

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE TO JOINT SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE  
AND THE ISIL (DA'ESH) AND AL-QAIDA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE  
WITH MEMBER STATES, THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF) AND  
OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:  
“DEPRIVING TERRORIST GROUPS FROM ACCESSING, RAISING, AND  
MOVING FUNDS: PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED”**

**New York, 12 December 2016**

*Delivered by Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director,  
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate*

It is a pleasure to greet this important special meeting.

The world will not prevent terrorism if we do not eliminate its sources of funding. Terrorist organizations use every possible means to finance their deadly actions. They trade in drugs, arms, oil, antiquities and humans. They enslave men, women, boys and girls, including sexual slavery. When we counter the financing of terrorism, we also prevent other horrific crimes committed in the process. We therefore have a moral obligation not only to the victims of terrorism, but also to the victims of the financing of terrorism.

Resolution 2253 has mandated the Secretary-General to produce a strategic report and quarterly updates on the dangers posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) and associated groups, their sources of funding and the range of United Nations efforts to support Member States in countering the threat.

As a consequence of international efforts, ISIL's oil revenues continue to decrease, as does its revenue from taxations, fees and the exploitation of natural and economic resources. Nevertheless, the group has been trying to diversify its sources of financing, including through external support or engagement in trafficking activities.

In recent years, Member States have achieved substantial progress in developing and implementing concrete measures to detect and deprive terrorists of funding. However, we must keep pace with the evolving threat.

The United Nations has actively supported Member States in assessing the threat, evaluating States' capacity and facilitating technical assistance. UN resolutions, including 1373, and the UN Sanction regime against Al-Qaeda, have been important measures in this regard.

All relevant UN entities and international organizations are actively involved in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's Working Group on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. The CTITF non-profit organization initiative has enhanced efforts to safeguard this sector from terrorist financing abuse, and has led to a series of revisions of the international standards in this area.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to share good national practices, policies and lessons learned in protecting economic sectors that appear most vulnerable to exploitation for terrorist-financing purposes. It is my hope that your gathering will also strengthen international cooperation and information sharing.

I am encouraged by the fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and its regional and international partners, including the Financial Action Task Force, as well as between the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Monitoring Team. I thank experts who are joining today's discussions, and offer my best wishes for a constructive session.