

**Remarks by Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Acting Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani
International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award
14 December 2025
Doha, Qatar**

*Your Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar,
Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen,*

It is a privilege to join you today on behalf of the United Nations at this year's Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award ceremony.

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the State of Qatar and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre for organizing and hosting this important global event.

I commend His Highness the Amir of Qatar for establishing the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award. Since its launch in 2016, it has highlighted inspirational examples of leadership and integrity across the globe, reinforcing the belief that corruption can and must be defeated.

I am especially pleased to participate for the fifth time in the Award Ceremony with His Highness the Amir of Qatar, and now in my new capacity as Acting Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

Terrorism continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security, often enabled by organized crime, illicit trafficking, and corruption.

As Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, I look forward to working with the Government of Qatar, the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen cooperation at the nexus of counter-terrorism, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts.

Corruption remains deeply intertwined with organized crime, and transnational illicit activities. It erodes public trust, weakens institutions, and violates human rights, disproportionately affecting women and young people, especially in conflict-affected settings.

Twenty years after its adoption, the United Nations Convention against Corruption stands as the only legally binding universal instrument dedicated to combating corruption. All countries hosting UN peace operations or special political missions are party to this Convention, and many have

completed the Implementation Review Mechanism, which has guided targeted technical assistance.

As the Secretary-General underscored in 2018, our peace operations must incorporate an explicit anti-corruption perspective to strengthen accountability and reinforce the rule of law. Addressing corruption is fundamental to addressing the drivers of conflict and to ensuring sustainable peace.

The United Nations advances this agenda through the UN system-wide Global Task Force on Corruption and a Common Position on Addressing Global Corruption.

Likewise, the Secretary-General's New Vision for the Rule of Law reaffirms the United Nations' commitment to enhancing rule of law assistance and strengthening capacities to prevent and combat corruption.

The Department of Peace Operations, together with UNODC and partners such as ROLACC, continues to promote justice, good governance, and accountability. In fact, tomorrow, we will be honoured to launch the new joint practical guidance on *achieving Peace through Integrity by addressing Corruption in Conflict-affected Settings*.

The recently adopted Pact for the Future reinforces the shared determination of the United Nations and its Member States to combat illicit financial flows, corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion. It emphasizes the importance of eliminating safe havens, recovering stolen assets, and ensuring they are returned to serve the public good. Such progress depends on strong partnerships with governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia.

This ceremony not only honours outstanding contributions to the fight against corruption but also reminds us of our shared responsibility to work together toward more just and accountable societies.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the recipients of this year's awards and to once again express our profound gratitude to the State of Qatar for its invaluable contribution to combatting corruption.

Thank you.