In 2018, the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office (STRO) conducted outreach sessions and issued publications to the financial and professional service sectors. The outreach sessions include closed-door sessions with individual financial institutions, industry-wide events jointly organized by the industry association and/or regulators.

At these face-to-face events, the STRO shared typologies of crimes relevant to the respective industries and good practices adopted by reporting entities in the reports submitted to the STRO. We also discussed areas of concern that the participants might have in the filing of reports. To promote early detection of crimes, the STRO initiated specific case discussion with stakeholders. This proactive engagement with the community and industry has allowed the STRO to receive Suspicious Transaction Reports disclosing various possible criminal activities from the different sectors.

In conjunction with the launch of SONAR, the STRO provided regular guidance to the reporting entities by issuing circulars and form guides. On 1 November 2018, the STRO conducted a workshop titled “STRO Workshop for STR Filers – How to complete the STR Form” to 261 reporting entities from financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions. This workshop aims to familiarize the reporting entities on completing the STR form so that the data provided is accurate and in standardized data points and format required by the STRO. The STRO will continue to engage the reporting entities to discuss areas for improvement in STR filing, including revising and improving the STR form.

This proactive engagement with the local stakeholders has allowed the STRO to receive higher quality STRs disclosing various possible criminal activities across the different sectors.
The STRO held meetings and discussion sessions with domestic agencies, including law enforcement agencies and regulatory units in 2018. These meetings and discussions sought to raise awareness of the value of financial intelligence in criminal investigations, exchange trends and crime typologies as well as set dissemination policies and criteria.

In 2018, albeit the overall 3% decrease (2,203 in 2018 and 2,263 in 2017) in requests for suspicious financial transactions or antecedent reports in 2018 as compared to 2017, we saw an increase in the number of such requests from non-SPF agencies (745 in 2018 and 656 in 2017). This shows an increase in the awareness and the use of financial intelligence by these agencies.

### Requests for suspicious financial transactions or antecedent reports in 2018

- **CAD**: 59%
- **Non-SPF Agencies**: 34%
- **Other SPF Divisions**: 7%