



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
SOUTH AFRICA**

**Australian High Commissioner to South Africa, HE Mr Graeme Wilson
HOM Remarks at the Official Opening of the AUSTRAC CTED Africa
Workshop – 27 May**

I am delighted to be here today to officially open what effectively two workshops are rolled into one event. The first workshop is between the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and is entitled “The Control of the Cross-Border Movement of Cash and Bearer Negotiable Instruments”. The second workshop is facilitated by AUSTRAC and is entitled “Demystifying the Risk Based Approach”.

These workshops should be seen in the context of Australia’s close and diverse relationship with Africa. We have established diplomatic relations with every African country and, over the past four years, we have enhanced our diplomatic network, with the opening of a diplomatic mission in Ethiopia and a significant number of new Honorary Consulates in countries across Africa, including Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. We have also foreshadowed the opening of a new Australian mission in Senegal.

Australian aid to sub-Saharan Africa has nearly quadrupled from \$100m in 2007 to almost \$400m now although there has been pressure on the Australian Aid program due to falling tax revenue as a direct result of the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, AusAID will this year fund around 1,000 scholarships for long and short-term study in Australia under the Australia Awards program.

Another exciting development that will boost Australia’s long-term engagement with Africa is the initiative to join the African Development Bank.

Australia and the United Nations

Australia is firmly committed to effective global cooperation, including through the United Nations and its specialised agencies, such as CTED. Australia is a founding member of the UN, has been an active participant in UN institutions for over 65 years and is the 12th largest contributor to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets.

Australia is currently serving on the UN Security Council for the 2013-2014 term. Around 70 per cent of the UNSC's agenda involves Africa and supporting the African Union and regional efforts to bring peace to conflict areas in places such as the Central African Republic, Sudan, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, to name a few of the current hot-spots.

AUSTRAC and CTED

Over recent years, AUSTRAC and CTED have developed an effective working partnership.

They have worked together on a number of initiatives, including a joint workshop in the Pacific last year on regional control of the cross border movement of cash and bearer negotiable instruments.

AUSTRAC is a strong supporter of CTED's efforts to bolster the ability of States to prevent terrorist acts within borders and across regions.

AUSTRAC's work in the region

AUSTRAC has worked with Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and other agencies in the region over the last four years as part of its Africa Program.

It was always planned to be a 4-year program. By the time the program concludes in June this year, AUSTRAC will have delivered 69 bilateral and 8 regional training programs to 25 countries. In the course of providing this program, AUSTRAC has formed solid relationships with its counterparts and has shared successes with host countries in enhancing the supervisory, education, intelligence and enforcement capabilities of Financial Intelligence Units.

The formal conclusion of AUSTRAC's technical assistance and training program on 30 June 2013 does not signal the end of Australia's engagement with Africa in

assisting and partnering on development issues, including financial probity and counter-terrorism. AUSTRAC will continue to engage with African representatives through international forums such as Egmont and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This will be an important component of Australia's ongoing engagement with Africa.

I wish you all the best with this course which I understand will focus on the cross-border movement of cash and the risk-based approach. These topics have been selected to assist countries improve their compliance with international standards and implement frameworks to better detect and deter money laundering and the financing of terrorism. I hope you find the workshops useful, including the opportunities to develop contacts and networks between the organisations represented here today.

Finally, I am sure you will join with me in thanking your host governments for releasing you for the course. I would also like to thank Gavin Durbin, David Becker and the whole AUSTRAC team for their efforts in putting together this course and all the previous bilateral and regional courses, and for their dedication to helping African countries improve their counter-terrorism and financial intelligence capabilities. Australia is committed to continuing its close engagement with Africa across a range of different programs and to building our already strong bonds of cooperation and friendship.

Thank you and best wishes for a successful workshop.