MARCH 1, 2021

ACAMS INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS COMPLIANCE TASK FORCE: HUMANITARIAN-SANCTIONS TECHNICAL DIALOGUE FORUM


ACAMS is the largest international membership organisation dedicated to enhancing the knowledge, skills and expertise of AML/CTF, sanctions and other financial crime prevention professionals through training, best practices and professional development. As part of the ACAMS Global Sanctions Program, the International Sanctions Compliance Task Force was created with the aim of facilitating dialogue by bringing together sanctions specialists and subject-matter experts from a wide array of sectors.

As a high-level inter-industry forum, a key priority of the Task Force is to enable and support cross-industry dialogue on global sanctions compliance topics. It is under the umbrella of the Task Force that ACAMS has established a Humanitarian-Sanctions Technical Dialogue Forum that will lead cross-industry and public/private dialogue on the risk management of permissible humanitarian transactions into highly sanctioned jurisdictions.
To ensure a balanced representation, membership of the forum includes participants from the financial sector, global corporates, international bodies, individual member states, humanitarian actors and sanctions regulatory authorities. The forum is co-chaired by the Sue Eckert, World Bank and Roberto Crespi, European Commission. Dr Justine Walker, Head of Global Sanctions & Risk, ACAMS, acts as key project expert.

Commencing February 2021, the technical dialogue will primarily focus on Yemen, Syria, and Iran. However, it is intended that our deliberations and key findings will be relevant to other highly sanctioned jurisdictions, for example Venezuela, North Korea and areas operating under the control of designated terrorist actors. Over the next 12 months the dialogue forum will undertake detailed analysis on:

- How relevant actors can work within existing legal frameworks (sanctions regimes, national legislation, administrative procedures, etc.) to promote viable, safe and transparent payment channels in support of international humanitarian activity involving highly sanctioned jurisdictions.
- Mechanisms to enhance opportunities for maximizing permissible payments into highly sanctioned jurisdictions, including identification of the main risk management considerations.

The technical dialogue forum will assist in shaping a number of key ACAMS outputs, including:

- A series of technical-level briefings
- A global fact-finding survey to identify compliance awareness, risk management considerations and opportunities for maximizing humanitarian payments into highly sanctioned jurisdictions.
Global sanctions masterclass addressing: Risk managing personal remittances, humanitarian transactions and permissible payments into highly sanctioned jurisdictions.

Concerted international dialogue with global policymakers and competent authorities to help inform the effective application of humanitarian exceptions, licensing and related permissions involving highly sanctioned jurisdictions.

Further information on the ACAMS Sanctions Space including Masterclasses, Whitepapers, Global Monthly Updates, and the Sanctions Space Podcast can be found at [www.acams.org/sanctions](http://www.acams.org/sanctions)