



HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
香港金融管理局

Our Ref.: B10/21C

9 March 2018

The Chief Executive
All Stored Value Facility Licensees

Dear Sir/Madam,

Statements issued by the Financial Action Task Force

I am writing to inform you that on 23 February 2018 the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) published two updated statements identifying jurisdictions that may pose a risk to the international financial system and also to draw your attention to a number of outcomes from the FATF Plenary meeting held on 21-23 February 2018.

FATF Public Statement

The FATF has issued a public statement identifying jurisdictions that have strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) regimes. The statement can be found at: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-riskandnon-cooperativejurisdictions/documents/public-statement-february-2018.html>.

- (1) **Jurisdiction subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply counter-measures**

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

The FATF remains concerned by the DPRK's failure to address the significant deficiencies in its AML/CFT regime and the threat posed by the DPRK's illicit activities related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and its financing.

Stored value facility (SVF) licensees should give special attention to business relationships and transactions associated with the DPRK, including DPRK companies, financial institutions and those acting on their behalf, and subject them to increased scrutiny and enhanced due diligence.

- (2) Jurisdiction subject to a FATF call on its members and other jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence measures

Iran

The FATF decided to continue the suspension of counter-measures, and depending upon Iran's progress in completing its action plan, will take further steps in June 2018. The FATF remains concerned with the terrorist financing risk emanating from Iran and the threat it poses to the international financial centre.

SVF licensees should therefore continue to apply enhanced due diligence, proportionate to the risks, to business relationships and transactions with natural and legal persons from Iran.

Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: On-going Process

The FATF has also issued an updated statement on jurisdictions that have strategic AML/CFT deficiencies but have developed an action plan and provided a written high level political commitment to address the identified deficiencies. The statement can be found at: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/high-riskandnon-cooperativejurisdictions/documents/fatf-compliance-february-2018.html>.

Other Outcomes from the FATF Plenary, Paris, 21-23 February 2018

The FATF has published various outcomes of the Plenary held on 21-23 February 2018, which may be of interest to SVF licensees. Further information can be found at: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfgeneral/documents/outcomes-plenary-february-2018.html>.

Yours faithfully,

Carmen Chu
Executive Director (Enforcement and AML)