



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

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Ms. Daniela Gauci, Counsellor

on Combating and Financing Terrorism

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia and Albania

authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement, prosecution, specialised judiciary and asset recovery authorities among others.

[Let me provide some examples on which action is particularly important:

Transparency of **beneficial ownership of companies and trusts** is key, as criminals are known to exploit opaque structures as a means to hide their sources of funding or to circumvent sanctions regimes. The EU has str

to exchange strategic information and sanitized case studies. We therefore remain committed to the resolution's call for continued work to establish **public-private partnerships**.

Before concluding, let us highlight – as the resolution itself does – that measures to counter terrorist financing must comply with international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. CFT measures should never be misused to justify imposing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, or to target and criminalise civil society and human rights defenders.

Moreover, we cannot but insist here – before concluding - on the need to take into account the potential effect of counter-terrorism measures, including sanctions, on **humanitarian action**. Countering terrorism and providing humanitarian assistance are mutually inclusive objectives – we must implement robust CFT measures and we must ensure the protection of the humanitarian space. We have heard ample evidence of the unintended impact of Counter-Terrorism measures on humanitarian actors. We must work harder to ensure that Counterterrorism measures do not impede humanitarian action. The EU reaffirms the importance of robust and effective counter-terrorism measures and sanctions regimes in the fight against terrorism. Safeguarding the humanitarian space through appropriate measures, including through the consistent inclusion of humanitarian exemptions, where relevant, is essential in order not to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We also welcome the launch of FATF's project to study and mitigate the incorrect implementation of FATF standards and downstream effects.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that **coordination and international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism between Member States and United Nations entities** are key to learn from each other and to support targeted technical assistance and capacity building efforts. We believe that strengthening our international efforts further is a must if we are to move closer to preventing and countering the financing of terrorism.

Thank you.