



# 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

## Building best practice and using human rights-compliant digital methods to address the evolving threat from terrorist financing

20 June 2023, 13:15-14:30 Eastern Time (New York)

UNHQs Conference Room 11/WebEx Platform (Hybrid)

Light refreshments will be served after the event



### Concept Note

#### Background

As part of broader international counter terrorism efforts, countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) remains a high priority for Member States, within the UN System, as well for other intergovernmental structures, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its Global Network. The adoption of the dedicated Security Council resolution 2462 in March 2019 shows the ongoing importance for the

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[www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek2023-SE](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek2023-SE)  
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international community to deprive terrorists of access to resources, using robust anti-money laundering (AML) and CFT frameworks and recalls that financing of terrorism should be more effectively integrated into States' counter-terrorism efforts.

The activities of criminal and terrorist organizations have devastating effects on countries, undermining financial stability, eroding democratic institutions, creating social inequalities, and threatening fundamental human rights and the broader security. If recent years have seen the emergence of new forms of terrorist threats, the methods used by terrorists to raise, move, and use resources have also continued to evolve. The complexity of the terrorist landscape today is such- that efforts to combat terrorism and its financing are permanently challenged and require from all actors involved to constantly adapt their strategies grounded in a better understanding of the threat, and where financial intelligence is used to support law enforcement investigations. New and emerging technologies offer unprecedented opportunities in terms of innovation, financial inclusion, and enhanced capacity to detect, prevent and counter money laundering, financing of terrorism, and other serious predicate crimes but this evolution does also come with the risk that the misuse of such technologies by Member States may have serious negative impact on human rights, individuals, and civil society.

Through the development of IT solutions for the benefit of Member States in counter-terrorism frameworks, all UN entities are liable to fully address those human rights implications and ensure that dedicated risk matrices and due diligence protocols are established and enforced. In line with the Secretary-General's draft System-Wide Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use, proper safeguards must be adopted at the UN level and by Member States to prevent, mitigate and remedy the arbitrary or unlawful collection, retention, processing, use, transfer, or disclosure of personal data through digital technologies and any other violations of internationally recognized human rights in the context of combatting terrorism.

## Objectives

This side-event is jointly presented by UNOCT/OICT/CTED, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the participation of the Netherlands' Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-Netherlands), the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and will discuss the value of having IT solutions being developed at the United Nations level to enhance the cooperation within and among Member States through accessible and uniformized and transparent technology, facilitating the consultation of international data bases in the case of the goFintel software. The event will shed light into the mechanisms implemented at the UN and at Member State level to effectively prevent and mitigate the risks associated with the misuse of the technology in this regard.

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## About the side-event

**Panel presentation/Q&A**, moderated by Ms. Cecilia Naddeo, Chief Human Rights and Gender Section, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

### *Building best practice to tackle the evolving threat from terrorist financing*

*Mr. Tom Keatinge, Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies (CFCS), the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)*

Since 9/11, the global attention on terrorist financing has primarily focused on the funding and resources of terrorist groups such as Al-Qa'ida. A. In that time, two things have happened: (a) the nature of the financial and resourcing needs of terrorist groups has evolved and different financing models have emerged; and (b) awareness of the importance of finance as a support to a range of 'non-terrorist' security threats has grown. This intervention will endeavor to highlight this evolving landscape and the importance of reflecting these evolutions in the work of the UN, governments and other stakeholders involved in counter terrorism, whilst maintaining sight of the key lessons from the past quarter century of effort against terrorist financing, notably the importance of maintaining a commitment to ensuring actions are sensitive to unintended consequences (such as de-risking) and human rights.

### *Experiences of FIU-the Netherlands in combating financial crime and terrorism in a rapidly evolving digital climate and implementing legislation regarding data privacy*

*Ms. Hennie Verbeek-Kusters, Head of the FIU-The Netherlands*

We live in a world where technical developments are rapidly evolving, which requires organizations to continue to innovate. Simultaneously, criminals are constantly looking for new ways to stay out of the hands of law enforcement authorities, coming up with new schemes to embezzle money earned from criminal activities. For organizations - like the FIU - it is becoming increasingly challenging to keep up with the fast development of technical innovations, the growth of incoming data and catching criminals. In light of this, the importance of data privacy and the handling of data in an ethically responsible manner have become important topics on the agenda. In its intervention, the Netherlands' FIU will share its experiences on their approach to technically innovate while keeping in mind data privacy handling data in an ethically responsible manner.

### *Key challenges in addressing threats and opportunities related to new payment technologies and fundraising methods in the context of countering the financing of terrorism*

*Ms. Svetlana Martynova, Senior Legal Officer and CFT Coordinator and CFT Coordinator, CTED, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)*

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Monitoring implementation of Member States' obligations with respect to CFT pursuant to Security Council resolutions has been a central element of CTED mandate since its very inception. A lot has been accomplished in these past two decades, yet more work remains. As highlighted by the in its recent [Thematic summary assessment of gaps](#), countries continue to face persisting challenges in understanding the multifaceted risks relating to the financing of terrorism, including the risk that terrorists continue to benefit from the proceeds of other criminal activity. Significant gaps remain in terms of the capacity to detect and prevent terrorist financing and the expertise of the agencies engaged in handling complex cases of terrorism financing, including those dealing with the cross-border abuse of new technologies and emerging payment methods. States continue to face challenges with respect to the institutionalization of public-private partnerships, the integration of human rights obligations and gender considerations into their CFT measures, and cooperation with civil society actors in developing risk-based responses. While recognizing risks of misuse for terrorism financing purposes, CTED will also highlight the call of the UNSC for full use of new and emerging financial and regulatory technologies to bolster financial inclusion, and to contribute to the effective implementation of AML/CFT measures. When used responsibly, proportionally and in full compliance with international human rights law, technology can facilitate data collection, processing and analysis and help actors identify and manage terrorist financing risks more effectively and closer to real time.

*Technological Responses to Counter-Terrorism Financing Threats: Keeping Human Rights In the Center*  
 Ms. Vanja Skoric, Programme Director, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL)

Lessons learned from counterterrorism-related abuses in the past unequivocally show the importance of proportionate approaches and meaningful engagement with civil society prior to any use of technology in combating terrorism. With emerging technology thrown into the mix, the risk is exacerbated by a common “move fast, break things” approach as the race for innovation often disregards the impact on human rights. More scrutiny and better safeguards begin with better understanding the limits of the technologies themselves and, through evidence-based research, assessing whether they are indeed fit for purpose and can prevent terrorism in practice. A corollary of that is the need to investigate how technologies introduced in the name of security and counterterrorism, including in financing of terrorism, respond to the actual threats and how they will impact human rights and civic freedoms. To be proportionate, tech-based responses to terrorism must be based on a full risk assessment of their impact on human rights and civic space, and deployed in a way that mitigates the identified risks. Only when grounded in a multistakeholder approach can such assessments and actions be sufficiently informed, legitimate, and effective. This begins – and ends – with meaningfully engaging various sectors, including relevant national authorities, companies, civil society, and academia. Members of historically marginalized and vulnerable groups must have a seat at the table, because they often are the most immediately and/or severely impacted. Any future policy intervention must be risk-based, targeted and in full compliance with the wider international human rights framework, including the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the U.N. systemwide guidance on human rights diligence in developing, deploying, and using new technologies.

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*Incorporating human rights into technology-driven measures to prevent and counter terrorism financing: a prerequisite of an effective and sustainable response*

*Ms. Krisztina Huszti-Orban, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism*

Member States have the obligation under international law to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorists acts and to develop and implement relevant legislative, policy, operational and other measures in compliance with their obligations under international human rights law. In this context, law- and policy-making is well-served by inclusive and participatory approaches that contribute to informed, transparent and accountable processes and facilitate evidence-based decision-making. These aspects are particularly crucial when developing and deploying technological solutions in the context of preventing and countering terrorism, including its financing. A human rights-compliant approach requires an understanding of the broader human rights impact or relevant tools and measures, supported through comprehensive human rights impact assessments, appropriate safeguards as well as meaningful monitoring and evaluation. UNOCT, through its mandate to strengthen the delivery of counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance, is well-positioned to support Member States in adopting human rights-compliant approaches to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism.

*goFintel: a UN-led digital solution for Member States to unlock financial analysis*

*Mrs. Maria Stella Venezia, Technical Project Manager for goFintel Project and Mr. Michael Nepp, ICT Project Coordinator, Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)*

goFintel empowers Member States by strengthening their capacity to collect, use, and share financial intelligence with relevant authorities, such as customs and police authorities. In compliance with human rights standards, this innovative application, aims to help analysts identify possible money laundering, proliferation and terrorist financing crimes. With goFintel's modular framework, Member States FIU's can customize and add their own business rules that best suit their needs and of their financial analysts. This unique approach allows Member States and their FIU's to define their own data ingestion, data merging, and linking rules as well as customize the application's menu structure, define different types of export options, create profile settings for the analytics component and data sources. goFintel's emphasis on flexibility supports analysts' thought processes, quickly highlights patterns and relationships, and ensures that Member States and their FIUs have the tools they need to address the dynamic challenges and threats that face financial intelligence institutions today.



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## Agenda

Time	20 June 2023, 13:15 - 14:30 pm EST
13:15 – 13:30 EST	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. Salem Avan, Director, Policy, Strategy &amp; Governance Division, United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. David Scharia, Director and Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)</i></li> <li>- <i>Mr. Colin Smith, Head of the Counter Terrorism Department, the Foreign, Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</i></li> <li>- <i>Mrs. Mina Noor, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.</i></li> </ul>
13:30-14:25 EST	<p><b>Panel presentation - Q&amp;A</b>  <i>Moderated by Ms. Cecilia Naddeo, Chief Human Rights and Gender Section, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Tom Keatinge, Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies (CFCS), the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Hennie Verbeek-Kusters, Head of the FIU-The Netherlands</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Svetlana Martynova, Senior Legal Officer, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Vanja Skoric, Programme Director, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL)</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Krisztina Huszti-Orban, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism</i></li> <li>- <i>Ms. Maria Stella Venezia, Technical Project Manager for goFintel Project and Mr. Michael Nepp, ICT Project Coordinator, Office of Information and Communications Technology</i></li> </ul>
14:25-14:30 EST	<p><b>Wrap-up and way forward</b>  <i>Ms. France Lemeunier, CFT Programme lead, UNOCT-UNCCT and Mr. Tom Keatinge, Director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies (CFCS), the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)</i></p>
<b>Close of the side-event/Sandwiches &amp; refreshments</b>	

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## Logistics

The event will be organized in a hybrid format to facilitate participation, with virtual participation taking place via WebEx. The meeting will be conducted in English.

To confirm your participation (online and in person), please click here to RSVP <https://forms.office.com/e/fNmac6rXFQ>

Here under is the connexion details to our side-event

<https://unvc.webex.com/unvc/j.php?MTID=m7f0f502d14336edcfcfcc5366473c3fb>

If prompted, then enter the following info to join:

Webinar number: 2342 824 1139

Webinar password: UNAETF23!

For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact Ms. France Lemeunier, Countering the Financing of Terrorism Programme lead (UNOCT), [france.lemeunier@un.org](mailto:france.lemeunier@un.org) /or/ Martha Turnbull, Head of Counter Terrorism Research, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [martha.turnbull@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:martha.turnbull@fcdo.gov.uk)

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