



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



Group of Supervisors¹

PUBLIC ADVISORY

GOS Advisory 0003-2024

High-risk and other monitored jurisdictions identified by FATF

In accordance with section 21(2)(b) of the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act (MLTPA), the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) Group of Supervisors in Belize hereby advises financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and other reporting entities that on 25 October 2024 the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) identified jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their regimes to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) in the following two public documents:

- 1. High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action** – High-risk jurisdictions have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter ML/TF/PF. For all countries identified as high-risk, the FATF calls on all members and urges all jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence (EDD), and, in the most serious cases, countries are called upon to apply countermeasures to protect the international financial system from the ML/TF/PF risks emanating from the country. This list is often externally referred to as the “black list”.

(a) Jurisdictions subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply countermeasures.

Since February 2020, Iran reported in January and August 2024 with no material changes in the status of its action plan. Thus, given the heightened proliferation financing risks, the FATF reiterates its call to apply countermeasures on these high-risk jurisdictions.

- i. Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) - The FATF calls on its members and all other jurisdictions to robustly implement the targeted financial sanctions in accordance with UNSC Resolutions and apply effective countermeasures to protect their financial

¹ The Group of Supervisors is made up of the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism supervisory authorities in Belize namely, the Financial Intelligence Unit, Central Bank of Belize, Financial Services Commission and Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions.

systems from the ML/TF/PF threat emanating from the DPRK. This includes measures to close branches and subsidiaries of DPRK banks, terminate correspondent relationships with DPRK banks, and limit business relationships and financial transactions with DPRK persons.

Enhanced due diligence is encouraged to mitigate the risks posed by DPRK's use of front companies and complex ownership structures for the purpose of violating sanctions. In line with Recommendation 1 and Immediate Outcome 11, countries are also urged to adequately assess and account for the increased proliferation financing risks associated with DPRK's greater financial connectivity.

The FATF will monitor the measures to comply with DPRK targeted financial sanctions and the implementation of countermeasures against DPRK.

- ii. Iran - The FATF calls on its members and other jurisdictions to apply effective countermeasures against Iran in line with Recommendation 19. These measures include increased supervisory examination, enhanced reporting mechanisms, and more rigorous external audits for financial institutions with branches in Iran. This action is necessary due to Iran's failure to complete its action plan, including enacting and implementing the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions in line with the FATF Standards. Iran will remain on the high-risk list until it fully addresses these deficiencies.

(b) Jurisdiction subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence measures proportionate to the risks arising from the jurisdiction.

- (i) Myanmar - The FATF calls on its members and other jurisdictions to apply EDD measures proportionate to the risk arising from Myanmar. This includes increasing the degree and nature of monitoring of business relationships to identify unusual or suspicious transactions when applying EDD measures. Countries should ensure that flows of funds for humanitarian assistance, legitimate non-profit organization activities and remittances are not disrupted nor discouraged during this process.

For more information on these high-risk jurisdictions and the FATF public document published on 25 October 2024, see [High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action](#).

- 2. Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring** - When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly, within agreed timeframes, the identified strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter ML/TF/PF and is subject to increased monitoring. This list of jurisdictions is often externally referred to as the "grey list". The FATF Standards do not envisage de-risking, or cutting off entire classes of customers, but call for the application of a risk-based approach. Therefore, the FATF encourages its members and all jurisdictions to take into account the information presented on these countries in their risk analysis.

The FATF provides some flexibility to jurisdictions not facing immediate deadlines to report progress on a voluntary basis. The following countries had their progress reviewed by the FATF since June 2024: Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Yemen. For these countries, updated statements have been issued. Haiti, Kenya, Monaco, Syria and Venezuela chose to defer reporting; thus, the statements issued in October 2024 for those jurisdictions may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of the jurisdictions' AML/CFT regimes.

Jurisdictions Added - Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and Lebanon are now included in the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring.

Jurisdictions No Longer Subject to Increased Monitoring – Senegal is no longer subject to increased monitoring by the FATF.

For more information on jurisdictions under increased monitoring, jurisdictions no longer subject to increased monitoring, and the FATF public document published on 25 October 2024, see [Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring](#).

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

All financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and other reporting entities are required to apply EDD, and in the most serious cases, apply countermeasures to protect the international financial system from the ML/TF/PF risks emanating from the high-risk jurisdictions. Any breach of this obligation may result in a sanction as per section 22(1) of the MLTPA.

All financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions, and other reporting entities are encouraged to take into account in their risk analysis, the information presented on jurisdictions under increased monitoring.

November 1, 2024