

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
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Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**“Implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 8 on
the Protection of the Non-Profit Sector against Terrorist Financing”**

**Virtual Training
7 May 2020**

Your Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain,
Distinguished trainers and participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon to you in Bahrain. Let me start by wishing you a good and safe Ramadan.

It is my pleasure to address you at the closing ceremony of this virtual seminar on countering the financing of terrorism.

I would like to thank the Government of Bahrain for its leadership and for the trust it has vested in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and for partnering with us in this global effort to counter terrorism and its financing. I would like to particularly thank Sheikh Abdullah, whom I had the pleasure to meet last September, for his strong interest in engaging with UNCCT on capacity-building initiatives.

We are living in very difficult times due to the global coronavirus pandemic. As travel is not possible and social distancing is required, we have had to adapt the way we work to support Member States efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. I am proud to note that this is UNCCT’s first virtual capacity-building workshop during the COVID-19 crisis.

I would like to congratulate you all for your active participation in the workshop. I am confident that this commitment will help us make a difference in the fight against terrorism.

The adoption of Security Council resolution 2462 last year underscores the importance that the international community attaches to suppressing the financing of terrorism.

While most countries are struggling with a global health emergency right now, we must not forget or grow complacent to the threat of terrorism. In many parts of the world, terrorists are re-grouping

and building their strengths. They are exploiting the international community's shifting priorities, and growing vulnerabilities across the world, caused by the virus, to amass resources and recruits.

We thus cannot relax our commitment and efforts to build awareness and capabilities to counter the threat of terrorism across the world. Under Resolution 2462, UNOCT has been mandated by the Security Council to enhance coordination and increase capacity-building to counter terrorism financing. This workshop reflects UNCCT's commitment to do so.

I would like to emphasize my Office's commitment to work together with the local Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team on the ground to deliver coordinated, tailored and complementary counter terrorism technical assistance to countries to support their efforts to achieve peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Resident Coordinator in Bahrain, Mr. Stefano Pettinato, for his consistent support in promoting UNOCT's work in Bahrain.

I should also note here that upon the request of the Government of Bahrain, we have accepted the invitation to become a partner in the Strategic Partnership Framework between the UN and Bahrain. We, at UNCCT, look forward to contributing to this collaborative effort.

Today we conclude the second capacity-building exercise that UNCCT has organized together with Bahrain. This workshop has been made possible thanks to the generous contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

UNOCT stands ready to work together with Bahrain in its efforts to address the multifaceted and changing threat posed by terrorism. This workshop was a positive step in this regard, but much more can be done, and you can count on us.

This year we launched a global capacity-building programme on countering the financing of terrorism aimed at raising awareness of the threat, assessing national needs, and delivering tailored assistance to improve legislation and operational action. I invite the Government of Bahrain to contribute to UNCCT's work in this area through financial support and, more importantly, offering its expertise in relevant counter-terrorism areas to help countries in need.

Let me conclude by expressing UNCCT's strong commitment to continue supporting Bahrain in its efforts to counter terrorist financing. We will look forward to additional opportunities for closer and deeper collaboration in the coming months. In the meantime, I wish you all a blessed and healthy Ramadan and once again congratulate you on the efforts that your country has made in the fight against terrorism.

Thank you.