



**Middle East and Africa joint Typologies and Capacity Building Workshop
MENAFATF – ESAAMLG – GABAC – GIABA,
Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco**

22-25 January 2018

Communiqué

The first joint Middle-East and Africa Typologies and Capacity Building Workshop was organised, under the High Patronage of His Majesty The King Mohamed VI, the King of Morocco, by four Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional Bodies - MENAFATF, ESAAMLG, GABAC and GIABA¹, in collaboration with the Moroccan Financial Information Processing Unit (UIRF) from 22 to 25 January 2018 in Rabat, Morocco. More than 260 participants from 50 countries attended the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to share knowledge and experiences on emerging money laundering and terrorist financing risks, trends and methods as well as on the conduct of national money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessments. Specifically, the workshop considered the following five key issues in plenary and breakout sessions:

- a. Money Laundering – Terrorist Financing and the Smuggling of Goods
- b. Money Laundering through the Real Estate Sector
- c. Terrorist Financing Risks
- d. Financial Flows from Human Trafficking
- e. Professional Money Laundering Networks

The outcomes of the workshop will serve as inputs to ongoing research work and will be communicated to relevant bodies.

Based on the significance of the workshop, the participants agreed and adopted “*The Rabat Recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in the Middle East and Africa*” in order to sustain and promote the initiative.

¹ **MENAFATF** – Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force; **GIABA** – Groupe Intergouvernemental d'Action contre le Blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique de l'Ouest (Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa); **ESAAMLG** - Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group; **GABAC** - Groupe d'Action contre le blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique Centrale (Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa)

Appreciation

The workshop participants expressed their profound gratitude for the High Patronage of His Majesty, King Mohammed VI. The hospitality and welcome extended to them is a clear demonstration of the commitment of His Majesty, the Government and people of Morocco to promoting international cooperation and strengthening ties between the Middle-East and Africa.

MENAFATF

GIABA

ESAAMLG

GABAC

*Done in Rabat, Morocco
25th Day of January, 2018*

The Rabat Recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in the Middle-East and Africa

We the participants,

Upon the conclusion of the first Joint Middle-East and Africa Typologies and Capacity Building Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism, organized, under the High Patronage of His Majesty The King Mohamed VI, the King of Morocco, by four Financial Action Task Force-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) - MENAFATF, ESAAMLG, GABAC and GIABA², in collaboration with the Moroccan Financial Information Processing Unit (UTRF), from 22 to 25 January 2018, in Rabat, Morocco;

Noting the common challenges faced by the Middle-East and African countries in combating money laundering and terrorist financing;

Hereby adopt *The Rabat Recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of terrorism in Middle-East and Africa* which call upon the four FSRBs, their member States and partners to:

1. Intensify efforts to combat terrorist financing in a collaborative manner and harmonize the actions of all stakeholders;
2. Promote and sustain cooperation between the four FSRBs, especially through participating in each other's activities including plenary meetings where issues of considerable importance to AML/CFT are discussed;
3. Set up a framework to conduct typologies and other research studies on ML/TF that are of mutual interest and benefits;
4. Organize, on a regular basis, capacity building and experience sharing events in order to sustain this first joint initiative;
5. Promote exchanges and visits among AML/CFT officials of member countries of the four FSRBs to share knowledge and experiences.

The Participants

**Done in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
25th Day of January 2018**

² **MENAFATF:** Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force; **GIABA:** Groupe Intergouvernemental d'Action contre le Blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique de l'Ouest (Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa); **ESAAMLG:** Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group; **GABAC:** Groupe d'Action contre le blanchiment d'Argent en Afrique Centrale (Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa)