FATF'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE RUSSIA RISKS

MARCH 3, 2022, FATF PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/Ukraine-2022.html]

The FATF expresses deep sorrow due to the loss of people's lives in connection with the tragic developments in Ukraine.

At the heart of the work of the FATF are the principles of international cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect among countries. In light of the Russian Federation's military invasion of Ukraine, the FATF, as the global standard setting body for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, expresses its grave concern about the invasion's impact on the money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing risk environment as well as the integrity of the financial system, the broader economy and safety and security.

The actions of the Government of the Russian Federation run counter to the FATF core principles and represent a gross violation of the commitment upon which FATF Ministers agree to implement and support the FATF Standards. The FATF is reviewing Russia's role at the FATF and will consider what future steps are necessary to uphold these core values.

The FATF calls on all jurisdictions' competent authorities to provide advice and facilitate information sharing with their private sectors on assessing and mitigating any emerging ML/TF/PF risks identified, including in relation to virtual assets, as well as other threats to international safety and security from the region.

The FATF further notes that malicious cyber activity targeting financial institutions and systems undermines financial integrity and stability, and could jeopardize the ability of the private sector and competent authorities to implement and monitor core AML/CFT controls. Such activity could prevent access to financial services for legitimate users needing to access vital services.

The FATF welcomes the progress made by Ukraine in combating its money laundering risks, highlighted in its mutual evaluation report, relating to corruption and the theft of state assets, and the active steps taken by judicial authorities to recover assets stolen by senior officials of the former regime. The FATF expresses concern that the current military invasion and other activities by the Russian Federation may inhibit that important progress.

The FATF reiterates the upmost importance of ensuring non-profit organisations (NPOs) and all other humanitarian actors can provide the vital humanitarian assistance needed in the region and elsewhere, without delay, disruption or discouragement. The FATF reminds all jurisdictions that the requirements of FATF standards applicable to NPOs cannot be used to justify intimidation or repression of legitimate humanitarian activities.

The FATF notes that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to the possibility of emerging risks from circumvention of measures taken in order to protect the international financial system from the ML/TF/PF risks resulting from Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The FATF will continue to monitor the situation closely. It will consider all options to help promote the security, safety and the integrity of the global financial system, and will respond as necessary to significant new and emerging threats and risks to the integrity of the financial systems, consistent with the needs identified by the international community.

JUNE 17, 2022, FATF STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/Ukraine-june-2022.html]

The FATF again expresses its deepest sympathies for the people of Ukraine and continues to deplore the huge loss of life and needless destruction caused by the ongoing Russian invasion. The Russian actions run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety and the integrity of the global financial system. They also represent a gross violation of the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed to implement and support the FATF Standards.

The FATF recognises the role the Russian Federation has played in the development of the Global Network in the Eurasian region since the Russian Federation joined the FATF in 2003. However, as a result of the invasion, the FATF has decided to severely limit the Russian Federation's role and influence within the FATF. In particular, the Russian Federation can no longer hold any leadership or advisory roles or take part in decision-making on standard-setting, FATF peer review processes, governance and membership matters. The Russian Federation can also no longer provide assessors, reviewers or other experts for FATF peer-review processes.

The FATF will monitor the situation and consider at each of its Plenary meetings whether the grounds exist for lifting or modifying these restrictions.

Following the statements in March and April 2022, the FATF continues to call upon all jurisdictions to remain vigilant of threats to the integrity, safety and security of the international financial system arising from the Russian Federation's aggression in Ukraine. The FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to possible emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken in order to protect the international financial system.

OCTOBER 21, 2022, EXTRACT FROM THE RESULTS OF THE PLENARY MEETING

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/Outcomes-fatf-plenary-october-2022.html]

The FATF reiterated its deepest sympathies for the needless loss of life, suffering and destruction caused by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Russia's actions continue to violate FATFs core principles, which aim to promote security, safety and the integrity of the financial system. As a result of Russia's continuing actions, the FATF has decided to impose additional restrictions on the country's remaining role, including by barring them from participating in current and future FATF project teams. Russia is also barred from participating in meetings of the FATF-Style Regional Bodies as an FATF Member. These measures expanded the actions that the FATF took in June, which stripped Russia of all its leadership roles among other restrictions. The FATF will continue to monitor the situation and consider at each of its Plenary meetings whether grounds exist for lifting or modifying these restrictions.

Following the statements issued in March, April and June 2022, the FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken against Russia in order to protect the international financial system.

FEBRUARY 24, 2023, FATF STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/fatf-statement-russian-federation.html]

One year after the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, the FATF reiterates its deepest sympathies for the people of Ukraine and continues to deplore the huge loss of lives and malicious destruction caused by the Russia Federation's ongoing brutal attack on Ukraine. The FATF acknowledges the United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 which

demands that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

The FATF strongly condemns the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. Over the past year, the Russian Federation has intensified its inhumane and brutal attacks targeting critical public infrastructure. The FATF is also deeply concerned by the reports of arms trade between the Russian Federation and United Nations sanctioned jurisdictions, and malicious cyber-activities emanating from Russia.

The Russian Federation's actions unacceptably run counter to the FATF core principles aiming to promote security, safety, and the integrity of the global financial system. They also represent a gross violation of the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed to implement and support the FATF Standards. Considering the above, the FATF has decided to suspend the membership of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation remains accountable for its obligation to implement the FATF Standards. The Russian Federation must continue to meet its financial obligations. The Russian Federation will remain a member of the Global Network as an active member of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering (EAG) and retain its rights as an EAG member. The FATF will monitor the situation and consider at each of its Plenary meetings whether the grounds exist for lifting or modifying these restrictions.

The FATF continues to call upon all jurisdictions to remain vigilant of threats to the integrity, safety and security of the international financial system arising from the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. The FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be alert to possible emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken in order to protect the international financial system and take the necessary measures to mitigate these risks.

The FATF again expresses its sympathies to the people of Ukraine, who have borne a terrible burden at the hands of the Russian Federation's war of aggression. The FATF reflects the thoughts of the entire international community in hoping that this is the year that returns them to safety, peace, and prosperity.

JUNE 23, 2023, EXTRACT FROM THE RESULTS OF THE PLENARY MEETING

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/outcomes-fatf-plenary-june-2023.html]

The FATF reiterates its deepest sympathies to the people of Ukraine for the needless loss of life and destruction of infrastructure and society as a result of the Russian Federation's ongoing military invasion of Ukraine. The Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to run counter to FATF's principles of promoting security, safety and the integrity of the global financial system and the commitment to international cooperation and mutual respect upon which FATF Members have agreed to implement and support the FATF Standards. The suspension of the membership of the Russian Federation continues to stand.

Following the statements issued since March 2022, the FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to current and emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken against the Russian Federation in order to protect the international financial system.

OCTOBER 27, 2023, EXTRACT FROM THE RESULTS OF THE PLENARY MEETING

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/outcomes-fatf-plenary-october-2023.html]

The suspension of the membership of the Russian Federation continues to stand. Following the statements issued since March 2022, the FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be vigilant to current and emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken against the Russian Federation in order to protect the international financial system.

FEBRUARY 23, 2024, FATF STATEMENT ON THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Fatfgeneral/fatf-statement-russian-federation-feb-2024.html]

Two years after the Russian Federation's unprovoked war against Ukraine, the FATF recalls its statement of 24 February 2023 (see below).

FATF members note with concern the potential risks to the international financial system, including growing financial connectivity of Russia with countries subject to FATF countermeasures, risks of proliferation financing, and malicious cyber activities and ransomware attacks. Due to the gravity of these risks, many FATF members are taking proactive measures to protect themselves and the global financial system.

The FATF calls upon all jurisdictions to continue to remain vigilant due to the above-mentioned risks. As they have done since the Russian Federation commenced its war of aggression, FATF members will continue to monitor the situation and the risks posed to the global financial system. As a suspended member of the FATF, the Russian Federation still remains accountable for its obligation to implement the FATF Standards.

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The FATF continues to call upon all jurisdictions to remain vigilant of threats to the integrity, safety and security of the international financial system arising from the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. The FATF reiterates that all jurisdictions should be alert to possible emerging risks from the circumvention of measures taken in order to protect the international financial system and take the necessary measures to mitigate these risks.

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