

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
15 March 2019
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As President of the Security Council in March, France will convene an open debate, on Thursday, 28 March 2019, on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism.

I attach a concept note for the benefit of Member States wishing to participate in this debate (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) François Delattre



Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the 28 March 2019 Security Council open debate on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism

I. Background

1. Combating the financing of terrorism has for many years been a central element of the Security Council's response to the threat of terrorism. The Council, through a number of resolutions, has laid the foundations for a strong normative framework. In resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), it calls on all the Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts. In resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#), it calls on Member States to prevent and counter the financing of the travel and activities of foreign terrorist fighters. In resolution [2195 \(2014\)](#) and statement [S/PRST/2018/9](#) of the President of the Security Council, it addresses the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime. Subsequently, it has focused more specifically in several resolutions on the connection between terrorism and trafficking in cultural property (resolution [2347 \(2017\)](#)), and on the connection between terrorism and trafficking in persons and sexual violence (resolution [2331 \(2016\)](#)). In resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#), the Council strengthened existing measures, with the aim of undermining sources of financing for Da'esh. In addition, in its resolutions on the establishment of sanctions against Da'esh and Al-Qaida, especially resolutions [2253 \(2015\)](#) and [2368 \(2017\)](#), the Council reaffirms a number of important obligations assumed by Member States in the fight against the financing of terrorism.

2. Although there has been progress, particularly in the fight against Da'esh, terrorist groups and individuals continue to adapt their methods and look for new sources of financing. In recent years, with the rising threat of homegrown terrorism, a number of terrorist attacks have been perpetrated by individuals with limited financial resources. The financing methods may vary from one organization to another and from one individual to another. Sources of financing include donations, direct extortion from local populations, funds diverted from non-profit organizations, and the proceeds of organized crime, in forms including ransoms or trafficking in arms, drugs and cultural property. Terrorist individuals and groups also use various means to transfer funds; these include cash couriers, misuse of legitimate businesses and non-governmental organizations, prepaid cards and the misuse of new financial instruments such as virtual assets and mobile payments.

3. During the international conference on combating the financing of Da'esh and Al-Qaida ("No Money for Terror" conference), held in Paris on 25 and 26 April 2018, over 70 countries and 15 international, regional and intergovernmental organizations undertook to step up international efforts to combat the financing of terrorism. In signing the Paris Agenda, the participants committed themselves to taking specific action to overcome challenges involved in identifying sources of funding, sharing information, countering anonymous transactions, anticipating the risks of misuse of new financial instruments, and applying targeted financial sanctions. Those efforts will be built on at a conference in November 2019 organized by Australia.

4. Recently, an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council organized by Australia, France, Indonesia, Peru and Tunisia on 31 January 2019 provided an opportunity to continue and intensify mobilization and to exchange views, in the unique setting of the United Nations, on ways to strengthen our efforts to combat the financing of terrorism.

II. Main issues of the debate

5. During the open debate, Member States are encouraged to respond to the following questions:

- How are they complying with the obligations contained in the various Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of competent United Nations bodies (especially the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and what best practices have they developed?
- In the light of the changing nature of the terrorist threat and the ways in which terrorists finance their activities, how can Member States, in partnership not only with the United Nations and FATF, but also with the private sector and civil society, adapt their response, and what areas should be prioritized?

III. Format and main speakers

6. The meeting will be held at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 28 March 2019, in the Security Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters. It will be opened by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and Europe, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian.

7. All States Members of the United Nations, as well as permanent observers and non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, are invited to attend.

8. The following prominent speakers will address the Council:

- The Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (by videoconference)
- Mr. Marshall **Billingslea**, President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Ms. Mercy **Buku**, expert in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (by videoconference)

9. Once the addresses of the main speakers and the members of the Security Council have been heard, representatives of Member States who have asked to take the floor in accordance with the Council's rules of procedure will be invited to make statements.