



ADVISORY REGARDING FINANCIAL DEALINGS WITH LOCATIONS OF SPECIFIC CONCERN

20 December 2021

In October 2021, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) issued a public statement on High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action.¹ The FATF has determined that these jurisdictions have significant strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and financing of proliferation. The statement also noted that, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FATF has paused the review process for countries in the list of High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action, given that they are already subject to the FATF's call for countermeasures. Therefore, the February 2020 statement on these jurisdictions reflects the FATF's latest advice.

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 ongoing money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks emanating from the country.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Justice and the Financial Intelligence Unit of the New Zealand Police advise entities² to give special attention to business relationships and transactions with:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including DPRK companies and financial institutions.

In addition to enhanced scrutiny, jurisdictions are advised to apply effective counter-measures and targeted financial sanctions in accordance with applicable United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions to protect their financial sectors from risks related to money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction 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.

Regarding DPRK, entities are further advised that New Zealand has given effect to a number of UNSC resolutions through the United Nations Sanctions (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Regulations 2017. These regulations are complex and prohibit a wide range of dealings with DPRK, DPRK citizens, and DPRK companies. This includes (but is not limited to) restrictions on financial services, freezing assets, joint ventures, and banning the import of specific goods.

Iran

In June 2016, the FATF welcomed Iran's high-level political commitment to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies, and its decision to seek technical assistance in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Since 2016, Iran established a cash declaration regime, enacted amendments to its Counter-Terrorist Financing Act and its Anti-Money Laundering Act, and adopted an AML by-law.

¹ This list was previously called the "Public Statement". Following the February 2020 Plenary, the statement is now the "High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action". This list is often externally referred to as the 'black list'.

² Entities include 'reporting entities' as defined in section 5 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009 and 'financial institutions' as defined in section 3 of the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 1996.

In February 2020, the FATF noted that there are still items not completed and Iran should fully address: (1) adequately criminalizing terrorist financing, including by removing the exemption for designated groups “attempting to end foreign occupation, colonialism and racism”; (2) identifying and freezing terrorist assets in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; (3) ensuring an adequate and enforceable customer due diligence regime; (4) demonstrating how authorities are identifying and sanctioning unlicensed money/value transfer service providers; (5) ratifying and implementing the Palermo and TF Conventions and clarifying the capability to provide mutual legal assistance; and (6) ensuring that financial institutions verify that wire transfers contain complete originator and beneficiary information.

Given Iran’s failure to enact the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions in line with the FATF Standards, in February 2020, the FATF fully lifted the suspension of counter-measures and calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures, in line with Recommendation 19.

The Ministry of Justice and the Financial Intelligence Unit of the New Zealand Police recommend that entities remain aware of the ML/FT risks posed by Iran and apply relevant counter-measures listed in Recommendation 19. In the New Zealand context, the specific counter-measures are:

- financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) should apply specific elements of enhanced due diligence for customers resident or incorporated in Iran;
- systematically reporting financial transactions to and from Iran (existing prescribed transaction reporting obligations are sufficient);
- financial institutions and DNFBPs should consider limiting business relationships or financial transactions with Iran or Iranian natural and legal persons;
- financial institutions and DNFBPs should not rely on third parties located in Iran to conduct elements of the customer due diligence process as Iran should be considered to have insufficient AML/CFT systems and measures in place;
- financial institutions that have correspondent relationships with financial institutions in Iran should review and amend, or if necessary, terminate, those relationships;

Regarding Iran, entities are further advised that UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015) provides for the termination of provisions of previous UNSC Resolutions regarding Iran and establishes new specific restrictions that apply to all States without exception. New Zealand has given effect to this resolution through the United Nations (Iran-Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) Regulations 2016, which came into force on 19 February 2016.

The regulations removed the requirement for all New Zealanders, persons in New Zealand, and New Zealand entities doing business with Iran to be registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. However, restrictions remain on a number of activities involving Iran, Iranian nationals, and any Iranian entities, or people acting on behalf of Iran or Iranian entities. Restrictions include (but are not limited to) certain financial transactions, trade in nuclear-related material, equipment or technology; ballistic missile related technology; and conventional arms.

Refer to the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website](#) and [the FATF’s public statement](#) for more detail.

OTHER JURISDICTIONS UNDER INCREASED MONITORING

Entities are also advised to take note of an additional document updated by the FATF on October 2021: [Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring](#).³ In this document the FATF has identified a number of jurisdictions that have strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. When the FATF places a jurisdiction under increased monitoring, it means the country has committed to resolve swiftly the identified strategic deficiencies within agreed timeframes and is subject to increased monitoring during the process.

We have also identified jurisdictions which action plans have fully or partially expired. Failure to meet the deadlines in their action plan indicates that the jurisdiction is not making significant progress in the time required and that the ML/TF/PF risks of the country are still present to a certain extent. Jurisdictions that fail to implement their actions plans risk being blacklisted.

The jurisdictions identified in this document are listed in the table below.

Jurisdiction	Date of listing	Notes
Albania	February 2020	
Barbados	February 2020	
Burkina Faso	February 2021	Chose to defer reporting due to the pandemic; thus, their statement issued in February 2021 may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of the jurisdiction's AML/CFT regime.
Cambodia	February 2019	Action plan has fully expired.
Cayman Islands	February 2021	
Haiti	June 2021	Chose to defer reporting due to the pandemic; thus, their statement issued in June 2021 may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of the jurisdiction's AML/CFT regime.
Jamaica	February 2020	
Jordan	October 2021	
Mali	October 2021	
Malta	June 2021	
Morocco	February 2021	
Myanmar	February 2020	Action plan has fully expired.
Nicaragua	February 2020	
Pakistan	June 2018	Action plan has fully expired. However, Pakistan has made significant progress and has completed 26 of their 27 actions. Pakistan has received an additional six-point action plan to address deficiencies identified in its 2018 Mutual Evaluation.
Panama	June 2019	Action plan has fully expired.
Philippines	June 2021	
Senegal	February 2021	
South Sudan	June 2021	Chose to defer reporting due to the pandemic; thus, their statement issued in June 2021 may not necessarily reflect the most recent status of the jurisdiction's AML/CFT regime.
Syria	February 2010	In June 2014, the FATF determined that Syria has completed its action plan. Due to the security situation, the FATF has been unable to conduct an on-site visit to confirm reforms have begun and are sustained.
Turkey	October 2021	
Uganda	February 2020	
Yemen	February 2010	In June 2014, the FATF determined that Yemen has completed its action plan. Due to the security situation, the FATF has been unable to conduct an on-site visit to confirm reforms have begun and are sustained.

³ Previously called "Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: On-going Process" and often referred to externally as the 'grey list'.

Jurisdiction	Date of listing	Notes
Zimbabwe	October 2019	In October 2021, the FATF determined that Zimbabwe has completed its action plan. Due to COVID-19, the FATF has been unable to conduct an on-site visit to confirm reforms have begun and are sustained.

The FATF **does not call** for the application of enhanced due diligence to be applied to these jurisdictions but encourages members to take into account the information presented in the document in their risk analysis.

New Zealand reporting entities should consider the risks emanating from these countries when conducting their risk assessment or assessing the risk of a specific customer or transaction. This may lead reporting entities to conclude that enhanced measures are required to mitigate the risk.

JURISDICTIONS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO REVIEW

The FATF has recognised the significant progress **Botswana, Ghana** and **Mauritius** have made in addressing the strategic AML/CFT deficiencies identified earlier by the FATF and included in their action plan. These jurisdictions will no longer be subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process. This comes after receiving an on-site visit despite the COVID-19 crisis.

Ghana will work with the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), and Botswana and Mauritius will work with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) to continue to strengthen their AML/CFT regime.