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**XLIII MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING
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PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUP FIU / OIC 2015-2016

Report 2015-2016

The sub-working group FIU / OIC reports that the two activities proposed in the work plan were accomplished, namely:

- A. **Ratification of risk analysis concepts:** a working proposal was presented at the meeting of May 2016 in Washington DC, in which it was stated that based on FATF proposals we could unify risk analysis concepts. The delegations agreed on this and they shared their visions about the importance of ratifying the concepts, since all of their countries were or are still being evaluated by FATF. In addition, it is necessary to facilitate any future work in the area of risk analysis by adopting the same concepts. The report was sent to the technical secretariat and will be submitted for approval at the plenary meeting of Punta Cana. With its approval, this work would be concluded and the mandate fulfilled.

- B. **Study on special investigative techniques:** we received the responses of 15 of the 33 delegations to which the questionnaire on special investigation techniques was sent. With these answers, we developed a report that identified the weaknesses of our systems in using such techniques, both legislative and practical. Some common

challenges were also established as well as good practices that we could learn in the future. This report will be presented to the plenary. And along with the comments and proposals to be received, this work could be considered accomplished, without compromising the possibility to deepen in some of the challenges outlined in the report.

According to the methodology adopted by the group, new issues are to be explored. Notwithstanding the former issue, special investigative techniques, it is recommended to benefit from the experience of Spain in monitoring social networks and online communication with the software mentioned by the country in their response to the special investigation techniques questionnaire. This objective is that delegations that mentioned problems implementing this kind of monitoring could learn how Spain did it and face this challenge. It is proposed that the delegation of Spain makes a presentation about it for the GELAVEX.

As for the lines of action proposed in the strategic plan, the following are still to be addressed:

Expert evidence reports on money laundering

a. New typologies in money laundering

The sub-working group coordination intends to address the following topics for the 2016-2018 working plan:

a. Diagnostic study on expert evidence reports used by the countries in cases of money laundering. The goal is to know what kind of expert evidence reports are being used by the countries in these cases, whether they are financial, accounting, flows, etc., in order to get inputs about good practices and what is technically appropriate depending on what is needed to prove. To meet this objective, it is proposed that a number of countries - that should not be less than 10 so that we can make a representative sample - appoint a technically qualified expert. These

experts will videoconference in order to inform us about cases with convictions in their countries in which a expert evidence reports was submitted. Each one must inform about these cases and what kind of report was made. It is expected to make a round of videoconferences or to obtain inputs by email from such experts until March 2017. After the round of work with experts is done, we propose to make a progress report with the information that was raised, which should be exposed at the meeting of May 2017. Hence, the regional diagnosis can be made and some good practices highlighted. To execute this work, we recommend creating a group composed of at least 4 delegations, to which specific tasks are assigned regarding the topic to be addressed.

- a. Study on new typologies in money laundering, specifically in the use of virtual currency. The proposal is based on technological development and its use to launder money. We intend to work specifically with virtual currencies. Hence, we propose that the countries that have experience with this area can provide information to the working group. The group would prepare a brief questionnaire for countries to tell their experiences regarding money laundering and virtual currency. Once approved by the technical secretariat, it would be circulated among countries in December of the present year, in order to be answered no later than April 2017. Meanwhile, the group would prepare a working material that states what the virtual currencies are, their types, most frequent uses and threats they pose for preventing money laundering and terrorism financing. The progress of the responses received and the report would be delivered to the delegations at the meeting of May 2017. Consequently, the information gathered and the material prepared by the group would be analyzed to finally accomplish the desired study. To fulfill this line, we propose the creation of a working group of at least 4 delegations, together with the coordination of the sub-working group and the technical secretariat, to prepare the questionnaire, the report and a proposal to analyze all the information and develop the study.