



**WELCOME REMARKS BY MS.LILIAN WILLIAM KAFITI**

**PRESIDENT ARIN-EA-PCCB, TANZANIA**

**DURING THE ONLINE REGIONAL WEBINAR ON FATF'S ASSESSMENT OF  
EFFECTIVENESS**

**DATE:14 DECEMBER,2020**

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**Mr. Frederic Bayard, Project Director**

**Mr.Tuemay Aregawi, Senior Technical Advisor**

**TEAM AML/THB**

**Facilitators,**

**Distinguished Participants**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning,**

On behalf of the ARIN-EA family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers, in particular Mr. Tuemay Aregawi and the entire team of AML/THB Project, for your kind invitation to participate this morning and to say a few words on behalf of ARIN-EA. It is a great honor for us. We thank you very much.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Before I proceed further, allow me to say briefly explain who we are. For those of you who are unfamiliar with ARIN-EA - we are the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa. We comprise of eight (8) Countries namely Burundi,

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, to form an informal network that was established by the Heads of EAAACA in 2013 with the support of StAR Initiative/World Bank. Our aim is to promote the informal exchange of information on individuals, assets and companies at the regional and international level so as to facilitate the effective tracing and recovery of proceeds of crime, ultimately depriving criminals of their illicit gains.

In each Member State there are three focal points, one from an Anti-Corruption Agency, two from either the Prosecutorial/Judicial/ Law enforcement/ Financial Intelligence Authority and Asset Recovery/Forfeiture Authority (as may be relevant to each jurisdiction) to be their ARIN-EA focal points.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

At ARIN-EA, we recognize the need to promote cooperation at the regional level as well as International to effectively track or trace and recover stolen assets within and beyond the territorial boundaries of Eastern Africa, in collaboration with relevant partners. And in carrying out our activities the Network receives support from EAAACA, GIZ and work with various partners such as StAR (UNODC-World Bank, CARIN, ARIN-AP, ARINSA, INTERPOL, RRAG, ARIN-WA, and ICAR among others.

Since its establishment, we have registered a number of achievements - in particular, we have developed a 5 year Strategic Plan of 2019 - 2024, provide information to one another and to jurisdictions outside the region while carrying out investigations, training and building capacity of focal persons and other staff within ARIN-EA Members Institutions in various fields e.g. Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery, Crypto currency, developed a Mutual Legal Assistance guidelines for ARINEA member countries, developed a secure information portal for exchange of information electronically

and a website that contain information on asset tracing and recovery.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am happy to learn that by the end of this webinar, the Team will begin to establish an informal network to allow us understand and trust each other, share information and learn from each other. I hope that as a group, when appropriate, we can collaborate with ARIN-EA to achieve this intended goal. Because I believe there are a lot that we can learn from each other and share best practices as we face many challenges in the area of asset recovery in the region and beyond.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Despite these challenging times of a global Pandemic Covid-19, the AML/THB Team has never stopped working to ensure the entire Greater Horn of Africa continues to be a safer place against crimes such as human trafficking, money laundering, corruption, just to name a few.

This Webinar is a testament to the hard work and a reflection of the commitment that the Team has put in the fight against money laundering and traffic of human being. We are all here in witness to such commitment through this **Regional Webinar on FATF Standards on Effectiveness**. We thank you team AML/THB for these efforts.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you all know, the Mutual Evaluation Reports done by Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) on the effectiveness of AML/CFT assessments by its member countries has stated that no country has scored either substantial or a high level of effectiveness in any of the 11 FATF Immediate Outcomes.

Among the key areas that were identified, the reports made specific mention of the lack of STRs reporting, investigation, prosecution and conviction of ML/TF cases and the lack of asset recovery. Human Trafficking was also listed as high-profile predicate offence among others.

This clearly tells us that we have a lot to do on what, how and where to improve in achieving the desired outcomes to meet FATF Standards.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

While appreciating your efforts in the fight against organized crime in the terms of strengthening the legislation, Institutional and Operational Capacity, we need to ask ourselves what controls can we employ to stop the cartels/syndicates involved inhuman trafficking? How is it possible for people to be illegally transported from one point to another? Are the people at the borders or other exit/entrance points not doing their job effectively? Is it not corruption that fertilizes or fuels human trafficking?

I believe this webinar is another opportunity for us to work towards finding the answers and address the gaps that were identified in the MER reports, where appropriate.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As we have gathered today through this webinar, we have come from different cultures, traditions and backgrounds, we are here as soldiers in the front line speaking the same language, and as the day progress, you will be able to share best practices/experiences and challenges, developing ideas and formulating strategies that would assist in implementing the immediate outcomes stipulated in the FATF methodology that contributes to the effectiveness of national systems, of which I believe asset recovery is part of.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As a Practitioner, I recognize the challenges in tackling cross border issues, including corruption, human trafficking and money laundering. I know it is a challenge but we should not lose focus and get tired because we are entrusted by our respective countries and given an opportunity to serve our people, our efforts are for our nations and therefore, it is important for all of us here to take firm action to deny criminals from enjoying the unlawful fruits of their criminal conduct.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you know, criminals are even more hurt when you deprive them of their assets than being sent to prison. We therefore must put all our concerted efforts and commitment to ensure they suffer heavily.

Our role is to collectively come together to start filling gaps identified in the MERs to effectively prevent and combat organized crime in the region and beyond, before criminals increase their appetite to continue engaging into unlawful activities and if we don't take a concerted action, they will definitely unite in their efforts to preserve the status quo. We therefore have an obligation to ensure asset recovery is our priority number one in the Region and beyond.

Finally, I wish everyone a successful and fruitful discussion in the next coming three days and we are looking forward to exploring further ways possible of working together and collaborating in the area of asset recovery.

**Asanteni sana.**

**Thank you very much.**