

**Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
with the CTED Global Research Network**

**“Emerging threats, trends and developments in terrorism and counter-
terrorism: reflecting on 20 years of countering the terrorist threat”**

Friday, 3 September 2021, 10.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Opening statement of

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I am pleased to join you in welcoming the members of the CTED Global Research Network at today’s open meeting.

Today’s discussion is particularly timely as we prepare for the forthcoming special meeting on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Council resolution 1373 and the establishment of the Committee.

It gives us a welcome opportunity to reflect on the past two decades of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Although significant progress has been made in countering terrorism over the last 20 years, the global terrorist threat continues to be complex and dynamic.

And terrorism continues to exacerbate existing conflicts and threaten fragile, post conflict environments

The current situation in Afghanistan is of significant concern in this context.

All possible steps should be taken to ensure that this rapidly evolving situation does not result in Afghanistan again being exploited as a safe haven for terrorism.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

CTED continues to be at the forefront of global efforts to identify key terrorism-related trends and challenges and good practices in responding to them.

And our unique partnership with the GRN members over the past six-and-a-half years has been crucial to those efforts.

It has not only given CTED and the Committee access to the latest evidence-based research on trends, it has also helped inform our analytical products and guidance documents, which also feed into the efforts of other international and regional bodies.

Most recently, CTED has produced a series of analytical publications on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism.

We have also continued to issue Trends Reports, Trends Alerts and Analytical Briefs on a wide range of other issues, including the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, the gender dimension of terrorism and counter-terrorism, the use of ICT for terrorist purposes, and the challenges posed by extreme right-wing (or ethnically or racially motivated) terrorism.

In doing so, we have consistently emphasized the importance of evidence-based, gender-responsive and human rights-compliant policies and programmes.

As we continue to address these existing and emerging challenges, we must of course also continue to identify lessons learned in order to assist Member States to adapt and strengthen their responses.

Only by effectively monitoring and evaluating counter-terrorism and CVE approaches can we effectively identify those that are most effective.

And respect for human rights and rule of law must of course remain the foundation of all our counter-terrorism efforts.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion of these many complex issues as we continue to chart the course for our future efforts to counter the global terrorist threat.

Thank you.