



United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

PRESS RELEASE

CTED publishes Analytical Brief on the use of biometrics in counter-terrorism

New York, 10 December 2021 – According to a new Analytical Brief by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), CTED’s analysis indicates that, although 118 of the 193 United Nations Member States have made at least marginal progress in introducing biometrics for counter-terrorism purposes, the extent of biometrics use and expertise varies significantly. Although biometrics are widely used in nearly half of European Member States, they have only been marginally introduced across the Middle East, and more than half of African Member States have yet to introduce biometrics at all.

The Analytical Brief on “[The use of biometrics in counter-terrorism](#),” identifies other key trends, including the use of new and more sophisticated technologies to capture, collect, process, and analyse biometric data; an expansion in the range of physical and digital spaces in which States are validating biometric data; and an increase, in some States in the sharing of biometric data as part of counter-terrorism cooperation and information-sharing measures.

Using as its starting point the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) — which requires Member States to develop and implement systems to collect biometric data in order to identify terrorists responsibly and properly — the Brief provides unique insights derived from CTED’s dialogue with Member States on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its engagement with UN partners and civil society.

You can download the full report [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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Background

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 carried out in the United States. The Committee (which consists of all 15 Members of the Security Council) was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which requests States 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.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of the Committee on 25 September 2020.

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)** was established by the Council as a special political mission of the United Nations, tasked with assisting the Counter-Terrorism Committee in monitoring Member States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. Acting on the Committee's behalf, CTED conducts on-site country assessments visits, with the consent of the host State, to identify progress made and remaining challenges in addressing threats posed by terrorists to international peace and security. The findings of the assessment visits also form the basis for technical assistance and capacity-building projects delivered by partner entities.

Ms. Michèle Coninx was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 11 August 2017.