



CE-FATF-ENG NEWSLETTER

Outcome of Engagement Meeting with SCUML:

An engagement meeting initiated by the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) and aimed at fostering a strong working relationship as well as collaboration with one of the regulatory bodies in the country was held on 16th of May, 2017.

A team comprising a member of the board of trustees, the Executive Director, the Administrative and Membership Officer as well as relevant staff of the Network paid a courtesy call to the head office of the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML) which is located in the capital city, Abuja.

In continuance of its work on sensitizing Nigerian Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 8 coupled with the need to support the struggle of CSOs regarding how best to enhance the regulatory environment in which they work, NNNGO sought to highlight issues relating to the challenge of registering with SCUML, sensitization on Money Laundering (ML) and Terrorist Financing (TF), Financial Accountability, National Risk Assessment (NRA) and noncompliance within the third sector.

The engagement meeting with SCUML was therefore seen as an opportunity to chart way forward on how best to sort out the issues in these areas.

The importance of NNNGO's work was brought to the fore and its impact especially in encouraging an increase in the number of organizations who registered with the SCUML in 2016 was acknowledged. The SCUML team therefore gave assurance of its commitment to deep collaboration with the Network especially on workshops focused on creating awareness about financial crimes in the sector. This was centered on the urgent need for adequate and unrelenting sensitization in the area of donor monitoring so as to decrease the level of vulnerability of CSOs in Nigeria to ML and TF.

The National Risk Assessment (NRA) which was conducted in 2016 was mentioned as a background to issues of noncompliance within the third sector; Faith-based organizations were particularly identified as non-compliant while the SCUML gave assurance of the organization's dedication towards improving penalties for noncompliance as well as effectively enforcing them.

In addressing the issue of difficulty in registering with SCUML, guidelines were provided on how best to access the SCUML website in order to allow for a smooth registration experience: Organizations must give a brief profile of the institution and ensure that all scanned documents to be uploaded are compressed to 2MB.

An acknowledgement mail would be sent immediately, approving the registration. A certificate of registration is made ready for collection within ten working days at the pick-up location indicated by the organization undergoing registration.

The importance of registering with SCUML was further reiterated at the meeting as the certificate is needed to open organizational bank account by nonprofits.



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