



## CONCEPT NOTE

### Arria formula meeting of the Security Council

### “Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism”

Thursday 31 January, 10.00-13.00, ECOSOC

*Co-hosted by Australia, France, Indonesia, Peru and Tunisia*

### **Background**

The fight against the financing of terrorism has been an important part of the response of the Security Council to the terrorist threat. In resolution 1373 (2001), the Council decided that all States shall prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts. In resolution 2178 (2014), the Council decided that Member States must prevent and eliminate funding for the travel and activities of foreign terrorist fighters. Resolution 2195 (2014) as well as PRST/2018/9 have touched upon the issue of the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime. In resolution 2199 (2015), the Security Council strengthened existing measures to curb the funding sources of Da’esh, the Al-Nusra Front and their associates. In March 2017, resolution 2347 (2017) highlighted the links between the illicit trade in cultural property and the financing of terrorism. And last but not least, the resolutions mandating the sanctions regime for Da’esh and Al-Qaïda, in particular resolutions 2253 (2015) and 2368 (2017) reiterate many important obligations of Member States in the fight against the financing of terrorism.

While some progress has been achieved, notably in the fight against Da’esh, terrorist groups and individuals continuously adapt their methods and look for new sources of funding. With the rise of homegrown terrorism, we have also seen terrorist attacks committed with very limited financial resources. The financing methods can vary from one organization to another as well as from one individual to another (time and place, sources, legal or illegal). Sources of funding include, inter alia: donations, direct extortion of populations or misappropriation of charitable funds, resources from organized crime such as ransom money and trafficking of weapons, drugs or cultural property. Terrorists and terrorist groups also use the following means to move and transfer funds: cash-couriers, abuse of legitimate businesses and non-governmental organizations, prepaid cards and mobile-payments or new payment methods such as virtual-assets.

This is why, at the “No Money for Terror” Conference held on 25 and 26 April 2018 in Paris, more than 70 countries and 15 international, regional and intergovernmental organizations committed to step up international efforts to fight terrorist financing and to find solutions to address new threats through the Paris Agenda. These efforts will continue in 2019 at the Australian-hosted conference.

The objective of this Arria formula meeting is to continue this effort of mobilization and discuss the ways in which the international community can further strengthen its response, in particular through the United Nations.

### **Issues for consideration**

During this meeting, participants are invited to consider the following questions:

- What are the recent trends observed in the sources of funding of terrorist groups and individuals as well as in the financial flows related to terrorist networks?
- How can States strengthen interagency cooperation at the national level to make better use of financial intelligence and improve the sharing of information?
- How can States encourage their competent national authorities to establish effective partnerships with the private sector?
- How are States implementing their obligations to fight against the financing of terrorism, in particular by criminalizing the financing of terrorism and what are the gaps in this regard?
- How to strengthen the use and effectiveness of the freezing of assets tool?
- How can the international community better assess and anticipate terrorist financing risks (including but not limited to the risks associated with the anonymity of new payment methods and the diversion of new financial instruments)?
- How can we strengthen international cooperation in the fight against terrorist financing?
- How can the UN system better support Member States in the implementation of their obligations, as a complement to the action undertaken by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its regional bodies as well as other relevant actors?

## **Briefers**

The participants will hear from the following panelists:

- **Mr Tom Keatinge**, Director, Centre for Financial Crime & Security Studies, Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI)
- **Mme Michèle Coninx**, Assistant Secretary General, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism executive Directorate (CTED)
- **Mr Guillaume Michelin**, Substitut du Procureur, Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, *via VTC*
- **Mr John Carlson**, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), *via VTC*
- **Mr Jody Myers**, Vice President, Global Compliance Risk Assessment, Western Union.

## **Format**

The meeting will be held on Thursday 31 January from 10.00 until 13.00 at the United Nations Headquarters, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

All Member States of the UN as well as permanent observers and non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN are invited to attend.

Following the panelists' interventions, members of the Security Council will be invited to take the floor. Other delegations (Member States, UN entities as well as non-governmental organizations) wishing to make an intervention should inform the organizers in advance as time will be limited.

All delegations are encouraged to speak no more than 3 minutes.