

**Opening Statement by Dr Jehangir Khan
Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**UNOCT-UNCCT Conference on
“Countering the use of Cryptocurrencies to Finance
Terrorism”**

Rabat, 2-3 December 2021

Dear participants,

It is my distinct honour to welcome you to this Conference. I would like to thank the Moroccan Financial Intelligence National Authority for its collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in convening this important event.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who is taking part in this Conference, both in-person and through virtual means. I thank the Kingdom of Morocco for its support in setting up the Rabat Office and for this particular event – in the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa.

It has been a priority for the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism to set up this office in Rabat, which we opened in June earlier this year.

When discussing counter-terrorism, it is vital to focus on the financing aspects of terrorism. We did this during the launch of the UN manual on countering kidnapping and extortion, hosted at the Rabat Office in September. While kidnapping for ransom represents a more traditional source of financing for terrorists, cryptocurrencies is a more technical and new problem in this sphere.

And as such, it is very suiting that the first full-scale in-person




Distinguished delegates,

The white paper for the first cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, was released



(ii) what are public and private sector entities doing to plug these vulnerabilities;

(iii) and lastly, how do we develop an inclusive approach to
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It is my hope that through discussions over the next two days, we will expand our knowledge on cryptocurrency financial flows and raise awareness on the evolving trend of using cryptocurrencies for terrorist purposes.

We are committed to providing technical assistance and capacity building support to Member States across all pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Since 2018, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre has delivered over thirty comprehensive capacity-building interventions on Countering the Financing of Terrorism, engaging over two thousand five hundred officials and stakeholders from over 30 nations. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact also brings together forty-three entities to enhance the coordination and coherence in the work of preventing and countering terrorism.

This event represents a continuation of our commitment to building capacity to close regulatory loopholes exploited by terrorists. It also marks a clear contribution to foster cooperation needed to address the rapidly evolving intersection between digital technologies and terrorism.

Colleagues,

Only through active collaboration and targeted efforts will we be able to achieve concrete results in our fight against terrorism and



terrorist financing. This event constitutes a clear example of such commitment. With these words, I wish you a very productive discussion and a successful event.

Thank you so much.