



**Video Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**“Ensuring the Effective Implementation of Countering the Financing of
Terrorism Measures while Safeguarding Civic Space”**

**Virtual Initiative Launch Event
7:00am; 13 October 2020**

Distinguished Participants,

I would like to warmly welcome all of you to this launch of the joint GCTF-UN Initiative on “Ensuring the Effective Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures while Safeguarding Civic Space”.

The United Nations is pleased to co-lead this initiative with the Kingdom of Morocco and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

We live in challenging times, with a COVID-19 pandemic putting unprecedented stress on societies, whole nations and the entire international community.

Governments are struggling to contain the virus and mitigate the wide-ranging impact and implications of the worst global ‘human crisis’ since World War Two.

Long before the pandemic, civil society has played a vital role alongside communities, governments and international organizations in efforts to address humanitarian needs, sustain peace, promote respect for human right and the rule of law, and achieve Sustainable Development.

Civil society also makes important contributions to preventing and countering terrorism as both the General Assembly and the Security Council has recognized.

Women and youth groups, community-based organizations, charities, religious organizations, human rights defenders, to name just a few, are indispensable partners at the grassroots level to strengthen social cohesion, build resilience and

leave no one behind

