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PROGRAM AND CENTER FOR CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING
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MONEY LAUNDERING AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

• Over recent years, the region has faced an alarming upswing in offenses involving money laundering and the funding of terrorism (MLFT), with a negative impact on the economies, security, and morale of the countries and their societies.

• These crimes are committed by criminal organizations that operate on a large scale, with increased levels of planning, technology, sophistication, and economic backing.

• The accumulation of wealth is the main objective of these criminal organizations, and that factor enables them to secure greater power and, consequently, to become more dangerous.

• The origin of the wealth and power accumulated by these criminal organizations is the cultivation, processing, and subsequent illegal trafficking of drugs, which are the predicate offenses of MLFT.

GENERAL APPROACH FOR TACKLING MONEY LAUNDERING

• Weakening the criminal organizations and denying them their economic resources is the key factor for success in combating MLFT and its predicate offenses.

• The approach and its efforts must be geared toward identifying and seizing the assets produced by drug trafficking, in order to revert the wealth accumulation process, rein in its economic power, and curtail the dangers it represents.

• Under that view, the fight against money laundering offers a great opportunity: in attempting to launder their assets, criminal organizations expose themselves and can be detected and dealt with.

• The idea is to meet money laundering head-on in order to weaken the drugs trade.
CURRENT SITUATION

• Not only do the agents who make up the value chain for combating MLFT face economic and logistic shortcomings, they also lack specialized training for the efficient discharge of their responsibilities (police officers, judges, prosecutors, etc.). This situation stands in stark contrast to the economic power and sophistication of the criminal organizations.

• The financial sector needs to be equipped with specialized theoretical, technical, and legal know-how to combat MLFT and to properly enforce regulatory and preventive rules.

• In general, an academically structured and planned supply that is sustainable over time is not available for the specialized training of officers involved with MLFT (not within the financial sector; not among regulators).

• In the region, there is a growing but unmet demand or need for training for the various agents who make up the anti-MLFT value chain.

• Private companies have emerged that offer the financial sector consulting and training services on MLFT topics; they also offer “certifications” in the area and charge participants large amounts of money for the events they organize.

• Local and international experts have been identified to teach MLFT-related courses and programs with different levels of specialization.
PREMISE

• While the criminal organizations are highly sophisticated, the officers responsible for combating them suffer from serious economic, logistic, and material constraints.

• In this context, the acquisition, use, and development of specialized knowledge and skills is one of the key pillars for contributing to anti-MLFT efforts.

• Within the scope of this premise, training is the permanent process that allows the acquisition, use, and development of knowledge and skills by the human resources involved in the anti-MLFT value chain.

• To be efficient and effective, training must take place within a perspective that is system-wide, academically structured, and focused on continuous and sustainable improvements and updating.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

• Create and implement a Regional Training Center as a formative and academic focal point within the system for combating money laundering and the funding of terrorism, to assist the sustainable improvement of the knowledge, skills, abilities, and performance of the different agents who make up the value chain for fighting those crimes.

• The purpose of the Regional Training Center is to provide specialized education services at different teaching levels and thereby to strengthen the corresponding national control and prevention systems.
PROPOSAL

• Create and implement the Regional Training Center for the Control of Money Laundering and the Funding of Terrorism as part of a strategic alliance between CICAD-OAS and Peru’s Superintendency of Banking, Insurance, and AFP (SBS), with the participation of a top-level international educational institution to provide its training programs with academic backing.

• The city of Lima, Peru, will serve as the Center’s regional headquarters.

• Peru’s SBS will be responsible for the Center’s academic, administrative, logistic, and operational management.

CENTER’S TARGET PUBLIC

• Officials and compliance officers from the financial sector
• Officials from regulatory bodies and financial intelligence units
• Justice officers (judges and prosecutors from judicial branches and public prosecution services)
• Officials and officers of other sectors involved in anti-MLFT efforts (national police forces, etc.)
STRENGTHS / BASES OF THE PROPOSAL

CICAD-OAS

• CICAD has been training officials from various sectors involved in combating money laundering and the funding of terrorism (judges, police officers, FIUs, bankers, and regulators).

• In 1998 it organized a course for bankers and regulators, funded and applauded by the IDB.

• Since then CICAD has focused its training on other sectors with more limited resources but greater training needs.

• The financial sector invariably played an active part in the events organized by CICAD, demanding that training focus on that sector.

• CICAD believes that returning to money-laundering training for the financial sector will provide quality education at a fair price and will also assist sectors with more constrained resources through the usefulness of the courses targeting the financial sector.

SBS - PERU

• A first-level public agency of the Republic of Peru, with internationally recognized prestige and efficiency.

• It conducts Peru’s National Anti-Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism Plan, and it has satisfactorily passed the evaluation carried out by the FATF.

• In recognition of its outstanding work and renowned international prestige, it has been selected to chair major regulatory, supervisory, and oversight agencies, including GAFISUD, the Association of Supervisors of Banks of the Americas (ASBA), and the Latin American Association of Insurance Supervisors (ASSAL).

• It is a competent agency and it has adequate expertise in supervising financial institutions and the capacity to assess the risks of money laundering and the funding of terrorism.
LIMA – PERU

- Peru has one of the highest and most sustained rates of economic growth in the region.
- Its risk-level indicators, calculated by prestigious international rating companies, are adequate.
- Peru, and the city of Lima in particular, located on the Pacific Ocean coast, occupies a strategic geographical position in the region.
- In recent years, Lima has managed a sustained rate of growth and has urban, road, and service infrastructures that are both modern and adequate.
- According to a recent study by the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics, published in *The Economist*, Lima placed second out of 150 cities worldwide for its income growth and employment rates.

NEXT STEPS

- Design the general strategy for the Regional Center (mission, vision, strategic objectives, plans of action, etc.).
- Design and implement its organization (organizational structure, procedures, activities and functions, skills profiles, organizational culture, etc.).
- Design and deploy the academic programs (curricular outlines, course contents, coverage of insource / outsource requirements).
- Implement infrastructure, and human, material, logistic, and administrative resources.
- Implement systems for oversight, monitoring, and reporting.
Thank you very much.