



SLOVENIA

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E.**

**Simona Leskovar  
State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Slovenia**

on

**preventing and combating the financing of terrorism**

**UN Security Council open debate on Threats to international peace and security  
caused by terrorists acts**

New York  
Thursday, 28 March 2019

Mr President,

Allow me first to thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Europe of the French Republic Mr Jean–Yves Le Drian and all three main speakers of today`s debate: Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Mr. Marshall Billingslea and Ms Mercy Buku.

(Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add few remarks in its national capacity.)

Terrorism, including its financing, requires permanent attention of international community as it remains a changing and evolving threat. (Terrorist organizations continuously adapt their methods, and look for new sources and methods of funding.) Prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism therefore requires strong co-operation in the interest of international, regional and national peace and stability. We welcome this open debate, and the Arria meeting that France, together with Australia, Indonesia, Peru and Tunisia organized in January, as clear efforts to keep this item high on our political, security and development agenda.

Every response to terrorist act is quickly followed by the adaptation of means, ways and approach on the side of the terrorists, including the evolving use of technology, all of which apply also to the financing of terrorist activities. New technologies which enable many activities in cyber space are welcomed and used by all of us, but at the same time offer the space to terrorists that can be used to more effectively communicate their propaganda, recruit new members, coordinate actions, better evade surveillance, and arrange provision, collection and distribution of funds for their activities.

Slovenia is one of the co-sponsors of the resolution adopted today that clearly reaffirms ours, member`s states obligation to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism and obligation to request accountability for the perpetrators of terrorists acts, including those who finance them.

Not just today's, but also resolutions and other documents adopted within this and other organizations clearly show the need for every member state to adopt and implement adequate legislation to combat the financing of terrorism and, if needed, national plans. We need effective partnerships with the private sector and continuous training of relevant stakeholders.

In the past years Slovenia adopted specific measures in three areas:

- amendments to legislation
- strengthening international and national cooperation and
- education of stakeholders

At the end of 2016 Slovenia, as a member of the EU, adopted new "Preventing of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act", which introduced the *EU Directive on the Prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing* into national legal system. The new law brought new approach, based on analysis and threat assessment both on national and supranational levels. It

also requires that national threat assessment on money laundering and financing of terrorism be carried out and periodically updated. One of important features of the new act is an obligatory review of the client for individual transactions exceeding 1.000 EUR and the introduction of a register of real owners which is a significant achievement also in terms of terrorism prevention.

In every aspect of fighting terrorism and its financing, international and regional cooperation are of utmost importance.

In Slovenia, the national cooperation is established between special units for the fight against terrorism within Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency, the Ministry of the Interior (the Police), the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Finance. Between 2010 and 2015 the Ministry of Finance received on the basis of this cooperation on average four reports related to terrorism financing annually, in 2016 there were 14. In the same year nine notifications were submitted to the competent authorities with reasonable grounds for the suspicion of a criminal offence.

We also put strong emphasis on educational activities. Ministry of Finance is organizing training courses for persons liable on preventing terrorist financing, its typology, indicators, the course of radicalization and relevant legislative amendments. These are attended by banking sector, insurance companies, brokerage companies and foreign exchange offices.

In the terms of regional cooperation Slovenia devotes special attention to the region of Western Balkans. Since links between terrorism and organized crime, through which terrorism is also financed are well established, Slovenia proposed the development of one of its initiatives - the Western Balkans Counter terrorism Initiative (WBCTi) into the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) focuses on national security cooperation, fight against terrorism and fight against serious and organized crime.

Slovenia welcomes every activity that limits the space for potential terrorist activities, where however, we should not limit the space of humanitarian actors. When implementing the measures to counter the financing of terrorism the international law, in particular international humanitarian law, human rights law and international refugee law should be fully complied with.

Thank you