



Chargé d’Affaires Robert Yamate
Remarks Workshop on AML/CTF Challenges
for West Africa
King Fahd Hotel, Dakar, Senegal
July 16, 2012, 9:00 am

(As prepared)

Minister of Justice,

Nigerian and Senegalese participants working to fight money laundering and terrorist financing,

Members of law enforcement,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As reported in the U.S. State Department’s 2011 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, “Money laundering continues to be a serious global threat. Jurisdictions flooded with illicit funds are vulnerable to the breakdown of the rule of law, the corruption of public officials, and destabilization of their economies.” Illicit financing is a critical operational element for virtually all criminal enterprises. Terrorists, drug traffickers and other criminals all move money through the global financial networks, and frequently move bulk currency undetected across international borders.

In fact, more and more often, criminal groups have moved away from using traditional financial institutions, towards less sophisticated alternatives like cash couriers, which are often more challenging to detect and interdict.

The U.S. Government works with many international partners to build global capacity in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. Toward that end, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of

State have been working to establish collaborative relationships with law enforcement communities in Senegal and Nigeria on issues of illicit finance and cross-border financial investigations. This week’s workshop will bolster these efforts and help enhance the relationship.

This week you will benefit from the wisdom of 40 experts in field of illicit finance investigations and prosecutions. We look forward to a very rich discussion, and we also encourage you to share your views on unique challenges facing you and the region. Most

importantly, we look forward to hearing your proposed solutions for those challenges; and seeing you develop a framework for future action.

The police services, judicial agencies, financial intelligence units, and regulatory authorities in both nations are dedicating to stopping cross-border illicit financing, and I am confident that this workshop will help identify additional best practices that can be adopted by all of us.

As you implement the best practices you learn and develop this week, you will strengthen efforts to secure your economy—and the global financial networks—from the influx of illicit finance.

We have no doubt that this workshop will be beneficial to all participants, and we look forward to further multi-lateral capacity building opportunities and opportunities to conduct joint operations.

Thank you.