

PRESS RELEASE

“Latin American Initiative against the Legal and Financial Restrictions on Civil Non-Profit Organizations”

City of Buenos Aires, November 29, 2018: A working session was conducted with the attendance of close to 40 civil organizations, in dialog with members of the Expert Hub on AML/CFT created by members of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, officials, and representatives from local financial entities.

The Expert Hub is made up by activists from different countries and regions and aims at complementing the objectives of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF to find solutions to the problems related to financial inclusion and regulatory restrictions on NPOs resulting from the anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) regulations.

The session aimed at:

- Increasing the knowledge of NPOs in relation to their role as counterparts to terrorist financing national assessment and FATF/GAFILAT mutual evaluation processes. For this

part, GAFILAT representatives and the Dutch organization Human Security Collective made their contributions.

- Introducing the findings of the study supported by *Sociedad Civil en Red* and ICNL in relation to the impact on regulatory, operational, and financial matters of the AML/CFT regulation for the non-profit sector.
- Introducing the research project which cornerstone is the terrorist financing risk assessment for NPOs in Argentina and Mexico.

One of the most recurrent aspects found in the assessments made to the different countries of the region, in relation to the FATF standards, is the lack of specific risk assessments for the NPO sector that would allow designing measures in line with such risks, with the effective capacity to mitigate them. In a large number of Latin American countries, there are regulations and procedures that still have not included the Risk-Based Approach and are hindering the work of the organized civil society.

The sectoral assessment model introduced aims at being a benchmark and replicated in other countries in the region, exploring the actual risks to share the findings with the national governments that are members of GAFILAT, and cooperating with the design of regulations and mechanisms applicable to NPOs. The project is supported by the Open Society Foundations.

During the second part of the event, a conversation was held between high-level experts, which was entitled "Towards a greater financial inclusion of non-profit organizations." The session was organized by the members of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF: The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL/ECNL, respectively), and Human Security Collective. Organized in the margins of the G20 Summit, the event gathered representatives of the G20 governments and civil society affiliate groups; the World Bank, the FATF; GAFILAT, the regional body of the Financial Action Task Force for the Americas; and other experts to explore joint improvement alternatives in relation to

promoting and enhancing financial inclusion of civil organizations as an effective means to protect them against financial risks.



Welcoming words to the high-level conversation by David Lewis - Executive Secretary of the FATF; Nicolas Negri - Argentine Anti-Money Laundering Coordinator; and Jocelyn Nieva - ICNL



Expert Panel: Alejandra Quevedo - Joint Executive Secretary of GAFILAT, and Fulco van Deventer - Deputy Director of Human Security Collective



Introduction of the Regional Project: Miguel de la Vega and Gabriela Pellón - Members of the Expert Hub on AML/CFT Mexico and Argentina



Conversation of Experts: Lia van Broekhoven – Executive Director of Human Security Collective & Chair of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, and Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans, Executive Director of ECNL & member of the Steering Group of the Global NPO Coalition on FATF (above)

Maria Emilia Berazategui – Chair (outgoing) Argentina C-20 and Director of Poder Ciudadano; Aoi Horiuchi- Chair (incoming) Japan C-20; Dawn Sikorski – Inter Faith 20; Alejandra Quevedo – GAFILAT; Jocelyn Nieva ICNL (below)

