

In recent years, Member States have taken measures to better protect the humanitarian space from the unwanted consequences of CT measures in national legislation, often exempting activities carried out by impartial humanitarian organizations. The EU has exempted from the Directive on Combatting Terrorism, impartial humanitarian organizations referenced in IHL treaties. The African Union's "African Model Anti-Terrorism Law" references and protects humanitarian assistance done in an impartial manner without adverse distinction. States are currently reviewing their domestic, regional and international regimes covering Afghanistan to allow for the continuation of humanitarian efforts there.

Our calls to UN Member States are:

First, that counter-terrorism resolutions at the UN continue to underline that all CT measures shall comply with IHL. They could also reflect Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, which requires States bound by the Protocol to "allow and facilitate" rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief, which is found in many context-related Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, but not often in CT-related Security Council or General Assembly language.

Second, we recommend the inclusion of standing and well-crafted carve-outs in CT resolutions and national legislation. These carve-outs would specify that the restrictions do not apply to exclusively humanitarian activities carried out by impartial humanitarian actors. The United Nations and its Member States more broadly, should incorporate carefully