

**Uganda Successfully Addresses Deficiencies Identified in the Public Statement Issued by the ESAAMLG Council of Ministers at its Meeting in Swakopmund, Namibia in September 2013**

At its 13th Meeting in Swakopmund, Namibia in September 2013, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Council of Ministers had raised concerns over the lack of progress by Uganda in addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2007 Mutual Evaluation Report of Uganda and the risks posed by the deficiencies to the regional and global financial systems.

Among the deficiencies identified in the 2007 Mutual Evaluation Report, the Council of Ministers had in particular required Uganda to give priority to three specific actions namely:

- (i) to bring into force the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2013,
- (ii) to adequately criminalise the outstanding predicate offences to money laundering consistent with the minimum list of predicate offences under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards and
- (iii) to amend the anti-terrorism law to adequately expand the scope of the definition of “Funds” in respect of the offence of financing of terrorism in line with the FATF Standards.

The Council of Ministers directed Uganda to report bi-annually on progress made to address these specific deficiencies for review by the ESAAMLG Task Force of Senior Officials.

Since the meeting in September 2013, ESAAMLG continued to note the progress made by Uganda in addressing these issues by:

- (i) bringing into force the Anti-Money Laundering Act in October 2013,
- (ii) amending the anti-terrorism law in June 2015 to adequately expand the scope of the definition of “Funds” relating to financing of terrorism and
- (iii) criminalising the last outstanding predicate offences to money laundering in various statutes.

At its 31st meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, the Task Force of Senior Officials determined that Uganda had successfully addressed all three action items mentioned in the Public Statement issued in Swakopmund, Namibia in September 2013. Uganda is therefore no longer subject to the monitoring of the Council of Ministers with respect to these issues.

ESAAMLG wishes to congratulate Uganda for addressing the issues of concern raised by the Council and encourages Uganda to continue its efforts in improving its AML/CFT system working closely with the ESAAMLG.