



Asia/Pacific Group
ON MONEY LAUNDERING

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APG Information and Communication Protocols 2025

This document supersedes the APG Information and Communications
Strategy 2022

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Report details

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APG's Strategic Mission 2024-2028

A credible and proactive multilateral organisation that leverages its collective power to engage on, assess, and implement the international standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing across the Asia/Pacific region.

Background

Since its establishment in 1997, the APG has grown in its membership and scope of work.

1. Consequently, the need to communicate, to share and manage information has increased substantially. Three rounds of mutual evaluations, a world-leading technical assistance program, active and influential typologies products, expert contributions to standards development and implementation have all meant that the APG generates a lot of information and has a stronger voice.

In 2025, the APG has 41 active members, ten observer jurisdictions and 32 observer organisations.

2. Effectiveness in implementation of FATF Standards and awareness of the ML/TF/PF landscape vary amongst member and observer jurisdictions. There is great diversity in economic size, institutional capacity and political and economic structures in the Asia-Pacific region. These factors directly affect the levels, nature, and speed of communications and demand for information from and within the APG. They also make it more important for the APG to communicate its strengths, perspectives and needs clearly across the Global Network.

Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders of this protocol are:

- APG members
- APG observer jurisdictions and organisations
- APG Co-Chairs, Governance Committee and Mutual Evaluation Committee
- Members of the FATF Global Network:
 - Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) based in Sydney, Australia;
 - Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago;
 - Eurasian Group (EAG) based in Moscow, Russia;
 - Eastern & Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;
 - Central Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (GABAC) based in Libreville, Gabon;
 - Latin America Anti-Money Laundering Group (GAFILAT) based in Buenos Aires, Argentina;
 - West Africa Money Laundering Group (GIABA) based in Dakar, Senegal;
 - Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) based in Manama, Bahrain;
 - Council of Europe Anti-Money Laundering Group (MONEYVAL) based in Strasbourg, France (Council of Europe).

The APG, in conjunction with the FATF and the other eight regional bodies, constitute a global network to combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF's 40 recommendations are the principal standards to combat these crimes.

Secondary stakeholders include:

- Private sector such as virtual assets providers, financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions across the region
- Academia and research bodies
- Not for profit organisations
- International and regional (Asia/Pacific) media
- General public (communities of the Asia/Pacific region)

Objectives

Effective engagement with APG's stakeholders is critical to the successful achievement of the APG's mission.

3. Communicating information about the APG's regional context of ML/TF/PF, regional AML/CFT/CPF efforts, APG processes and procedures, is crucial to the APG's mission for several reasons, including:

- the complex, technical and evolving nature of the APG's strategic objectives;
- the complexity of the operating environment for the APG and its members and the many challenges faced in implementing effective AML/CFT/CPF systems;
- the large geographical spread of the APG's members and observers;
- the cultural, linguistic and economic diversity of its members and observers;
- the official language of the APG (English) is not the first language for many members and observers; and
- members and observers are only able to meet as a group, in person, once or twice a year (APG Annual Meeting and APG Typologies Workshop).

Information collected and generated by the APG in the course of its business is a strategic business asset of the membership and is a resource independent of APG business requirements.

4. The objective of this Protocols document is to ensure that APG internal and external engagement effectively supports the APG's strategic objectives and work program.

5. In order to support the goals of the APG's Strategic Plan and the associated annual business plans, the APG will provide proactive communication by:

- making key information accessible to all primary stakeholders in a timely manner;
- encouraging communication between members and observers to achieve increased levels of participation in APG activities;
- protecting and enhancing the APG's image and that of its members;

- cooperating with other AML/CFT bodies and multilateral organisations;
- supporting public awareness, understanding and achievement of the APG's goals to ensure that members, observers and other relevant jurisdictions and organisations receive current information and material to support their AML/CFT programmes.

Key Principles

6. Strong communication within the APG is a crucial element of understanding, collaborating and acting to jointly address the ML/TF/PF facing each jurisdiction in the Asia/Pacific region.

7. It is of strategic importance in the proper functioning of the APG that communication and engagement is effective between:

- member delegations
- members and observers
- member, observer delegations, the APG Co-Chairs and Working Group Co-chairs among APG Secretariat staff,
- the Co-Chairs, members, committee co-chairs, the Governance Committee and the Secretariat.

8. APG stakeholder engagement activities including communication and media opportunities will address the following principles:

Transparency and Credibility

- Communicate openly about goals, processes, decisions, and impacts.
- Ensure information shared is accurate and reliable.
- Use clear, jargon-free language in media and stakeholder messaging.

Timely and Proactive Communication

- Engage stakeholders early and often throughout the process.
- Use a consistent schedule for updates via appropriate channels (e.g. social media, newsletters, media releases).
- Anticipate issues and address them before they escalate.

Audience-Centric Messaging

- Tailor messages to different stakeholder groups based on their interests, concerns, and preferred communication formats.
- Use storytelling, visuals, and localised content to enhance engagement.
- Provide multiple access points for information (e.g. webinars, infographics, videos).

Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Ensure members are able to access APG events, information and expertise in a manner that is practical, inclusive and open.
- Provide mechanisms for stakeholders to give feedback and feel heard (e.g. surveys, Q&A sessions, meetings).
- Include diverse voices, with an emphasis on representation across the membership.

Strategic Use of Media and Digital Platforms

- Leverage traditional and digital media to amplify messages that embolden the APG Strategic Mission (e.g. media coverage, social media campaigns, videos).
- Align media opportunities with key projects milestones or announcements.
- Monitor public perception and adapt communication strategies accordingly.

Channels of Communication

Email and Telephone

9. Most of the APG's communication occurs by email and, to a lesser extent, by telephone.
10. In this regard, a reliable list of contact points for each member and observer is critical for the effective functioning of the APG. The APG Secretariat maintains Contact Point registers for members and observers. It is essential that members and observers inform the Secretariat of any changes to their contact information in a timely fashion.

APG Website

11. The APG's website (www.apgml.org) is managed by the APG Secretariat.
12. It is a critical tool for internal and external communication. The website continues to encourage communication by providing members, observers and the general public with APG source information and documents, current AML/CFT information, links to relevant external sources and APG contact details.
13. In addition, there is a secure, 'members-only' section for the exchange of APG documents, as well as secure sections for observers, the APG Donors and Providers Group, APG committees and various projects.
14. The Secretariat will:
 - use the secure website to post APG documents and related information for membership access prior to APG events such as the Annual Meeting, workshops, and other activities, and
 - regularly update and augment the website to increase its usefulness.
15. The APG Secretariat will use the website as the primary method of publication of APG reports, documents and other materials.

APG Meetings

16. Meetings may be conducted either in person or virtually to ensure accessibility and participation for all members. The choice of format will be determined based on practicality, member availability, and the nature of the agenda. Virtual meetings shall be held using widely available digital platforms (Teams and Zoom) which support secure communications and document sharing. Refer to the *APG Virtual and Hybrid Event Policy 2021*.
17. All meeting protocols, including quorum, consensus and recordkeeping, shall apply equally to both in-person and virtual formats.
18. As far as possible, the agendas and meeting details with six (6) weeks' notice of the scheduled meeting date. Circulation of relevant documents for meetings will be two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Feedback

19. While the level of discussion, comment and debate within the APG has been steadily increasing, efforts will be made over the next three years to strengthen communication and to increase the level of comment/feedback from members on the following:
20. Members will review draft documents and reports circulated by the Secretariat or APG committees, and attempt to provide feedback noting that even a 'no comment' or 'nil return' can be useful.
21. Audience feedback on the goals, content, delivery, and relevance of APG presentations and documents assists the APG to continuously improve its communications and allows the APG Secretariat to follow up on any further queries regarding the APG.
22. The Secretariat will seek feedback from members on the work of the APG, including the conduct of APG events (Annual Meetings, Typologies Workshop and other events).

Confidentiality of Meetings

APG Meetings

23. In order to encourage free and frank interaction between APG members and observers, all plenary, mutual evaluation and committee deliberations, are confidential.
24. Delegates must not disclose or distribute details of these discussions and documents to secondary stakeholders, or unauthorised third parties by any means, including but not limited to, social media posts (i.e. Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) and direct or indirect engagement with media personnel and outlets. Video, audio and/or other forms of multimedia recordings of plenary discussions is prohibited without express permission by the Executive Secretary.
25. Delegations and the APG may publish outcomes of meeting discussions on their websites, and in other publications. These outcomes must be based on a summary drafted by the APG Secretariat.

Member-Only Sessions during APG Plenary Meetings

26. During APG annual meetings or any special plenaries, the membership may decide to hold member-only sessions to the exclusion of observers or 'guest jurisdictions'.
27. These sessions may relate to applications for member or observer status, members under review for failure to meet membership requirements, or other matters as the membership may decide, or the Governance Committee may refer.
28. The following points apply to member-only sessions:
 - Discussions, exchanges and interventions made during confidential sessions (e.g. admission or non-admission of a new member or observer; the decision in relation to an existing member under the APG Terms of Reference etc.) will not be disclosed to non-members.
 - Final decisions i.e., outcomes of member-only sessions, may be disclosed to non-members unless the membership decides otherwise.

FATF and FSRB Meetings

29. FATF and FSRB plenary and working group meetings, and discussions therein, are confidential. APG members attending those meetings must not disclose details of the discussions.

Referral to Governance Committee

30. Should unauthorised disclosures of confidential information occur by any member, observer, or other participants in an APG plenary or committee meeting, the matter will be referred to the APG Governance Committee or APG Co-Chairs to consider the seriousness of the breach.
31. After considering any breach and facts relating thereto, the Governance Committee will, if necessary, ask the APG Co-Chairs to write to the relevant delegation including the responsible Minister, expressing concern over such disclosure.
32. The Co-Chairs in that case will request an explanation from the responsible delegation and consider and, in the light of the response, consider whether further action is necessary, including referral to the full membership for possible membership action.

Engagement with Media

33. The APG may issue media releases during or after APG events to directly promote the role and importance of the APG's work to the general public.
34. Other media releases may be issued during the year to promote positive coverage of particular issues or events.
35. The APG Secretariat receives many requests from media outlets throughout the APG region requesting information on APG activities and on members, including details relating to mutual evaluation reports, typologies reports and other information.
36. In an effort to raise awareness among the general public within the region, the Secretariat may, without members' consent, answer media enquiries in relation to APG processes and procedures and refer to published reports and other open-source material.
37. The Secretariat may also, in broad terms, discuss regional money laundering and terrorist financing vulnerabilities, as well current and emerging typologies, and discuss the general challenges and possible impediments faced by members within the APG region in implementing the global AML/CFT standards.
38. The Secretariat will avoid, without prior consent, offering specific opinions on individual members' or observers' compliance with the standards (except those referred to in published mutual evaluation reports) including in relation to AML/CFT structures and proposed legislation or in relation to membership obligations.
39. Reference to published and publicly available mutual evaluation reports does not include comments on updates and other initiatives underway to address recommendations in those reports. Secretariat comments will be of a general nature only.
40. Where media outlets request information from the APG Secretariat outside the ambit of what is referred to above, in relation to an APG member or observer, the Secretariat may refer those outlets to the primary AML/CFT agency in the jurisdiction enquired about.
41. The Secretariat is not obliged to discuss any APG business with the media even if it is general in nature.

Publications

Periodic Reports

42. The most significant forms of general written communication in the APG (apart from formal APG documents such as the APG Terms of Reference, strategic and business plans and the APG website) are:

- APG annual reports
- Mid-year report to members and observers
- Yearly Typologies Report

43. The annual reports will be published as soon as possible following the annual meeting in each year and will incorporate the outcomes of that meeting.

44. Mid-year reports are issued in January or February each year with an update of the APG's activities over the previous six months and plans for the ensuing six months. A half year budget update is included with these reports.

45. The Yearly Typologies Report will be published as soon as possible following its adoption.

46. Members and observers are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with suggestions and comments on how to improve these documents.

Mutual evaluation reports and follow-up reports

47. Mutual evaluation reports (MER) are a significant source of information about an APG member's level of compliance with the standards. The APG publishes these reports on the APG website following adoption of the report and a global quality and consistency review.

48. Following the discussion and adoption of the MER, all members are undergo a follow up process. Enhanced follow-up reports (FURs) and technical compliance re-rating (TCRR) reports will be published at the conclusion of the post-Plenary Q & C review process. For regular FURs, only the TCRR report is published, as assessment of progress against the Key Recommended Actions Roadmap is not analysed or discussed by Plenary.

49. If requested by a member, a link may be provided from the FATF/APG website to a website of the member on which it has placed additional updates or other information relevant to the actions it has taken to enhance its AML/CFT/CPF system, including for effectiveness.

APG Logo and Promotional Material

50. The APG logo and associated promotional material are the intellectual property of the APG membership.

51. The APG logo provides a distinct and recognizable image that promotes coherence and cohesiveness of APG communications.

52. Use of the APG logo and any promotional material by non-members may only be granted with the approval of the Executive Secretary.

53. The guiding principle is that use of the logo or other APG material should not suggest, directly or indirectly, that the APG endorses any commercial product or any activity outside the APG's mandate.

54. National flags and symbols should not be displayed on APG materials at events.

Copyright and Ownership of Work

55. Intellectual property rights in information created, received, collected or held by staff of the APG Secretariat in the course of their duties (in all forms, including reports, emails, correspondence, newsletters, images and presentations) will be held by the host agency of the Commonwealth Government of Australia as custodian on behalf of the APG and managed on behalf of APG members by the APG Secretariat.
56. Any request for use of APG information, including the citation of APG reports, by the public or outside agencies must be submitted in writing to the APG Secretariat.
57. Prior approval by the Executive Secretary must be issued in writing before the publication of any APG material in non-APG publications.
58. For mutual evaluation/follow-up reports relating to joint APG/FATF members, requests for citation, copies or other use of intellectual property rights inhering in that material, will be referred to the FATF in the first instance.
59. The decision of the FATF in relation to any such request will be adopted by the APG.
60. The same rule above shall apply in relation to IMF and World Bank reports relating to APG members.

FATF Document Distribution

61. The APG's associate membership status in the FATF has benefited the membership by allowing APG members to attend FATF plenary and working group meetings as an APG delegate and, with that access, to intervene at FATF meetings.
62. The APG membership is entitled to receive and review FATF documents distributed for FATF meetings. APG members can access these documents using the FATF Community (FACT) website.
63. FATF and FSRB documents, and the contents therein, are confidential.

Records Management

64. In accordance with the AFP/APG Hosting Arrangement, APG operational and business records are not subject to the requirements of the Archives Act 1983 and are to remain under the control of the APG Secretariat on behalf of APG members.
65. These records are to be managed and disposed of in accordance with the *APG Records Management Policy*.

Information Management

66. The APG Secretariat shall continue to be the primary custodian of APG information and to hold that information for the benefit of the membership.
67. Information and communications (including emails, letters and other forms of communication) received by the Secretariat shall not be disseminated to third parties unless necessary for the proper functioning of the APG in accordance with the APG Strategic Plan and

Annual Business Plans, for example, communicating with donors and providers, filing of reports with APG members or agencies who have provided funding for a specific mission etc.

68. Except as otherwise provided, requests for information by persons, agencies, governments or organisations on the activities of specific APG members and observers, or those seeking such status, that the Executive Secretary deems inappropriate or not necessary for the business activities of the APG, shall be denied.

Review

69. This Protocol will generally be reviewed every three years and amended as necessary to reflect changing communication and information challenges and the needs of APG stakeholders.

Definitions

70. The following definitions apply throughout this document:

AML/CFT	Anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism and proliferation
Confidential	Discussions and/or documents (and other tangible material) containing or reflecting information not to be disclosed, or distributed, to secondary stakeholders without prior authorisation from the APG Executive Secretary
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FSRB	FATF-style regional body, including the APG, EAG, ESAAMLG, CFATF, GAFILAT, GABAC, GIABA, MENAFATF, MONEYVAL
Information	All information collected by the APG in the course of business including primary and secondary source material, communications from members and from the public
Members	Jurisdictions within the Asia/Pacific region admitted, or seeking admission, to the APG as members in accordance with the APG Terms of Reference 2012
Observers	Jurisdictions and organisations admitted, or seeking admission, to the APG as observers in accordance with the APG Terms of Reference 2012
Social media	A form of media communication including, but not limited to, websites and applications that allow users to create and share content and to participate in social and professional networking
Standards	FATF 40 Recommendations 2012, interpretive notes and the 2013 assessment methodology

Endorsed:

APG Membership

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