

Scoping visit by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assess the Technical Assistance requirement of Sri Lanka to enhance the Anti Money Laundering and Countering of Terrorist Financing capacities (from 15-19 December 2025)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka, undertook a Scoping Mission from 15 to 19 December 2025 to assess Sri Lanka's technical assistance (TA) requirements for strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) capacities. The objective of the mission was to identify priority areas for a tailored technical assistance program aimed at enhancing law enforcement and prosecutorial effectiveness, strengthening financial investigation capabilities, and improving inter-agency coordination among Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

The delegation included officials from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, led by Ms. Rachel Irmen, Associate Director, Economic Crimes Team, Mr. Kevin Whelan, former Resident Advisor to Sri Lanka, Mr. Cory Downs, Law Enforcement Expert specializing in ML/TF investigations, case development, and operational coordination, and Mr. Bradley Gardner, Representative, U.S. Embassy, Sri Lanka.



During the visit, the delegation met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on AML/CFT. Discussions focused on Sri Lanka's AML/CFT framework, ongoing initiatives to strengthen financial intelligence and regulatory and supervisory effectiveness, and areas where international technical assistance could further support national AML/CFT efforts—particularly in relation to law enforcement and supervisory agencies. This engagement was of particular importance, as the NCC provides strategic oversight and national-level coordination of AML/CFT policies and implementation.

The delegation also held discussions with senior representatives from key stakeholder institutions, including the Attorney General's Department, Sri Lanka Police, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), Inland Revenue Department, Sri Lanka Customs, and other relevant agencies. In addition, meetings were conducted with financial sector regulators, namely the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, Securities and Exchange Commission, Bank Supervision Department, Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Payment and Settlement Department, Department of Foreign Exchange, and the Financial Intelligence Unit. These engagements identified specific areas where technical assistance could add value, particularly in strengthening financial investigation mechanisms, including parallel and joint investigations of predicate offences and ML/TF cases.

The Scoping Mission was successfully concluded, with the with a shared understanding that the proposed technical assistance program is expected to continue for a period of two to three years commencing in 2026.