

**CTED**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE

PRESS RELEASE

CTED publishes updated paper about COVID-19 and counter-terrorism

New York, 31 December 2020 – Today, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) published an update to its paper, “[The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism](#).” CTED’s analysis suggests that, despite the continuation of terrorist violence and despite concerns that terrorists and violent extremists will seek to exploit COVID-19 in their recruitment processes, there remains little evidence upon which to base a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the pandemic on terrorism and violent extremism.

The update to the [June 2020](#) paper states the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic represent a global, generational crisis. CTED’s analysis suggests that a comprehensive, collaborative, and tailored approach is required to address its effects, as terrorists and violent extremists seek ways to exploit the resulting socio-economic fault lines. Human rights overreach, the increased securitization of pandemic responses, and the suppression of dissent under the pretext of countering the pandemic all have the potential to exacerbate existing grievances and fuel conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism. It is therefore vital that States strive to ensure proportional COVID-19 responses and adopt a balanced, fully human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approach to counter-terrorism and CVE.

The counter-terrorism community should seek to reimagine and address the threats of terrorism and violent extremism in a post-pandemic world. There is an urgent need to ensure enhanced governance that addresses existing conditions of inequality and fragility and restores faith in State institutions. CTED, working together with its United Nations and other partners and Member States, will continue to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the evolving terrorist threat and on counter-terrorism responses, monitor the evolution of existing trends, and analyse emerging issues and challenges.

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Background

Established by the Security Council, the **Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)** is a Special Political Mission of the United Nations, tasked with assisting the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in monitoring the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. CTED conducts on site country assessments visits with Member States' approval to identify progress made and remaining challenges in addressing threats posed by terrorists to international peace and security. The findings of the assessment visit also constitute the basis for the concerned technical assistance and capacity-building projects. **Michèle Coninsx** was appointed Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 11 August 2017.

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)** was established by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which was adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States. The Committee, comprising all 15 Security Council members, was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which requested countries to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal, institutional and operational abilities to counter terrorist activities at home, in their regions and around the world. On 25 September 2020, **H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of CTC.