

## 30<sup>th</sup> EAG Plenary Meeting

*May 27 – 31, 2019*

*Moscow, Russian Federation*



EURASIAN GROUP  
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-TERRORIST  
FINANCING STRATEGY  
FOR 2019 – 2023

*Please, contact the EAG Secretariat on all issues related to this document:*

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*Please bring all necessary documents with you to the meeting as no paper copies will be available at that time.*

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## **Eurasian Group Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Strategy for 2019 - 2023**

### **I. Introduction**

1. This Strategy has been developed on the basis of the Agreement on the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (hereinafter the EAG), which sets out the overall concept of the Group activity.
2. The primary goal of the EAG is to ensure effective coordination and cooperation at the regional level and integration of the EAG member states (hereinafter the member states) into the international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing system in accordance with the FATF Standards.
3. The main objectives of the EAG are:
  - a) Assisting the member states in implementation of the FATF Standards;
  - b) Developing and pursuing joint initiatives for combating money laundering and terrorist financing;
  - c) Implementing the program of mutual evaluations of the member states using the FATF Methodology for assessing technical compliance with the Recommendations and effectiveness of AML/CFT systems;
  - d) Coordinating international cooperation and technical assistance programs with the specialized international organizations and interested states;
  - e) Analyzing money laundering and terrorist financing typologies and sharing experience and best practices of combating such criminal offences with due consideration for the regional specificities.
4. The EAG Strategy for 2019-2023 is the mid-term planning document developed for pursuing the goals and objectives as set out in the Agreement on the EAG, which defines the strategic priorities, tasks and expected outcomes.
5. The EAG Strategy is elaborated based on the current stage of development of the AML/CFT systems in the region and takes into account the present-day needs and trends.
6. The strategic priorities may be adjusted in case of emergence of new global and regional challenges and threats.
7. The following resources are allocated for implementation of the Strategy:
  - a) Financial resources – the contributions of the member states to the EAG budget as well as funds from targeted voluntary contributions and grants provided by the member states and observer;
  - b) Human resources – the EAG Secretariat, the EAG Working Groups, experts from the EAG member states and observers;
  - c) Material and technical resources – voluntary contributions of the member states, observers, other organizations and interested countries (donors) in form of non-financial resources provided for holding the relevant events.

8. The Strategy is the high-level program document for the member states, the EAG Secretariat, ITMCFM<sup>1</sup>, the EAG observes and other interested countries. If the strategic priorities are approved in principle, implementation of certain objectives set out in the Strategy will necessitate development of a separate document (road map) with detailed proposals for their accomplishment and analysis of required resources.

## II. The EAG Strategic Priorities

### 1. Strengthening the national AML/CFT systems of the EAG member states and improving compliance with the FATF Standards

9. **Expected outcomes:** Mutual evaluations of all EAG member states are completed by 2022, and the national AML/ CFT systems are compliant with the FATF Standards and generally demonstrate moderate and substantial effectiveness.
10. This strategic priority involves accomplishment of the following objectives:

#### 1.1 Conducting mutual evaluations and follow-up

11. The mutual evaluation mechanism is designed for assessment of the current status and effectiveness of the national AML/CFT systems and development of recommendations for further improvement and enhancement of these systems. Successful mutual evaluations of the EAG member states and assistance in implementation of the FATF Recommendations is one of the core objectives of the Eurasian Group set out in the Agreement on the EAG.
12. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:
  - Elaborating recommendations for further improvement of the AML/CFT systems based on analysis of the technical assistance needs (see next subsection);
  - Follow-up and ensuring implementation of recommended actions.
13. *Note:* The Secretariat coordinates the entire mutual evaluation process, draws up, jointly with assessors, mutual evaluation reports and conducts follow-up to monitor progress of the member states in implementing the respective recommended actions. The Secretariat continues to train assessors from the EAG member states and actively engages the trained assessors in this process. The member states provide assessors and create the friendly working environment for them through the entire period of mutual evaluation.

#### 1.2 Modifying approaches to technical assistance

14. Provision of technical assistance that meets the objective needs of the member states is a necessary precondition for the states to achieve highly effective performance of the national AML/CTF systems. Coordination of these efforts is one of the main objectives of the EAG and the proposed approaches are aimed at enhancing their effectiveness.
15. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:
  - Conducting comprehensive analysis of the needs in technical assistance;
  - Elaborating recommendations for the member states and donors;

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the EAG and ITMCFM dated 24.11.2017

- Assessing effectiveness of provided technical assistance.

16. *Note:* This work will be directly associated with and depend on the results of mutual evaluations and the follow-up process. The Secretariat conducts, in coordination with the member states, analysis of the need in and develops recommendations for provision of technical assistance, monitors implementation of these recommendations and assesses effectiveness of provided technical assistance. Donors inform about their capabilities to provide technical assistance and directly render such assistance. The member states inform the Secretariat about improvements in performance of their AML/CFT systems following receipt of technical assistance (see WGTA(2019)9).

## 2. Assessing regional ML/TF risks and recommending mitigation measures

17. **Expected outcomes:** Recommendations for measures to mitigate the identified ML/TF risks are developed.

18. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:

### 2.1 Identifying and analyzing ML/TF risks in the Eurasian region

19. Understanding of ML/TF risks is crucial for developing appropriate preventing measures. The main ML/TF risks are typically of supranational nature and, therefore, their identification and analysis require application of the relevant approaches.

20. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:

- Developing versatile approaches to assessment of the regional ML/TF risks;
- Assessing the regional ML/TF risks;
- Elaborating recommendations for responding to identified risks.

21. *Note:* The Secretariat and experts for the EAG member states and observers involved in risk assessment establish the working group, which is tasked with developing common approaches to regional risk assessment, identifying and analyzing risks and recommending risk mitigation (minimization) measures.

## 3. Ensuring effective regional cooperation and coordination

22. **Expected outcomes:** The EAG member states and observers are actively engaged in the EAG activities and contribute to its steady and sustainable development, which leads to enhancement of the EAG reputation in the FATF global network and in the Eurasian region.

23. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:

### 3.1 Analyzing contribution of the EAG member states and observers to the EAG activity and development

24. The overall effectiveness of performance of the organization depends on individual contributions of each of its members. The more effective the organization is, the more benefits are available for its members, and the better is its contribution to the FATF global network.

25. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:

- Analyzing contributions of the EAG member states and observers against the pre-agreed criteria;

- Developing recommendations for more active and intensive engagement of the EAG member states and observers

26. *Note:* The EAG member states and observers are actively engaged in the EAG activities and provide for steady and sustainable development of the Group. The Secretariat analyses contributions of the members to the EAG activity and proposes recommendations for extension of such contribution.

### **3.2 Engagement of broader range of stakeholders in the EAG activities**

27. The national AML/CFT system is the comprehensive mechanism that affects the interests and involves the efforts of not only the relevant competent authorities (financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and supervisory authorities) but also the legislative bodies and private sector. Opinions and practical experience of other stakeholders will be taken into account in the every-day operation of the EAG.

28. The main efforts to be undertaken for accomplishing this objective will be focused on:

- Arranging for and holding experience sharing events with participation of the members of the Parliaments of the EAG member states and observers;
- Arranging for and holding events with participation of the private sector representatives for involving them in typology studies, sharing best practices and engaging in the FATF consultations;
- Developing recommendations based on the outcomes of such events and monitoring their implementation through the existing working group mechanism.

29. *Note:* The Secretariat and the EAG member states and observers arrange for such events and ensure participation of stakeholders in the EAG events. The EAG Secretariat develops recommendations based on the results of such events and monitors their implementation.