

**Registered Letter**

United Nations  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Beatriz Balbin  
Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

28 AVR. 2023

Recipients :.....S.P.O.....

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Enclosure .....

27 April 2023

**Your letter dated 10 March 2023**

Dear Mmes. Balbin, Ní Aoláin, Yeophantong, Lawlor and Albanese, and Mr. Voule,

We are responding to your letter addressed to UBS Group AG («**UBS**») in your capacity as member of the working group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (Ms. Yeophantong), Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Mr. Voule), Special Rapporteur about human rights defenders (Ms. Lawlor), Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Ms. Ní Aoláin), and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (Ms. Albanese), as appointed by the Human Rights Council.

UBS is committed to respecting and promoting human rights, as set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and to combating terrorist financing. To combat financial crime, UBS complies with applicable laws and regulations and is committed to meeting industry standards regarding the effective prevention of terrorist financing. As a founding member of the Wolfsberg Group, and in conjunction with the Financial Action Task Force («**FATF**»), UBS actively works on developing financial services sector standards for the prevention of financial crimes.

UBS will not comment on any of its purported business relationships for banking secrecy reasons and confirms it follows a risk-based approach in its dealings with Non-profit organizations («**NPO**») in line with FATF's recommendation 8. The FATF deems the exclusion of «*entire classes of customer[s]*»<sup>1</sup> not a proper implementation of a risk-based approach and not consistent with the FATF standards.

However, legitimate measures to prevent terrorist financing can at times disrupt charitable activities, even if a risk-based approach on mitigating measures is pursued. UBS is acutely aware of this and as the FATF pointed out in its report regarding the risk of terrorist abuse in NPOs, halting the flow of resources to terrorist organizations and facilitating humanitarian aid are equally necessary endeavors.<sup>2</sup> It is a challenge to identify NPOs which might be abused by terrorist organizations.

<sup>1</sup> FATF, Best Practices: Combating the Abuse of Non-Profit Organisations (Recommendation 8), June 2015, page 28.

<sup>2</sup> FATF Report, Risk of Terrorist Abuse in Non-Profit Organisations, June 2014, page 33.

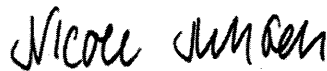
UBS is dedicated to taking into account and balancing the two demands where necessary as best as possible.

Yours sincerely

UBS Group AG



Christian Leitz  
Lead Corporate Responsibility



Nicole Jungen  
Legal Counsel

Copy to: European Legal Support Center (Giovanni Fassina)  
Habeas Avocats (Guglielmo Palumbo and Matthias Bourqui)  
Bank Cler AG