



Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO CONDUCT TYPOLOGIES OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM LINKED TO CYBERCRIME IN WEST AFRICA

1. Emerging technologies such as Self-driving cars, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Automation, Virtualization, Smart Cities, Blockchain Networks, Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), Internet of Senses, Cloud and Quantum Computing, etc., are creating operational shifts that will require new cybersecurity requirements. In the past couple of years, the digital attack surface has vastly expanded from a move to remote work, from more people coming online, and from more interconnectivity of computers and smart devices around the globe.
2. In West Africa, the nexus between ML/TF and cybercrimes is blatant. While ML/TF took advantage of financial globalisation (i.e., the ability for all economic and social actors to use financial services internationally), cybercrime is taking advantage of technological globalisation through the development of the Internet and related tools. Frequent news headlines, annual activity reports submitted by GIABA member States and their reports on National Risk Assessments (NRA) of ML/TF, outcomes of mutual evaluations, and follow-up processes, all glaringly reveal the prevalence of cybercrimes, both as a major source of proceeds of crime and as a vehicle of criminal funds in the region. It appears that all types of crimes associated with digital technologies in the region are systematically difficult to deal with not only because of the regulatory and law enforcement gaps but also due to the lack of adequate expertise and infrastructures.
3. In most GIABA member countries, cybercrime is a serious threat to national economies that requires a coherent and collaborative response at a regional level. Some jurisdictions' failures to fight cybercrime threatens the security, stability and effectiveness of governments, critical infrastructures, businesses, and individuals around the region. It, therefore, requires resilient governance, ensuring that relevant agencies in all jurisdictions cooperate (e.g., between supervisors, FIUs and other operational bodies on incidents or law enforcement). Standards also need to be agreed upon and harmonized internationally to reduce the risk of gaps and regulatory arbitrage. Besides, the lack of consistency and harmonization between jurisdictions has driven compliance costs.

4. GIABA now plans to recruit Individual Researchers / Consultants to conduct country specific Typologies Studies on the Money Laundering (ML) and Financing of Terrorism linked to Cybercrime in West Africa countries.

Nature of the Assignment

4. The study is to be focused on the links between ML/TF and cybercrime. The expert will produce one report on ML/TF linked to cybercrime which should be at least 20 pages, excluding annexes, notes and references, based to the schedule below:

Sequence of deliverables

- **First draft** report to be submitted to GIABA Secretariat **twenty (20) days** after the signing of the contract: The first draft report should clearly present an overview of the phenomenon of cybercrime in the country, its prevalence and scale and the likely links to money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the analysis of the legal and institutional framework to combat the phenomenon, the obstacles being faced by authorities and other stakeholders involved in dealing with the issues; the draft report should present very clearly through concrete law enforcement cases the techniques, methods and schemes of money laundering/ financing of terrorism resulting from cybercrime, the types of people and the activities/sectors through which the illicit proceeds are laundered or deployed.
- **Second draft** report is to be submitted to GIABA Secretariat **30 days** after the signing of the contract: the second draft report should conclude the research and incorporate relevant recommendations to improve the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism linked to cybercrime.

5. GIABA now invites Individual Researchers / Consultants to express interest in providing these services. Interested Researchers / Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, CVs, etc.).

6. Consultants / Researchers will be selected through the ECOWAS Consultants Qualification procurement method. A lump sum of two thousand US dollars (\$2000) shall be paid to the expert, subject to the terms of a mutually agreed contract.

7. Expressions of interest must be delivered by e-mail to the address below by Friday 30th September 2022 noon GMT, with the consultancy title clearly identified on the submission.

The Director General

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