Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly

High-level week side event


Wednesday, 29 September 2021, 10.00 a.m.–11.30 a.m. EDT

“The first step: joint scoping exercises”

Remarks of

Assistant Secretary General Michèle Coninsx
Executive Director, CTED

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Allow me to begin by thanking the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Iraq, the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and the United Nations Children’s Fund for organizing today’s launch of the Global Framework for UN Support on Syria and Iraq Third-Country National Returnees.

This is a significant event and a meaningful process, which represents a “one UN approach” in addressing issues of priority interest.

In a number of resolutions, the Security Council calls on Member States to take action to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon.

Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) call on States to develop comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration (PRR)
strategies for terrorist suspects, including foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying family members.

With a view to supporting Member States’ PRR efforts, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (or “CTED”) — the Office that I have been heading — became a member of the Global Framework Steering Committee and a contributor to its Security and Accountability pillar.

The assistance to be provided through the Global Framework will be based on a set of minimum conditions for UN engagement, to be identified and developed through a joint scoping exercise.

Those conditions include the requirement that the approaches taken must be human rights-compliant, as well as gender and age-responsive.

The scoping exercises will also identify support needs of relevance to the Framework’s “recovery and development” pillar and its “security and accountability” pillar.

They will be conducted jointly by the UN leadership on the ground and the Global Framework Steering Committee.

CTED, given its mandate as a facilitator of delivery of technical assistance, and promoter of Council and CTC policies and international standards, codes and best practices, will contribute to those efforts through its ongoing dialogue with Member States; sharing its expert assessments of Member States’ counter-terrorism responses; and its analysis on emerging issues, trends and developments.

Our assessments - which are conducted on behalf of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee - serve to identify gaps and technical assistance needs in States’
implementation of the relevant Council resolutions and will be of particular relevance to the Global Framework’s implementation on the ground.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

As a first step in the implementation of the Global Framework, the joint scoping exercises will provide a solid foundation upon which to map ongoing UN support, identify areas of possible further assistance, and define the process required to effectively deliver upon the Global Framework’s pillars.

Member States’ commitment to supporting the joint scoping exercises, and their sustained engagement throughout the implementation of Framework activities, will be of vital importance.

CTED welcomes opportunities at hand to further enhance its engagement with UN entities, Member States, and other partners, as we continue to share our analysis on PRR trends through our publications and other outreach.

I therefore welcome today’s Launch and invite you to hear about steps taken to initiate implementation of the Global Framework in Iraq and States of Central Asia.

Thank you.