



Republic of Namibia  

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Financial Intelligence Centre

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## **FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE (FIC)**

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### **GENERAL COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR 01 of 2023**

**High Risk and Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions**

**24 February 2023**

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# FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE (FIC)

## Circular No. 01 of 2023

This circular is issued in terms of Section 9(1) (h) of The Financial Intelligence Act, 2012 (Act No. 13 of 2012) as amended, and serves as notification to Accountable and Reporting Institutions (AIs and RIs) on high risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions identified by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), to pay special attention to business relations and transactions with persons from or in countries listed in the public statements issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and to follow guidance contained herein.

### **High risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions**

The FATF:

- a) identifies jurisdictions that have strategic deficiencies in their national measures to combat money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of proliferation activities;
- b) works with these jurisdictions to address identified deficiencies in order to protect the international financial system from money laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation risks; and
- c) encourage greater compliance with its international standards on combating money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of proliferation activities.

The FATF public statement of high risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions is attached hereto as annexure A for ease of reference.

### • ***Public Statement on Russian Federation***

On 24 February 2023 the FATF Plenary suspended the membership of the Russian Federation. Following the statement issued since March 2022, the FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to current and emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken against the Russian Federation in order to protect the international financial system:

The FATF released a public statement drawing attention to the money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing risks emanating from Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation deficiencies in national systems of several identified jurisdictions.

The publication as cited above can also be accessed at: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/fatf-statement-russian-federation.html>

- ***Jurisdictions under increased monitoring (“the Grey List”)***

Jurisdictions under increased monitoring are actively working with the FATF to address the strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes. New jurisdictions subject to increased monitoring are:

- South Africa; and
- Nigeria.

The publication as cited above can also be accessed at:

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Increased-monitoring-february-2023.html>

### ***Jurisdictions subject to a call for action (“the Black List”)***

FATF identifies countries or jurisdictions with serious strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing. These jurisdictions are subject to a call for action to protect the international financial system. No new countries/jurisdictions have been added to this list in its meeting on 24 February 2023.

The FATF, reaffirmed that its call for action on these high-risk jurisdictions published on 21 February 2020<sup>1</sup> remains in effect. The FATF calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from money-laundering, financing of terrorism and proliferation risks emanating from these jurisdictions.

The deficiencies referred to in the FATF’s statement in respect of these jurisdictions pose a risk to the integrity of the international financial system and exposes financial institutions engaging with counter-parts in these jurisdictions, to the risk of involvement in transactions that may relate to money laundering, financing of terrorism or proliferation.

It is against this background that Accountable and Reporting institutions are advised to:

- a) give special attention to business relationships and transactions with persons in these jurisdictions, including companies, legal arrangements/trusts and financial institutions based in such jurisdictions;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-february-2020.html>

- b) strengthen systems and controls in managing their exposure to the vulnerabilities identified by the FATF; and
- c) ensure that correspondent relationships, in particular, are not being used to evade countermeasures and risk mitigation practices.

The publication as cited above can also be accessed at:

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-February-2023.html>

- ***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***

The FATF placed Myanmar on its blacklist of jurisdictions for failing to implement its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies in combatting money laundering and terrorist financing in October 2022. FATF urges its members to practise increased due diligence when dealing with Myanmar-based entities.

The publication as cited above can also be accessed at:

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-october-2022.html>

## **Non-compliance with the provisions of this Circular**

Any non-compliance with the directions and specifications contained in this Circular is an offence in terms of section 63 of the FIA.

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### **Further information**

Enquiries can be directed to the FIC Help Desk by:

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The information contained in this document is intended only to provide a summary and a general overview on these matters and is not intended to be comprehensive. This document may contain statements of policy which reflect FIC's administration of the legislation in carrying out its statutory functions.

The guidance provided by the Centre in this circular, even though authoritative, is not intended to replace the FIA or PACOTAPAA including Regulations issued thereunder.

The information contained herein is current as at the date of this document.

**Date issued: 24 February 2023**

**Acting Director: Financial Intelligence Centre**

# Annexure A

## Public Statement – 24 February 2023

*High-risk jurisdictions have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation. For all countries identified as high-risk, the FATF calls on all members and urges all jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence, and in the most serious cases, countries are called upon to apply counter-measures to protect the international financial system from the ongoing money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks emanating from the country. This list is often externally referred to as the “black list”. \**

### **High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action – 24 February 2023**

High-risk jurisdictions have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation. For all countries identified as high-risk, the FATF calls on all members and urges all jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence, and, in the most serious cases, countries are called upon to apply counter-measures to protect the international financial system from the money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks emanating from the country. This list is often externally referred to as the “black list”. Since February 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FATF has paused the review process for Iran and DPRK, given that they are already subject to the FATF’s call for countermeasures. Therefore, please refer to the statement on these jurisdictions adopted on 21 February 2020. While the statement may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s AML/CFT regimes, the FATF’s call to apply countermeasure on these high-risk jurisdictions remains in effect.

### **Jurisdictions subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply countermeasures**

## ***Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)*** **[unchanged since February 2020]**

The FATF remains concerned by the DPRK's failure to address the significant deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime and the serious threats they pose to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF urges the DPRK to immediately and meaningfully address its AML/CFT deficiencies. Further, the FATF has serious concerns with the threat posed by the DPRK's illicit activities related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and its financing.

The FATF reaffirms its 25 February 2011 call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with the DPRK, including DPRK companies, financial institutions, and those acting on their behalf. In addition to enhanced scrutiny, the FATF further calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures, and targeted financial sanctions in accordance with applicable United Nations Security Council Resolutions, to protect their financial sectors from money laundering, financing of terrorism and WMD proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks emanating from the DPRK. Jurisdictions should take necessary measures to close existing branches, subsidiaries and representative offices of DPRK banks within their territories and terminate correspondent relationships with DPRK banks, where required by relevant UNSC resolutions.

## ***Iran*** **[unchanged since February 2020]**

In June 2016, Iran committed to address its strategic deficiencies. Iran's action plan expired in January 2018. In February 2020, the FATF noted Iran has not completed the action plan.[\[2\]](#)

In October 2019, the FATF called upon its members and urged all jurisdictions to: require increased supervisory examination for branches and subsidiaries of financial institutions based in Iran; introduce enhanced relevant reporting mechanisms or systematic reporting of financial transactions; and require increased external audit requirements for financial groups with respect to any of their branches and subsidiaries located in Iran.

Now, given Iran's failure to enact the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions in line with the FATF Standards, the FATF fully lifts the suspension of counter-measures and calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures, in line with Recommendation 19.[\[3\]](#)

Iran will remain on the FATF statement on [High Risk Jurisdictions Subject to a Call for Action] until the full Action Plan has been completed. If Iran ratifies the Palermo and Terrorist Financing

Conventions, in line with the FATF standards, the FATF will decide on next steps, including whether to suspend countermeasures. Until Iran implements the measures required to address the deficiencies identified with respect to countering terrorism-financing in the Action Plan, the FATF will remain concerned with the terrorist financing risk emanating from Iran and the threat this poses to the international financial system.

## **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**

### ***Myanmar***

#### **[unchanged since October 2022]**

In February 2020, Myanmar committed to address its strategic deficiencies. Myanmar's action plan expired in September 2021.

In June 2022, the FATF strongly urged Myanmar to swiftly complete its action plan by October 2022 or the FATF would call on its members and urge all jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence to business relations and transactions with Myanmar. Given the continued lack of progress and the majority of its action items still not addressed after a year beyond the action plan deadline, the FATF decided that further action was necessary in line with its procedures and FATF calls on its members and other jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence measures proportionate to the risk arising from Myanmar. When applying enhanced due diligence measures, countries should ensure that flows of funds for humanitarian assistance, legitimate NPO activity and remittances are not disrupted.

Myanmar should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address these deficiencies, including by: (1) demonstrating an improved understanding of ML risks in key areas; (2) demonstrating that on-site/offsite inspections are risk-based, and hundi operators are registered and supervised; (3) demonstrating enhanced use of financial intelligence in LEA investigations, and increasing operational analysis and disseminations by the FIU; (4) ensuring that ML is

investigated/prosecuted in line with risks; (5) demonstrating investigation of transnational ML cases with international cooperation; (6) demonstrating an increase in the freezing/seizing and confiscation of criminal proceeds, instrumentalities, and/or property of equivalent value; (7) managing seized assets to preserve the value of seized goods until confiscation; and (8) demonstrating implementation of targeted financial sanctions related to PF.

The FATF urges Myanmar to work to fully address its AML/CFT deficiencies and Myanmar will remain on the list of countries subject to a call for action until its full action plan is completed.