



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

---

**XLV MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS  
FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING  
October 4 and 5, 2018  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV. 4.45  
DDOT/LAVEX/doc.29/18  
October 4, 2018  
Original: Spanish**

**OPENING REMARKS DR. MARIO ALBERTO GUILLÉN SUAREZ  
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCE**

**2018**



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

---

Mario Alberto Guillén Suarez  
Minister of Economy and Public Finance

I would like to wish you all a good day, I want to say hello to Nelson Mena - Representative of the Organization of American States - OAS and Technical Secretary of GELAVEX; María Epifanía Gonzales - President of GELAVEX; Teresa Morales Olivera Executive General Director of the FIU, Javier Moncada - Deputy Prosecutor of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brother Felipe Cáceres - Deputy Minister of Social Defense and Controlled Substances, Thierry Rostan Representative of the UNODC in Bolivia, to the High Authorities of Bolivia, experts who are in this meeting and all who represent their countries.

For us as a country it is gratifying that we assume the chairmanship of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering - GELAVEX through the Financial Investigation Unit for the 2018-2019 management. Also, I want to emphasize to you that the Plurinational State of Bolivia approximately 10 years ago was on the black list of the FATF International Financial Action Group, we have also been excluded from the EGMOND Group and we were not taken into account. Our legislation had not been done too much, nor what was the operation to fight Money Laundering in our country.

Twelve years ago, when the President Evo Morales assumed the presidency, we managed to have a firm conviction to fight against crime, fight mainly against money laundering. From that moment we started as a country to do a job, which was hard, first to demonstrate to the International Organizations what it was the conviction or intentionality that we had as a government to generate policies to fight against this crime that we consider it a transnational crime, but also that it affects and harms the economy of a country. This is where we began to assist and see what the shortcomings were, and we began to change our legislation, to adequately typify the crime of legitimation, we named it an autonomous crime. Before the previous crime had to be checked first and then prosecute the crime of washing, we started to control the gambling houses, to control the exit of currencies and to fulfill many of the as recommendations made by the FATF. In that sense we created what is now the National Council for the Fight against the Legitimization of Illicit Profits and the Financing of Terrorism. Based on all these regulations and measures that we take from the government, the FATF International Financial Action Group recognizes our action, commitment and our identification against this crime.

We managed to get out of these blacklists of the FATF International Financial Action Group to become a State that is identified as an active country in the fight against the Legitimization of Illicit Profits and the Financing of Terrorism. After that, we obtained



**OAS** | More rights  
for more people

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

---

the presidency of the Action Group Financial of Latin America, Group that is the Regional Body already integrated in the Americas and where we managed to put our Financial Investigations Unit in the EGMOND Group.

Why do I comment on all these issues? Because it is important for us to hold this plenary in our Plurinational State of Bolivia and that our Financial Investigation Unit chairs the Expert Group for the Control of Money Laundering – GELAVEX. It is a reason of pride and satisfaction because it recognizes all these actions and all this identification in the fight against this crime. On the other hand, when reviewing the content of the program that will be discussed in this plenary, we agree mainly on what the use of virtual currencies may mean in regards to money laundering. I think this meeting is very important because it is through the experience of the countries that we can get to know this topic, since we do not have legislation regarding it and it is going to be very important to have the plus when sharing these experiences.

In Bolivia we do not yet accept the transactions of virtual currencies, these are prohibited by our Central Bank, but given the dynamism of it, surely at some point we will have to regulate them. One of the great problems that we see is precisely how to avoid that these virtual currencies are used for Money Laundering. We know that identifying who has the virtual currencies or from which server they are buying or are being traded is complicated and it is for this reason that in these meetings will surely be shared which are the respective concerns of it, and that also would be very useful.

On behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the National Government I want to welcome you and I hope that this beautiful Santa Cruz land is treating all of you well. Surely when you have arrived at the airport you have seen that in Santa Cruz the hospitality and the way that you are treated, that's not just a slogan, it's something that you feel when you get to Santa Cruz, and not only to Santa Cruz but to all of Bolivia. So, I hope that your permanency is the best, that these meetings are really productive and that everyone goes to their country with the satisfaction of thinking something out of the ordinary, again welcome and thank you very much.