

Opening remarks of  
**Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde,**  
Executive Director,  
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)  
on  
“Facilitating Technical Assistance to Member States on Kidnapping for  
Ransom and Hostage-taking Committed by Terrorist Groups”

*ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York  
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*Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,*

As I'm sure you're all aware, the Security Council has recognized that the problem posed by kidnapping for ransom, or KFR, and terrorist hostage-taking cannot be handled effectively without international and regional cooperation.

As noted during the Committee's special meeting, this morning, Council resolution 2133 (2014) calls on States to continue expert discussions on the threat of KFR within the United Nations and other organizations, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

The resolution also calls on States to cooperate closely to prevent incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorists, and further reaffirms that all States should afford one another the “greatest measure of assistance” in connection with related criminal investigations or proceedings.

It is in this context that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is holding today's side event on facilitating technical assistance.

The goal of this event is to identify capacity-building initiatives and facilitate an exchange of views by experts on the gathering and sharing of good practices aimed at helping States prevent and handle incidents of kidnapping for ransom and terrorist hostage-taking and bring terrorists to justice more effectively, and strengthening efforts to support victims and their families.

Most States have the political will to tackle this emerging threat, but some require assistance to build their technical capacities. Today's discussions will focus on technical

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

**assistance programmes developed by UN entities such as the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, CTITF, and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.**

**We will also have an opportunity to hear about international good practices, such as those contained in the GCTF Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists, as well as to learn about the prevention efforts of a major regional actor, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).**

**I am therefore delighted to hand the floor to our panellists, who are ready to share with us their respective expertise and experiences and help us identify relevant technical assistance needs and explore areas of future cooperation.**