



## *Final expert working group meeting on preventing the abuse of the non-profit sector for the purposes of terrorist financing*

*Statement by Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of the  
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations*

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- Let me first express my gratitude to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), to the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation (CGCC) as well as to the United Nations Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) for having ensured the smooth implementation of this important project since its beginning in 2011. I would also like to offer my gratitude to the colleagues on the podium for so eloquently presenting the observations and conclusions gained from the fruitful expert meetings in the framework of this project. And last but not least I want to warmly thank the various stakeholders that participated in this project for sharing their insight and recommendations on how the non-profit sector can be protected from abuse.
- From a Swiss perspective, this project on preventing the abuse of the non-profit sector for the purposes of terrorist financing has achieved an important objective simply by bringing together all stakeholders concerned by the issue: policy makers, law enforcement officials, charities regulators, financial intelligence unit officials, and of course representatives of the non profit sector. I have been told that the exchange among these various stakeholders were candid, frank and conclusive and showed the relevance of this topic and the need for further action.
- Non-profit organisations play a vital role in the world economy and in many national economies and social systems. Their efforts complement the activity of the governmental and business sectors in providing essential services, comfort and hope to those in need around the world. It is therefore of great importance that this growing, complex and increasingly diverse sector gets the necessary protection, both in terms of making sure that NPO's are not abused for terrorist financing and in terms of avoiding the overregulation of the sector, which could hamper its proper functioning. In this regard we find particularly relevant that NPOs aren't put under pressure for political reasons and that the rights to freedom of expression and association of individuals in civil society are respected at all times. Or in other words there is a need for the regulators to be regulated as well.
- The key observations that were presented today reveal that a lot needs to be done until regulatory measures in all countries promote transparency, integrity and public confidence in the management and functioning of all non-profit organisations rather than disrupting or discouraging legitimate charitable activities. In our view, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the most important body for international cooperation to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing. As for the follow-up of this project, Switzerland would therefore like to encourage further interaction and dialogue between the different stakeholders of this project with the aim of helping countries to fulfil the relevant Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

Thank you.

