and at making it easier for law enforcement agencies to apprehend the perpetrators and prosecute them. Money laundering measures create opportunities for detection, investigation and prosecution and introduce varying legitimate powers to deprive criminals of their assets, notwithstanding the predicate crime.

Thus, international standards now require countries to provide the necessary means to the authorities charged with combating money laundering as well as the underlying criminal activities that generate illegal proceeds. Some of these tools include providing law enforcement agencies and the courts with the authority to trace, freeze, seize and ultimately confiscate criminally derived assets and to effectively prosecute those engaged in various criminal activities, including money laundering.

The seminar targets specifically mid-level law enforcement officers directly involved in money laundering investigations in the Police, Drug agencies,

Customs, Financial Crime Unit, Secret Services and any other agencies that can arrest and investigate money laundering.

The programme will include presentations on investigation strategies and techniques of money laundering; legal framework on money laundering; use of informants in the context of financial investigations; undercover operations for money laundering investigations; interviewing techniques; research operations; net-worth analysis.

The seminar will be facilitated by technical experts with extensive working experience on anti money laundering investigations with backgrounds in law enforcement.

As an ECOWAS specialized institution and a FATF-Style Regional Body, one aspects of GIABA mission is to strengthen the capacities of its Member States. In holding that seminar, the organization fits in line with its mission.

