

Security Council meeting on “The twentieth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat”

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Security Council Chamber

Statement by

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[As delivered]

Thank you, Mr. President, excellencies,

I am honoured to address the Security Council on the twentieth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Da’esh to international peace and security, as well as to highlight the efforts of the United Nations to support Member States in addressing these challenges.

And I wish to thank Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Head of the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, as well as Mr. Colin Smith, Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, as well as all of our United Nations partners for their close collaboration on this report.

Mr. President,

The challenges posed by Da'esh remain complex, with humanitarian, security, and governance concerns persisting across regions affected by its activities.

The humanitarian and security crisis in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic remains dire, with more than 40,000 individuals confined in camps and detention facilities under conditions marked by overcrowding, inadequate shelter, and limited access to clean water and sanitation.

Beyond the Middle East, Da'esh remains agile, taking advantage of ongoing conflicts and regions experiencing growing instability.

As we heard from the Deputy Secretary-General in the Security Council last month, after devastating so many parts of the world for more than a decade, Da'esh and other terrorist groups now pose the most significant threat to peace, security and sustainable development across the African continent.

Armed terrorist groups such as Islamic State West Africa Province exploit fragile conditions to recruit and use children, commit abductions, and attack schools and hospitals.

In the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, Da'esh's decentralized operations continue to proliferate as regional cooperation declines.

As underlined by recent reports of CTED and the Monitoring Team, the role of regional financial hubs used by Da'esh and its affiliates has also expanded.

Addressing these threats requires an approach centred on prevention, grounded in respect for human rights, and with regional cooperation as the linchpin.

The United Nations has continued its efforts to support Member States in addressing the threat posed by Da'esh.

On behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in the last year, CTED conducted visits to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritania, the United Republic of Tanzania as well as other affected regions to assess the implementation of Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism.

CTED has just finalized an assessment visit to Somalia.

These assessments highlighted promising practices, such as the adoption of whole-of-government approaches to counter terrorism and efforts to address conditions fueling violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

At the same time, the Committee's assessments also revealed persistent challenges, including gaps in border security, ongoing deficiencies in national counter-financing of terrorism responses, and the need for stronger regional collaboration to counter the transnational nature of Da'esh's activities.

Officials in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire expressed the need for the United Nations to support improved regional cooperation, which is essential to counteract further expansion of the terrorist threat southward.

Other United Nations' efforts have focused on strengthening humanitarian responses and enhancing institutional frameworks.

The United Nations has facilitated the civil documentation and reintegration of displaced individuals in the Middle East, even as the pace of repatriation has significantly declined.

Equally important, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes remain a cornerstone of these efforts.

Tailored initiatives have strengthened rehabilitation in prisons and focused on community-based socioeconomic reintegration services, particularly for vulnerable adolescents.

In parallel, facilitating accountability for terrorism offenses and promoting respect to human rights in counter-terrorism remain priorities.

The conclusion of UNITAD's mandate marked a significant milestone, leaving behind an impressive judicial support legacy as well as a noteworthy archive for possible future accountability processes.

Furthermore, considerable strides have been made in assisting Member States with countering the financing of terrorism.

Mr. President,

As mandated by the Delhi Declaration, the Counter-Terrorism Committee just last month adopted the non-binding guiding principles on “preventing, detecting and disrupting the use of new and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes”, also known as the “Algeria Guiding Principles”.

The guiding principles have been prepared with the support CTED and highlight the importance of a comprehensive and risk-based approach and provide practical guidance to Member States.

To raise awareness of Member States and implementing partners on the evolution of terrorism-financing threats, in November last year, CTED published a report highlighting the changes in how foreign terrorist fighters have financed their activities over the past 10 years.

CTED is also engaged in joint projects with the Financial Action Task Force in this regard and has supported relevant capacity-building initiatives of other Global Compact entities, including a UNODC initiative in Mozambique, where the first

successful prosecution of a terrorism-financing case was recently achieved.

Mr. President,

These collective efforts underscore the importance of a united and adaptive response to the evolving threat posed by Da'esh.

The group's ability to exploit instability highlights the need for sustained international cooperation.

CTED, working alongside Member States and other United Nations partners and entities, remains committed to ensuring that our actions are countering the emerging challenges.

Thank you.