



Statement of Dr Jehangir Khan
Director
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

The Third Expert Meeting under the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF)
Initiative on

”Ensuring the Effective Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism
Measures while Safeguarding Civic Space”

9-10 March 2021

Closing Remarks
Wednesday 10 March
09:25 AM New York time

Distinguished participants,

First I would like to thank our co-leads, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We in the United Nations have benefitted greatly by co-leading with such excellent partners.

I would also like to thank the GCTF Administration Unit and the Global Centre on Cooperative Security for their tremendous efforts in ensuring that all four events under this initiative, the launch and three Expert Meetings, have run so well and clearly.

Of course, a big thank you to all you participants as well, for sharing your wisdom, your ideas and your time with us – in our mutual interests and efforts to ensure we mitigate the potential negative consequences to civic space, when enforcing counter terrorism financing measures.

As we conclude the series of expert-level technical discussions on this very important topic, I would like to share some thoughts before I close this Third and Final Expert Meeting of the joint GCTF-UN Initiative on “Ensuring the Effective Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures while Safeguarding Civic Space.”

Dear colleagues,

Measures to counter terrorist financing, like any measure to prevent or counter terrorism, must comply with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. In the landmark



resolution 2462 of 2019, the Security Council underscored both the need for all Member States to step up their efforts on countering the financing of terrorism, and the importance of protecting human rights and principled humanitarian action.

The Security Council specifically called on UNOCT to enhance coordination with the aim of delivering integrated technical assistance on counter-terrorist financing measures. My Office attaches high importance to this mandate and I am pleased that we are strengthening our partnership with the GCTF in this regard.

It is through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre that we are working with a wide range of entities across the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to promote the implementation of resolution 2462 – including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, UNODC and the 1267 Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team.

I also invite all Governments to engage, build partnerships with and support our Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. UNOCT-UNCCT's Programme staff has done an excellent job in coordinating this event from the UN side, and we would be very interested in both your expertise and financial support to take this discussion to concrete action, so that we can ensure that our words here can meaningfully help towards protecting civil society and non-profits from terrorist abuse while maintaining the operational space they need to do their jobs.

Our global capacity-building Programme prioritizes capacity-building and training for Member States with the specific aim of protecting civil society and non-profits, in line with the Financial Action Task Force guidance on the area. Going forward, we will redouble our outreach to the non-profit sector to ensure that all guidance and training offered to national authorities not only ensure the protection of civic and humanitarian space, but that civil society organizations are also able to benefit from trainings, guidance and support in topics they need help on.

Dear colleagues,

Charitable organizations, women and youth groups, religious organizations and more, need strong legal and policy frameworks to protect them from terrorist abuse. But they also need the assurance that they can deliver on their important work without undue interference. The work that civil society and humanitarian organizations perform is critical to UN objectives: in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, prevention of violent extremism, and indeed on protecting innocent people from the horrors of terrorist attacks. Such organizations build resilience, hope and trust in communities, and support counter-terrorism work in directly addressing the conditions conducive to violent extremism and terrorism.



One of the most important aspects to consider when discussing protection of non-profits from terrorist abuse, is identifying and implementing the appropriate risk assessment methodologies for the non-profit sector. We at the United Nations will prioritize this aspect in our outreach to national agencies, so that through nuanced risk assessments, national authorities can devise nuanced, transparent, targeted and risk-based proportionate responses that would help non-profit sector grow resilient, supportive and successful.

Throughout this initiative with its three Expert Meetings, we have seen every angle and perspective on protecting non-profits from terrorist abuse being covered. We look forward to feeding the rich guidance we have received into our capacity-building programmatic work in an efficient and comprehensive manner.

With this, dear colleagues, I cap off this Third and Final Expert Meeting and look forward now to the ensuing process under which the Initiative would produce the Good Practices document. We will ensure that this document benefits from advice and comments from the United Nations family, so that as it approaches finalization at the GCTF Ministerial Meeting later this year, we will have a product that is actionable and result-oriented.

I thank the GCTF again for this Initiative, congratulate the Co-leads on their leadership and look forward to an even closer partnership with all of you in our common goals to protect our peoples from all manners of violence and abuse.

Thank you.