

**UN Security Council
Open Debate
on**

Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

**Under the agenda item
Maintenance of International Peace and Security**

**Statement by
Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin
Permanent Representative**

28 March 2019

Madam President,

We applaud France for convening this Open debate during your Presidency and are grateful to France for its leadership in piloting Resolution 2462 adopted today to combat terrorist financing.

Madam President,

2. Terrorism is a scourge that is tearing at the fabric of societies across the globe. It is a menace that is not quarantined to any region. People now live in fear of terrorist threats in countries across the world. Combating Terrorism is viewed by many States and their people as one of the most fundamental security policy priorities that require global responsiveness. This Council's response today in some measure answers a felt need.

Madam President,

3. Terrorists rely on resources to sustain themselves and their activities across the world. Effective and sustained efforts at

Countering Terrorist Financing is at the heart of the issue of addressing terrorism. We, therefore, welcome this initiative to bring together, in a comprehensive manner, various existing norms and regulations. It is a milestone in global efforts to set up a normative framework to criminalize terrorist financing.

Madam President,

4. We specifically welcome the recognition in the resolution of the essential role of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in setting global standards, especially in the context of preventing and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. India appreciates the work done by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the regional FATF style bodies.

Madam President,

5. As the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in its eating, the utility of any council resolution will, therefore, be in its implementation.

6. Today, the Council has made a beginning under your leadership. We hope that the Council follows through on the various crucial provisions of this resolution with focus and perseverance towards its implementation.

7. In this context, let me give you an example of precept not being followed in practice.

- **First**, many Council resolutions, including the various sanctions measures under the 1267 and 1988 sanctions regimes, where asset freeze is a core part of states obligations call for regular reporting under these measures.

A cursory look at the publicly available information on the website would reveal that the implementation reports on these sanctions measures have not been updated for years and in some cases more than a decade. Now is the time to reiterate the need to address this shortcoming.

- **Second**, while we welcome the resolution's focus on ensuring full compliance with the measures imposed by the Security Council, no effective action is taken on instances of reported non-compliance with the sanctions measures.

The Council can and needs to do a better job of overseeing the implementation of its resolutions relating to terrorist financing. The report of the 1267 sanctions Monitoring team dated Jan 15, 2019 and contained in document S/2019/50 notes that Member States have reported to the Monitoring Team, on an ad hoc basis, on this issue and a comprehensive review of frozen assets has not been undertaken. The report further recommends that the Committee write to Member States in this regard. We hope to see action on such recommendations.

- **Third**, we welcome the Council and its various bodies taking note and rectifying instances of non-implementation to enhance awareness and effective implementation of the various council resolutions on Counter Terrorism. We believe that this work could be strengthened with more cooperation between the FATF and the various UN entities, including the UNOCT. Bodies such as the FATF have listed risks posed by Da'esh, Al Qaeda, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Haqqani Network, and persons affiliated with the Taliban.

Madam President,

8. These are a few instances where more not less focus is needed. Non-compliance of crucial sanctions measures in case of UN proscribed terrorists and entities renders all of us, Member States, at a high risk of facing challenges from these terrorist organizations who are well funded and armed despite international measures.

9. Terrorists are going to be ever more creative in finding ways to violate the rulebook. Also, the unfortunate reality is that States who are apologists for terrorists will continue to provide alibis to justify their actions and inaction too, as was done by a serial offender earlier today. Nevertheless, we, the international community, need to be determined to continue evolving our tool box and go by our rule book, rather than be distracted and stray from our determination. Our tool box consisting of effective implementation of UN sanctions measures could assist in curtailing these activities in some measure.

Madam President,

10. The global community is impatient for action. The UN collectively needs to do more and do it much more effectively. For its part, India will be a willing partner in this endeavor.

I thank you Madam President.