GIABA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDE

Powering tomorrow, today on AML/CFT/PF implementation
The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA) is a specialized institution of ECOWAS and a FATF Style Regional Body that promotes policies to protect member States financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

For more information about GIABA, please visit the website: www.giaba.org

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Part 1 - Programme Overview

1. Background

1. The Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (GIABA) was established by the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Decision A/DEC.9/12/99 in 2000 as a specialized institution that is responsible for the implementation and control of money laundering and terrorism financing in the West Africa region.

2. The objectives of GIABA\(^1\) are to:
   
   i. Protect the national economies and the financial and banking systems of member States (MS) against money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing of weapons of mass destruction (ML/TF & PF);
   
   ii. Improve measures and intensify efforts to combat ML/TF & PF;
   
   iii. Strengthen cooperation amongst its member States; and
   

3. To achieve the objectives of GIABA, GIABA is to undertake several functions\(^2\), one of which is the critical component of providing technical assistance\(^3\). GIABA technical assistance is designed to up-scale the competencies and skills of officials in the relevant anti-money laundering, combating the financing of terrorism, and proliferation financing (AML/CFT/PF) stakeholder institutions in member States. Principally, the stakeholders include regulators and supervisors of the financial industry (Central Banks, Insurance and Securities regulators); the financial intelligence units (FIUs), the judiciary, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, financial institutions (FIs), Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), Youths etc.

4. The goal of GIABA technical assistance is to help strengthen the AML/CFT/PF capacity of member States to enable them to effectively address current and emerging challenges with regard to money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF). It is also meant to foster coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among member States on the one hand, and between GIABA and Technical and Financial partners/donors on the other. Ultimately, this is expected to impact positively on the AML/CFT/PF regimes of member States and the region as a whole.

5. The GIABA technical assistance (TA) is conducted through the following directorates: Evaluation and Compliance, Policy and Research, and the Director Generals Office coordinated by a small core-team. The technical assistance is coordinated within member States by the network of National Correspondents (NCs) who serve as the main organs of GIABA. The NCs are the presidents/directors of each member States’ financial intelligence units (FIUs).

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\(^1\) See Article 2 a of the revised GIABA Statutes (2019)

\(^2\) See Article 2 c of the revised GIABA Statutes (2019)

\(^3\) Article 2 c (III)(c) of the revised GIABA Statutes (2006) empowers GIABA to provide technical assistance and training to its member states.
The technical assistance (TA) can be directly and indirectly delivered in collaboration with national/regional or international partners within agreed timeframes as budgeting reflects.

**Types of Technical Assistance provided by GIABA**

6. GIABA Technical Assistance covers the following:

   i. **Capacity Building Development** – This aims to share knowledge and build the capacity (increase the understanding and skill) of stakeholders to implement AML/CFT/PF requirements within their sector effectively.
      - **Workshop** – This is an interactive, hands-on (group work) training that aims to engage participants in intensive discussion and activity on a particular AML/CFT/PF subject, two broad categories – intermediary and advanced.
      - **Sensitization** – This method is to provide a repeated explanation on AML/CFT/PF to raise awareness further within stakeholders.
      - **Forums** – This is an interactive discussion training/session focused on a particular AML/CFT subject with issued communique.
      - **eLearning** – These are computer-based training that is developed to facilitate the delivery of training across a wide spectrum of topics to a broad range of audiences regionally and globally.

   ii. **Consultancy and Expert Services** – This constitutes full or part funding of consultants/experts to undertake specific research studies in assessing AML/CFT/PF risks and to provide best practices with international standards and the FATF Recommendations.

   iii. **Mentorship** – This is a long-term placement designed to build the capacity of staff of an institution or technical training to assist a specified member State to establish, improve, and implement their AML/CFT regimes. This can be undertaken both on-site and off-site. The duration shall not exceed six (6) months.

   iv. **MS Legal Assistance** – The provision of legal assistance to requesting member states in reviewing their AML/CFT legislation to ensure full compliance with international legal instruments, UN Conventions, and the FATF Recommendations.

   v. **Promoting International Cooperation and Partnership** – Providing support to member States to access membership of the Egmont Group of FIUs and participation at international AML/CFT/PF forums, closed door sessions, and events.

   vi. **Technical Equipment and Grants/Direct Financial Provision** – The technical equipment provision is based upon requests from member States to serve a specific AML/CFT/PF role. Financial provision is geared towards specific aid to member states in addressing identified deficiencies within its mutual evaluation assessment.

2. **Guiding Principles**

2.1 **General**

7. The following principles shall guide the provision of technical assistance by GIABA:
a) Technical assistance by GIABA shall be provided with due regard to the sovereign rights of member States, the GIABA Statute, and the request for technical assistance to be received.

b) Technical assistance provided by GIABA shall not be subject to any political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of GIABA's Statute.

c) GIABA's resources for technical assistance shall be allocated exclusively to meet the needs of its member States in combating ML, TF, and PF, subject to meeting the general conditions for receiving such assistance which are ECOWAS membership or membership contribution with eligibility to receive such assistance.

d) Technical assistance shall be designed and delivered to improve and meet the needs of protecting national economies of member States against ML, TF, and PF.

e) Strengthening national coordination and regional and international cooperation and collaboration.

2.2. Nature, Extent, And Scope of Technical Assistance

a) The technical assistance to be provided to a requesting State or group of States shall be based on identified needs as assessed through a technical assistance needs assessment (TANA), mutual evaluation (ME) process; or, based on specified demand as would be defined by the Government or Governments concerned, and the assistance requested shall be assessed by GIABA to ensure that it is in conformity with the identified needs in the TANA, ME process or relevant emerging issues. If requested, GIABA shall work with the requesting authorities to define the nature, extent and scope of the technical assistance being sought.

b) The State or group of States requesting technical assistance shall define, in advance, the type, purpose and project for which the technical assistance is being requested and shall be required to meet the critical conditions for the successful delivery of the technical assistance and to commit to facilitating the full realisation of the objectives set forth in the request.

c) Technical assistance shall be provided only for protecting countries' economies against the infiltration of criminal proceeds or terrorist funds into the mainstream economy.

d) Technical assistance must be relevant and directly related to the implementation of effective AML/CFT/PF measures.

e) No member State shall receive from GIABA more than one form of TA in a given year, except where the other TA is regional in nature designed to benefit all or a group of MS or the TA is being provided/funded by (an) external donor(s).

f) Technical Assistance by GIABA shall exclude the following:
   i. Erection of a building or renting of premises for use as an office for AML/CFT/PF related activities.
   ii. Provision of vehicles or other equipment that are not directly related to implementing AML/CFT/PF measures.
iii. Rehabilitation of drug abusers, prisons and prisoners; all of which may be addressed by other institutions of ECOWAS.

2.3. Eligibility of States to receive Technical Assistance

a) Subject to the guiding principles outlined in Section 2.1 above, all ECOWAS countries shall be eligible for technical assistance provided from GIABA’s regular budget. Any non-ECOWAS country whose annual financial contribution to GIABA is adjudged equivalent to ECOWAS membership financial standing shall be eligible for technical assistance. Non-ECOWAS members who pay only annual subscription are not eligible for direct TAs from GIABA but may benefit from donor funded activities in which they are invited or serving as GIABA assessor to a mutual evaluation exercise.

b) Provision of technical assistance drawn from Community funds or donor funded projects shall be governed by the ECOWAS Financial Regulations or shall be based on the funding agreement reached with the entity providing the funds.

2.4. Sources Of Technical Assistance

a) Funding for technical assistance provided by GIABA shall be derived from the GIABA approved annual budget as derived from Community resources.

b) GIABA may provide technical assistance outside a given year's budget if it receives voluntary contributions from member States and technical and financial partners, of funds and gifts of services, equipment, and facilities according to the provisions of ECOWAS Financial Regulations.

c) GIABA may provide technical assistance in partnership with other international organizations, such as the FATF, UNODC, IMF, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, GIZ, Egmont Group, Expertise France etc., other technical and financial partners such as the EU, etc., or countries such as the United States, Switzerland, France, Canada, etc., under the agreement concluded between GIABA and the respective technical and financial partners, institutions or countries.

d) GIABA may also serve as an implementing agency of partnership projects to provide technical assistance on behalf of the Government of any country or any specialized agency following an agreement concluded with the concerned party.

2.5. Agreement for the Provision of Technical Assistance

8. As technical assistance is demand-driven, written requests from member States’ relevant institutions, agencies, and CSOs shall serve as a basis for the consideration of the provision of technical assistance. The request to GIABA shall meet the conditions required under GIABA's Statute for the provision of technical assistance by GIABA. A formal agreement reflecting the responsibilities of both GIABA and the beneficiary shall be entered into between GIABA and the beneficiary country for the delivery of the technical assistance.

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4 See ECOWAS website [www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int) for information on other institutions as may be applicable
2.6. **Scope of Application of the Guiding Principles**

9. These guiding principles shall apply to any technical assistance provided by GIABA, irrespective of the source of the funds or gifts involved and including projects for which GIABA serves as an executing agency or intermediary for a third country or for another organization, subject to the conditions set in partnership agreements.

10. All requests for technical assistance shall be made formally in written form on the official letterhead of the requesting entity, addressed to the Director General of GIABA. Every request shall be accompanied by a completed Request Form which is attached to this document as Annex I with reference number GIABA/TA/REQ/001.
Part 2 – Mutual Evaluation Related Technical Assistance

The core mandate of the GIABA Secretariat is to conduct mutual evaluation exercise of its member States. GIABA conducts peer reviews of each member on an ongoing basis to assess levels of implementation of the FATF Recommendations, providing an in-depth description and analysis of each country’s system for preventing criminal abuse of the financial system.

GIABA second (2\textsuperscript{nd}) round of mutual evaluation would conclude in 2024. The current adopted ME reports indicate a number of recommended and priority actions to be undertaken by member States. To address these areas would require GIABA and financial and technical partners to provide technical assistance to assist member states improve its technical compliance and effectiveness in preparation for the GIABA third (3\textsuperscript{rd}) round of mutual evaluation.

Under the GIABA technical assistance guide and GIABA technical assistance coordination plan the priority technical assistance provision would be focused on GIABA member States who are in the ICRG process, ICRG pool, or are at high-risk to enter the ICRG process.

The GIABA coordination plan document highlights the prioritization model for technical assistance to serve as a guide for the direct coordination of technical assistance based on priorities from the Secretariat (below).

### Model 1 – GIABA member States Jurisdiction Prioritization Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority S/N</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority 1</td>
<td>Those who have been referred to undergo the ICRG process</td>
<td>Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notwithstanding, GIABA regional training and capacity building would continue to be undertaken to further strengthen member states execution of their ICRG action plan.
Part 3 - Technical Assistance, Training, and Tools

1. Methods of Delivery

11. GIABA offers services and tools to assist member States to act against crime and terrorism by removing the profits from illegal activities and providing proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for committing them. The technical assistance (TA) is delivered in the following six sections:

   i. **Capacity Building Development** – This aims to share knowledge and build the capacity (increase the understanding and skill) of stakeholders to implement AML/CFT/PF requirements within their sector effectively.

      o **Workshop** – This is an interactive, hands-on (group work) training that aims to engage participants in intensive discussion and activity on a particular AML/CFT/PF subject, two broad categories – intermediary and advanced.

      o **Sensitization** – This method is to provide a repeated explanation on AML/CFT/PF to raise awareness further within stakeholders.

      o **Forums** – This is an interactive discussion training/session focused on a particular AML/CFT subject with issued communique.

      o **eLearning** – These are computer-based training that is developed to facilitate the delivery of training across a wide spectrum of topics to a broad range of audiences regionally and globally.

   ii. **Consultancy and Expert Services** – This constitutes full or part funding of consultants/experts to undertake specific research studies in assessing AML/CFT/PF risks and to provide best practices with international standards and the FATF Recommendations.

   iii. **Mentorship** – This is a long-term placement designed to build the capacity of staff of an institution or technical training to assist a specified member State to establish, improve, and implement their AML/CFT regimes. This can be undertaken both on-site and off-site. The duration shall not exceed six (6) months.

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   v. **Promoting International Cooperation and Partnership** – Providing support to member States to access membership of the Egmont Group of FIUs and participation at international AML/CFT/PF forums, closed door sessions, and events.

   vi. **Technical Equipment and Grants/Direct Financial Provision** – The technical equipment provision is based upon requests from member States to serve a specific AML/CFT/PF role. Financial provision is geared towards specific aid to member states in addressing identified deficiencies within its mutual evaluation assessment.
2. Capacity Building Development

12. The GIABA Secretariat capacity building development could be delivered regionally or nationally. Each capacity building format is structured to take into consideration the diverse legal, administrative, and operational frameworks, including the different financial systems of member states to significantly improve its AML/CFT systems and strengthen the effective implementation of the FATF Recommendations. The capacity building development provision highlighted below provides a summary of the component of the training, objectives, and/or type of technical assistance requirements:

**AML/CFT Training**

The training focuses on providing participants a comprehensive and consistent framework of measures which member states should implement in order to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The program is designed to provide an entry and intermediary level into the FATF Recommendations and an overview of the mutual evaluation process. The training can be delivered either as a train-the-trainer format to enable participants to replicate and share the knowledge and skills in their organizations. Audiences are drawn from all AML/CFT stakeholders.

**AML/CFT eLearning Course**

GIABA has developed a range of high-quality computer-based training in collaboration with the UNODC to facilitate the delivery of training across a wide spectrum of topics to a broad range of users in its member States. The course provides several modules related specifically to AML/CFT to educate and train law enforcement and other key officials involved in tackling these twin scourges.

The aim of these modules is to provide an overview of AML/CFT issues and a foundation understanding of the methods and practical measures required to address them.

**Sharing Session**

The global AML/CFT/PF field changes rapidly as the evolving nature of crime and criminals seemingly appear to be a step ahead of legislation and law enforcement agencies. To keep ahead of criminals, national (public and private), regional, and international organizations must keep a step ahead in fluidity in the delivery of its activities. The Secretariat meets these challenges by offering a sharing session where an informal or formal collaborative meeting between the Secretariat and a specific AML/CFT stakeholder sector is targeted for presentation on either upcoming changes to the FATF Recommendations or to provide further insight regarding internal processes and implementation challenges and/or sensitization regarding AML/CFT.

**Combating Financing of Terrorism Training**
Terrorism financing has impacted our region with member states recognizing the nexus between licit and illicit financial flows and terrorism. The training is to provide participants on the cross-cutting aspects of legal and illegal cash flow for terrorist acts. The regional and national training is adapted according to local/regional needs and reflect current threats and local/regional operating procedures.

Participants are trained on how to identify scenarios covering strategic risks to national security, including terrorism and associated threats from transnational organized crime and corruption. The training can be delivered either as a train-the-trainer format to enable participants to replicate and share the knowledge and skills in their organizations. Audiences are drawn from law enforcement agencies, FIUs, intelligence agencies, and AML/CFT policy bodies.

**Proliferation Financing Training**

The “financing of proliferation” is referred to as the act of providing funds or financial services which are used, in whole or in part, for the manufacture, acquisition, possession, development, export, trans-shipment, brokering, transport, transfer, stockpiling or use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials (including both technologies and dual-use goods used for non-legitimate purposes), in contravention of national laws, or where applicable, international obligations.

Recommendation 7 of the FATF Standards requires countries to implement proliferation financing-related Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) made under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs or resolutions). Recommendation 2 requires countries to put in place effective national cooperation and, where appropriate, coordination mechanisms to combat the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Immediate Outcome 11 and certain elements of Immediate Outcome 1 relating to national cooperation and coordination aim to measure how effective countries are implementing these Recommendations.

The primary objective of the training is to sensitize national competent authorities on counter-proliferation financing and the global best practices to combat proliferation financing. The training would further provide participants on the UNSC two-tier approach in combating WMD and associated financing of proliferation.

**Cash Courier / Cross Border Cash Smuggling Training**

The informal cash market in our region permutates the illegal transport of cash across states. The training provides an opportunity for national stakeholders engaged in border control to develop their knowledge and skill for monitoring, to search, and to identify cross-border transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.

The training would emphasize the implementation of the FATF Recommendations 32 and its interpretative notes on cash couriers. This training would be delivered in a practical approach including group work and practical exercises to foster creative thinking in conducting search and seizures.
Financial Investigation (AML/CFT) Training

The training is geared towards the provision of in-depth training for national financial investigators and prosecutors in current methods and practices used to develop and conduct financial investigations. The national version of the training is customized to reflect legal and procedural processes on presenting financial investigation evidence. Consideration is given to raise awareness of the methods used in money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including the legislative aspects of financial crime and the respective mandates, powers, and authorities and methods to investigate financial crimes. The regional training group participants to plan and conduct an AML/CFT investigation based on current best practices and methodologies to tackle a fictitious case. The relationship between financial investigators and prosecutors is to ensure that financial investigators can gather and develop high-quality evidence for presenting money laundering and terrorist financing charges to the courts. The FATF Recommendation requires national coordination in AML/CFT work as well as regional and international cooperation when investigating money laundering and financing of terrorism cases.

FIU Analyst Training

The regional or national FIU analyst course provides training to FIU analysts in current methods and practices used to develop and analyze financial intelligence. The key to financial intelligence is the ability to identify and analyze suspicious transactions relating to money laundering and terrorism financing. Participants are, therefore, trained to develop their analytical techniques and learn the methodology behind writing effective and accurate intelligence reports. They also learn how information is collected, from what sources, and what tools are used to develop information into financial intelligence.

The details of the training are to address the relationship between the FIU and the national agencies responsible for investigating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The goal is to ensure that the FIU is able to provide high-quality and usable information to respective investigative agencies. The training is in two components intermediary and advance.

DNFBPs AML/CFT Training

Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) are certain types of "non-financial" businesses that are susceptible to money laundering and terrorist financing due to their businesses' nature and the financial transactions relating to the activities they may conduct. The FATF Recommendations lists the following businesses and professions as DNFBPs:

- Real Estate developers and agents that carry out transactions with a customer involving the buying or selling of real properties;
- Dealers in precious metals and dealers in precious stones;
- Law firms, notaries, and other independent legal businesses;
- Accounting firms;
• Trust and Company Service Providers – In preparation or undertaking transactions for clients concerning activities highlighted in FATF Recommendation 22
• Casinos - When customers engage in financial transactions equal to or above the applicable designated threshold.
• Faith Based Organizations

The training targets the following DNFBPs and any other at risk non-financial institutions as deemed in GIABA member States on emerging AML/CFT risks and focus on the FATF Recommendations pertaining to DNFBPs. Participants are trained on how to identify (red flags), report (STRs), and made aware of new emerging risks.

Compliance Officers of FIs and DNFBPs Training

Compliance officers serve a vital role in the implementation of AML/CFT within reporting institutions (financial institutions and DNFBPs). In particular, FATF Recommendation 18 places obligation on reporting institutions to appoint and designate compliance officers to coordinate the implementation of AML/CFT programs within their institutions and act as liaisons with competent authorities. The level of compliance by reporting entities remains low, owing to several factors, including lack of in-depth understanding of ML/TF risks and insufficient commitment to the management of financial institutions in the implementation of AML/CFT standards.

Thus, compliance officers' training is geared towards sensitizing/training them on new developments in technology and other emerging risks, also reemphasizing their obligations to report suspicious transactions and collaborate with the competent authorities.

Mutual Evaluation Assessors and FATF Standards Training Course

The core mandate of GIABA is to undertake an AML/CFT mutual evaluation assessment of its member States. This evaluation is conducted under a peer-review mechanism. The mutual evaluation process identifies the assessed country’s progress and constraints mechanism, this enables the Secretariat and its technical and financial partners to determine the type of technical assistance required by member States to improve measures against money laundering and terrorist financing. The technicality of the exercise requires only trained assessors in the implementation of the FATF Methodology and Recommendations are to be utilized for the mutual evaluation exercise. Therefore, the GIABA Secretariat organizes a mutual evaluation assessor training solely or in conjunction with the FATF; FSRBs, and/or other technical and financial partners to adequately train new or provide refresher training to member States assessors in the conduct of the mutual evaluation exercise. As a pre-requisite of this course, assessors are to be familiar with the FATF Recommendations and Methodology, complete reading of pre-course materials and the FATF Introductory eLearning course and complete the quiz at the end of the course.

The FATF Standards Training Course aims to strengthen countries’ understanding of the FATF Standards and how they help combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing (funding for weapons of mass destruction), and to assist
FATF Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) in the conduct of mutual evaluations. The FATF delivers these activities in partnership with the FSRBs. As a pre-requisite for taking this course, attendees are to ensure complete reading of the pre-course materials and fully sign-up for the FATF Introductory eLearning course and complete the quiz at the end of the course.

Pre-Assessment Training

In preparation of member States towards the conduct of the mutual evaluation exercise according to the GIABA mutual evaluation Process and Procedures (as revised) the Secretariat provides a training workshop to national authorities one year prior to the mutual evaluation on-site visit. The training is designed to help national authorities to understand their roles in the mutual evaluation process, inform and sensitize the national stakeholders on the significance of the process.

The pre-assessment training will also provide stakeholders with technical guidance on how to complete the technical compliance questionnaire (TCQ), and the process, procedures and expectations of the mutual evaluation on-site exercise.

Virtual Currency / Virtual Assets Service Providers (VASPs) / Cryptocurrency Training

The virtual currency training looks into how new technologies, products, and related services provides new opportunities for criminals and terrorists to launder their proceeds or finance their illicit activities. The training aims to provide information on how jurisdictions are to implement the FATF Recommendations towards new technologies i.e. Recommendation 15 and its Interpretative Notes. Participants would have a clear understanding of how to conduct a risk based approach to new technologies, how illicit actors can abuse VASPs engaging in VA activities, for ML, TF, sanctions evasion, fraud, ransomware payments and other nefarious purposes, and awareness of the intersection and potential impact AML/CFT requirements have on other regulatory requirements and policy areas, such as data protection and privacy, financial inclusion, derisking, consumer and investor protection and financial innovation.

The training also provides a platform for regulatory authorities to discuss regulatory matters that are potentially relevant to VAs and VASPs (e.g., consumer and investor protection, prudential safety and soundness, tax, anti-fraud or anti-market manipulation issues, network IT security standards, or financial stability concerns). This training could possibly be expanded to include investigatory components for law enforcement agencies on how to effectively investigate and prosecute criminal cases involving cryptocurrencies to build comprehensive skills on how to investigate DARKNET illicit markets.

Asset Recovery Training

The flow of proceeds of criminal activities like corruption, tax avoidance and other criminal dealings lead to a drain of resources and capital in West Africa. The underdevelopment, weak criminal justice systems, lack of rule of law, ethnic conflicts, financing of terrorism and political instability root causes are embedded in the use of proceeds of crime and stolen assets. One of the critical ways in ensuring that criminals do not take control of our financial systems, capture governmental powers and ultimately
collapse the systems is to deprive the criminals of the proceeds of their criminal activities. This should be done through the confiscation and recovery of tainted property and its management.

This GIABA training focuses on building the capacity of participants to use modern techniques to identify, trace, recover and manage assets related to money laundering and associated predicate offences, and the financing of terrorism.

**AML/CFT Judges and/or Prosecutors Training**

The wheel of AML/CFT compliance would not progress swiftly without the judiciary involvement. The work of judges, prosecutors and other investigative authorities is crucial for stable institutions, transparency and the rule of law, which are pillars of an effective AML/CFT system. The training aims to reinforce the effectiveness in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing, and in the recovery of the proceeds of crime.

It is aimed to address some challenges faced by judges and prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting ml/tf, and in recovering the proceeds of crime. Highlighting best practices in the conduct of investigations, prosecutions, convictions and confiscation, and international cooperation. The mock trial provides participants with a fictional environment in which judiciary and investigative agencies could hone their skills with issues that could arise during the prosecution of a money laundering offence. This court scenario with pre-determined evidence is produced and reviewed against the background of national laws, protocols, judicial procedures and overall admissibility.

Due to the nature of the mock trial training aspect, this component is available as a national training to increase the participants’ skills and knowledge in anti-money laundering, money trail investigations, prosecution techniques and tracing and confiscation of proceeds of crime through mutual legal assistance.

**AML/CFT Awareness Training for Youth**

Money laundering and terrorism financing particularly has witnessed support from women and the youths, as both active participants and victims. West Africa with an estimated population of 349 million people is estimated that women constitute 52% and 66% of the population are less than 25 years. A significant proportion of these young people are out of school and unemployed. Consequently, there is a very high risk that these young people will be targeted by terrorists and other criminals for requirement into their networks. And evidently, there is a growing trend of women and youths getting directly involved in financial crimes such as money laundering, cyber-crime, human trafficking, drug and arms trafficking as well as in terrorist activities and extreme radicalism.

Thus, the Secretariat conducts different forms of sensitization awareness training focused on the vulnerable groups to ML/TF therefore mobilizing them against money laundering, terrorist financing, and other predicate offences by positively impacting their minds, attitudes, behavior and beliefs.

These training could be undertaken as either:
a. Open House on AML/CFT Sensitization for Youths
b. AML/CFT Awareness Raising Road Show
c. Inter-University Speech Contest on AML/CFT Impact on West African Economies
d. Regional Forum on Gender and Youth Dimensions of Transnational Economic and Financial Crimes.

Journalist Training

The media particularly investigative journalists play a crucial role in uncovering allegations of corruption, promoting good governance, attracting the sustained attention of law enforcement authorities and the public to the fight against financial and economic crimes. The media are also guarantors of a fundamental right, and the correct information. GIABA has been carrying out sensitization programs for media professionals since 2009, and in 2010 in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria; established a regional network of investigative journalists specializing in the denunciation of economic and financial crimes. The aim is to contribute to member States AML/CFT efforts and strengthen the engagement of non-state actors and critical sectors playing a crucial role in the effective implementation of AML/CFT measures.

A closer and more productive collaboration with the media, as they constitute one of the main sources of information and intelligence, both for political decision-makers and for the international community, and the general public. The journalist training provides investigative journalists with the tools to better understand the conceptual issues of money laundering and terrorist financing, techniques and methods of journalistic investigation of financial and economic crimes, the role of the media in promoting good governance as well as the strategic mechanisms for setting up a regional network of investigative journalists in the field of AML/CFT.

NPOs and CSOs AML/CFT Training

Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are a vibrant and integral part of the contemporary global environment and play a significant role in combatting terrorism, bad governance, corruption, and many other societal ills. The wide range, geographic reach, and operational endurance of their activities arguably make NPOs unique among international actors. While there is currently no data as to the number of NPOs operating globally, one study of the national NPO sectors of 35 countries indicated the scale and importance of NPO activity. A report by the Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-profit Sector Project published in 2003 determined that by the late 1990s, the 35 national sectors represented a USD 1.5 trillion industry, which is equivalent to the world’s seventh largest economy, and encompasses over 39 million full-time equivalent workers. The NPO sector is also an integral partner for the public sector in implementing shared initiatives, such as the UN Millennium Development Goals. The NPO sector has also traditionally enjoyed substantial public trust, which has been one of the basic components to the sector’s success. The maintenance of this public trust is integral to the continued effectiveness of the NPO sector.
However, the concept of carrying out good works has been a target for those whose goals are not purely benevolent. The most extreme threat of abuse is posed by those engaged in terrorist activity. While the vast majority of NPOs work tirelessly to better the lives of people around the world, a small number of organizations and individuals have taken advantage of the NPO sector for the most contrary of reasons: to support those who engage in terrorism or support terrorist organizations. The abuse of NPOs to finance or materially support terrorism may seem to be a risk with low probability, yet the impact of these activities is particularly acute for both the victims of terrorism and those who should benefit from the good works of NPOs. This immediate impact is multiplied when one considers the loss of public confidence in the integrity of the NPO sector.

The AML/CFT training of the NPOs and CSOs aims to provide a platform for participants to share perspectives, discuss unintended consequences of the application of the FATF Recommendations, build consensus, foster cooperation and collaboration toward the protection and prevention of these sectors from money laundering and terrorist abuse, identify gaps in national legal and regional regulatory frameworks, and enhance domestic cooperation, coordination and engagement between government and the NPOs and CSOs sector.

3. Consultancy and Expert Services

This constitutes full or part funding of consultants/experts to undertake specific research studies in assessing AML/CFT risks and to provide best practices with international standards and the FATF Recommendations. This also extends to serving as a resource person at a Secretariat training. Biannually the Procurement Unit sends out an email through its network requesting for CVs from persons working in AML/CFT related field to populate its internal database of experts. This call is also posted on its social media platform of Twitter and Facebook. Be on the lookout!

4. AML/CFT Mentorship Program

The AML/CFT mentorship program is a long-term capacity building and training program designed to assist a specified member State to establish, improve, and implement their AML/CFT regimes. Mentors serve as a key part of the GIABA Secretariat strategy to enhance national capacity, coordination and further the overall effective implementation national AML/CFT regimes in member States. The mentors are carefully selected and with the level of operational experience, they are ideally positioned to give expert advice, as well as provide the hands-on guidance that national practitioners need to both hone their craft and effectively implement their country’s AML/CFT regimes to meet international standards.

Once engaged, mentors are based in the field and provide on-site technical assistance by delivering tailored outreach programs and training to help participating member States make the best use of their AML/CFT capabilities and to comply and effectively implement with the international standards as set out in the FATF Recommendations, United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and any other related Conventions.

Mentors provide benefits to the institution they are mentoring, as national AML/CFT experts and practitioners learn through experience and are guided on how to bring newly acquired knowledge and skills into their organizations. GIABA Secretariat provides mentors for member
States legal bodies, law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and FIUs. The duration of the mentorship program does not exceed six (6) months.

5. MS Legal Assistance

GIABA provides assistance in the review of both common and civil law legal systems, guidelines; supranational legislations to assist countries and supranational institutions to set up their AML/CFT legislation in full compliance with international legal instruments, UN Conventions, and the FATF Recommendations.

6. Promoting International and Regional Cooperation and Partnership

Having a strong global AML/CFT network is of utmost importance to strengthening AML/CFT/PF implementation, particularly since money laundering, terrorist financing, and the financing of proliferation are transnational activities. The linking of member States to this network of AML/CFT professionals and experts foster strong and effective anti-money laundering, combating financing of terrorism, and proliferation financing regimes.

The Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) is one of the coveted international networks that globally all FIUs aim to be a member. As a global organization, the Egmont Group facilitates and prompts the exchange of information, knowledge, and cooperation amongst member FIUs. GIABA Secretariat recognizes the importance of financial intelligence sharing importance to the global follow the money apparatus. In furtherance of promoting international and regional cooperation, GIABA assists member States FIUs in joining the Egmont Group.

The Secretariat also collaborates, cooperates, and form partnership with numerous other international and regional organizations to deliver, support, and provide AML/CFT/PF geared technical assistance to member States.

7. Technical Equipment and Grants/Direct Financial Provision

The technical equipment provision is based upon requests from member States to serve a specific AML/CFT role, such as providing ICT equipment, required secured Software, and necessary hardware to curtail ML/FT. Grants are given to undertake a specific research study. The technical equipment financial provision is to aid member states in addressing identified deficiencies within its mutual evaluation assessment. Member States under the FATF International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) with strategic deficiencies in their national regimes are by default targeted for direct financial provision to protect the integrity of the financial system.
Part 4 - GENERAL OPERATING RULES

Elaboration of the programme of technical assistance to be provided from Community resources

a) At the request of member States, GIABA shall take steps to make its expertise available to them in the drawing up of programmes that will facilitate the economic development and integration of member States through the provision of requested technical assistance or in the drawing up of individual requests, including those relating to long-term projects. For this purpose GIABA may send staff members, experts or programming missions to requesting States.

b) The Government of each requesting member State shall submit its detailed requests for technical assistance in accordance with the established procedure and the timetable established for that purpose. Requests for TA for an integrated and/or multi-year project should be accompanied by a clear justification on the relevance of the TA to the multi-year programme/development plans or priorities and objectives of that State or group of States i.e. priority will be given to member States with a national AML/CFT Strategy where such TA is clearly defined.

Annual approval and review of the technical assistance programme

a) Depending on the type of TA requested, GIABA shall, in accordance with established procedures, examine and approve each year, the proposals for technical assistance as listed under item 5 (a) of the Principles outlined, to be provided from GIABA's regular budget in the following year. In so doing, GIABA shall take into account the amount involved.

b) GIABA may approve technical assistance projects involving the services of experts or the provision of equipment of a duration of more than one year where such project is judged to be critical to the AML/CFT regime of the beneficiary country. The financial implications of each of such projects shall be reviewed during each ensuing year after its approval and such review shall take due account of the relative priority of the project. Multi-year projects shall be subject to the approval of the ECOWAS Administration and Finance Committee in line with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.

c) Technical Assistance activities shall be reported upon in the GIABA Annual Report on Technical Assistance provided by GIABA to its member States.

d) The timetable for the submission and consideration of requests for technical assistance to be provided by GIABA from Community resources for a given year shall be made in the preceding year as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Month/Date</th>
<th>Required Action</th>
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<td>January - March</td>
<td>Invitation to member States to submit detailed requests for technical assistance</td>
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<td>S/N</td>
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<td>Required Action</td>
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<td>assistance for the following year.</td>
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<td>Final date for the receipt of detailed requests for technical assistance to be provided in year C. Compilation of all technical assistance request.</td>
<td>ECD and PRD</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Final establishment of priorities among Member States' requests in consultation with the Member States.</td>
<td>All Directorates</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>August - September</td>
<td>Incorporation of TAs into coming year draft budget</td>
<td>All Directorates</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>October - November</td>
<td>Budget Arbitration and budget approval by AFC</td>
<td>GIABA and AFC</td>
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e) A Technical Assistance Evaluation Committee (TAEC) shall annually review all technical assistance that GIABA has provided during the preceding year, including projects for which GIABA has served as executing agency or intermediary, regardless of the source of funds for the technical assistance.

Changes to approved TA-funded Activity

13. At the request of or in agreement with the recipient Government/institution concerned, the Director General may rat his discretion, approve the modification to a project already approved, provided that the modification shall not alter the nature and major objective of the project as originally approved. If the modification requires additional expenditure by GIABA it may be approved provided that the required funds are available from the project or by virement from other budget lines or sources in accordance with the provision of the Financial Regulations.

Financial Controls to be applied to the programme of technical assistance provided from GIABA's regular budget.

14. The financial controls to be applied to the provision of technical assistance provided from Community resources shall conform to the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations of ECOWAS and any other relevant ECOWAS rules.
Ownership and Sustainability

15. GIABA development efforts are guided by its statutes, its mission, its strategy and action plan, all of which were developed and endorsed by the GIABA Plenary and Technical Commission and approved by the GIABA Ministerial Committee (i.e. member states).

GIABA Seeks to:

i. Consolidate the institutional capacity of its member States to enable them to assume ownership of activities and ensure sustainability.

ii. Emphasize needs-driven activities that have a high possibility of sustainability.

iii. Depending on the type of TA (e.g. equipment), on receipt of such assistance from GIABA, member States and the beneficiary institution shall ensure that all necessary steps are taken for the proper management and maintenance of the TA received from GIABA.

iv. GIABA member States shall have full ownership of the implementation and responsibility for monitoring of the TA, which they request and receive from GIABA.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Understanding the direct impact of GIABA technical assistance activities and services requires a monitoring and evaluation process to measure the effectiveness of its delivery and the improvement of AML/CFT regimes in its member States. The Secretariat utilizes several tools as below to evaluate and monitor the technical assistance provided:

- **National AML/CFT Strategies/Plan** – This provides a framework for the focus and the completed actions member States have undertaken towards improving their AML/CFT deficiencies.

- **Questionnaires and Surveys** – Circulated to stakeholders and participants after activities (workshops, seminars, etc). The results provide conditions for improving the delivery of the given TA and explore new themes.

- **Follow-Up Discussions** – Discussions with member States on fulfilling objectives of the highlighted key priority actions from the mutual evaluation reports.

- **Reports/Feedback** – following a training and capacity building programs from participants. Improve national and regional cooperation and direct engagement with member States officials. Entrench the implementation of the FATF Recommendations.

- **Database of Consultants/Experts/Resource Persons** – Harnessing the expertise of regional and international consultants/experts/resource persons for the delivery of GIABA mandate and vision.
ANNEX 1: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM

Ref: GIABA/TA/REQ/001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Title of Technical Assistance Required</th>
<th>Objective (s)</th>
<th>Expected Impact on AML/CFT Implementation</th>
<th>Expected Beneficiary Organizations</th>
<th>Responsible Entity/Unit</th>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
<th>Expected Duration</th>
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Name of Authorizing Officer: _____________________________________________

Signature of Authorizing Officer: ________________________________

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5 https://forms.office.com/r/cnBT9QdtrP
6 Mutual Evaluation Priority Action, ICRG Action Plan, Improving FIU Effectiveness, etc
7 Judiciary, FIU, Law Enforcement, Ministries (specify), Regulatory and Supervisors (specify), Financial Institutions, DNFBPs (specify), Specific risk sector (specify)
8 Workshop, Forum, Study Tour, Mentorship, Sensitization, Technical Assistance Equipment etc
ANNEX 2: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COSTING SHEET

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Total Cost of Output 1.1: -

| Activity 1: | |

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* Costing sheet is available in excel upon request to the GIABA Secretariat secretariat@giaba.org
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