NATIONAL BANK OF RWANDA
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esaamlg EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING GROUP

9th Public-Private Sector Dialogue

September 4-5, 2026

KCC, Kigali, Rwanda

A Concept Note by The ESAAMLG Secretariat and National Bank of Rwanda

for the Public-Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) on

Digital Financial Services and Financial Inclusion:
Balancing Innovation, Inclusion and ML/TF Risk Mitigation

Concept Title	**THE 9th ESAAMLG PUBLIC–PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE (PPSD)**
Subject Matter	**I. Hosting 9th ESAAMLG Region Public–Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) in Kigali** This concept note presents a proposal for the 9th Public Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) to be hosted by the Government of Rwanda as part of Annual meetings organised by the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Secretariat.
Rationale	Over the past eight years, ESAAMLG has organised the Public-Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD), an initiative designed to provide a platform for engagement between the public and private sectors on emerging and topical anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and counter-proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF) issues affecting the region.

	The ESAAMLG is a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Style Regional Body (FSRB) which was established in 1999 and currently consists of 22 members[1] and observer members. The PPSD as one of high-level regional meeting convene policymakers, regulators, and experts to deliberate on Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), and Proliferation Financing (PF) issues, these dialogues have seen significant attendance by senior government officials across and beyond the region, along with participation from the high level official from the Private Sector and Cooperating Organizations, including high number of participants across the globe. In line with established practice among host countries, the National Bank of Rwanda will organize a Public–Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) as a complementary event. The Task Force Meeting will be followed by the Council of Ministers Meeting, and it is envisaged that the PPSD will commence immediately after the Council of Ministers meeting in the afternoon of the 4th and continue to the 5th September 2026.
Analysis	**II. Objectives of the PPSD** The primary objectives of the 9th PPSD are to: • strengthen collaboration between the Public and Private Sectors in to enhance Rwanda's AML/CFT/CPF framework • contribute to regional efforts under ESAAMLG. • promote effective and transparent dialogue between regulators and private sector actors regarding the implementation of AML/CFT/CPF standards. **III. Discussion Theme:** **"Digital financial services and financial inclusion: Balancing Innovation, Inclusion and ML/TF Risk Mitigation".** Digital financial services (DFS) are a primary driver for financial inclusion across the ESAAMLG region, providing formal financial services to previously underserved populations. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) emphasises that financial

[1] Members: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, DRC Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

inclusion and AML/CFT objectives are "mutually supportive,". A risk-based approach (RBA) allows countries to apply simplified measures for lower-risk products while maintaining safeguards against money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF). However, poorly calibrated controls or excessive de-risking can exclude legitimate users and push transactions into informal channels, undermining both inclusion and transparency.

Focus areas

The dialogue will address the following four core sessions as identified below;

- **Global and Regional DFS Trends:** This session will set the scene by outlining the objectives of the PPSD and the thematic focus of this edition. It will provide a comprehensive presentation of global and regional developments in digital financial services to inform the subsequent dialogue.
- **R.16 Payment Transparency Review:** This focus area will equip participants with a technical understanding of the ongoing review of payment transparency requirements. The session will address policy considerations necessary to balance risk with the delivery of secure, technology-driven financial services.
- **Electronic Know-Your-Customer (e-KYC) and Transaction Monitoring Tools:** Participants will share practical experiences regarding the application of e-KYC tools for transparent digital payments. Discussions will focus on managing risks related to cyber-enabled fraud and the effective screening of clients and transactions.
- **Strategies to Strengthen Public-Private Sector Engagement:** This session will explore frameworks and country-specific perspectives to build effective engagement models. The goal is to develop robust public-private collaboration strategies to manage emerging risks within the digital finance ecosystem.

Participants

The participants will be drawn from the following sectors:

- Government entities
- Supervisory authorities and Financial Sector Regulators.
- Foreign representatives from public sector institutions

- Private sector federations
- Financial service providers
- Other stakeholders
- ESAAMLG member countries, observers, and COSUNs
- The private sector from ESAAMLG member countries
- FATF Global Network e.g. FSRBs

IV. Expected Speakers

- Experts from ESAAMLG.
- Rwanda Financial Sector Experts
- Experts from selected countries with vast experience in emerging risk and digital financial services.

V. Conclusion

The Public–Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) will serve as a strategic platform to reinforce collaboration, address emerging financial sector risks, and strengthen Rwanda's AML/CFT/CPF regime. By fostering open dialogue and shared responsibility, the initiative will contribute to enhanced financial integrity, regulatory effectiveness, and regional cooperation under ESAAMLG.