

**Virtual open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on “emerging trends in violent extremism conducive to terrorism and addressing violent extremism through a human rights-based approach”**

*Friday, 9 October 2020, 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)*

**Concept note**

**I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 2395 (2017), the Security Council reiterates CTED’s essential role of identifying emerging issues, trends and developments relating to the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), and 2178 (2014) and other relevant resolutions. Additionally, the Council encouraged CTED to ensure that all human rights and rule-of-law issues relevant to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1372 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014) and other relevant Council resolutions are addressed as an important component of its work.

2. The Security Council also affirms, through its resolutions, that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or group. While the global threat from ISIL, al-Qaida and their affiliates remains, in its Member State assessment visits over the past two years, CTED has noted an increasing concern at the emerging threat posed by violent extremism motivated by intolerance, or racism toward certain ethnic or religious groups. Many of the Member States recently assessed by the CTC have referred to terrorist acts committed by such individuals and groups as “extreme right-wing” terrorism while others use “racially and ethnically motivated terrorism (REMT)”.

3. In April 2020, CTED published a *Trends Alert* on the subject, which provided an overview of key trends relating to “extreme right-wing” terrorism, Member States’ responses, and guidance that may support those responses. In July 2020, CTED provided an update to this *Alert* examining how extreme right-wing terrorists have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in the spreading of conspiracy theories and disinformation to radicalise, recruit and fundraise, while also seeking to inspire plots and attacks. It also analyses the potential related challenges, and how Member States, international and regional organisations, and the private sector are responding.

4. The Council has previously condemned terrorist attacks carried out by individuals sharing these motivations. In a press statement of 23 July 2011, the Council condemned the terrorist attacks carried out by Anders Behring Breivik in Norway and reiterated its determination to combat all forms of terrorism.<sup>1</sup> On 15 March 2019, the Council condemned the terrorist attacks in Christchurch in the strongest terms and reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation. The Council urged all States, in accordance with their

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<sup>1</sup> See [SC/10337](#) for more information.

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

obligations under international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of New Zealand and all other relevant authorities in this regard.<sup>2</sup>

### **II. Objective of virtual open briefing**

5. The purpose of the virtual open briefing is to bring together policymakers, practitioners, civil society and researchers – including members of CTED’s Global Research Network (GRN) – to examine, discuss and identify: (i) the current threat landscape; (ii) ongoing gaps and challenges in responding to this threat (with an array of regional perspectives), including lessons learned in relation to integrating this threat within existing countering violent extremism (CVE) strategies; and (iii) practical forward-looking approaches.

6. The virtual open briefing will embed a human rights-based and gender-sensitive perspective throughout. In addition, the discussion will provide an opportunity to share effective human rights-compliant, whole-of-society approaches gathered from Member States’ CVE programmes that are aimed at promoting inclusion, community engagement and the free expression of views in order to counter and prevent violent extremism leading to terrorism. It will also provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned and challenges faced by Member States in their CVE efforts.

7. The virtual open briefing will be preceded by a CTED meeting with members of the GRN to present the latest research on this emerging trend with members of the Committee, Member States and the broader policymaking community.

### **III. Format of discussions and topics**

8. The proposed virtual open briefing will include a panel of experts representing policymakers, practitioners, civil society and academia. It will consist of an opening session; victim’s statement; presentation of the current threat landscape; presentations by panel of experts addressing the above-mentioned topics. The presentations will be followed by an interactive question-and-answer session; and the virtual open briefing will conclude with a closing session.

9. The Committee Chair will act as Chair and moderator.

10. The virtual open briefing will be held via Cisco WebEx with special privileges for Committee members, guest speakers, and CTED.

11. United Nations accredited non-governmental organisations will be able to submit their questions to the panellists via e-mail to farah.kasim@un.org by COB, Wednesday, 7 October 2020.

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<sup>2</sup> See [SC/13740](#) for more information.

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

12. An annotated agenda and meeting documentation will be posted on the Committee's website.

### **IV. Date and venue**

13. The virtual open briefing will be streamed live on UNTV on Friday, 9 October 2020, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. EDT.

### **V. Outcome**

14. CTED, subject to prior consultations with the Committee, will prepare and submit to the Committee a summary report on the outcomes of the meeting.

### **VI. Communications**

15. CTED will promote the virtual open briefing through the appropriate channels. A press release may be issued following the virtual open briefing.