

The XLIX Meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) approves the Strategic Plan 2020-2023, focused on increasing regional cooperation

Paraguay and Mexico assume the Chair and Vice Chair of the Group.

On November 10, 2020 the XLIX Plenary Meeting of the Group of Experts for the Control of Money Laundering (GELAVEX) took place - the first to be held in virtually, due to the COVID19 pandemic.

28 delegations participated in the meeting: 21 Member States (Argentina; Bahamas; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; United States of America; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Dominican Republic; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay). 4 Permanent Observers (Italy, Spain, the Philippines and Poland). and 3 International Organizations (CFATF; UNODC and the International Union of Notaries).

Paraguay and Mexico assumed the Pro Tempore Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the period between 2020 and 2021. Likewise, Mexico and Ecuador were elected for the period 2021-2022, respectively.

Additionally, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT) was admitted as an observer to the Group of Experts.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Nestor Mendez, opened the meeting by recalling the importance of combating money laundering in a coordinated manner and offering Member States all the support of the OAS through the Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTOC) to achieve that goal.

The fight against money laundering is key for the OAS, since this crime poses a serious risk to the financial systems, the economy and even political institutions in the region.

The Working Subgroups presented 4 new documents of hemispheric reference, which were approved by the Plenary, and will support OAS Member States in strengthening their systems to combat money laundering:

- Study on the applicability of precautionary measures on assets forfeited overseas;
- Design of the network of administrators of illicit assets subject to seizure, forfeiture, or other confiscation mechanisms;
- Normative study on Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) in the region;
- Study of typologies in cases of money laundering derived from smuggling;

Finally, GELAVEX approved the Strategic Plan for the 2020-2023 period, which will focus on increasing cooperation between Member States in money laundering matters, establishing common investigation protocols that help to effectively combat this criminal practice.