

14 April 2026

Circular to Licensed Corporations, SFC-licensed Virtual Asset Service

Providers and Associated Entities

Anti-Money Laundering / Counter-Financing of Terrorism

Early Alert on United Nations Sanctions

The sanctions committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) which administers the sanction regime for Afghanistan amended the details of four individuals on its sanctions list^{1,2} on 13 April 2026 (New York time). Please refer to the relevant press release issued by the UNSC in Attachment 1.

Licensed corporations, SFC-licensed virtual asset service providers and associated entities should update their screening databases with the above changes made by the UNSC sanctions committee for sanctions screening of customers and payments. Licensed corporations, SFC-licensed virtual asset service providers and associated entities are reminded to refer to our circular on United Nations Sanctions issued on 7 February 2018³. This circular sets out our expected regulatory standards relating to sanctions imposed by the UNSC which are applicable to licensed corporations, SFC-licensed virtual asset service providers and associated entities.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this circular, please contact Ms Kiki Wong at 2231 1569 who will assist in referring your queries to the relevant officer.

Intermediaries Division
Securities and Futures Commission

Enclosure

End

SFO/IS/014/2026

¹ An updated list specifying “individuals, groups, undertakings and entities” under section 25 of the United Nations Sanctions (Afghanistan) Regulation 2022 (Cap. 537CN), which has reflected the amendment by the sanctions committee of the UNSC, was published on the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on 14 April 2026. The list obtained from the website of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau is attached in Attachment 2.

² Licensed corporations, SFC-licensed virtual asset service providers and associated entities will be alerted when the updated sanctions list, reflecting the amendment by the sanctions committee of the UNSC, is published under the United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance (Cap. 575) in the Gazette. The website of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) will also be updated to provide a weblink to the gazette notice thereof for easy reference.

³ The circular on United Nations Sanctions can be accessed on the SFC’s website (<https://apps.sfc.hk/edistributionWeb/gateway/EN/circular/aml/doc?refNo=18EC9>).