



# CARIBBEAN FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

May 2017 Report on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**Meeting Date:** May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

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## **Introduction**

This document represents a brief report on the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in its follow-up process. This report is necessary in-lieu-of the non-completion of a follow-up report for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which would have been its 13<sup>th</sup> follow-up report. The Jurisdiction last reported to the Plenary in June 2016.

## **Overall progress made since the 12<sup>th</sup> follow-up report**

Of the 16 Core and Key Recommendations, R. 1, 5, 13 and SR I, III and IV are outstanding and require legislative intervention.

On April 15, 2017, the Jurisdiction advised the Secretariat that all of the proposed amendments as well as the proposed AML/CFT Code were with the Attorney General.

## **Information for Plenary's consideration**

The third round Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) of Saint Vincent & The Grenadines was adopted by the CFATF Council of Ministers in July 2010, using the CFATF round robin process, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was placed in expedited follow-up.

In May 2013, following the presentation of the sixth follow-up report, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was placed in the first stage of the enhanced follow-up process and on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Chairman of the CFATF wrote to the Jurisdiction drawing their attention to the non-compliance with the FATF Recommendations.

In October 2013, following the presentation of the seventh follow-up report, the Plenary considered graduating the Jurisdiction to the second stage of enhanced follow-up, in light of the fact that the action taken by the Jurisdiction, since May 2013, did not result in any of the outstanding Recommendations being positively affected. However, following that consideration, the decision was taken for Saint Vincent & the Grenadines to be given another six (6) months to enact the outstanding legislation.

A revised POCA was issued in December 2013, and appropriate POCA Regulations were also issued on August 2014, as well as a Miscellaneous Financial Institutions Bill, which resulted in Recommendation 4 being fully met and progress in other Recommendations such as Recommendation 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33, and Special Recommendation VII.

By way of a letter dated October 12, 2016, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines detailed an approach which is focused on addressing the outstanding deficiencies detailed for the Core Recommendations. Consequently, the Secretariat was provided with copies of Bills that were drafted to amend the Anti-Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Act, No. 14 of 2015; the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Regulations, No. 20 of 2014; the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, No. 27 of 2011; the Proceeds of Crime Act, No. 38 of 2013; and the



Criminal Code. The legislative provisions detailed in these Bills are expected to positively affect Recommendations 1, 5, and 13 and Special Recommendations I, III and IV.

In October 2016, the Chairman of the CFATF wrote to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, encouraging the Jurisdiction to increase the pace of their reform.

On May 19, 2017, the Secretariat received Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Code, SRO No. 24 of 2017, and the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Amendment Regulations, SRO No. 25 of 2017. A detailed analysis of these amendments could not have been carried out prior to the plenary meetings, however, a scan of the provisions of these amendments showed that they may have a positive effect on R.5.

On May 29, 2017, the Secretariat was provided with a copy of the Order Paper for the Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines' House of Assembly's sitting, scheduled for June 6, 2017, which showed the listing of: Immigration (Restriction) (Amendment) Bill, 2017; Anti-Terrorist Financing and Proliferation (Amendment) Bill, 2017; and the Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2017, all of which were carded for their 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

### **Conclusion**

It is now four years since Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was placed in enhanced follow-up. Two letters have been sent to the Jurisdiction, since then, drawing their attention to the non-compliance with the FATF Recommendations. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines last reported to the June 2016 Plenary. The Plenary decided to advance the Jurisdiction to the second stage of enhanced follow-up which is a high-level mission to the Country.

CFATF Secretariat  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017