

CONCEPT NOTE

COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT

COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM IN THE POST- COVID-19 LANDSCAPE

Friday 25 June 2021 8am - 9:30am (NY Time)

EVENT SUMMARY

As part of broader international counter terrorism efforts, countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) remains a high priority for Member States, within the UN System, as well for other intergovernmental structures, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its Global Network. The adoption of a dedicated Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) in March 2019 shows the ongoing importance for the international community to deprive terrorists of access to funds, using robust anti-money laundering (AML) and CFT frameworks. Resolution 2462 (2019) includes key issues such as addressing links to crime and organized crime, preventing misuse of the non-profit sector for terrorism-financing purposes and assessing and addressing potential risks associated with virtual assets. It recalls that financing of terrorism should be more effectively integrated into States' counter-terrorism efforts.

The "No Money for Terror" initiative offers another opportunity at the ministerial level to leverage CFT related efforts, despite the third event being postponed in 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

The urgent need to respond to the COVID pandemic has resulted in the re-prioritisation of efforts by law enforcement and supervisory authorities (*COVID-19-related Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks and Policy Responses, FATF, May 2020*). The pandemic has also created a gap in the implementation of CFT legislation and responses, hindered international cooperation and related synergies and created enhanced opportunities for terrorist groups particularly to raise funds through online sources (*Committee of Experts on the Valuation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, MONEYVAL- Council of Europe, 2 September 2020*). Similarly the UN has been impacted in its CFT related assistance to Member States, which required adjustments in its delivery tools and interactions. As the international community gradually recovers from COVID related restrictions, it is important to take stock of the impact of the pandemic on CFT efforts, share lessons learnt and to identify emerging trends.

On the margins of 2021 Counter-Terrorism week, the High-level Side Event on Terrorist Financing Vulnerabilities in the Post-COVID Landscape aims to provide an opportunity to discuss current and upcoming CFT priorities and particularly as it pertains to the misuse of digital space related facilitation of international cooperation and technical assistance.

KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Raise awareness on terrorist financing threats and trends within the post-COVID landscape
2. Highlight the impact of the pandemic on policy and TA efforts
3. Underline the policy and operational work to prevent the misuse of digital space for terrorist financing purposes.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks

- a. Representative of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
- b. Representative of the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
- c. Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- d. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), UNOCT

2. Technical session

- a. The post-COVID threat landscape, the Security Council 1267 Monitoring Team
- b. The misuse of the digital space for terrorist financing - challenges and approaches
 - i. Policy development
 - ii. Regulatory framework
 - iii. Investigating misuse of virtual assets
 - iv. The perspective of the private sector

3. Interventions from the floor/ Q & A

4. Closing Remarks

Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)