



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

**Statement by H.E. Ms Gillian Bird
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations**

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to express on behalf of all Australians our deepest sympathies for those affected by the devastating terrorist attack in Christchurch.

Events in New Zealand are a painful reminder that our protective systems must continue to be flexible and evolve to address the ever-changing threat environment with which we are all confronted.

Terrorists need money to carry out their atrocities - money for weapons and explosives, for supplies, for travel and for shelter. Terrorists, like criminals, constantly adapt how and where they move their funds in order to circumvent safeguards that countries have put in place. The evolution of financial payment systems, while fostering economic growth and efficiencies, provides ever more alternatives for terrorists and their supporters to finance their senseless attacks.

Global bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force agree that we need to take concerted action urgently to strengthen global counter-terrorist financing regimes to combat the financing of serious terrorist threats, and contribute to strengthening the financial and economic system.

Australia has a robust and dynamic anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing system built upon close relationships between law enforcement and intelligence agencies, policy makers, industry and our international counterparts.

Australia is committed to upholding our obligations under the Terrorist Financing Convention, UNSC Resolution 1373, the ISIL/Al Qaida and Taliban sanctions regimes as well as the Financial Action Task Force's standards and best practices in this area. We are continually reviewing our domestic laws to further strengthen these systems and enhance compliance with our international obligations and the FATF standards.

Partnerships at all levels are critical if we are to respond effectively to evolving threats. In partnering with the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force we can uncover new methodologies and tactics used by terror financiers and make them visible to the private and non-profit sectors.

Increasingly, direct engagement between the public and private sector is augmenting the intelligence and risk picture. Public-private partnerships such as Australia's Fintel Alliance, are facilitating collaboration and intelligence-sharing in near to real-time, providing alternative options for disruption. The Fintel Alliance allows law enforcement agencies and the private sector to share high priority information to identify targets or disrupt potential transactions that could finance terrorist activities.

Madam President

Australia was delighted to co-host with France, Indonesia, Peru and Tunisia an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 2019, which explored ways to strengthen our efforts to combat the financing of terrorism.

We look forward to continuing this important work as host of the second 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Counter-Terrorism Conference in November. We intend to explore four proposed themes: analysing the current threat environment associated with terrorism financing, public private partnerships, virtual currencies and the misuse of non-profit organisations for terrorist financing purposes.

In hosting this event, following on from France's first conference, Australia reinforces its commitment to starving terrorists of the funds needed to carry out their senseless attacks.