



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

First Secretary, Mr. Masoud Sultani

**Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of
Afghanistan to the United Nations**

**Joint CTC/1267-1988 Committees Meeting on the Nexus between Terrorism and
Organized Crime**

26 April 2019

NEW YORK

(Please check against delivery)

We welcome today's Joint Meeting of the CTC and the Security Council's 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees and thank all the panelists for their presentations on the various aspects of the link between terrorism and organized crime. We believe severing the link between terrorism and organized crime, means limiting various activities that sustain terrorists in different parts of the world.

The relationship between terrorism, violent extremism and other forms of transnational criminal activities are known to us all, especially Afghanistan, which remains a prime victim of terrorism. Today, as a front-line state against global terrorism, we combat a nexus of different terrorist groups, including FTF's that have come to our country from outside. It should be noted that the Taliban provide an umbrella for these groups to operate.

Insecurity has been complicated by the continued flow of weapons, extremist elements, as well as the trafficking of precursors used to produce explosive devices by terrorist groups, including improvised explosive devices. These represent the clear link between terrorism and organized criminal activity in Afghanistan. As such, the "terrorism-organized crime nexus" has been A factor in the continuation of violence in the country.

Addressing this problem is an important element of our counter-terrorism efforts. This is based on the understanding that combating organized crime is a MUST to reinforce progress in combating terrorism at the operational and institutional levels. We have taken numerous measures to fulfill obligations under the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other international instruments.

In this effort, we have focused on preventing terrorist and extremist groups to benefit from financial sources, including proceeds from narcotic drugs. We are conducting counter-narcotics operations in which hundreds of drug processing facilities were destroyed, tons of illicit drugs were seized, and thousands of individuals involved in the drug trade were apprehended and held to account. We have also improved security at airports and border-crossings to detect and deter trafficking. That said, sustained progress on

this problem and other transnational activities, require committed regional cooperation.

For the narcotics problem to be fully addressed, a proactive approach, based on the principle of shared responsibility is needed. This is required for steady progress on all aspects of the problem: production, trafficking and consumption.

We are also focused on preventing the Taliban from extracting natural resources and extorting commercial mining operations as a means of finance. Afghanistan has intensified efforts to prevent money laundering, the use of un-regulated currency flows, and other additional sources of terrorist financing. Our National Inter-Agency Task Force is working to fully implement our broad legal framework on the matter – in line with international standards as recognized by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

These are some examples of the way in which we are preventing terrorists from accessing financial resources.

We believe the CTC as well as the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees can do more to more effectively combat the terrorism, and its link with organized crime. States need to do more to enforce sanctions measures under the 1267 and 1988 regimes. The freezing of assets of sanctioned individuals needs to be enforced and monitored, as well as their travel without exemptions. The Security Council should also take appropriate action in cases of non-compliance with all Council resolutions.

And finally, disrupting the link between terrorism and organized crime in our region, requires a more cohesive approach. We are working to reach optimal results through various regional platforms, including the Heart of Asia Process; the SCO, SAARC, CICA and the UN Center for Preventive Diplomacy.

In conclusion, we thank the CTC and the 1267 and 1988 Committees for their efforts and close collaboration with Afghanistan on combating

terrorism, and its link with organized crime. We look forward to working closely on these issues.