



**Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**International Conference on Countering the Financing of Terrorism
26 April 2018
Paris, France**

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of France for convening this conference, and for inviting the United Nations to participate. This timely initiative testifies to the leading role that France plays in addressing the threat of terrorism around the world. I should recall that it was at the initiative of France that the United Nations adopted the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in 1999.

I am also grateful to the French Government for organizing my meetings with French associations of victims of terrorism. I am impressed by the strong support of the French Government to these victims.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

No State is immune to terrorist financing. At the United Nations, countering the financing of terrorism has been one of the key pillars of the Organization's overall counter-terrorism efforts. Over the years, the General Assembly and the Security Council have stressed its importance, which is evident in the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, several Security Council resolutions, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) complements and strengthens this global policy framework.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), which I am privileged to lead, established last year as the first reform of the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, continues to prioritize coherent policymaking. UNOCT, through its Counter-Terrorism Centre,

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which the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia kindly mentioned, and which I lead, is focusing an important part of its capacity-building work on countering the financing of terrorism. I thank Saudi Arabia for its important contribution to the Centre. Together with our partners, particularly the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, we have spearheaded practical support to Member States to help national authorities understand and implement effective measures to suppress terrorist financing.

At the end of February, Secretary-General Guterres signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact, which will help strengthen the coordination and coherence of the Organization's counter-terrorism work. The Compact aims to ensure effective coordination of the activities of 36 UN entities, Interpol and the World Customs Organization, dealing with counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. My Office is responsible for this coordination.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The sanctions regime remains a key tool in the global fight against terrorism financing, and the ISIL (Da'esh) / Al-Qaida Sanctions Monitoring Team's engagement with the intelligence community and security services helps produce an up-to-date threat assessment and critical recommendations on the implementation of the sanctions regime against Da'esh and Al-Qaeda.

In all these efforts, United Nations bodies have also emphasized that human rights standards, international humanitarian law and the principles of fairness and transparency are fully respected and encouraged. We also stress upon the integration of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the counter-terrorism support provided by the United Nations to Member States.

I should also underline the importance of ensuring that our efforts to suppress terrorist financing do not harm grassroots level organizations that are doing critical work to prevent violent extremism and address conditions conducive to terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A deeper understanding of the evolving threat, more structured coordination and greater information sharing are critical to counter terrorist financing. In that spirit, the Secretary-General is convening the United Nations' first ever Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies in New York on 28 – 29 June 2018, which will focus on ways to enhance international cooperation. It is going on about better exchange of information; more effective prevention of violent extremism—including in regard to the misuse of new technologies; how to address the FTF phenomenon; and how to enhance international cooperation in this field. The agenda was

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prepared based on the proposals made by all UN Member States. We hope that the Conference would facilitate a practical exchange of views amongst practitioners.

The invitation to the Conference has been sent to the 193 Member States of the United Nations.