



Today, we have focused on risks relating to increased use of the so-called digital space to raise and move funds, make payments, and conduct all kinds of financial transactions.

Although these trends emerged well before the pandemic, the virtual nature of such transactions (which offer instant and contactless services) has certainly proven critical to reducing the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus and to ensuring the continuation of essential financial services.

However, it has also affected the ability of financial institutions and State authorities to identify anomalies and may have attracted criminal abuse, including by terrorists and their financiers attempting to benefit from the seemingly anonymous (and, in some cases, unregulated and under-monitored) payment methods.

The interventions of our distinguished speakers today have highlighted the importance of ensuring effective and responsible use of new technologies and developing advanced monitoring and investigating methods, as well as solid expertise in preventing, detecting and suppressing abuse of the digital space for terrorism-financing purposes.

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates,*

All these challenges of course demand a coordinated global response.

I am glad to note that we continue to strengthen our - to these matters, as demonstrated during , which unites the efforts of four UN entities directly involved in the work on countering the financing of terrorism with those of the international standard-setter on AML/CFT: the Fi

