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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE

CONTROL COMMISSION

CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**XXXVII GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR THE CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2013
BRASILIA, BRAZIL**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.4.37
CICAD/doc.18/13
17 September 2013
Original: English**

**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON MONEY LAUNDERING IN RELATION TO THE
ASSASSINATION OF DR. ORLÁN ARTURO CHÁVEZ, ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROSECUTOR OF THE
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF HONDURAS**

Statement of the Group of Experts on Money Laundering in Relation to the Assassination of Dr. Orlán Arturo Chávez, Anti-Money Laundering Prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Honduras

(To be presented before the LAVEX in the Plenary Meeting of September 2013)

LAVEX condemns and expresses deep sorrow, while it denounces the brutal assassination of the honorable Prosecutor Dr. Orlán Arturo Chávez, head of the Anti-Money Laundering Unit of Honduras, who significantly contributed to the work of this Group of Experts.

Dr. Chávez, with an outstanding professional career and undeniable capacity put at the service of the Public Prosecutor's Office for more than 20 years, was attacked by unidentified individuals last April 18 while he was driving his car, without bodyguards, down the streets of Tegucigalpa, capital city of Honduras, country where three prosecutors of the Prosecutor's Office were killed in the last two years.

Events of this nature prove that upon implementing the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing we are faced to criminal organizations willing to inflict extreme violence on the authorities in charge of the prevention and fight against the different forms and structures of transnational organized crimes.

This Group of Experts claims that a strong message must be sent to the international community, urging countries to use, with the greatest speed, the appropriate legal mechanisms to transmit strength, determination, and celerity to punish such activities with the full extent of the law.

Pursuant to FATF Recommendation 30 and its corresponding interpretative note, countries are requested to adopt the necessary measures to allow competent authorities to properly investigate money laundering and terrorist financing. Likewise, said recommendation indicates that public prosecution authorities shall have adequate resources to carry out their investigations.

In that sense, Lavex states that the assassination of Dr. Chávez raises the need to consider the safety and protection of public officials' lives as an immediate priority given the magnitude of the criminals they are faced with in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. Moreover, we send a warning sign to all countries on the urgent need to include in their domestic agendas measures aimed at neutralizing the attacks to law-enforcement officials.

Finally, the Group of Experts undertakes the commitment to promote the identification and implementation of such actions in the international community through the agencies involved in the fight against money laundering.