

Concept note

Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations, New York, 24 November 2014

I. Introduction

1. Security Council resolution 2133 (2014) encourages the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) to hold, with the assistance of appropriate expertise, a special meeting with the participation of Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to discuss measures to prevent incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups to raise funds or gain political concessions.

2. Kidnapping for ransom is a major source of income that continues to support terrorist operations across the globe. Hostage-taking also remains a major terrorist tactic, as recent events around the world have shown.

II. Objective of proposed meeting

3. The special meeting will bring together Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to discuss these threats; explore effective international, national and local counterstrategies; and determine how international bodies can most effectively interact with States to implement those strategies in full respect for the relevant human rights obligations.

III. Format of discussions

4. In order to encourage interactive discussion, the meeting will follow a “presentation and discussion” format and focus on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking in three specific areas: (i) threat assessment; (ii) national responses; and (iii) international cooperation (*draft agenda attached*).

IV. Participants

5. A list of proposed panellists is provided in the attached draft agenda.

V. Venue and date

6. The special meeting will be held in the ECOSOC Chamber on 24 November 2014 from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

VI. Outcomes

7. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2133 (2014), the Committee will report to the Security Council on the outcomes of the meeting.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Related documents can be found on the website of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.