



MEDIA RELEASE

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NAMIBIA INVITED TO ATTEND FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE PLENARY AS GUEST JURISDICTION

The Republic of Namibia has been invited by the President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to participate as a guest jurisdiction in the FATF Plenary meetings for a period of **one year**. The Guest Initiative which commenced under the Mexican Presidency aims to strengthen cohesion across the Global Network and increase the voice of non FATF members. The objective of the Guest Initiative is to broaden the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds at the FATF.

The invitation bears testimony of the global recognition regarding Namibia's continued progress in strengthening its anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and countering proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF) framework.

As a guest jurisdiction, Namibia may participate under its own national flag in FATF Plenary and Working Group discussions *albeit* without voting rights we will be able to participate directly in the discussions and express our country position and share our national experience on AML/CTF/CPF and related matters.

Currently, no country may participate in the FATF Plenary meetings unless it is a member of the FATF. Non FATF member countries are usually represented at the FATF Plenary and Working Group meetings through the regional organisations which in the case of Namibia is the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering

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Director: Dr. Bryan Eiseb

FIC Board: Adv. Charmaine Van Der Westhuizen (Chairperson) | Mr. Pendukeni Filippus (Member) | Ms. Hannelie Eksteen (Member)
Ms. Hiliya Herman (Member) | Adv. Dennis Khama (Member)

Group (ESAAMLG), of which Namibia is a member. As a guest jurisdiction, Namibia will now be able to participate directly in FATF discussions and contribute directly to global AML/CTF/CPF policy formulation and adoption.

FATF Plenary discussions shape the international AML/CFT/CPF standards and policy responses that influence how countries respond to financial crimes. Namibia's participation at the Plenaries will deepen our understanding of FATF work, particularly standard and procedure setting, risks, and typologies. In addition, it will support our national preparations for our next AML/CFT/CPF mutual evaluation and strengthen cooperation with international partners.

"Namibia welcomes the invitation which gives the country an important platform to contribute to international policy discussions, learn from global partners, and bring regional perspectives to the FATF table," said Dr. Bryan Eiseb, Director of the Financial Intelligence Centre.

The Financial Intelligence Centre will coordinate Namibia's participation at the FATF Plenary in conjunction with the national Anti-Money Laundering Council which is chaired by the Governor of the Bank of Namibia. We will also cooperate with the private sector especially the banking industry to ensure our international contribution during the Plenaries is all encompassing, stakeholder centric and support our national and regional developmental agenda.

Participation under the Guest Initiative give Namibia a temporary seat at the "Main Table" and an opportunity to deepen its engagement with the Global Network.

