

## 2022 Council of Delegates of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

### WORKSHOP

## Counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes and their impact on principled humanitarian action

### OUTLINE

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#### Context

In recent years, in response to acts of terrorism and other threats to international peace and security, international organizations and States have developed increasingly robust counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes. Their multiplication and increasing breadth have had adverse effects on principled humanitarian action – often impeding humanitarian operations, including of components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) and their partners.

These challenges arise as a direct result of counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes, from their inclusion in funding agreements, and from their reverberations on the private sector (banks and suppliers for instance). The private sector provides services necessary for humanitarian activities and increasingly applies de-risking policies which restrict its engagement with humanitarian actors. These problems are not new, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made the impact of counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes on principled humanitarian action even clearer.

Recently, the humanitarian community has been taking a more proactive approach regarding the negative impact of counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes on principled humanitarian action, and the need to remedy that impact. This approach has started to yield results internationally, regionally and domestically: more of those who design and/or implement counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes are taking into account their impact on humanitarian activities.

There is, however, a long way to go to ensure that counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes no longer create obstacles for principled humanitarian action.

## Overall objective and expected outcomes

Counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes affect all components of the Movement equally, jeopardizing their capacity to respond to victims' needs in countries where they operate. The workshop therefore aims to:

- take stock of the Movement's situation in relation to counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes, notably by sharing clear examples of the impact and of experiences engaging with authorities
- identify ways forward, by establishing a common understanding of and approach to the appropriate mitigating measures and potentially by setting limits on donor requirements related to counterterrorism and sanctions
- consider the appropriateness (and potentially define the contours) of a more coordinated Movement approach to counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes at multilateral and national levels.

## Key questions to be considered

1. **Have your humanitarian activities been directly impacted by counterterrorism measures and/or sanctions regimes?** To what extent? What kind of measures have been more or most problematic? **How have you responded to these issues?** Have you engaged with your government on issues related to counterterrorism and sanctions?
2. **What steps need to be taken to address the impact of counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes?** Are there any good practices you can share? What are the most effective mitigating measures to consider, in your view? **How do you view and approach donors' requirements related counterterrorism and sanctions in funding agreements?** Are there any requirements that you would reject on the basis of the Movement's Fundamental Principles?
3. **What should the Movement's approach be to dealing with the side effects of counterterrorism measures and sanctions regimes on principled humanitarian action?** Would you favour a more coordinated approach? What would that approach look like and what role would each Movement component have?