



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



Group of Supervisors¹

PUBLIC ADVISORY

GOS Advisory 0004-2023

High-risk and other monitored jurisdictions identified by FATF

In accordance with section 21.(2)(b) of the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act, the Anti-money laundering and Countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) Group of Supervisors in Belize hereby advises financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and other reporting entities that on 23 June 2023 the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) identified jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their regimes to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) in the following two public documents:

1. High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action – High-risk jurisdictions have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter ML/TF/PF. 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 ML/TF/PF risks emanating from the country. This list is often externally referred to as the “black list”.

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

Since February 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FATF has paused the review process for Iran and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), given that they are already subject to the FATF’s call for countermeasures. Therefore, please refer to the statement on these jurisdictions adopted in February 2020. While the statement may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of Iran and the DPRK’s AML/CFT regimes, the FATF’s call to apply counter-measures on these high-risk jurisdictions remains in effect.

¹ The Group of Supervisors is made up of the anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism supervisory authorities in Belize namely, the Financial Intelligence Unit, Central Bank of Belize, Financial Services Commission and Office of the Supervisor of Insurance and Private Pensions.

(i) DPRK - 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 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.

(ii) Iran - 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.

(b) *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.*

(i) Myanmar - 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.

For more information on these high-risk jurisdictions and the FATF public document published on June 23, 2023, see [High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action](#).

2. Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring - When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly within agreed timeframes, the identified strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter ML/TF/PF and is subject to increased monitoring. This list of jurisdictions is often externally referred to as the "grey list". The FATF Standards do not envisage de-risking, or cutting off entire classes of customers, but call for the application of a risk-based approach. Therefore, the FATF encourages its members and all jurisdictions to take into account the information presented on these countries in their risk analysis.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FATF has provided some flexibility to jurisdictions not facing immediate deadlines to report progress on a voluntary basis. The following countries had their progress reviewed by the FATF since February 2023: Albania, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Türkiye, UAE, and Uganda. For these countries, updated statements have been issued. Haiti, Nigeria, Syria, Tanzania and Yemen chose to defer reporting; thus, the statements issued in February

2023 for those jurisdictions may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of the jurisdictions' AML/CFT regimes. Following review, the FATF now also identifies Cameroon, Croatia and Vietnam as jurisdictions under increased monitoring.

For more information including statements issued on jurisdictions under increased monitoring, see [Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring](#).

All financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and other reporting entities are required to apply enhanced due diligence, and in the most serious cases, apply counter-measures to protect the international financial system from the ML/TF/PF risks emanating from the high-risk jurisdictions. Any breach of this obligation may result in a sanction as per section 22.(1) of the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act.

All financial institutions, designated non-financial businesses and professions and other reporting entities are encouraged to take into account in their risk analysis, the information presented on jurisdictions under increased monitoring.

June 29, 2023