**Seizing Opportunities: UAE's Exit from the FATF Grey List and its Impact on
Asset and Fund Management**

**16 February 2024**

The removal of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list signifies that the jurisdiction has made significant progress in addressing deficiencies in its anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) measures. For asset managers and fund managers considering the jurisdiction, this development could have several implications:

1. **Improved Regulatory Environment:** The removal from the FATF grey list indicates that the UAE has enhanced its AML and CTF regulations and enforcement mechanisms. This may lead to a more stable and predictable regulatory environment for asset and fund managers operating in the UAE.
2. **Enhanced Reputation:** Being on the FATF grey list can raise concerns about a jurisdiction's commitment to combating financial crimes. With its removal, the UAE's reputation may improve, which could attract more investment and business opportunities for asset and fund managers. This may also enhance the reputation of the UAE's financial sector and reassure investors, including asset managers and fund managers, about the country's commitment to combating financial crimes.
3. **Increased Investor Confidence**: Investors often prefer jurisdictions with strong AML and CTF frameworks to mitigate risks associated with financial crimes. The removal from the FATF grey list could boost investor confidence in the UAE’s financial system, potentially attracting more capital inflows to funds managed within the jurisdiction. Investors, including asset managers and fund managers, may feel more secure and comfortable conducting business in a jurisdiction that has been deemed compliant with international AML/CFT standards by the FATF.
4. **Expanded Market Access:** Some investors and institutions may have restrictions or compliance requirements related to investing in jurisdictions on the FATF grey list. The removal of the UAE from this list could eliminate such barriers, opening up new opportunities for asset and fund managers to access global markets and investors.
5. **Expanded Business Opportunities:** Removal from the FATF grey list can open up new business opportunities for asset managers and fund managers operating in the UAE. It may attract more foreign investment and encourage international financial institutions to establish or expand their presence in the country, thereby broadening the scope of potential clients and investment opportunities for asset and fund managers.
6. **Operational Efficiency:** Compliance with AML and CTF regulations can be resource-intensive for asset and fund managers. With the UAE's improved regulatory framework, managers may experience fewer compliance burdens and operational challenges, potentially leading to increased efficiency and cost savings.
7. **Reduced Compliance Burden:** Compliance with AML/CFT regulations can be resource-intensive for financial institutions, including asset and fund managers. Removal from the FATF grey list indicates that the UAE's regulatory framework has been strengthened, potentially resulting in clearer and more streamlined compliance requirements. This can reduce the compliance burden on asset managers and fund managers, allowing them to focus more on their core business activities.

Overall, the removal of the UAE from the FATF grey list is likely to have positive implications on the business environment for asset and fund managers considering the jurisdiction, offering a more attractive and conducive environment for conducting business and managing investments, leading to improved reputation, increased investor confidence, expanded business opportunities, and reduced compliance burdens. However, managers should still exercise due diligence and stay informed about regulatory developments to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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