

**7th Meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism
Coordination Compact Committee**

Via Microsoft Teams, Tuesday, 14 December 2021, 9.30–11.30 a.m. EST

Remarks of

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx
Executive Director, CTED**

Thank you, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

The situation in Afghanistan remains fluid, dire, and unpredictable.

First, on the political front:

The de facto authorities have made modest attempts to become more inclusive.

They have increased the number of ministers and deputies representing different ethnic groups.

The Ministers for Trade and Public Health and their deputies do not appear to have past affiliations with the Taliban.

However, the all-male and Pashtun-centric de facto authority is likely to lead to further security challenges emanating from disenfranchised elements.

Second, the terrorism threat level remains high and continues to evolve within and outside Afghanistan.

Within Afghanistan, multiple terrorist groups are active, and they enjoy a symbiotic relationship with the Taliban.

As noted by Mr. Fitton-Brown and his team, Al-Qaida is almost guaranteed a safe haven, not least because of the appointment of Siraj Haqqani as acting Interior Minister.

The Taliban remains unable to prevent the expansion of ISIL-Khorasan Province.

When we last met, ISIL-K had a limited footprint in the country.

Today, it is reportedly present in all provinces and to be increasingly active.

Outside Afghanistan, the threat continues to evolve, not only in the immediate region, but also in South-East Asia and parts of Africa.

Turning to the humanitarian situation: we need to differentiate between recognition of the de facto authorities — which remains a political decision of Member States — and the need for the immediate provision of humanitarian aid

As noted by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Deborah Lyons, during her latest briefing to the Security Council: Afghanistan is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe, but one that is preventable.

***Lastly*, gross human rights violations — including reported extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and reprisals — will continue to provide fertile ground for violent extremism, as illustrated by the reported recruitment of former Afghan security forces into the ranks of ISIL-K.**

In this regard, CTED will remain focused on three main areas:

First, promoting the continued relevance of the CTC's recommendations concerning Afghanistan.

The following recommendations (made by the Committee pursuant to its 2017 assessment visit to Afghanistan) remain valid, regardless of how the political situation unfolds:

- International cooperation — and regional cooperation, in particular — is essential to prevent the cross-border travel of FTFs and the creation of safe havens.
- For the justice system to survive, the personal security of the judiciary and counter-terrorism prosecutors must be safeguarded.
- There is a need for effective measures to prevent the unregulated movement of cash across borders and to address cryptocurrencies and their potential to create illicit financial flows.
- Consideration should be given to the future of Afghanistan's illicit heroin production.
- There is a need to strengthen control of the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons.

Second, ensuring delivery of impartial humanitarian assistance.

- The Security Council has called on the international community to develop creative mechanisms for supporting Afghanistan, beyond basic humanitarian aid.

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- **CTED stands ready to facilitate a dialogue with relevant Member States, in partnership with UNAMA and other UN entities, on ways to mitigate the potential negative effects of counter-terrorism measures on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, in compliance with existing international and domestic sanctions.**

Third, facilitating the delivery of technical assistance

- **The gaps and challenges that Member States face and the areas in which the UN can provide support are outlined in the Committee's recently updated Global surveys of Member States' implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions, and resolution 1624 (2005), respectively.**
- **I would continue to encourage Global Compact member entities to prioritize technical assistance programmes for the most affected States, based on the priority recommendations identified by the CTC.**

CTED stands ready to facilitate the necessary support.

Thank you.

**Remarks by Heads of Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities on
progress updates and thematic priorities**

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

I welcome the opportunity to provide a brief update on CTED's progress and thematic priorities.

On the 4th of November, CTED assisted the Counter-Terrorism Committee to hold a special meeting to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the Committee's establishment.

The special meeting gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the work of the Committee and CTED over the past 20 years and to reaffirm our commitment to continuing to strengthen our efforts to counter the global terrorist threat.

In November we also assisted the Committee and the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee to hold a joint special meeting on terrorist-financing threats and trends and the implementation of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019)

I wish to thank all our UN partners for their participation in, and contributions to, these two landmark events.

Within the framework of the review of its mandate renewal at the end of the year, CTED submitted to the Committee its four-year activities and achievement report, as well as a document containing a number of observations regarding CTED's future work.

Our achievements over the past year also include conducting 13 virtual components of hybrid assessment visits, as well as completing the full-cycle stocktaking of the country profiles of all 193 Member States and launching our new electronic stocktaking tools.

We've also issued a number of analytical publications, including, most recently, our Analytical Brief on Biometrics and Counter-Terrorism, which explores key trends and challenges in this area, based on our dialogue with Member States and our engagement with UN partners and civil society.

As we look ahead to the end of the year, CTED will publish several other reports, including:

- A fourth analytical paper on the impact of COVID-19, for which we are organizing a pre-launch event on Friday 17 December;
- A Council resolution 2462-mandated thematic summary assessment of gaps identified and areas requiring more action to implement key CFT provisions of the relevant Council resolutions;
- A thematic study on the interface between counter-terrorism and international humanitarian law; and
- A Trends Report on the status of international cooperation for lawful access to digital evidence.

In conclusion, let me assure you all that CTED remains committed to serving as an active partner and contributor to the activities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

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Thank you.