

**Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on**

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

Statement by

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*United Nations Headquarters, New York; Conference Room 3  
Monday, 8 October 2018*

*Thank you, Mr. Chair.*

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

**The nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime is an issue of growing concern to us all.**

**The international community continues to develop its response, whether through operational-level initiatives and research or through the adoption of international and regional legal instruments.**

**The Chair noted a number of very relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001), which lies at the heart of CTED’s mandate.**

**And of course the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols are also invaluable tools in this context.**

**However, in our engagement with Member States, we continue to observe a significant disconnect between the level of concern expressed by policymakers and the actual level of investigation and prosecution of cases involving both criminal and terrorist groups.**

**Today’s open briefing will give us all an opportunity to consider where cooperation between terrorist and criminal groups is likely to occur, as well as possible responses.**

**Terrorist groups may become directly or indirectly involved in illicit trafficking and lucrative criminal activities, including, inter alia, illegal trade in natural resources, human smuggling, and trafficking.**

**Organized criminal groups may cooperate with terrorists on specific activities or to provide certain services such as counterfeiting travel documents, procuring arms, or facilitating the relocation of individuals from one country to another.**

**We know that terrorist groups recruit individuals with a criminal background or criminal skills.**

**And petty crimes are also committed to finance terrorist activity, including the travel of foreign terrorist fighters.**

**In view of the constantly evolving terrorist threat and the capacity of terrorist groups to rapidly recover from reverses and adapt their tactics and financing methods, there is a need for us all to explore the “terror/crime” nexus in greater depth.**

**Terrorist and criminal actors share a common interest in exploiting unregulated spaces and weak State institutions.**

**Linkages between terrorist and criminal groups also thrive in situations of conflict and instability.**

**Under the guidance of the Committee, CTED has undertaken a number of actions to increase its understanding of the nexus and to identify possible responses.**

**Within the framework of the country assessment visits conducted on behalf of the CTC, CTED engages with the host States concerning their perception of the nexus, any identified and investigated links between terrorist and criminal groups, and lessons learned.**

**We have identified a number of good State practices, including the creation of joint investigative units and prosecution authorities to handle both organized crime and terrorism.**

**A significant vulnerability in some visited States is their continued failure to assess the risk posed to certain economic sectors, as well as the informal sector, by tracing the financial flows deriving from their illicit exploitation and by identifying the ways in which they are exploited by terrorist and criminal groups.**

**Aware that the terror/crime nexus may take different forms, depending on the specific political and/or geographical context, CTED contributed to three of the four regional workshops held on this topic by the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in partnership with UNICRI.**

**The workshop outcomes were presented last week, here in New York.**

**Later this week, we shall also take part in the first meeting of the Council of Europe Working Group of experts on terrorism and transnational organized crime.**

**And, acting in accordance with Council resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017), we continue to conduct research into the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism.**

**The preliminary findings of our research will be shared with you today.**

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

**Events such as today's open briefing provide us with opportunities to reaffirm our joint commitment to fight terrorism and all forms of support for terrorist groups and individuals.**

**We must, together, continue to identify new terrorist trends, more effectively map the linkages between terrorist and criminal groups, and continue to collect and share good national practices.**

**I wish to pay tribute to the tireless work of UNODC and UNICRI on this issue.**

**And we are particularly pleased to have been able to organize today's open briefing in close cooperation with both organizations.**

**CTED remains fully committed to support Member States, under the guidance of the Committee and in cooperation with its UN and international and regional partners, in their efforts to effectively address the terror/crime nexus.**

*Thank you.*