GIABA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Coordination Strategic Plan
GIABA Technical Assistance Statement

The GIABA is mandated to undertake the following:

- Facilitate and ensure the adoption by member states of measures against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in accordance with acceptable international standards and practices, including the FATF 40 Recommendations, taking into account the specific regional peculiarities and conditions
- Function as a forum for dialogue and sharing of experience by members on matters of regional interest, thereby strengthening intra-regional cooperation
- Organize self-evaluations and mutual evaluations of member States based on the FATF methodology
- Coordinate and provide support to member States to establish and implement AML/CFT regimes

As a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Style Regional Body (FSRB) and Associate member of the FATF, GIABA subscribes to the use and promotes the effective implementation of the FATF Standards for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation (AML/CFT/P) across its member States.

Member States National Risk Assessment (NRA) Reports have highlighted numerous predicate offences, including corruption, bribery, drug trafficking, kidnapping, human trafficking, tax evasion, and environmental offences as some of but not the only threats to good governance and national resources. FATF Recommendations and the mutual evaluation process have proven to be effective tools in combating money laundering and terrorist financing once effectively implemented by providing stakeholders with enhanced capabilities to detect, investigate and prosecute profit-driven crimes and confiscate illicit funds.

The dividends from implementing the FATF Standards foster a more robust economy in member States - promoting innovation, business opportunities, and broader inclusion in the international financial system, thereby attracting private sector investments in numerous unexplored sectors vis-a-vis increased participation in the global economy. This would further encourage productivity, opportunities for trade, and profitability, leading to economic growth and development. The lack of implementation or being listed as non-compliance would exclude member States from global financial flows due to an increased perceived money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) risk, which would severely impact the developing economy.

The GIABA technical assistance forum program aims to support GIABA member States with a strategic direction in the delivery of agreed TA outputs that facilitate progress towards the outcomes and goal of a coordinated AML/CFT/PF technical assistance provision. The strategic direction is highlighted in detail below in the GIABA Technical Assistance Coordination Plan, including the technical assistance coordination five strategic goals:
- **Strategic Goal 1**: Be an effective technical assistance (TA) forum supporting the implementation of the FATF standards and the work of the AML/CFT/PF network in GIABA member States.

- **Strategic Goal 2**: Develop and maintain a secure platform to coordinate AML/CFT/PF TA provisions to member States by the GIABA Secretariat and technical and financial partners and donors.

- **Strategic Goal 3**: GIABA member States AML/CFT regimes are strengthened;

- **Strategic Goal 4**: AML/CFT/PF regulation/policy/guidelines is strengthened and enforced in GIABA member States;

- **Strategic Goal 5**: Increased detection, investigation and prosecution of ML/TF/PF in GIABA member States;

The Technical Assistance Plan 2023 – 2025 outlines the planned activities to be undertaken by the GIABA Secretariat based on member States AML/CFT needs derived from their mutual evaluation reports, the national risk assessment, and other sources.
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<th>Overarching 2022 – 2023 Activities</th>
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| **Strategic Goal 1**<br>Be an effective technical assistance (TA) forum supporting the implementation of the FATF standards and the work of the AML/CFT/PF network in GIABA member States. | • To coordinate the technical assistance forum to harmonize the delivery of AML/CFT/PF TA to member States;  
• Ensure the effective coordination of technical assistance with the GIABA Secretariat with GIABA member States, regional organizations, and other donors and TA providers. | • Liaise with GIABA member States, the GIABA technical and financial partners; regional organizations, and other stakeholders.  
• Effectively manage the technical assistance forum  
• Strengthen the delivery of AML/CFT technical assistance |
| **Strategic Goal 2**<br>Develop and maintain a secure platform to coordinate AML/CFT/PF TA provisions to member States by the GIABA Secretariat and technical and financial partners and donors. | • Design, create, launch a secure SharePoint platform to enable the GIABA Secretariat and technical and financial partners and donors to harmonize, coordinate, and execute AML/CFT/PF TA to member States avoiding duplication and emphasize coordination and needs delivery.  
• A secure platform granting access to contact persons in GIABA member States, technical and financial partners and donors towards the work plan of TA execution in member States | • Keep GIABA member States, technical and financial partners, regional organization and other stakeholders up-to-date with activities of the TA delivery.  
• Maintain up-to-date TA implementation plans for each GIABA member States  
• A working secure SharePoint platform with contact person access to review and harmonize TA provision |
| **Strategic Goal 3**<br>GIABA member States AML/CFT regimes are strengthened | • Engage stakeholders to garner political commitment to enhancing AML/CFT systems.  
• Support member States in engaging productively with the global AML/CFT community, including benefiting from associated activities.  
• Ensure AML/CFT measures are undertaken on the basis of strong policy discussions and planning, including understanding risk.  
• Provide legislative drafting assistance to bring legislation into greater compliance with the FATF Standards | • Sponsor GIABA member States AML/CFT stakeholders to attend GIABA and joint supported events.  
• Assist GIABA member States to identify and assess their ML/TF risks and implement, through national AML/CFT strategies/policy, coordinated risk based approaches to combating identified risks.  
• Deliver TA programs of work for AML/CFT legislative drafting assistance to GIABA member States |
| **Strategic Goal 4**<br>AML/CFT/PF regulation/policy/guidelines is strengthened and enforced in GIABA member States | • Provide assistance to bring regulatory frameworks into greater compliance with FATF standards.  
• Provide tailored programs and mentoring to assist financial supervisors/regulators to improve capacity in enforcing AML/CFT measures and regulating financial activity  
• Provide tailored programs and mentoring to designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs)  
• Provide tailored programs and mentoring to NPOs | • Deliver TA programs to strengthen GIABA member States compliance with the FATF standards on preventive measures  
• Deliver TA programs to enhance AML/CFT risk-supervision of financial institutions  
• Deliver TA programs to enhance AML/CFT risk-based supervision of designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) |
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| Strategic Goal 5 | Increased detection, investigation and prosecution of ML/TF/PF in GIABA member States | • Deliver programs/mentoring to ensure the financial intelligence units (FIUs) have the capacity and capability to effectively analyze suspicious transactions reports (STRs) and cash transaction reports (CTRs) to detect and provide intelligence on ML/TF  
• Provide programs/mentoring to ensure law enforcement agencies (LEAs) have the capacity and capability to detect and investigate ML/TF  
• Provide tailored programs and mentoring to ensure ML/TF is prosecuted and serves as a deterrent.  
• Strengthen mechanism for recovery and repatriation of proceeds and assets connected to criminal activity  
• Provide anti-corruption mentoring to improve capacity for use of financial investigation in combating the key regional risk area of corruption | • Deliver TA programs to enhance GIABA member States use of financial intelligence in ML and predicate crime cases, and asset confiscation.  
• Deliver TA programs to enhance LEAs and prosecutors’ capacity to conduct financial investigations in ML and high-risk predicate crime cases and recover assets  
• Deliver mock practical capacity building training to enhance the investigation and conviction of parallel money laundering crimes  
• Deliver TA programs to enhance LEAs and/or prosecutors’ capacity to conduct financial investigations in ML and higher-risk predicate crime cases and recover assets.  
• Deliver a number of thematic law enforcement mentoring visits to member States. |
Activities Planning

The targeted technical assistance activities will continue to be coordinated and delivered in accordance with the TA Implementation Plan developed for each GIABA member State by the GIABA Secretariat, taking into consideration their mutual evaluation report, ICRG action plans, and national strategic AML/CFT plan, and also following the updated jurisdiction prioritization model (see model 1).

The GIABA technical assistance focuses on strengthening collaboration with the technical assistance forum and stakeholders. The GIABA technical assistance contact person will continue to engage with key stakeholders via update to the secure SharePoint platform, quarterly updates, teleconferences, and face-to-face TA forum meetings (twice yearly), to coordinate TA in the region and identify opportunities for collaboration. The GIABA Secretariat TA work plan will aim to jointly implement TA in cooperation with other regional and international organizations, where possible, to ensure that TA is delivered efficiently and to the highest standards.

Model 1 – GIABA member States Jurisdiction Prioritization Model

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<th>Priority S/N</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
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<td>Priority 1</td>
<td>Those who have been referred to undergo the ICRG process</td>
<td>Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin</td>
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<td>Priority 2</td>
<td>Those who are preparing for their second round of mutual evaluation; and/or facing significant risks, and/or reference to undergo the ICRG process</td>
<td>Guinea, Comoros, Sao Tome e Principe</td>
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<td>Priority 3</td>
<td>Those who have completed their second round of mutual evaluation and are focused on implementing the identified key priority actions recommendations of their mutual evaluation report</td>
<td>Ghana, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Togo, The Gambia, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia.</td>
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Looking forward

The robust technical assistance program has been integral to the GIABA Secretariat work/workplan for more than twenty years, ensuring that technical assistance benefits all its member States, particularly their mutual evaluation needs. The programs evolved over the years to keep pace with the members’ needs in the implementation of the mutual evaluation recommended actions of the second-round mutual evaluation process. Although tremendous progress has been achieved over the years, much more work is still needed to ensure that GIABA’s mission is delivered in full.

Regional initiatives will remain a priority and a component of the GIABA capacity-building strategy. The scope of these initiatives will be expanded in collaboration with other AML/CFT/PF technical and financial partners and donors to harmonize, coordinate, and expand the delivery in 2023 and going forward, which will enhance the capacity-building offerings in the region to address member State’s needs.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, capacity-building was boosted through various new tools, which facilitated assistance through digital channels. It is expected that virtual formats will remain an important part of the capacity-building offerings going forward. Although technical assistance activities will remain a central piece of the program, with a combination of in-person and eLearning/virtual regional capacity building to provide baseline knowledge, there is a need for more targeted and advanced technical assistance to address specific needs.

Implementing the GIABA Technical Assistance Coordination Strategy aims to accelerate the effective delivery of member states' ability to address the deficiencies in their mutual evaluation reports, strengthen their national risk mitigation and assessments capacity, and effectively implement the FATF standards. It would further strengthen the collaboration of GIABA with other AML/CFT/PF providers and enhance a harmonized delivery of assistance to the benefit of Member States.

GIABA Secretariat
October 2022