香港海關
Customs and Excise Department

DPSB/AML/2026/03 **Circular**
26 June 2026

Circular to Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones
Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Terrorist Financing

(1) FATF Statement on High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action

Further to our related circular issued on 23 March 2026, this is to inform you that the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") issued a statement on High-Risk Jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action on 19 June 2026, which can be found at:

https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/call-for-action-june-2026.html

For all countries identified as high-risk, the FATF calls on all members and urges all jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence, and, in the most serious cases, apply countermeasures to protect the international financial system from the money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing (ML/TF/PF) risks emanating from those countries.

(i) Jurisdictions subject to a FATF's call for applying countermeasures

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea ("DPRK")

The FATF reiterates its concerns over the DPRK's continued failure to address the significant deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime and the serious threats posed by the DPRK's illicit activities related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its financing.

While the FATF has continually reiterated since 2011 the need for all countries to robustly implement the targeted financial sanctions in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) and apply countermeasures [Note 1] to protect their financial systems from the ML/TF/PF threat emanating from DPRK, DPRK has increased connectivity with the international financial system which raises proliferation financing risks [Note 2]. The FATF therefore calls for greater vigilance and renewed implementation and enforcement of countermeasures against the DPRK.

Note 1 The countermeasures listed by the FATF include terminating correspondent relationships with DPRK banks, closing any subsidiaries or branches of DPRK banks in their countries, and limiting business relationships and financial transactions with DPRK persons.

Note 2 The FATF highlighted that as set out in UNSCR 2270, DPRK frequently uses front companies, shell companies, joint ventures and complex, opaque ownership structures for the purpose of violating sanctions.

Iran

While Iran provided an update to the FATF on its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ("Palermo") in January 2026, the FATF's assessment considered that Iran's domestic compliance with Palermo was not in line with the FATF standards and Iran has failed to address the majority of its action plan since 2016.

In addition, the FATF remains concerned with the ongoing terrorist financing and proliferation financing threats emanating from Iran, and reminds all jurisdictions of their obligations under the FATF standards to address the risks emanating from Iran. The FATF reiterates its call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective countermeasures [Note 3] on Iran.

(ii) Jurisdiction subject to a FATF's call for applying enhanced due diligence measures proportionate to the risks arising from the jurisdiction

Myanmar

Given the continued lack of progress and the majority of the action items in relation to Myanmar's strategic deficiencies still not addressed after a year beyond the action plan deadline, the FATF has called on its members and other jurisdictions to apply enhanced due diligence measures [Note 4] proportionate to the risk arising from Myanmar since October 2022. If no further progress is made by October 2026, the FATF will consider countermeasures.

(2) FATF Statement on Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring

In addition, the FATF has issued an updated statement on Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring which can be found at:

https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/increased-monitoring-june-2026.html [Note 5].

Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones ("DPMS") are reminded that two jurisdictions were added into the list, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina and Iraq.

Note 3 According to Recommendation 23 of the FATF, designated non-financial businesses and professions (including DPMS) should be required to comply with the higher-risk countries requirements set out in Recommendation 19. The examples of the countermeasures can be found in the Interpretative Note to Recommendation 19 (https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/recommendations/FATF%20Recommendations%202012.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf).

Note 4 As part of enhanced due diligence, DPMS should increase the degree and nature of monitoring of the business relationship in order to determine whether those transactions or activities appear unusual or suspicious.

Note 5 Jurisdictions included Algeria, Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Monaco, Namibia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (UK) and Yemen.

The statement lists out the jurisdictions that have committed to resolve swiftly strategic deficiencies in their regime to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing within agreed timeframes and are subject to increased monitoring. The FATF closely monitors the progress made by these jurisdictions in addressing the identified strategic deficiencies and encourages its members to take into account the information presented in the statement in their risk analysis.

DPMS are advised to stay alert to the potential money laundering and terrorist financing risks posed by the jurisdictions mentioned in the paragraphs above. If a dealer knows or suspects any property being crime proceed or terrorist property, he/she should make a suspicious transaction report to the Joint Financial Intelligence Unit (https://www.jfiu.gov.hk/en/). Category B registrants ("CBRs") are further reminded to refer to the "Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (For Category B Registrants Dealing in Precious Metals and Stones)" which contains guidance on the appropriate measures that CBRs should take to ensure compliance with the relevant requirements.

Should you have any queries, please contact us at 3580 1484.

Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones Supervision Bureau
Customs and Excise Department