

Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on

**“The nexus between international terrorism
and transnational organized crime”**

*United Nations Headquarters, New York, Monday, 8 October 2018
Conference Room 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*

Opening remarks of

**H.E. Mr. Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velásquez
Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to this open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on “The nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime”.

I wish to begin by acknowledging and welcoming the presence of the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

I thank you for your active engagement in today’s briefing.

I would also like to welcome the Executive Director of CTED, Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx.

For those of you active on social media: we would encourage you to include the **hashtag #TerrorCrimeNexus** in your posts about this meeting. This hashtag is also visible on the electronic signs on your desk.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, the issue of the potential links between terrorism and transnational organized crime is not new.

It has long been high on the agenda of the Security Council and of the General Assembly. In this regard, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols represent significant milestones in our efforts to provide Member States with the means to disrupt the activities of criminal and terrorist groups.

In its resolution 1373 (2001), for example, the Council noted with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In recent years, however, the UN (including the Council) and regional and international organizations have focused increasing attention on ways to prevent terrorists from benefiting from the proceeds of organized crime and from interacting with criminal groups.

The Council has referred to the “terror/crime nexus” in several recent resolutions on terrorism, including resolutions 2322 (2016) and 2368 (2017).

The Council has also noted the potential convergence of criminal and terrorist activities, including in the context of trafficking in drugs, natural resources, cultural property, persons, and firearms.

Addressing the General Assembly, on 25 September 2018, the Secretary-General underscored that terrorism is ever more interlinked with international organized crime and the trafficking of people, drugs, arms and corruption.

Depending on the location and circumstances, the nexus can take various forms.

They include, inter alia, direct engagement by terrorist groups in criminal activity (for example, extortion, as highlighted in Council resolution 2195 (2014)); alliances of opportunities; and the imposition of taxes on criminal groups operating in terrorist-controlled areas.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In assuming the Chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period 2018-2019, Peru has made the development of more effective responses to the scourges of terrorism and organized crime, including the nexus between the two phenomena, one of its highest priorities.

I would also recall that, on 9 April 2018, during its Presidency of the Security Council, Peru (in close cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire, France and Kuwait) held an Open Arria Formula meeting on “Enhancing synergies between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to address the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime”.

In its presidential statement of 8 May 2018, the Security Council further reiterated the need to enhance cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime and encouraged Member States to investigate and prosecute terrorists and criminals working with them.

The objective of today's open briefing is thus to take stock of current trends and knowledge in this area, as they pertain to three specific criminal themes: human trafficking, drugs, and arms. By no means are these the only criminal activities that terrorist groups may engage in or benefit from.

The open briefing will also provide an opportunity to learn about ongoing initiatives and tools developed by participating organizations to assist Member States to address the nexus.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Member States bear the main responsibility for countering terrorism and organized crime, including by ratifying, acceding to, and implementing the relevant legal instruments.

However, Member States can also benefit greatly from the expertise and active support of international organizations in their efforts to address the terror/crime nexus.

I thank CTED for organizing this event and look forward to our discussions.

Thank you