



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) [pre-recorded]**

Side Event - Countering the Financing of Terrorism in the Post-COVID Landscape

25 June 2021, 8 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to participate in this event co-organized with France, India, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Security Council 1267 Monitoring Team, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Countering the financing of terrorism, or CFT, remains as high a priority for the United Nations and its Member States as it was in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks when the Security Council adopted resolution 1373 requiring countries to criminalize the financing of terrorist acts.

Indeed, the importance of CFT was just reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

It is also prominently featured in the landmark Security Council resolution 2462 of 2019, calling upon Member States to take additional measures to suppress terrorism financing.

This resolution emphasized the exchange of relevant financial intelligence at the international level. It also addressed the negative unintended impact of counter-terrorism measures.

To promote the implementation of this resolution, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, is working with a wide range of entities across the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

The Global CFT Programme focuses on four main areas: 1) comprehensive assessments; 2) awareness-raising; 3) legislative framework improvements; and 4) enhancing operational capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted unprecedented stress on the entire international community.

The pandemic has hampered legislative initiatives and international cooperation aimed at countering the financing of terrorism.

It has created opportunities for terrorist groups to exploit vulnerable populations, particularly through the digital space, to raise funds for fraudulent COVID-19 relief.

This side event provides a timely opportunity to discuss these specific threats and the wider impact of the pandemic on policy and technical assistance efforts. Together, we can help to stem the flow of funds to terrorists, including in the digital space.

I thank you.