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**Towards the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action for the  
United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia  
Effectively Countering the Financing of Terrorism  
14-16 December 2016  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
UNRCCA, CTITF and UNODC**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Rationale**

Terrorists require funding to recruit, source weapons and explosives, conduct training and manage their logistics with regard to conducting their deadly operations. Preventing and combatting the financing of terrorism reduces access to financial resources, thereby denying terrorist groups the means to support their destructive activities. States require the legal and operational frameworks and specialized expertise needed to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of this kind. Terrorist financing operates globally, and often terrorists intentionally route funds through countries with weak CFT legal frameworks and institutional capabilities, which are the very jurisdictions requiring the most assistance. It is essential, therefore, that the international community works together to ensure that all States have the legal and operational framework to effectively combat the threat posed by terrorism financing.

As part of measures to prevent and combat terrorism (Pillar II) of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for implementing the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy which was adopted in November 2011, Central Asian States noted that the risks of terrorist financing in the region are high and resolved “to enhance the capacity of the financial intelligence units and other relevant national authorities responsible for anti-money laundering and the counter-financing of terrorism in order that they conduct the necessary analysis and investigations and effectively implement related laws and regulations.”

In the JPoA, States resolved to further curb the financing of terrorism *inter alia* through the following measures:

- ⇒ Fully implementing UN resolutions related to the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorist acts as well as the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to which are all party”;
- ⇒ Ensuring that national legislation on anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism on the freezing of assets, preventive measures in the financial sector and banking regulations are harmonized;
- ⇒ Sharing information and providing mutual legal assistance in connection with criminal investigations on the financing of terrorism;
- ⇒ Enhancing the capacity of the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and other relevant national authorities responsible for anti-money laundering and the counter-financing of terrorism in order that they conduct the necessary analysis/investigations and effectively implement related laws and regulations;
- ⇒ Reviewing and enacting the appropriate legislation, regulations and administrative directives to ensure that non-profit organizations, charities and

the private sector are guarded against becoming vehicles for the financing of terrorism.

In the JPoA, Central Asian States also pledged to seek assistance through seminars, training and awareness raising at the national and regional levels on the international instruments, standards and methodologies to fight corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism. They sought specific support for the FIUs, located in different ministries or agencies of Central Asian countries, which play a crucially similar role in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating reports and information relevant to the detection, disruption, and investigation of money laundering and the financing of terrorism. While the FIUs are up to date on AML/CFT standards, more capacity and more knowledge would facilitate a more effective implementation of the UN instruments on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism into domestic legislation and practice. For example, While most of the FIUs of the region are investigating proceeds and corruption coming from narcotics and illegal trade (the money laundry side), there is little information and analysis about the extent of the problem of financing of terrorism in the region, and very little experience in this matter, including on methodologies for detecting small amounts of money transfers for such purposes. Furthermore, while representatives of banking and non-banking institutions (Ministries of Finance and Central Bank) are getting training through the FIUs, more work is necessary across other ministries, to involve other non-financial sectors, such as MoI, NSC etc.

This fifth workshop organised by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), with support from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the financial support of the European Union (EU), will focus on training the FIUs and strengthening their institutional capacity. It will also be an occasion to review on-going and planned CFT work carried out by CA States, highlight areas where gaps still exist and explore potential for joint capacity building projects in the CFT area.

In order to support cooperation between Central Asian countries in implementing the JPoA, they have been organizing a number of capacity-building workshops on the various pillars of JPoA with the financial support of the European Union and the Government of Norway. The workshop series were launched in November 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with a regional dialogue between leaders of religious institutions and security officials on cooperation towards countering extremism and preventing conflicts. A second workshop, organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in July 2014, focused on engaging the media in countering terrorism in the region. A third workshop was organized in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on border security and management for countering terrorism in March 2015. A fourth capacity-building workshop was organized in March 2016 to help CA countries and stakeholders understand the causes of radicalization that can lead to violent extremism and terrorism in the region and devise strategies that could help prevent and combat it. This fifth and final workshop is devoted to supporting CA countries in identifying effective responses to countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) and is being organized with the substantive support of UNODC.

### **Workshop Objectives:**

The workshop objectives would be to:

- Build the capacity of FIUs
- Address country needs and capacities
- Share experiences across the region and globally.
- Identify further needs and priorities of participating states
- Devise synergies for follow up technical assistance at a regional and bilateral levels

## **Outcome and follow up:**

The outcomes of the workshop would include the following:

- 1) Improved ability to collect intelligence and understand the nuances of terror financing among CFT officials;
- 2) enhanced knowledge of new tools and resources available from international organizations, regional organizations, and private-sector firms;
- 3) strengthened ties across Central Asian FIUs and improved regional cooperation on CFT;
- 4) increased progress towards the implementation of key CFT and counter-terrorism instruments—including UN Security Council Resolutions 2178 (2014); 1624 (2005); and 1373 (2001).
- 5) Identified needs and capacities in order to design appropriate technical assistance to follow up.

## **Modality**

The three (3) day training workshop will combine presentations, discussions and formal training with case studies and exercises. It is expected that participants selected by respective Central Asian States would be familiar with the agenda in advance in order to come prepared as much as possible.

## **Participation**

Five representatives of each Central Asian country will be invited to this training for FIUs. In the invitations, mention will be made for governments to nominate managers/decision makers, analysts and investigators with relevant responsibility and experience to cover the different themes covered by the training. Governments will also be strongly encouraged to consider the nomination of women as part of their delegations who hold AML/CFT responsibilities at a national level which are relevant to the areas covered by the workshop, to ensure overall gender equality within the group of workshop participants.

## **Other**

- 1) Observers from concerned countries;
- 2) Trainers, including international facilitators and regional resources persons
- 3) The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and staff of UNRCCA, representatives from CTITF and DPA/ MEWAD and representatives of UNODC, including from the Regional Office in Central Asia.
- 4) Representatives of relevant regional and international organizations and CTITF entities working in the subject of the financing of terrorism.