MENAFATF
21st ANNUAL REPORT
2025

21st Annual Report for the year 2025

The MENAFATF is of a voluntary and cooperative nature, independent of any other international body or organization, established by virtue of an agreement between the governments of its members, not by virtue of an international treaty. It determines its works, rules, regulations and procedures and cooperates with other international bodies, especially FATF, to achieve its objectives.

The MENAFATF continuously seeks to create an effective partnership and strengthen cooperation with international and regional bodies in the areas of the MENAFATF's work, especially with regard to providing training and technical assistance to its Member Countries.

For more information about MENAFATF, please visit the website: http://www.menafatf.org/

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President's Foreword

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful, from Him we seek help

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Peace be Upon You, God's Mercy and His Blessings, Greetings

We are pleased to present to you the 21st Annual Report of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) for the year 2025. On this Occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the MENAFATF member countries for their continued and efficient support in implementing the strategic priorities and enhancing our collective work.

The year 2025 embodied a journey filled with achievements, challenges, and opportunities. Throughout this period, the MENAFATF continued its operations according to its strategic priorities, reflecting the core objectives of its establishment as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding, in line with the international standards on combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation.

During 2025, the MENAFATF worked on setting up, starting and preparing for the third round of mutual evaluations, according to the timeline for the MENAFATF mutual evaluation processes. It also worked on monitoring member countries' compliance, strengthening the implementation of the risk-based approach, and supporting national capacity building through specialized training programs and workshops. Furthermore, the MENAFATF intensified regional and international cooperation and coordination to enhance the level of effectiveness and technical compliance.

The MENAFATF reaffirms its commitment to developing operational mechanisms, fostering integration between evaluation and follow-up working groups, and embedding a culture of quality and continuous improvement. The MENAFATF Secretariat will continue to provide technical and advisory support to member countries to ensure the highest levels of consistency in the implementation of the standards. Furthermore, it aims to uphold the principles of fairness and transparency throughout all stages of evaluation and follow-up, thereby consolidating the MENAFATF credibility and its regional and international standing.

As we look ahead to the next phase, the MENAFATF will continue to focus on enhancing the effectiveness of anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing, and counter-proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF) systems in our member countries, by developing assessment methodologies, updating guidance materials, and optimizing the use of modern technologies and advanced financial analysis in identifying emerging risks. We will also work to support innovation initiatives and build partnerships with relevant regional and international stakeholders, ensuring a proactive response to evolving challenges and enhancing our member countries' readiness to meet international requirements with efficiency and competence. The MENAFATF also placed particular emphasis on keeping pace with developments and emerging trends in financial crimes, and on strengthening the exchange of expertise and information among member countries, thereby reinforcing the integrity of the financial systems and enhancing their stability at both the regional and international levels.

As this report highlights the most prominent activities of the MENAFATF and the results of its work during the year, we affirm our commitment to continue providing full support to the MENFATF, to work on enhancing strategic partnerships and to support member countries' efforts in building effective national systems able to face the evolving risks.

In conclusion, as my presidency for the year 2025 is drawing to a close, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to member countries, working group members and the MENAFATF Secretariat for their sincere efforts. I hope that I have succeeded in advancing the objectives that member countries seek to achieve through the MENAFATF in implementing its strategic plans. I also reaffirm our commitment to continuing to work with the MENAFATF and to striving consistently toward the achievement of our shared goals.

May Allah help us continue this journey, in a way that serves the interests of our countries and strengthens the security and stability of our region.

Peace be upon you, God's Mercy and His Blessings,

H.E. Samya Abu Shareef
President of the AML/CFT Unit - the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Member of the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing
President of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force

Executive Secretary's Foreword

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful, from Him we seek help

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Peace be Upon You, God's Mercy and His Blessings, Greetings

I am pleased to introduce the 21st Annual Report of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) for the year 2025. During this year, the MENAFATF worked on implementing the Strategic Plan for 2025, by setting up, starting and preparing for the third round of mutual evaluation processes according to the MENAFATF timeline, through a number of mutual evaluations conducted for several member countries, including (the Republic of Tunisia, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the State of the United Arab Emirates). During 2025, nine enhanced follow-up reports were discussed and adopted, namely for (the Arab Republic of Egypt, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Djibouti). In addition, several self-assessment reports were also discussed, namely for the (Republic of Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Sudan and the State of Libya). These self-assessment reports covered the topic of technical compliance regarding important recommendations, which reflects the member countries' commitment to implementing the international standards and strengthening the capacity of their systems to face challenges in this field.

As part of capacity building efforts, the MENAFATF implemented (6) training programs during 2025, in cooperation with member countries, donors and international organizations. Approximately (150) participants benefited from these programs, which were generously hosted by member countries. The most prominent of these included the training and qualification program for assessors, the program on the international standards issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and the program on the risk-based approach. In the area of studies and typologies, the MENAFATF also issued the 16th report on legal persons and legal arrangements, which aims to examine how criminals launder illicit proceeds.

The MENAFATF Secretariat, in cooperation with some member countries and observers, translated (3) FATF guidelines into Arabic, with the aim of raising awareness and keeping pace with developments in the AML/CFT/CPF fields.

With the aim of developing policies, the MENAFATF worked with relevant stakeholders within the Financial Action Task Force on several projects, most notably the Asset Recovery Guidance and Best Practices, as well as the Project to Review and Amend Recommendation 1 and Recommendation 16.

The year 2025 also witnessed significant activity by the MENAFATF in the field of international cooperation, through its participation in numerous events and activities of member countries, as well as its contributions to the work of international and regional organizations and attendance at many international meetings, most notably the FATF plenary and working groups meetings. The MENAFATF also organized its 40th Plenary Meeting in May 2025 and its 41st Plenary Meeting in November 2025, which included associated working group meetings held on its margins, as well as high-level workshops featuring a number of presentations with the participation of countries from outside the region sharing their experiences in the new round of evaluations.

In conclusion, I cannot but extend my thanks and gratitude to H.E. Samya Abu Shareef, the MENAFATF President for 2025 and President of the AML/CFT Unit of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for her continuous efforts and ongoing support to the Secretariat. I also extend my thanks to all member countries and observers for their valuable support and cooperation, and to all my colleagues in the Secretariat for their dedication and continuous work toward achieving the MENAFATF objectives.

Peace be upon you, God’s Mercy and His Blessings,
Suliman Bin Rashid Al-Jabrin
MENAFATF Executive Secretary

1. Section One
Overview of the MENAFATF.

Given the severe negative impact of ML/TF crimes on the financial and economic systems in any country or region in the world, the idea of establishing a regional group for the Middle East and North Africa region was proposed in 2003 to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, similar to FATF. On 30 November 2004, in the city of Manama, the capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the governments of 14 Arab countries decided to establish the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force ("MENAFATF") during a ministerial meeting; after its establishment, 7 other countries joined the MENAFATF. All member countries signed a memorandum of understanding, which represented a historic achievement for Arab Countries which expressed their serious commitment to face the risks resulting from money laundering and terrorist financing operations.

The Kingdom of Bahrain hosts the headquarters of the MENAFATF Secretariat, where it became operational since its inception. The Kingdom has provided the premises with all the necessary means and equipment. In confirmation of the importance of the role assigned to the MENAFATF, the latter signed a headquarters agreement with the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which was approved by both the Shura Council and the House of Representatives. On 26 March 2009, The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Law No. (5) of 2009 ratifying the agreement and publishing the law in the Official Gazette on 02 April 2009.

1.1.Mandate and Objectives

a. Mandate

The MENAFATF is a voluntary and cooperative group independent of any other international body or organization. The MENAFATF was established by an agreement between the governments of its members, based on a Memorandum of Understanding that determines its work, systems, rules and procedures, and cooperates with other international bodies, especially the FATF, in order to achieve its goals. The MENAFATF is committed to AML/CFT in the region by working to implement and disseminate relevant international policies and standards and effectively promote compliance therewith, especially the FATF recommendations and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The MENAFATF mission is to unify and continue the joint efforts of countries in the Middle East and North Africa in AML/CFT in the region through the effective implementation of AML/CFT standards at the level of all member countries, by:

- ✓ Recognizing ML/TF risks in countries of the Middle East and North Africa region;
- ✓ Acknowledging the FATF 40 recommendations on AML/CFT/CPF, the relevant United Nations treaties and United Nations Security Council resolutions, and accepted international standards in this regard, as well as any other standards adopted by Arab countries to strengthen the fight against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation in the region; and
- ✓ Staying aware that member countries need to comply with these standards to establish and implement an effective framework that does not conflict with their cultural values, constitutional frameworks and legal systems.

b. MENAFATF Objectives

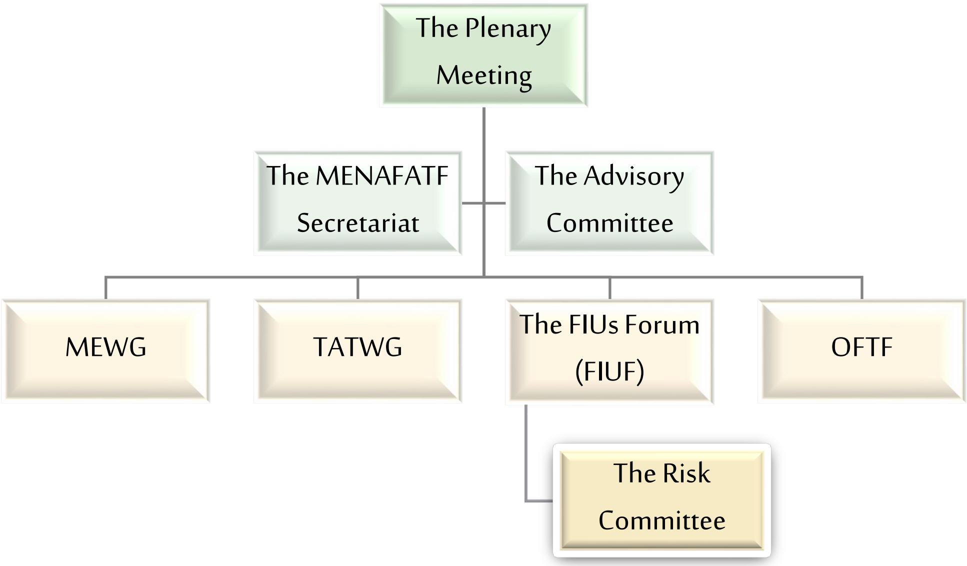
The member countries of the MENAFATF work to achieve the following objectives:

- ✓ To adopt and implement the FATF 40 Recommendations on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism and proliferation;
- ✓ To implement the relevant UN treaties and agreements and United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
- ✓ To co-operate with each other to increase compliance with these standards within the

MENA Region and to cooperate with other international and regional organizations, institutions and agencies to improve compliance worldwide;

- ✓ To work jointly to identify key regional issues related to money laundering and terrorist financing and proliferation, to share relevant experiences and to develop solutions to deal with such issues;
- ✓ To take measures across the region to effectively combat money laundering and terrorist financing without contradicting the cultural values, constitutional frameworks and legal systems of member countries.

1.2.General Structure of the MENAFATF



a. The Plenary Meeting.

The Plenary Meeting is the body in charge of taking decisions within the MENAFATF. The Plenary meeting consists of representatives from member countries and observers with extensive experience in AML/CFT. The Plenary meeting is held at least twice a year, with the presidency Country hosting one of them during its presidency, and the MENAFATF Secretariat hosting the other.

Member countries.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
State of the United Arab Emirates
Kingdom of Bahrain
Republic of Tunisia
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Republic of Djibouti
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Republic of Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Federal Republic of Somalia
Republic of Iraq
Sultanate of Oman
State of Palestine
State of Qatar
State of Kuwait
Lebanese Republic
State of Libya
Arab Republic of Egypt
Kingdom of Morocco
Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Republic of Yemen

Observers.

French Republic
UK
USA
Kingdom of Spain
Australia
Federal Republic of Germany
International Monetary Fund
World Bank
The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
FATF
Egmont Group
APG
WCO
Arab Monetary Fund
Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
UN
European Commission
Russian Federation

b. **President and Vice-President.**

The MENAFATF Presidency constitutes a pivotal role in achieving the goals for which it was established. The President and Vice-President (the next President) are appointed periodically from MENAFATF Member countries according to the alphabetical order of the countries, for one year. The MENAFATF Executive Secretary advises both the President and Vice President.

H.E MS. SAMYA ABU SHAREEF, PRESIDENT OF MENAFATF, HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

H.E. HAMID SAIF AL-ZAABI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF MENAFATF, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

c. The Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee is a committee that aims to provide advice to the President and the Secretariat with regards to the cases related to policies, works and implementation mechanisms. The Committee also provides recommendations in this regard to the Plenary for discussion and decision-making. It consists of:

- The MENAFATF President who is the Committee's Chairman.
- The MENAFATF Vice-President who is the Committee's Vice-Chairman.
- The previous President of the MENAFATF.
- MEWG Co-Chairs.
- TATWG Co-Chairs.
- Two countries that were unable to hold the MENAFATF presidency during the first round of presidency.
- The General Secretary of the Committee is the MENAFATF Executive Secretary.

d. The MENAFATF Secretariat.

The MENAFATF Secretariat carries out technical and administrative functions according to the decisions of the Plenary meeting and under the guidance of the Executive Secretary and is headquartered in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The MENAFATF is also an Associate Member of the FATF and holds the observer status on a reciprocal basis with: Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (EGMONT), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), and the Eurasian Group (EAG).

2. Section Two: MENAFATF Performance Accomplishments

2.1. MENAFATF Strategic Plan 2025-2027

The MENAFATF strategic plan 2025-2027 was approved during its 38th Plenary meeting held in May 2024. The plan reflects the main objectives of the MENAFATF's establishment stipulated in the MoU and is based on the current stage of developing AML/CFT/CPF systems in the Middle East and North Africa region, taking into account current needs and trends.

- **First Strategy** : Preparation and start of the third round of mutual evaluation processes.
- **Second Strategy** : Enhancing the commitment and effectiveness of the member countries in applying AML/CFT/CPF international standards.
- **Third Strategy** : Enhancing the political commitment of the MENAFATF.
- **Fourth Strategy** : Enhancing communication with the FATF, the Global Network and international organizations
- **Fifth Strategy** : Stabilizing the MENAFATF Secretariat resources.

2.2. Priorities of the Jordanian and Emirati Co-Presidency of the MENAFATF for 2025-2026.

Within the framework of the MENAFATF's completion of its achievements and moving forward in fulfilling its objectives and developing its work, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates Republic co-presidency of the MENAFATF aspired to contribute effectively to the development of a co-presidential program consistent with the MENAFATF strategy, in order to ensure the continuity and the development of existing work by focusing on the following priorities:

1- Enhance the MENAFATF role in preparing and conducting the third round of mutual evaluation and in supporting member countries which will be assessed.
2- Enhance the MENAFATF governance system.
3- Continue to support the MENAFATF in implementing and completing the action plan based on the FATF recommendations in order to increase the effectiveness of the MENAFATF procedures and make them clearer and more targeted toward achieving the Recommendations.
4- Enhance cooperation and outreach and raise the level of coordination with international and regional partners and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs), in line with the MENAFATF strategic plan and action plan.
5- Strengthen efforts in implementing international standards by identifying and understanding the risks and the ML/TF/PF trends and methods.

2.3. Overview on implementing the action plan of 2025

The MENAFATF strategic priorities for 2025-2027 are reflected in the annual action plans that detail the tasks to undertake. The following are the most prominent achievements of the MENAFATF action plan for 2025:

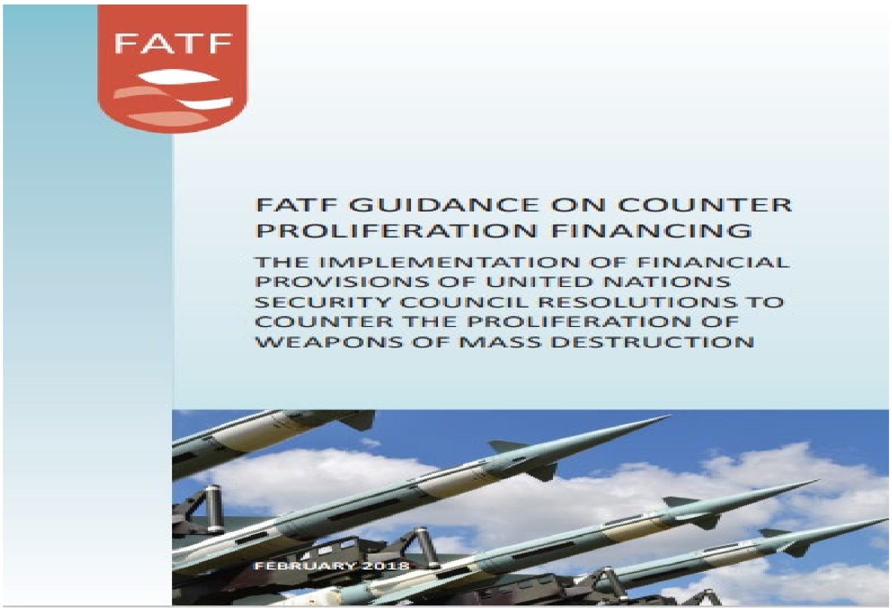
- Adoption of (9) nine reports under enhanced follow-up for the Arab Republic of Egypt, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Djibouti.
- Approval of the proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding and the MENAFATF rules and procedures regarding the selection of the President and Vice-President of the MENAFATF.
- Translation of **three guidance** issued by the FATF.
- Organization of (6) workshops, conferences and training courses, from which nearly 200 participants benefited, including all authorities concerned with AML/CFT/CPF.
- The MENAFATF issued the 6th Typologies Report on Legal Persons and Legal Arrangements.

2.4. Translation of the guidelines issued by the FATF.

In 2025, the MENAFATF Secretariat, in cooperation with some member countries and observers, translated 3 FATF guidelines into Arabic in order to raise awareness in the MENA region and keep pace with the developments in the AML/CFT/CPF field. These guidelines were shared with member countries and published on the MENAFATF website. They included:

✓ **International Best Practices: Targeted Financial Sanctions Related to Terrorism and Terrorist Financing Recommendation 6.**

- ✓ **FATF Guidance on Counter Proliferation Financing: The Implementation of Financial Provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolutions to Counter the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.**



- ✓ **Guiding Paper to Implement Targeted Financial Sanctions and Combat Sanction Evasion.**

3. Section Three:
The main tasks of the MENAFATF - An Overview and the Most Important Statistics for 2025

3.1.MENAFATF Working Groups' activities

3.1.1. Mutual Evaluation Working Group (MEWG).

The MENAFATF implements the member countries' assessment program in order to verify the level of effectiveness of the systems applied and their extent of consistency with the international standards on AML/CFT/PF, based on the assessment methodology issued by the FATF. The mutual evaluation process consists of a peer-to-peer assessment, through a careful review, of whether member countries have implemented the requirements of the FATF recommendations and the effectiveness of their systems in addressing the risks to which they are exposed and combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism and proliferation.

The MENAFATF continuously monitors the progress made by member countries in improving their AML/CFT systems. Following their evaluation, countries submit follow-up reports within periods specified in the evaluation and follow-up process procedures which are adopted by the MENAFATF Plenary Meeting.

- **Mutual Evaluation Processes**

End of the second round of the mutual evaluation process.

During 2025, the MENAFATF discussed two reports on the most important developments in the AML/CFT/CPF systems of the State of Palestine and the Federal Republic of Somalia. These reports covered the technical compliance of these countries with the 40 Recommendations, incorporating the most significant updates to their respective AML/CFT/CPF systems. Additionally, the MENAFATF discussed self-assessment reports for the Republic of Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Sudan, and the State of Libya. These reports addressed technical compliance regarding key recommendations, specifically Recommendations (3, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 20), and included the latest developments in this regard. As these countries did not undergo the mutual evaluation process during the second round due to the difficulty of conducting onsite visits amid security conditions, and based on the MENAFATF's belief in the importance of supporting these countries in developing and elevating their AML/CFT systems, these reports served to examine a part of their AML/CFT systems. It should be noted that the review process resulting in these reports does not serve as a substitute for the comprehensive mutual evaluations of the countries.

Launch of the 3rd round of the mutual evaluation and follow-up processes.

With the end of the 2nd round of mutual evaluation and follow-up processes, the MENAFATF started in 2025, according to its timeline of mutual evaluations, a number of mutual evaluations for some member countries which included (the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Tunisia), according to the timeline adopted by the MENAFATF:

Timeline for the Third Round of the Mutual Evaluation

Country	Discussions of Plenary Meeting
Republic of Tunisia	November 2026
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	May 2027
State of the United Arab Emirates	February 2027
Kingdom of Bahrain	June 2027
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	June 2027
Kingdom of Morocco	May 2028
Syrian Arab Republic	November 2028
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	May 2029
Arab Republic of Egypt	November 2029
State of Qatar	February 2030
State of Libya	May 2030
Lebanese Republic	November 2030
State of Kuwait	February 2031
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	May 2031
Sultanate of Oman	June 2031
The Republic of Yemen	November 2031
Republic of Iraq	November 2031
Republic of Djibouti	May 2032
Federal Republic of Somalia	May 2032
State of Palestine	November 2032
Republic of Sudan	May 2033

On the other hand, several training programs were conducted during 2025 for member countries undergoing the mutual evaluation process at that time. These programs included: (the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Tunisia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), in accordance with the MENAFATF procedures for the 3rd round of mutual evaluations, with a view to ensuring optimal preparation for the evaluation processes of the relevant countries.

○ Follow-up Processes

During 2025, the Plenary Meeting adopted nine reports under enhanced follow-up for the Arab Republic of Egypt, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Djibouti.

In this context, it is necessary to point out the tireless efforts made by member countries and the important developments regarding their AML/CFT/CPF systems, as shown in their FURs; Year 2025 witnessed the issuance of many AML/CFT-related laws and regulations. Work was also done to complete NRA related to various important sectors, and countries updated their national AML/CFT strategies, including setting a number of new goals according to local, regional and international changes, as well as taking several measures through the competent authorities' development of action plans derived from the MERs recommendations and the results of national and sectoral assessments. The concerned countries also issued instructions and guidelines and made great efforts in the field of training, awareness, and strengthening the capabilities of competent authorities, which contributed fundamentally to addressing shortcomings related to technical compliance and/or effectiveness.

3.1.2. Technical Assistance and Typologies Working Group (TATWG).

The MENAFATF works jointly to identify issues related to money laundering and terrorist financing of a regional nature, exchange experiences regarding them, and develop solutions to deal therewith. This includes producing materials related to typologies to identify and analyze threats, vulnerabilities, and risks related to money laundering and terrorist financing. It also works to identify the needs of member countries in terms of technical assistance, organize workshops to exchange expertise and experiences between member countries regarding ML/TF/PF issues, including raising awareness among member countries to enhance and develop AML/CFT systems and procedures, and following up on the latest developments in the field of typologies in the FATF and FSRBs to study them and benefit therefrom. The TATWG also discusses projects proposed by member countries as part of the TATWG work and submits studies to the MENAFATF member countries in order to enhance the AML/CFT systems.

- **Typologies report.**

The MENAFATF issued the 16th Typologies Report on Legal Persons and Legal Arrangements. This report aims to identify how criminals launder the proceeds of crime in the Middle East and North Africa region, helping member countries to gain a good understanding of the methods and techniques used to exploit these entities in their financial crimes, and enabling them to detect and disrupt them by taking effective countermeasures.

- ### MENAFATF training programs.

During 2025, the MENAFATF held (6) training courses in collaboration with member countries, observers, donors and concerned organizations, namely:

1- Joint assessor training and qualification workshop held in the State of Qatar.

2- FATF international standards training course held in the State of Qatar.

3- **Seizure and confiscation of criminal assets held in the Kingdom of Morocco.**

4- **Investigation and prosecution in the field of money laundering held in the Arab Republic of Egypt.**

5- **Risk-based approach and risk assessment mechanisms for supervised institutions held in the State of the United Arab Emirates.**

6- **Dialogue seminar on sharing technical tools used to ensure the effective implementation of targeted financial sanctions and methods to address them held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

3.2. Activities and Developments of the MENAFATF Forums and Committees.

3.2.1. FIUs Forum (FIUF).

The FIUF aims at exchanging experiences between FIUs in member countries of the MENAFATF, through cases studies and typologies projects and their results, increasing the level of countries' compliance with Recommendation (29) of the FATF Recommendations, studying all requirements for the establishment of an effective FIU, and developing its work, especially with regard to increasing the analytical capacity of its employees, while achieving better regional communication, mutual support, and facilitating deliberations regarding the exchange of information between FIUs in member countries of the MENAFATF, and support member countries' membership in the Egmont Group.

During 2025, the Forum contributed through cooperation with the Egmont Group during the FIUs' meetings at both the 28th and 29th meetings by working to encourage and follow up on joining the Egmont Group through the minimized technical committee which was established with a view to accompanying countries which are not members of the Egmont Group. A working paper was submitted regarding the common challenges between non-member countries and the mechanisms for handling them. The MENAFATF Secretariat also gave an overview regarding the status of countries wishing to join the Egmont Group, including the legislative and political position, the most important steps and the latest updates it made.

On enhancing and encouraging information exchange and regional cooperation mechanisms, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Qatar, and the Republic of Iraq delivered a presentation on mechanisms for detecting emerging crimes, specifically cybercrimes, deepfakes, and virtual asset-related offenses. The presentation also covered operational and strategic analysis tools, the extraction of indicators, and the development of proactive scenarios for crime detection. The strategic analysis results were reviewed, with the report aiming to improve the quality of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) while emphasizing the necessity of enhancing financial analysis effectiveness. The primary and secondary priorities outlined in the FIUF Action Plan for 2025 were also explained and clarified, providing updates on the implemented part of the plan, and following up on the remaining key priorities set forth in the action plan, and seeking to implement them within the Action Plan for 2026, thereby ensuring continuity in executing the remaining tasks.

3.2.2. Operational Experts Forum on Terrorist Financing (OFTF).

The OFTF aims to provide an opportunity for counter-terrorist financing experts to discuss the risks of terrorist financing within and beyond the Middle East and North Africa region and the inherent challenges of the process of combating terrorist financing. The OFTF targets operational experts from various fields such as Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), security agencies and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) dealing with terrorist financing issues.

In implementing the priorities set forth in the 2025 Action Plan, the Forum prepared a guidance paper on the risks, methods, and trends identified in the financing of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and the facilitation of their travel across the region. Additionally, the Forum shared the expertise of the countries in disrupting terrorist financing through a dedicated session that featured a representative from the Arab Counter-Terrorism Experts Group of the League of Arab States, which made a presentation highlighting strategic efforts at the regional level to prevent, disrupt, and deplete the sources of terrorist financing. Furthermore, the MENAFATF Secretariat reviewed the implementation status of the 2025 Action Plan, noting that all items have been addressed in accordance with their designated priorities.

The Action Plan for 2026 was also reviewed. This plan is primarily based on emerging TF risks drawing on the results of recent studies and reports that highlighted the evolving methods of financing and the diversification of channels used. This plan comes in response to the current challenges facing member countries, with the aim of directing the Forum’s work toward priority issues and addressing them effectively.

3.2.3. Risk Committee.

The Risk Committee aims to consider all issues related to understanding the risks of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. The committee discusses the challenges faced by member countries in the area of ML/TF/PF risks. During 2025, the MENAFATF Secretariat presented the Committee’s Action Plan for 2025 and the proposed tasks which are in line with the Committee’s main tasks. The plan included the follow-up of ongoing projects, including the Arabic translation of the updated National Risk Assessment Guidance issued by FATF, as well as the continued implementation of the regional risk assessment project.

The Committee discussed the National Risk Assessment Guidance issued by FATF in November 2024, which aims to enable countries to better understand the risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing. The Committee’s work included a presentation of the FATF Risks, Trends and Methods Group report on the impact of artificial intelligence and deepfakes, as well as presentations on regional experiences in identifying, understanding, assessing, and mitigating risks related to the use of modern technologies and financial inclusion in the context of money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Committee is currently working to enhance the exchange of expertise among member countries and to present their regional experiences, alongside monitoring international publications in the field of risk assessment. It also presents these experiences and translates relevant publications on national risk assessments, while assisting member countries that have not yet completed their assessments. In addition, the Committee is developing an action plan that helps achieve the Forum's objectives, in line with the Committee's Action Plan for 2026–2027.

4. Section Four: Regional inclusion, international cooperation and partnerships of the MENAFATF.

Combating money laundering, associated predicate offenses, terrorist financing, and proliferation requires a strong and coordinated global response, as regional inclusion, international cooperation, and intensifying partnerships with member countries, regional and international organizations and bodies, and institutional entities are essential in the field of combating financial crimes. In this regard, the MENA FATF recognizes the importance of coordination with regional and international bodies and strives to expand the scope of this inclusion, cooperation and partnership, in accordance with Clause (3) of Article (1) related to the MENAFATF objectives included in the MoU, which stipulates the necessity of cooperation with other regional and international organizations, institutions and bodies to enhance compliance with AML/CFT/CPF standards internationally. The MENAFATF also includes this cooperation in all its tasks stipulated under its Rules and Procedures. Regional inclusion, international cooperation and intensification of the MENAFATF partnerships are represented within the framework of:

- Participation in the events and activities of member countries.
- Contribution to the work of international and regional organizations.
- Coordinating the MENAFATF participation or contribution to the work of international and regional organizations and partner institutional entities.

4.1.International cooperation

Within the framework of the FATF's international cooperation, the MENAFATF contributes regularly and effectively to the work of international and regional organizations. This section addresses formal international cooperation based on the MENAFATF position as an associate member or observer of the organizations concerned.

a. Financial Action Task Force

The MENAFATF holds the status of an associate member of the FATF, where it participates in all the work of the FATF and its working groups. The MENAFATF and its member countries are always keen to participate effectively in the projects and activities of the FATF to ensure that regional considerations are considered in international standards. The member countries of the MENAFATF are also keen to participate in the training workshops of the FATF to ensure the development of human capacities in the region and their knowledge of the latest good practices on an international level.

- ✓ **MENAFATF's contribution: Providing comments on proposed amendments to standards, guidelines, and best practices.**

- **Asset recovery guidance and best practices.**
- Payment transparency - Amendment of Recommendation (16) and its Interpretive Note.
- Guidance on AML/CFT measures and financial inclusion.
- Project on reviewing and studying a limited and targeted update of Recommendation (1) and its relevant criteria.
- The project of the Virtual Asset Contact Group on implementing the requirements of Recommendation (15) related to new technologies.
- Project on financial exclusion and mitigation of risks: FATF updated guidance.

✓ **MENAFATF participation in international training workshops and meetings.**

The MENAFATF participated in **the Asia/Pacific Group (APG) Annual Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, from 25 to 29 August 2025**. Its participation included providing strategic input in a number of discussion sessions and exchanging regional expertise. The MENAFATF also presented its strategic priorities for 2025–2026, which are jointly led by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. These priorities include preparation for the third round of mutual evaluations, investment in resident experts, and strengthening technical support in line with the international standards.

The MENAFATF participation in the meeting also reaffirmed its long-standing cooperation with the APG, including through joint typologies projects, joint evaluations, and mutual evaluation review processes.

- **MENAFATF participation in the MENAFATF/EAG joint forum on “Risk Management in the Age of New Technologies”, in Moscow, Russia on 28 May 2025.** The forum witnessed the attendance of high-level officials from regulatory and supervisory authorities, experts from the private sector, and representatives of international organizations and member countries of both groups. Strategic themes were discussed through interactive dialogue sessions, most notably:
- Cybercrime and cross-border risks in the digital age.
- Virtual assets and terrorist financing.
- Building a culture of risk management at the international level.
- Know Your Customer in the digital environment and the role of Artificial Intelligence.

The forum also featured experts from counterpart regional groups, as well as representatives from the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCCT). This enabled an in-depth exchange of best practices and affirmed member countries' shared commitment to strengthening international cooperation frameworks.

- **MENAFATF participation in the meeting of Central Bank Governors of MENAFATF members in preparation for the third round of mutual evaluations, on the sidelines of the 49th ordinary session meeting of the Council of Governors of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities, the Republic of Tunisia, 17 September 17 2025.**

The meeting featured high-level attendance by FATF President Mrs. Elisa Madrazo; MENAFATF President Samya Abu Shareef of Jordan; MENAFATF Vice President Hamed Al Zaabi of UAE; and MENAFATF Executive Secretary Suliman Aljabrin.

MENAFATF President Mrs. Samya Abu Shareef highlighted the importance of constructive cooperation with the FATF, regional groups, and the Global Network, given the key roles these groups play in complementing those of other relevant international institutions and organizations, such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank, which contributes to supporting the international system and enhance its effectiveness.

On her part, FATF President Mrs. Elisa Madrazo stressed the importance of such high-level meetings considering their effective role in supporting the next phase and strengthening bonds and institutional complementarity among various stakeholders.

MENAFATF Executive Secretary Mr. Suliman Aljabrin made a presentation featuring the timeline and procedures for the third round of mutual evaluation and the most important recommendations for countries to increase their readiness and their level of preparedness for the evaluation process.

The MENAFATF also participated in several international workshops and meetings as follows:

- FATF Joint Experts Meeting, Vienna-Austria, 8-10 January 2025.
- Intersect Police Summit, Dubai-UAE, 15-16 January 2025.
- "No Money for Terror" Conference, Munich-the Republic of Germany, 13 February 2025.
- FATF Plenary Meeting and its Associated Working Groups Meetings, Paris-France, 17-21 February 2025.
- The FSRBs Forum by GIZ, Strasbourg-France, 23-25 February 2025.
- Training Session "Introduction to the Mutual Evaluation" addressed to members of the FATF and FSRBs Secretariats, Paris-France, 10-14 March 2025.
- Attending the meetings of the FATF Global Network Secretariats Retreat, Abu Dhabi-UAE, 7-9 April 2025.
- World Police Summit, Dubai-UAE, 13-15 May 2025.
- Plenary Meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG), Moscow- Russia, 26-30 May 2025.
- Participation in the FATF Plenary Meeting and its Associated Working Groups Meetings and the MONEYVAL Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg-France, 10-14 June 2025.
- Participation in the Egmont Group Plenary Meeting, in Luxembourg, 6-11 July 2025.
- Participation in the League of Arab States' Department of Legal Affairs Meeting on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, the Republic of Tunisia, 20 August 2025.
- ICRG meeting, Luxembourg, 2-4 September 2025.
- Annual Summit of the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC), Abu Dhabi-UAE, 10-11 September 2025.
- Training Session on the Mutual Evaluation Processes addressed to members of the FATF and FSRBs Secretariats, Sydney - Australia, 15-19 September 2025.
- Participation in the 49th Ordinary Session Meeting of the Council of Governors of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities, the Republic of Tunisia, 17 September 2025.
- Participation in the 1st Annual Meeting of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA ARIN), City of Jeddah-KSA, 8-9 October 2025.
- Participation in the FATF Plenary Meeting and its Associated Working Groups Meetings, Paris– France, 20-24 October 2025.

- Participation in the 2nd Conference of Officials in Charge of Combating Information Technology Crimes within Arab Interior Ministries, the Republic of Tunisia, 1-2 October 2025.

b. FSRBs.

FSRBs share common goals in implementing FATF standards in their member countries, generally carry out the same tasks and face similar challenges. The MENAFATF is always keen to invite other FSRBs to attend the MENAFATF meetings and activities and is also keen to attend the activities and events of other FSRBs to ensure the exchange of experiences.

c. Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

The MENAFATF holds the status of observer member of the Egmont Group and cooperates closely therewith and with the regional representative of the Egmont in view of the common goals, especially regarding the membership of the MENAFATF member countries' joining of the Egmont Group. The MENAFATF participated in the meeting of the MENA countries, at the generous invitation of the regional representative, during which common topics were discussed and opportunities for cooperation were further developed. In this context, the MENAFATF also took part in the Egmont Group Plenary Meeting, held from 6 to 11 July 2025, in Luxembourg.

4.2.Partnerships:

Within the framework of the MENAFATF's international partnerships, the MENAFATF contributes to the work of international and regional organizations on a regular basis, as the section deals with informal international cooperation, that is, not based on the MENAFATF's status as an associate member or observer in these organizations, while the latter may occupy observer status in the MENAFATF.

5. Section five: MENAFATF Financial Statements.

Administrative and Financial Affairs

The MENAFATF Secretariat prepares the financial reports annually, noting that the fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31, in accordance with international accounting standards, after the external auditor conducts the annual audit of the MENAFATF's accounts and presents it to the Plenary Meeting for approval in implementation of Articles 8, 12 and 13 of the MoU, and in accordance with Articles 11 to 29 stipulated in the second part of the MENAFATF Rules and Procedures in each of the following chapters (first, second, third, fourth and fifth) relating to the fiscal year and financing, and the preparation and implementation of the estimated budget and accounts.

a. Financial management

- ✓ **Finance**
- ✓ **Estimated budget**
- ✓ **Accounts**

Financial Statements and Final Accounts for the year ending on 31 December 2025

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025 (amounts in US$)

	2024	2025
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
EQUIPMENT	15,079	11,569
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	76,226	86,729
RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET	90,202	632,303
	181,507	730,601
CURRENT ASSETS		
MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLES	-	1,385
PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	29,657	50,511
CASH AND BANK BALANCE	4,769,311	5,140,383
	4,798,968	5,192,279
TOTAL ASSETS	**4,980,475**	**5,922,880**
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
STRATEGIC RESERVE	300,000	500,000
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	2,311,389	2,056,045
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	**2,611,389**	**2,556,045**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
LEASE LIABILITY	47,588	519,019
DEFERRED GRANTS	215,580	171,141
EMPLOYEE TERMINAL BENEFITS	331,443	470,989
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ACCRUALS AND OTHER PAYABLES	66,138	51,960
DEFERRED INCOME– MEMBERS	1,663,513	2,038,181
CURRENT PORTION OF LEASE LIABILITY	44,824	115,545
	1,774,475	2,205,686
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**2,369,086**	**3,366,835**
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	**4,980,475**	**5,922,880**

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ending on 31 December 2025 (amounts in US$)

	2024	2025
INCOME		
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS	2,396,516	2,144,449
OTHER INCOME	114,468	66,184
TOTAL INCOME	**2,510,984**	**2,210,633**
EXPENSES		
DIRECT COSTS	(2,290,928)	(2,152,734)
ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES	(34,172)	(47,859)
DEPRECIATION	(8,237)	(7,625)
AMORTIZATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS	(16,888)	(8,561)
DEPRECIATION OF RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET	(45,101)	(45,101)
PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL MEMBERS' DUE CONTRIBUTIONS	(80,093)	-
FINANCE COSTS	(6,255)	(4,097)
TOTAL EXPENSES	**(2,481,674)**	**(2,265,977)**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**29,310**	**(55,344)**

6. Section Six:

Foresight.

Over the past years, the MENAFATF has made many strides and faced many challenges to achieve its goals in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Many member countries have joined the MENAFATF during its years. The MENAFATF has also developed its work and activities, by establishing working groups, forums and specialized committees that meet the needs of member countries in the field of expertise exchange, experience sharing and capacity building, which serves the development of combating systems and benefits the region in particular and the global network and the international financial system in general.

6.1.1. Previous Presidents' Contribution to the MENAFATF.

Before sharing the MENAFATF's most important milestones over the past 20 years, it is necessary to praise the strategic contributions of the MENAFATF's presidents in making these strides and facing the challenges, to achieve its current position, namely:

- **His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Al-Baasiri**, Lebanese Republic, 2005.
- **His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abdel Latif**, Arab Republic of Egypt, 2006.
- **His Excellency Dr. Umayyah Tuqan**, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2007.
- **His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahim Al-Awadhi**, United Arab Emirates, 2008.
- **His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Baker**, Kingdom of Bahrain, 2009.
- **His Excellency Mr. Samir Brahimi**, Republic of Tunisia, 2010.
- **His Excellency Mr. Abdel Majeed Amghar**, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 2011.
- **His Excellency Mr. Abdel Nour Haiboush**, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 2011.
- **His Excellency Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Khalaf**, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2012.
- **His Excellency Mr. Essam El-Din Abdel-Qader El-Zein**, Republic of Sudan, 2013.
- **His Excellency Dr. Abdul Basit Turki Saeed**, Republic of Iraq, 2014.
- **His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohsen Ismail**, Republic of Iraq, 2014.
- **His Highness/ Marwan bin Turki Al Said**, Sultanate of Oman, 2015.

- **His Excellency Sheikh Fahd bin Faisal Al Thani**, State of Qatar, 2016.
- **His Excellency Mr. Talal Ali Al-Sayegh**, State of Kuwait, 2017.
- **His Excellency Mr. Abdel Hafeez Mansour**, Lebanese Republic, 2018.
- **His Excellency Dr. Sobhi Mesbah Zaid**, State of Libya, 2019.
- **Mr. Counselor/ Ahmed Saeed Khalil**, Arab Republic of Egypt, 2020-2021.
- **His Excellency Mr. Jawhar Al-Nafisi**, Kingdom of Morocco, 2022.
- **Mr. Mohamed-Lemine DHEHBY**, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 2023.
- **His Excellency Mr. Hani Wahab**, the Republic of Yemen, 2024.

Mrs. Samya Abu Shareef, President of the AML/CFT Unit and member of the National AML/CFT Committee in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, assumed the MENAFATF's Presidency for the year 2025.

6.1.2. Most Important Milestones of MENAFATF since Inception.

<u>2004</u>

- ✓ The MENAFATF was established by a decision issued by the ministerial meeting held on 30 November 2004, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, by 14 Arab countries, namely: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait, the Lebanese Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Yemen, and nine observers: The French Republic, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the FATF, the IMF, the WB, the GCC, the UNODC and the Egmont Group.
- ✓ The Kingdom of Bahrain was unanimously chosen to host the MENAFATF Secretariat.
- ✓ The election of Mr. Mohamed Al-Baasiri from the Lebanese Republic as President for the first year, and Mr. Mahmoud Abdel Latif from the Arab Republic of Egypt as Vice President.
- ✓ Appointment of Mr. Adel Hamad Al-Qulish from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Executive Secretary to serve for a period of four years, subject to renewal.

2005

- ✓ The meeting was held for the MENAFATF's first year in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- ✓ Granting the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania membership in the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Formation of the MEWG and the TATWG.

2006

- ✓ Approval of the MENAFATF's first strategic plan for the next three years 2007-2009.
- ✓ Approval of the MENAFATF's Rules and Procedures.
- ✓ Granting the Republic of Sudan membership in the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Joining of the State of Palestine and the Kingdom of Spain as observer members of the MENAFATF.

2007

- ✓ Obtaining the status of an associate member of the FATF.
- ✓ Obtaining the status of an observer member of the APG.
- ✓ Joining of the APG as an observer member of the MENAFATF.

2008

- ✓ Granting the State of Libya membership in the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Joining of the WCO as an observer member of the MENAFATF.

2009

- ✓ Adoption of formation of FIU's Forum.

2010

- ✓ Joining of the AMF and the Eurasian Community as an observer member of the MENAFATF.

2011

- ✓ Obtaining the status of an observer member of the EAG.
- ✓ Joining of the United Nations as an observer member of the MENAFATF.

2012

- ✓ Adoption of the international standards of the 40 recommendations on combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation.
- ✓ End of the first round of the mutual evaluation process.

2013

- ✓ Adoption of the formation of the NRA Committee.
- ✓ Adoption of the amendment to the MoU.

2014

- ✓ Joining of the Federal Republic of Somalia as an observer member of the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Adoption of the follow-up process for voluntary tax compliance programs in member countries.

2015

- ✓ Granting the State of Palestine membership in the MENAFATF.

2016

- ✓ Joining of Australia as an observer member of the MENAFATF.

2018

- ✓ Granting the Republic of Djibouti and the Federal Republic of Somalia membership in the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Joining of the Federal Republic of Somalia as an observer member of the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Creation of the Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Adoption of the principles of chairing the MENAFATF’s work groups.

2020

- ✓ Joining of the European Commission as an observer member of the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Expanding the work of the NRA Committee to include risks in general.

2021

- ✓ Approval for the Federal Republic of Russia to join as an observer member of the MENAFATF.
- ✓ Approval of the idea of creating an e-learning platform.
- ✓ Coming up with an action plan to enhance MENAFATF's effectiveness.

2024

- ✓ Endorsing the establishment of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (ARIN) in the Middle East and North Africa and signing the MENAFATF's E-Learning Agreement.

2025

- ✓ Holding the first high-level meeting at the level of governors of Arab central banks and monetary authorities
- ✓ Completing the 2nd round of mutual evaluations.
- ✓ Starting the 3rd round of mutual evaluations.