

## **Expert Working Group Meeting on Preventing Terrorist Financing Abuse of the Non-Profit Sector**

**New York, USA  
5-7 March 2013**

- Thank you for the kind introduction.
- The global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing is a key priority for the international community and for the Government of Canada.
- A robust system for countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism is essential to ensuring the protection of the financial sector and maintaining public confidence in it.
- Minimizing the risk of the abuse of the non-profit sector is one area requiring the particular attention of governments worldwide.
- Canada is proud to have collaborated with key partners to offer a series of workshops designed to implement the UN's global initiative on preventing abuse of the non-profit sector to finance terrorism.
- The workshops addressed the local challenges and risks faced by the sector in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania, East Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.
- An additional goal of the workshops was to look at novel ways to promote closer cooperation and the sharing of best practices.
- On behalf of the Government of Canada I would like to thank:

the Governments of Switzerland, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom for their co-sponsorship.

- Further, I would like to thank:
  - the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and

- the Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation for organizing this seminar.
- This seminar was organized on behalf of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism.
- We were pleased to see the involvement of:
  - the Charity Commission of England and Wales,
  - the Financial Action Task Force and Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies, and
  - representatives of non-profit organizations.
- Canada's commitment to fight against the abuse of the non-profit sector begins with our own domestic compliance.
- Canada has worked hard to establish a domestic anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regime that reflects international standards. We are proud to note that Canada is now in the top tier of jurisdictions worldwide.
- Our commitment also extends to international fora. Canada is a founding member and strong supporter of the Financial Action Task Force, the global leader in standards-setting for combatting money laundering and terrorist financing, and by extension the Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies.
- Canada's vision is to create a secure global financial system as an essential component of global prosperity.
- Ensuring charitable organizations can continue to function effectively is an important component of this approach.
- Our commitment extends to capacity-building efforts. In 2005, Canada's Counterterrorism Capacity Building Program was

established to provide training, equipment and technical and legal assistance to countries facing critical security challenges.

- This meeting is the capstone session to a larger multi-donor initiative in which Canada's contribution was \$1.2 million dollars over three years.
- Canada is particularly delighted that representatives from the various non-profit sectors are here and fully engaged in this workshop.
- It is your vital sectors that we seek to protect and promote, and your active involvement in these discussions is crucial:
  - Regulators;
  - Law Enforcement officials;
  - Policy makers; and,
  - Non-Profit Organizations.
- All have the same goal: "A vibrant NPO sector that can operate to its maximum efficiency free from the threat of terrorism".
- The workshops were about coming together and creating an operational synergy to promote the sector and protect it from abuse by terrorist organisations.
- We hope that through your participation, we will be able to enhance regional cooperation on the issue of abuse of the non-profit organizations for terrorist financing.
- Thank you for your presence and active participation today.
- Thank you for working day-by-day to strengthen our shared security and to ensuring legitimate charitable activity continues to benefit those who are the most in need.
- I look forward to our discussion.