INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION GROUP AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING IN WEST AFRICA (GIABA)

PRESS RELEASE

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Use civil society as a springboard for continued compliance with AML/CFT requirements

The Intergovernmental Action Group Againt Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) is to orgnise a regional workshop **from 24 to 26 June 2025 in Lagos, Nigeria**, to raise awareness among civil society organisations (CSOs) of the **"Requirements for fighting against money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT)".**

The objectives of this workshop are, among others, to advance the promotion of a relationship with civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in the fight against these scourges; to encourage CSOs to conduct outreach campaigns to influence the effective implementation of AML/CFT measures; to use their platform for the dissemination, publication and sharing of information on GIABA and AML/CFT; to effectively engage CSOs in the fight against these scourges, etc.

Combating the financing of terrorism and fighting against money laundering (AML/CFT) now more than ever requires the involvement of all stakeholders. Indeed, since 2011, GIABA's strategic priorities have included promoting strategic partnerships with the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders. Consequently, it is crucial to raise awareness among CSOs about AML/CFT and the predicate offences with a view to adopting best AML/CFT practices,

This workshop will enhance public awareness and effective and sustainable pressure, which are essential factors in amplifying the efforts already made by GIABA at regional and national level. Experienced in the strategy of persuasion and relying on their mission of watch dogs, CSOs need to define their specific contribution to overcoming the threat of ML and the emergence of TF. In an environment where political leaders and decision-makers need to be sensitised and involved in the fight against ML/TF, civil society is the backbone for advocacy and change.

In a nutshell, CSO players will be made aware of the harmful effects of ML/TF; they will have a better understanding of GIABA's missions with a view to their increased participation in the process of lobbying decision-makers.

The meeting of CSOs will be facilitated by the GIABA Secretariat and other resource persons.