Special event of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with Member States on countering terrorism through the use of new communications and information technologies
New York, 24 May 2013

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), Member States are required to take the necessary steps to prevent terrorist acts, including by providing early warning to other States through the exchange of information.

2. By resorting to inciting, preparing and perpetrating acts of violence, terrorists continue to exploit rapidly evolving communications and information technologies. In order to implement effective and proportionate counter-terrorism and terrorism-prevention strategies, Member States’ law enforcement agencies must therefore not only remain up to date with those technologies and methodologies, but also develop and utilize sophisticated technologies and methodologies of their own.

3. Mindful of this challenge, the Counter-Terrorism Committee will hold a special event with Member States on “Effectively countering the threat of terrorism through the use of new communications and information technology to prevent the threat from materializing”.

II. Objective of proposed special event

4. The objective of the proposed event will be to enable the Committee and Member States to come together and discuss recent technological advances; good practices; and effective measures taken in this area within the framework of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

III. Format of discussions

5. In order to encourage interactive discussion, the meeting will follow a “presentation and discussion” format and focus on communications and information technologies and tools developed in three specific areas: (i) mobile-telephone-based communications and financial transactions; (ii) enabling mobility and the processing of people through technology; and (iii) countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes (provisional agenda attached).

6. The Chair and three Vice Chairs of the Committee will play their role in the conduct of the special event, acting as Chair or moderators in sessions.

7. Participants will be requested to raise issues and questions that are related to these three areas only. As there will not be sufficient time to hear written statements, participating delegations will be requested to submit statements to CTED for inclusion on a dedicated event
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

website. CTED will circulate an annotated agenda, meeting documentation and other logistical information, which will also be posted on the website.

8. Considering that innovative communications and information technologies are generally developed by the private sector, representatives of the sector will be invited to deliver some of the presentations. In this regard, it should be noted that the availability of these representatives will ultimately determine the feasibility of fully addressing the proposed topics.

9. Because privacy and other human rights-related concerns are inextricably linked with the use of communications and information technologies in terrorism prevention, it is suggested that an expert on human rights be part of the various panels.

IV. Panellists

10. A list of proposed panellists is set out in the Annex to the draft agenda. The panellists will include representatives of INTERPOL, ITU, UNICRI, ICAO, IATA, Europol, European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), and AOptix Technologies Inc.

V. Venue and date

11. The special event will be held on 24 May 2013.

12. The Committee will need to consider the availability and potential cost of interpretation with the support of the Secretariat, CTED and other UN conference services. Likewise, the travel and accommodation costs for some of the panellists travelling to New York for the purposes of the workshop would need to be considered.

VI. Outcome

13. For the purpose of documenting highlights of the discussions and taking account the procedure for such special event, the Committee may wish to consider a number of options as an outcome, such as the Chair’s statement or summary, CTC press release, etc.
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ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building, United Nations Headquarter, New York, 24 May 2013

Draft agenda

10:00-10:20 Opening plenary session

Opening statements:
- Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee
- Deputy Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

10:20-11:40 Session I: Mobile-telephone-based communications and financial transactions

Speakers will present methodologies for tracking communications and the transfer of funds executed through mobile telephones. The ability to utilize mobile telephones to establish the location of the user will also be discussed.

Moderator: Vice-Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee
Panellists: Nigeria, Republic of Korea, CTED, World Bank, International Telecommunication Union, European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)

11:40-13:00 Session II: Enabling mobility and the processing of people through technology

Speakers will present the latest technologies used to regulate the movement of persons at border checkpoints, including a border-control system that verifies the identity of passengers through the use of iris or digit scans.

Moderator: Vice-Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee
Panellists: Argentina, CTED, International Civil Aviation Organization, AOptix Technologies Inc., Michigan State University, Cherry Biometrics

15:00–16:30 Session III: Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

Speakers will present the latest technologies that utilize artificial-intelligence and language-analysis techniques to monitor the activities of terrorist organizations on the Internet and improve the identification of terrorists on social networks and online forums.

Moderator: Vice-Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee
Panellists: Australia, United States of America, CTED, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Kaspersky Lab, George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute

16:30-16:45 Closing plenary session

Closing statement: Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee.