

World Union of Arab Bankers

In cooperation with the Association of Banks in Jordan

**The Annual Arab Forum on Fighting Money Laundering, Terrorist
Financing and Tax Evasion**

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

23-24 August, 2017

The main speech

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The chairman of TAG-Org



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H.E Mr. Wessam Fatouh

H.E and dear friend Mr. Adli Qandah

My Bankers professors, experts, and fellow accountants.

- (1) First of all, I'd like to thank the World Union of Arab Bankers, and the Association of Banks in Jordan for organizing this forum that has an important subject, timing, and stature. This forum handles critical challenges of an urging priority in our Arab world, especially at this time.
- (2) As the honorable audience knows, fighting money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion are correlated issues that should be collectively combated and that it is impossible to handle each one of them individually. Those issues, ultimately, represent risks that affect the interests, not only of nations but also of citizens, companies, civil society, and the whole economic cycle.
- (3) I submitted a paper that contains some technical details for today's forum, all of you thankfully are experts, so allow me to mention some important points in the field of fighting the money laundering, combating terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
- (4) First of all, we all should work on applying the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and governance. In addition to activating the legal, regulatory, and operational measures and turn them into a collective culture, in words and deeds, to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
- (5) This issue requires cooperation and coordination on the domestic level inside each country, on the regional level, and the whole world between the countries. With emphasis on the importance of holding seminars and conferences to identify the risks of the crimes of money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion and the best means to face them.

- (6) It is also important to activate the preventive measures against these crimes through a firm application of law and penalties and speeding up the judiciary against those who work in money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion. We should remind ourselves here that money laundering transactions have increased dramatically in recent years, because the organized crimes syndicates use the huge development of IT technology in the world nowadays.
- (7) We should also work on setting a data base in which all countries participate to provide and share information, and guarantee its confidentiality, to save everyone's time and effort. This shall contribute to mutual legal benefit, and limit the risk of money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
- (8) We should also remind ourselves that it is very important for banks to reinforce their precautionary and preventive measures against the suspects, and apply the highest standards of auditing and supervision, especially in money transferring, to ultimately reach the adoption of a comprehensive strategy of risk management by every bank. This obliges the banking sector to hold periodical training courses for all the staff working in the banks to arm them by the needed tools.
- (9) We have to point out that spreading awareness between people is one of the most important methods to cure the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing, and tax evasion.
- (10) Allow me at the beginning to put all the subjects of our conference under one title which is: the (Suspicious Funds).
- (11) I say suspicious because we should be proactive, and check the suspicious funds to find out if any of the descriptions stated in the title of this forum apply to these funds.
- (12) I add to the title of this forum the illegal or non-statuary commissions, and also the bribes paid under false names.
- (13) Our subject contains three parties:
 1. The party that sends or issues suspicious funds.
 2. The party that receives them.
 3. The intermediary that the funds passed through (the bank or other).
- (14) As I said in my speech in the United Nations General Assembly in an international conference about corruption that focused on the fact that our Arab region is highly interested in that subject, I said that if the sender is from the west and the receiver is from the Arab region so the sender is considered a double criminal because he is

corrupted and he helped the receiver to corrupt. The receiver is a criminal, not a double criminal, because he accepted to become corrupted.

- (15) We should realize that there is innovation in sending suspicious funds. For instance, the suspicious funds are divided into small amounts that don't attract any attention, so the pattern of sending the funds should be noticed.
- (16) Tag-Org manages programs for its clients and for other banks to detect and verify suspicious funds.
- (17) Banks can practice an important role in this field through the following:
 1. Keeping profiles, which describe the personality and the nature of the client's work (as Amex department monitors the pattern of money withdrawal to make sure of the identity of the card user). The banks also can make sure of the transfers and their relation to the client's work.
 2. The preparation of a (Check list) that contains all the enquiries about every suspicious transaction to verify them.
 3. Using the help of accounts' auditor to set a system for internal supervision for the purpose of detecting suspicious funds.
 4. Using the help of IT companies, such as TAG-Org IT and international communication Center, to find electronic solutions for detecting the suspicious funds.
- (18) Allow me to mention the role played by TAG-Org and the International Arab Society of Certified Accountants in combating money laundering through many programs, especially the translation of the hand book of fighting the money laundering that was issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which is interested in issuing legislations, regulations, cooperative programs and procedures, data, new operational steps that focus on combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and relevant financial crimes. In addition to setting and reinforcing the preventive controls and procedures against money laundry and the ones who practice this.

(19) Finally, I would like to point out that our beloved country Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdulla II, is the first Arab country on the corruption perception index issued by Basel Institute on Governance. This is a result of the concerted efforts of fighting money laundry, terrorism financing for 2017, while keeping the 35th rank between 115 countries of the world.

(20) Thank you all for your time and effort. Wishing you good luck and success.