

QFC Authority imposes a financial penalty against GLOBAL Technologies Doha LLC

Doha, Qatar, 27 August 2024: The QFC Authority announced today, that on 27 June 2024 it imposed a financial penalty in the sum of US\$1,500 on GLOBAL Technologies Doha LLC (“the Firm”) for contravening a Relevant Requirement pursuant to Compliance and Enforcement Rule (“CER”) 6.1.1(C) of the QFCA Rules.

The Firm is a QFC Entity which was incorporated by registration and licensed in the QFC on 6 November 2018. All QFC entities were required to submit a Beneficial Ownership (“BO”) report to the Companies Registration Office (“CRO”) within 90 days of enactment of the amended QFCA Rules (from 6 September 2021). The 90-day period expired on 5 December 2021, which was later extended by a legislative amendment to 31 December 2021. On 28 March 2022, the Firm belatedly provided a BO report to the CRO. The CRO has the discretion to reject a BO report if it contains missing documents and information and thereby fails to disclose the Required Information and the Nominee Particulars (if any) of a QFC Entity. The BO report was rejected because, whereas the Firm identified a Third Party as its shareholder, it failed to indicate who the ultimate BO of the Firm was in accordance with the provisions of General Rule 8A.3 of the QFCA Rules. As a result, the Firm was required to provide confirmation that the third party is either 100% listed (such that it would satisfy the provisions of Rule 8A.15(A), being a company whose securities are traded on a regulated market); or there were no other shareholders holding 20% or more shareholding in the third party. The QFCA made several attempts to contact the Firm, but the Firm did not respond. The Firm failed to provide the information requested by the CRO; therefore, the Firm failed to submit a duly completed BO report, pursuant to General Rule 8A.9(B) of the QFCA Rules.

The QFC Authority considered the financial penalty above was reasonable considering all the relevant circumstances of the case, namely that: the Firm is registered and licensed in the QFC; the Firm contravened a Relevant Requirement as outlined above; the contravention was serious because it concerns BO which is a Money Laundering / Terrorist Financing (“ML / TF”) vulnerability; issuing the financial penalty would deter other QFC Entities from being in contravention of non-compliance with ML / TF matters; and a financial penalty will educate the QFC community about the importance of ML / TF compliance issues.

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About the QFC Authority

The QFC Authority is a body established in 2005 by Article 3 of the QFC Law to operate the QFC in accordance with its objectives in Article 5 of the QFC Law. It licenses and administers firms that conduct business in or from the QFC. It has a broad range of powers to license, monitor and, when necessary, discipline non-regulated firms and individuals in accordance with the QFCA Enforcement Policy 2019. Further details are available on the website www.qfc.qa.

