



I. FATF June 2024 Plenary

i. Summary

The sixth Plenary and Working Group Meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was held from 26 to 28 June 2024 in Singapore. The delegates not only discussed the issues concerning anti-money laundering (AML) / combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) / counter-proliferation financing (CPF), but also decided to continue the suspension of the Russian Federation's membership. The Plenary reiterated its concerns over the continued failure of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to address the significant deficiencies in its AML/CFT/CPF regime.

The Plenary achieved strategic milestone by revising the criteria for prioritizing countries under its International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) process. In addition, in preparation for the next round of mutual evaluations, the Plenary agreed how countries will be assessed for compliance with the recently revised FATF Standards that further enhance asset recovery and international cooperation frameworks and more effectively deprive criminals of the proceeds of crime.

The FATF President also met with the Chairs of the nine FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRB) to discuss the progress achieved in strengthening the partnership between the FATF and FSRBs, and agreed on a set of Global Network priorities for the upcoming year.

At this Plenary, the members thanked the Singapore Presidency for kick-starting the Women in FATF and the Global Network (WFGN) initiative. The key highlights of this initiative include the multi-cultural pilot mentoring program involving 15 mentor-mentee pairs from diverse cultures and backgrounds and the launch of the e-book “*Breaking Barriers: Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Leaders*” featuring stories from distinguished leaders from the FATF and Global Network.

Finally, the Plenary approved the Presidency’s Priorities presented by the incoming Mexican President, Ms. Elisa de Anda Madrazo. At this Plenary, the FATF added Monaco and Venezuela to the list of jurisdictions subject to increased monitoring and remove Jamaica and Turkey from it.

ii. Focal Points: Key Issues in the Sixth Plenary of the FATF under the Singaporean Presidency of T. Raja Kumar

This Plenary was the last one under the Presidency of T. Raja Kumar, and it was held in his home country Singapore from 26 to 28 June 2024. Delegates from over 200 jurisdictions and observers from international organizations participated in the three-day discussions. The key issues and conclusions are as follows:

A. Revision of Criteria for Prioritizing Countries for ICRG Review Process

FATF members achieved a key milestone by approving the revised criteria for prioritizing countries for its ICRG review process for jurisdictions with major AML/CFT/CPF deficiencies that present a risk to the international financial system (i.e., FATF’s grey or blacklisting), which will be applied to the next round of assessment. The updated prioritization criteria is one of several new measures designed to ensure that the FATF’s listing process continues to be risk-based, fair, transparent, and cognisant of the capacity challenges least developed countries face.

B. Methodology Revisions

The Plenary agreed about how countries will be assessed for their compliance with the recently revised FATF Standards on asset recovery and related international cooperation, which were adopted in October 2023. Going forward, each country will need to demonstrate that, among other measures, they are prioritizing asset recovery. Their competent authorities shall be capable of identifying and tracing criminal property, confiscating criminals’ illicit proceeds, and providing constructive and timely international cooperation.

C. The Issue on the Membership of the Russia Federation

The suspension of the Russian Federation's membership continues to stand. Following the statements issued in 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.

D. Major Initiatives

1. Horizontal Review of DNFBP Technical Compliance Related to Corruption

The FATF completed its review of the measures its members have in place to prevent gatekeepers (accountants, lawyers, real estate agents, and trust and company service providers) from being used to facilitate money laundering and terrorist financing. When these gatekeepers are not regulated in accordance with the FATF Standards, they remain exposed to significant criminal risks and lack the measures to identify the red flags of money laundering. The findings of this review was published in July 2024.

2. Virtual Assets: Targeted Update on the Implementation of the FATF Standards

The FATF agreed to publish the fifth annual update on progress by jurisdictions on implementing the FATF Standards on virtual assets (VAs) and virtual asset service providers (VASPs).¹

Jurisdictions, including those with materially important VASP activity, have made some progress since the last update in June 2023. In real terms, the number of jurisdictions that are compliant or largely compliant with the FATF Standards in this area has increased (33 in 2024, and 25 in 2023). However, three quarters of jurisdictions (75%, 97/130) are only partially or not compliant with the FATF Standards in this area. This means that implementation of the FATF Standards by VASPs remains behind that for other financial sectors, leaving VAs and VASPs vulnerable to misuse.

The FATF calls on all jurisdictions to act rapidly and fully implement the FATF's requirements on VAs and VASPs. The FATF continues to monitor the situation and will continue its efforts to ensure countries have support to implement the requirements.

3. Payment Transparency

The FATF is in the process of revising the FATF Standards to reflect the evolution

¹ The fifth annual update was published in July 2024.

of cross-border payment systems and changes to industry standards (in particular ISO20022). The Plenary discussed the outcomes of its extensive public consultation on draft amendments to the standards closed on 3 May 2024. This revision aims to help make cross-border payments faster, cheaper, more transparent, and more inclusive whilst ensuring AML/CFT compliance, and ensure that the FATF Standards remain technology-neutral. Given the complexity of the requirements and the potential impact on payment systems, the Plenary agreed that further dialogue with the relevant bodies and experts in both the public and private sectors should take place before finalizing the amendments

4. Global Network Cooperation

The FATF President met with the Chairs of FSRBs at the FATF-FSRB Annual High-Level Meeting to discuss progress in the implementation of the 2022 Strategic vision for the Global Network, and to highlight the main achievements in strengthening the partnership between the FATF and FSRBs. The FATF President and FSRB Chairs agreed on three Global Network priorities for the coming year - increase FSRB's voice and participation in FATF work; prepare for the new round of mutual evaluations; and strengthen AML/CFT expertise at regional level. Participants thanked the FATF President for his active engagement with and strong support for FSRBs during his Presidency and welcomed the proposed priorities of the Mexican Presidency, including strengthening cohesion in the Global Network.

5. Women in FATF and the Global Network (WFGN) Initiative

The FATF President presented the latest output of the WFGN initiative, launched at the February 2023 Plenary. Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and National Development, launched the e-book "*Breaking Barriers: Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Leaders*" at the sidelines of the Plenary. This e-book provides insights into the determination, resilience, and expertise that women bring to the fight against financial crime, offering powerful inspiration, advice, and the power of example for aspiring women leaders. It complements the multi-cultural mentoring programme and efforts to build a stronger FATF and Global Network community for all.

6. Incoming Mexican Presidency's Priorities for 2024-2026

Mexico assumes the FATF Presidency from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026. The incoming President, Elisa de Anda Madrazo, presented the Mexican Presidency's five

key priorities to the members.

- (1) Advance financial inclusion by promoting the risk-based implementation of the Standards under the principle of proportionality;
- (2) Ensure a successful start to the new round of Assessments;
- (3) Strengthen cohesion of the Global Network by fostering transparency, inclusiveness, and unity, and enhance cooperation and collaboration between the FATF and FSRBs;
- (4) Support effective implementation of revised FATF Standards with a focus on asset recovery, beneficial ownership, and virtual assets;
- (5) Continue efforts to combat terrorist and proliferation financing.

E. High-risk and Other Monitored Jurisdictions

The FATF updated its statements on high-risk and other monitored jurisdictions. The FATF specifically noted that the DPRK has increased connectivity with the international financial system, which raises proliferation financing risks. Therefore, the FATF calls for greater vigilance and renewed implementation and enforcement of countermeasures against the DPRK.

1. High-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action (i.e. “countries or territories where major flaws are detected in its money laundering prevention and counter-terrorism financing efforts” stipulated in the Money Laundering Control Act):
 - (1) The jurisdictions having significant deficiencies in AML/CFT against which the FATF calls on its members to apply countermeasures according to Recommendation 19: the DPRK and Iran.
 - (2) The jurisdictions having several deficiencies in AML/CFT, into which the FATF calls on its members to apply enhanced due diligence measures proportionate to the risk arising from the jurisdiction: Myanmar.
2. Jurisdictions under increased monitoring (i.e. “countries or territories where advice of international anti-money laundering organizations are not followed or not fully followed” stipulated in the Money Laundering Control Act):² Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Monaco (newly added), Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Venezuela (newly added), Vietnam, and Yemen.

² Jamaica and Turkey were removed from the list of jurisdictions that shall be placed under increased monitoring.

II. AMLD Classroom

◆ World Bank Group (WBG)

The World Bank Group (WBG) was founded in July 1944 with its headquarters in Washington D.C., the United States. Comprising the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the WBG pursues the mission of facilitating global economic development and reducing poverty through loans, technical support, and policy advice. IBRD and IDA are in charge of providing loans and technical support, IFC is a private investment institution devoted to assisting the development of private enterprises. MIGA is responsible for offering investment guarantees and ICSID for settling international investment disputes.

One of the key tasks that the WBG undertakes is to help countries enhance their AML/CFT/CPF capacity with measures including technical support, capability building, and policy advice. For example, the WBG provides tools to prevent and trace illicit financial flow and increase financial transparency. The WBG also collaborates with the UNODC in launching the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative which aims to deny safe havens for corrupt funds and facilitate the return of illegal proceeds through perfecting the legal framework of asset recovery and providing training courses and assistance. Furthermore, the WBG offers countries practical AML suggestions, helps to bring them in line with the FATF Standards, and makes the voice of developing countries to be heard at global forums such as the FATF and G20. The WBG proactively promotes international cooperation and plays a crucial role in global issues concerning anti-corruption, inclusive finance, and asset recovery.

III. AMLD Statistics

A. Statistics of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs)³

(a) From All Financial Institutions and Designated Non-financial Businesses or Professions

Statistics of STRs, 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024			
Reporting Entities	Numbers of STRs	Reporting Entities	Numbers of STRs
Domestic banks	7,649	Securities investment trust enterprises	6
Foreign banks, including banks from mainland China	14	Securities finance enterprises	3
Trust and investment corporations	0	Securities investment consulting enterprises	0
Credit cooperative associations	154	Centralized securities depository enterprises	5
Credit department of farmers' associations	185	Futures commission merchants	48
Credit department of fishermen's associations	15	Designated non-financial businesses or professions	124
Postal institutions	627	Electronic payment and electronic stored value card issuers	32
Bills finance companies	0	Foreign currency collection/exchange agencies	152
Credit card companies	38	Foreign worker's remittance enterprises	8
Insurance companies	651	Finance leasing companies	3
Securities companies	94	Virtual asset service providers	168
Total	9,976		

³ The AMLD checks the statistics of STRs with the reporting entities every six months. The data in the tables include those to be checked, which maybe a little bit different from those in the AMLD's Annual Reports. In case of any discrepancies between the two versions, the AMLD's Annual Reports shall prevail.

(b) From Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions

Statistics of STRs from Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions, 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024	
Business	Numbers of STRs
Certified Public Accountants	20
Certified public bookkeepers, and bookkeeping and tax return filing agents	0
Jewelry business	2
Notaries	0
Lawyers	0
Land administration agents	0
Real estate agencies	0
Trust and company service providers	1
Third-party payment enterprises	101
Total	124

B. Statistics of Currency Transaction Report (CTR)⁴

Statistics of CTRs, 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024	
Reporting Entities	Numbers of STRs
Domestic banks	868,269
Foreign banks, including banks from mainland China	117
Credit cooperative associations	39,703
Credit departments of farmers' & fishermen's associations	86,418
Postal institutions	105,351
Insurance companies	1,180
Jewelry business	81
Securities investment trust and consulting enterprises	4
Electronic payment and electronic stored value cards issues	1
Finance leasing companies	0
Virtual currency transaction	1,019
Designated non-financial businesses or professions	313
Total	1,102,456

⁴ In case of any discrepancies in data between the table and the AMLD's Annual Reports, those in the latter shall prevail.

C. The International Currency Transportation Report (ICTR) Notified by Customs

Statistics of ICTR Notified by Customs, 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024			
Customs	Delivered items (incl. other similar methods)		Passengers (incl. crew members)
	Outbound/ Inbound	Numbers	Numbers
Taipei	Outbound	24,568	8,909
	Inbound	79,174	
Keelung	Outbound	83	7
	Inbound	897	
Kaohsiung	Outbound	55	1,920
	Inbound	445	
Taichung	Outbound	7	212
	Inbound	25	

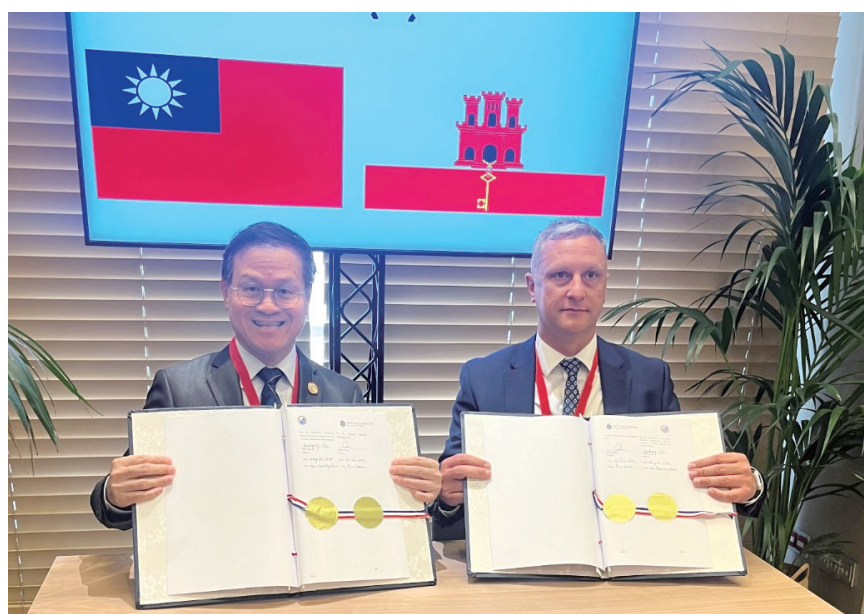
D. Statistics of International Intelligence Exchange

Statistics of International Intelligence Exchange, 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024			
		Cases	Number of Reports
Requests	From overseas	15	52
	To overseas	27	101
Spontaneous exchange	From overseas	10	20
	To overseas	7	13
Questionnaires and other matters		0	166
Total		59	352

IV. Events and Activities

◆ The AMLD participated in the Annual Egmont Group(EG) Plenary in Paris

The 30th annual Egmont Group Plenary took place from 2 to 7 June 2024 in Paris, France. Around 362 FIU delegates from 125 jurisdictions and 11 observers from international organizations participated in the plenary. The AMLD's deputy director Dai Chun-Cheng and investigator Chen Yen-Jun attended the plenary on behalf of Taiwan. During the plenary, the AMLD's delegates had a talk with Mr. Jérôme Beaumont (Executive Secretary of EG) who appreciated Taiwan's long-term engagement in EG-related affairs and assistance in enhancing global AML/CFT/CPF capacity. Besides, our delegates seized the opportunity of this plenary to sign the "MOUs concerning cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorism financing" with the FIUs of Gibraltar and the Bahamas. The signing of such MOUs will have substantive significance for combating cross-border money laundering and other major crimes as well as curbing terrorism financing in the future. The AMLD's delegates exchanged opinions and shared experiences with delegates from other countries' FIUs about the latest trends and issues, such as FIU organizational framework, data network safety controls, and asset recovery. The AMLD's delegates also built up contacts and friendships with international partners, thereby substantively assisting with Taiwan's law enforcement diplomacy.



A photo of the AMLD's Deputy Director Tai Chun-Cheng and the head of Gibraltar's FIU Mr. Edgar Lopez at the MOU signing ceremony



A photo of the AMLD's Deputy Director Tai Chun-Cheng and the head of the Bahama's FIU Mr. Emrick K. Seymour Sr., CM, KPM at the MOU signing ceremony

◆ Coordination meeting between the AMLD and the taxation authorities

Staff from the National Taxation Bureau of the Northern Area and the National Taxation Bureau of Taipei, Ministry of Finance visited the AMLD on 12 April and 20 June 2024, respectively. Both parties not only exchanged views on the cases, patterns, and regulations of taxation, but also discussed the key points and cooperation demands for future investigation. As the FIU of Taiwan, the AMLD is devoted to supporting the practical needs that law enforcement and taxation authorities express. The AMLD also expects to make full use of the feedback from taxation authorities to facilitate the reorientation of the collection and analysis of financial intelligence, insofar as to achieve fairness and justice in tax burden.



A group photo of Wu Yue-Ping (Director, AMLD), Wu Hai-Yan (division head, National Taxation Bureau of the Northern Area), and colleagues of both parties



A group photo of Wu Yue-Ping (Director, AMLD), Chen Li-Mei (division head, National Taxation Bureau of Taipei), and colleagues of both parties

V. Regulations

- A. The amendment to “Appendix: Suspected Transaction Patterns of Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, and Proliferation Financing” in the “Template for Guidelines Governing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism Financing of Securities Firms” was approved by the Securities and Futures Bureau, Financial Supervisory Commission on 17 May 2024 (Document: Jin-Guan-Zheng-Chuan-Zi No. 1130382435). This amendment primarily incorporates the suspected transaction pattern of “buying or selling a specific company’s stock that exceeds a specific amount within a short period of time without justifiable reasons.” For details, please visit the official website of the AMLD: <https://www.mjib.gov.tw/EditPage/?PageID=076d8266-a060-4888-8d67-c8f9ed514a3b>
- B. The amendments to the “Template for Guidelines Governing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism for the Electronic Payment Institutions” and the “Guidelines for Electronic Payment Institutions to Assess the Risks of Money Laundering and Terrorism and Formulate Related Preventive Programs” were approved by the Financial Supervisory Commission on 1 July 2024 (Document: Jin-Guan-Yin-Piao-Zi No. 1130138010). Nine clauses of the Template and one point of the Guidelines were amended, mainly the way and timing of undertaking customer due diligence (CDD) measures, and the ways of verifying the person purporting to act on behalf of the customer and the ultimate controlling ownership. Besides, electronic payment institutions shall undertake CDD measures against prominent politicians, not limited to high-risk customers or those of particular higher risk categories. For details, please visit the official website of the AMLD: <https://www.mjib.gov.tw/EditPage/?PageID=076d8266-a060-4888-8d67-c8f9ed514a3b>



Anti-Money Laundering Division Copyright
 Address : 74, Chung-Hua RD., Hsin-Tien Dist.
 New Taipei City 231209, Taiwan, R.O.C.
 Tel : +886-2-29189746 ; Fax : +886-2-29131280
 E-mail : aml@mjib.gov.tw
 Website : www.mjib.gov.tw/mlpc