



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

High-level Side Event on Countering the Financing of Terrorism: Taking Steps Towards the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2462 (2019) by Maximizing Synergies Between the International and Regional Contexts in Countering the Financing of Terrorism

New York , Thursday 26 September 2019

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the Republic of Egypt and the European Union, for convening this side event as co-chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum Working Group on East Africa.

The GCTF is an essential partner for my Office and other UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

I commend the GCTF, and the Member States that lead its work, for their strong vision and commitment on a broad range of counter-terrorism issues that have led to tangible progress on the ground and a stronger partnership with the UN.

We held the fourth UN-GCTF Coordination Meeting this morning, where we explored further areas for practical collaboration.

Recent terrorist attacks, including in East Africa, clearly demonstrate that terrorist groups continue to generate funds for their activities through legal and illegal means.

The nexus between organized crime and terrorist financing is a growing concern for many countries.

Legal sales of commodities often end up in terrorist coffers. Informal actors and cash-based purchases hinder tracing and intelligence collection on financial transactions.

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In the face of these challenges, Security Council resolution 2462, adopted in March this year, highlights the importance of strong and concerted international action to counter terrorist financing.

The resolution specifically mandates my Office to enhance its UN-wide coordination and capacity-building work in this area.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center within my Office, serves as a Centre of Excellence and a major technical assistance provider to many Member States on a wide range of topics, including on countering the financing of terrorism.

The Center is currently developing a multi-year global programme on this issue that we expect to launch early 2020.

The programme will be based on four key pillars: awareness raising; national assessments; legislative frameworks; and operational capacity-building.

Human rights, gender mainstreaming and sustainability of impact will be cross-cutting priorities across these four pillars.

The programme's thematic priorities include addressing targeted financial sanctions, protecting the non-profit sector, financial inclusion, partnerships with the private sector, national risk assessments, and international cooperation.

To ensure the efficient implementation of this programme, we will continue to adopt an "All-of-UN" approach in our engagement with Member States and regional organizations, including Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies.

Providing capacity-building support to East Africa and the broader region is a priority for my Office.

Since last year, UNCCT has partnered with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group to help develop the region's counter-financing of terrorism operational plan.

This plan, which was adopted exactly one year ago, was a key recommendation of the FATF to be followed by all FATF-style regional bodies.

Starting later this year, UNCCT will deepen its partnership with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group to convene sub-regional meetings on the implementation of its Regional Countering the Financing of Terrorism Operational Plan.

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Under this initiative, the first sub-regional meeting to take place in Istanbul next month will be for countries from the East African region – Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

My Office will take stock of tangible progress made on countering the financing of terrorism during the Second United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week next year, when the Secretary-General will convene the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and the second UN High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, following the seventh biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Today's side event is an opportunity to discuss how to strengthen our collective efforts to help countries tackle this complex and evolving threat.

I would like to call upon all Member States, and particularly GCTF members, to make their experts available for participation in UN training programmes on countering the financing of terrorism, to share their practical experience and knowledge with beneficiary countries.

Significant financial support is also needed to enhance the capacities of Member States to prevent and detect terrorist financing.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is only through stronger collaboration and targeted efforts that we can achieve concrete results in our struggle against terrorism and terrorist financing.

My Office remains fully committed to contribute to global, regional and national efforts to counter the financing of terrorism, including working in partnership with the GCTF and its Working Groups to deliver practical and concrete results.

I look forward to an interesting and productive discussion today.

Thank you.