

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

**Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee**

**“The work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)  
with the Member States of South and South-East Asia pursuant to Security  
Council resolution 2395 (2017)”**

*Monday, 14 February 2022, 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. EST*

**Summary notes**

*The meeting was called to order at 10.13 a.m.*

H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, welcomed the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to the briefing.

**10.15-10.21 Opening session**

- Opening statement by H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee

The Chair paid tribute to the victims of the terrorist attacks carried out in India on 14 February 2019.

**10.23-11.13 Session I: Introductory panel on United Nations dialogue with Member States of South and South-East Asia**

The Committee heard presentations by the following:

- Ms. Elizabeth Joyce, Chief of Section, Americas, Asia Pacific, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in-person
- Mr. Márcio Derenne, Deputy Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations – in-person
- Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - VTC
- Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chief of Service, Political Affairs of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) - in-person.

The Chair thanked CTED for its contributions to the fight against terrorism and thanked the panellists for their contributions and insights.

**11.15-12.05 Session II: Progress achieved, challenges, needs and ways forward**

The Committee heard statements by the following representatives of invited Member States of South and South-East Asia:

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- India: Mr. Rajesh Parihar, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India
- Indonesia: Mr. Andhika Chrisnayudhanto, Deputy for International Cooperation, National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT)
- Philippines: Ms. Azela Arumpac-Martel, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, introduced Undersecretary Camilo Pancratius
  - P. Cascolan, Executive Director, Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center (ATC/PMC)
- Maldives: Mr. Ibrahim Zuhuree, Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives.

### **12.10-12.44 Interactive question-and-answer session**

*Representative of the United States* thanked the Chair for holding the informative briefing and thanked CTED for organizing an impressive panel, as well as the Member States for being transparent in providing details of their specific work to counter terrorism. It was noted that the South and Central Asia regions remained a frontline in the battle against terrorism, including against groups linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, or individuals linked to ISIL-Khorasan Province (ISIL-K), Al-Qaida and its affiliates. Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) remained active in the area. The United States also noted that groups such *Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan* (TTP) continued to pose threats to regional security and recalled that the United Nations Secretary-General had stressed that it was critical that the international community continue to deny a safe haven to Al-Qaida and its affiliates, including in Afghanistan. U.S. President Biden had stressed that the United States would hold the Taliban accountable for its commitment not to allow any terrorist to threaten the United States or its allies from Afghan soil. In Central Asia some minority advocates were using violence to overthrow the region's secular Government and establish regimes based on extremist interpretations of Islamic law. The United States supported regional, multilateral, and bilateral efforts to combat terrorism in the region, including work on repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration. Gaps still existed in combating terrorist travel in accordance with the uniform implementation of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) and the United States encouraged and bolstered partnered capacity in South and South-East Asia States, both bilaterally and through the United Nations and other multilateral partners, to detect, deter and prevent travel of known and suspected terrorists through improved border security practices, in accordance with resolution 2396 (2017). The United States supported the work of international non-governmental organizations which played an important role in combatting terrorism and violent extremism. It welcomed the comments of the representatives of Indonesia and the Maldives on their work with civil society. It was noted that the United States worked in Sri Lanka, where the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) was supporting activities that were building social cohesion and a sense of purpose. The Fund's focus areas were empowering young girls and boys in community-level prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Security Council had noted that the efforts of civil society were critical to preventing and countering terrorism. The United States applauded the relationships with experts, including civil society experts and practitioners, in all the Committee's briefings and stood ready to continue its counter-terrorism efforts in South and South-East Asia and to collaborate with the Committee and partners in the region.

*Representative of the United Kingdom* welcomed the insights provided by the representatives of the invited Member States of South and South-East Asia and noted that multilateral, multiagency

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collaboration was crucial to combating terrorism in South and South-East Asia. She welcomed the efforts of CTED, INTERPOL, UNODC, UNOCT and other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities in tackling new and existing challenges. It was noted that the United Kingdom was an active partner in supporting counter-terrorism objectives in the region, working with host countries and international partners. The United Kingdom focused on prosecutorial and judicial capability, inter-agency protective security measures, and building cross-border and law enforcement links. The key challenge in improving effective counter-terrorism work in the region was to facilitate better sharing of information between and within government organizations, and welcomed the work of United Nations agencies in that regard. The need to be flexible in order to respond to changes of risk in Afghanistan was noted, including the risk posed by foreign terrorists travelling to and from Afghanistan and by increased radicalization driven by a narrative of the Taliban's resurgence. In that regard, there was a need to work with States located near Afghanistan and elsewhere in Central and South-East Asia. The United Kingdom welcomed CTED's continued close attention to the changes in the region. The imperative to strike an appropriate balance and noted that, if extremism was approached with a heavy hand, the result could be further violent encounters. The United Kingdom shared the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism regarding oppressive policies being applied in the name of countering terrorism and noted that counter-terrorism measures should not be misused to target civil society or political opposition. It welcomed the work of United Nations agencies with Member States, especially in providing capacity-building and technical assistance to ensure human rights protections. CTED had highlighted the need for legislative enhancements in South and South-East Asia and the need to safeguard human rights while countering terrorism and the United Kingdom welcomed the efforts of CTED and other agencies to facilitate engagement with civil society, as highlighted in the statements made by the representatives of the invited Member States of the two subregions. The United Kingdom thanked the invited Member States for their ongoing efforts in countering terrorism in South and South-East Asia.

***Representative of the Russian Federation*** noted the threat of the expansion of the ISIL-K ideology in South-East Asia. The ISIL-K centre was in Afghanistan, and there were around 6,000 ISIL-K fighters (50 per cent being foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)). It was noted that the current more acute situation in Afghanistan, against the background of terrorist threats, was such that the consequences could impact the global and regional terrorism situation. Discussions should be held at international forums, including the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional forum on security. The continued terrorism threat in Afghanistan, as it related to ISIL-K and to other terrorist groups, could spill over beyond Afghanistan. Terrorist organizations could exploit the situation to infiltrate their fighters into global migratory flows. It was noted that there was a danger that the radicalization level would grow significantly, including through spill over into the region via FTFs. The briefing provided a good opportunity to discuss not only successes, but also difficulties, so that they could be resolved.

***Representative of Ireland*** welcomed the briefing and thanked the panellists for their interventions and expressed sympathy and support for the victims and survivors of terrorism. Ireland noted that the briefing underlined the threat faced by Member States of both subregions. In South Asia, the threat of terrorism appeared to be Al-Qaida- and ISIL-inspired, and that the threat remained high. ISIL and its affiliate groups had become more active in South-East Asia. Ireland expressed concern

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at the ongoing developments in Afghanistan, including the growing influence of ISIL-K, following the Taliban takeover and welcomed the progress made by South and South-East Asian States in implementing Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), as reported by CTED. Ireland noted concern was raised by United Nations human rights mechanisms regarding overly broad definitions of terrorism and the misuse of counter-terrorism measures to suppress political dissidents and human rights organizations in some States, and reaffirmed that all counter-terrorism measures must comply with international law (including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law). Ireland expressed concern at the increasing presence of women in directing and perpetrating ISIL and Al-Qaida terrorist attacks in South-East Asia and noted the appalling reports of coercion and exploitation of children through suicide bombings and noted that those trends underlined the importance of ensuring gender-sensitive responses to counter-terrorism measures, which recognized the complex and varying roles of women in terrorism. There was a need to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all counter-terrorism processes. Ireland welcomed the fact that some States of both subregions were making concerted efforts to implement whole-of-society approaches to implement measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism, while working closely with local communities and civil society, and noted that civil society was an indispensable partner in the fight against terrorism. It was noted that counter-terrorism measures should never be misused to restrict the legitimate work of civil society. Ireland looked forward to further discussion on the role of civil society during the Committee's forthcoming related briefing.

***Representative of the United Arab Emirates*** thanked the representatives of the invited States for their insights and observations. He welcomed the efforts of concerned Member States to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It was noted that multilateral efforts were critical to addressing challenges faced by Member States, including in South and South-East Asia, as well as the need to ensure that Afghanistan did not become a safe haven for Al-Qaida, ISIL, or other terrorist groups that threatened international peace and security. It was stressed that the international community must remain vigilant and strengthen regional and international cooperation, especially in addressing the transnational terrorist threat posed by terrorist groups present in the region. The need to address the interrelated issues posed by FTFs was noted, and that failure to do so actively was the underlying root cause that enabled the recruitment of fighters. Failure to break the cycle of recruitment could exacerbate the global threat landscape. It was important to closely follow trends on the recruitment and return of FTF fighters in South and South-East Asia, following the recent death of ISIL's leader.

***Representative of Myanmar*** thanked the Chair and CTED for organizing the open briefing and thanked the representatives of the invited Member States for their comprehensive and informative statements. Myanmar commended CTED, INTERPOL, UNOCT, and UNODC for their work in countering terrorism and welcomed the fact that CTED and other relevant organizations spared no effort in helping Member States to address their counter-terrorism challenges. It was noted that Myanmar never condoned terrorism in any form, committed anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances, and strongly condemned terrorism and Myanmar's willingness to continue to work with CTED, INTERPOL, UNOCT, UNODC, and other relevant organizations was expressed. It was noted that, since the attempted military coup in Myanmar of 1 February 2021, the military had committed widespread and systematic violent attacks against the population. That violence could

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amount to crimes against humanity. IT was noted that in 2021 the military had also committed massacres, burning houses and committing inhumane acts and atrocities. It was further noted that on 5 December 2021, in Yangon, a military vehicle had run over peaceful protestors, resulting in five fatalities, and that such inhumane acts were usually perpetrated by terrorists. It was said that law enforcement officers in Myanmar were engaging in terrorist acts. Such acts should be condemned by the international community and the perpetrators should be brought to justice. CTED and other relevant organizations were requested to monitor such terrorist acts and identify ways to address them swiftly. Myanmar's commitment to work closely with CTED, organizations

*Representative of Pakistan* thanked the panellists and Member States for their statements and interventions and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for CTED in the discharge of its mandate, particularly its role in providing technical assistance to Member States upon request. It was noted that Pakistan had been a victim of terrorism and continued to bear the brunt of the scourge of terrorism in South Asia, and had suffered over 80,000 casualties in the fight to defeat global terrorism. Pakistan wished to pay homage to all the victims of terrorism. It was recalled that the Security Council had listed terrorist groups such as TTP, which had carried out hundreds of cross-border attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets from Afghanistan, with external support. It was noted that Pakistan was aware of who had been supporting and financing the designated terrorist groups and had shared irrefutable evidence with the Security Council in that regard. Pakistan noted that it was imperative that the Committee hold the masterminds behind those attacks accountable, and that Afghanistan should not be used as a platform or safe haven for any terrorist group. Pakistan trusted that the authorities in Afghanistan would ensure that this was the case, in accordance with their stated commitment to do so. It was stated that the international community should offer its support and cooperation in helping the new Afghan authorities implement that objective, including by building the capacity of Afghan State institutions. It was vital to prevent Afghanistan's economic collapse, as such a collapse would destabilize the entire region and exacerbate the terrorist threat. A further key issue in South Asia was the need to uphold the applicability of international humanitarian law. The misuse of counter-terrorism norms and the global sentiment against terrorism to deny human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the right to self-determination should be prevented. Gross violations of human rights atrocities, abduction, torture, forced disappearances, collective punishment against people living under foreign occupation close to Pakistan had further exacerbated conditions conducive to terrorism in the region. It was recalled that Security Council resolution 1566 (2004) called for addressing unresolved regional conflicts and upholding obligations under international law, particularly international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It was noted that Pakistan continued to take all measures to implement the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and it was recalled that the updated Global survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions by Member States (S/2001/972) acknowledged Pakistan's progress in that regard and identified Pakistan as one of the States which regularly conducted focused threat risk-assessments. Pakistan had been taking steps to assess its terrorism-financing risk since 2019, including by conducting terrorism-financing risk assessments, as well as national risk-assessments on money-laundering and terrorism financing. It was recalled that Pakistan had made significant progress in countering terrorism financing by amending legislation; enhancing its regulatory framework, mechanisms and processes; enhancing inter-agency coordination on countering the financing of terrorism (CFT); and introducing focused law enforcement measures. It was further recalled that the updated Global survey also noted that

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Pakistan had made progress in enhancing its investigative capacity and improving coordination and communication among the relevant agencies through the creation of the National Counter-Terrorism Coordination Agency. It was noted that the successful discharge of the mandate of Security Council counter-terrorism bodies such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee depended on their credibility with Member States and other stakeholders and it was noted that Member States had in the past continued to call for the redoubling of efforts to make Security Council mechanisms and bodies more transparent, inclusive, and objective. The politicization of technical bodies to serve narrow national agendas eroded trust in such mechanisms and undermined the international counter-terrorism effort. Technical bodies must not be hijacked to serve bilateral programmes of hate and aggression. Establishing the credibility of the United Nations counter-terrorism regime required ending the inherent institutional suspicion against Muslims, alongside Islamophobic attitudes based on negative stereotyping, which had not only fuelled discriminatory counter-terrorism policies but had also perpetuated hostility, violence, and terrorism against Muslims. It was tragic to see certain parties opposing an end to such inherent discrimination in the global counter-terrorism architecture by maintaining the status quo. Pakistan noted that those who were giving State patronage and mainstreaming Islamophobia in political discourse, as manifested by calls of genocide against Muslims, were afraid to address those issues. It welcomed the recognition of terrorist threats posed by xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, as noted by the Security Council in its resolution 2617 (2021), and looked forward to the incorporation of that recognition in CTED's assessment processes. It recalled that resolution 1566 (2004) had established a working group consisting of all members of the Security Council and had urged Member States to submit recommendations to the Council on practical measures to be imposed upon individuals, groups and entities, involved in or associated with terrorist activities, other than those designated by the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committees. It noted that Pakistan looked forward to the Security Council's continued focus on terrorist threats arising from xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance.

*Representative of Malaysia* thanked the representatives of the invited Member States for their informative and insightful interventions. It was noted that Malaysia had prioritized constant vigilance in combatting the terrorism threat, even as it continued to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that strong bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation was essential in combatting the global scourge of terrorism. It was noted that Malaysia's National Counter-Terrorism Committee, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, coordinated a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and initiatives in accordance with five key priorities: enhancing intelligence and international cooperation, enhancing legislative law enforcement and border security, protecting national key infrastructures, connecting outreach and deradicalization programmes, and enhancing crisis management. It was noted that Malaysia was finalizing its National Plan of Action to prevent and counter violent extremism and to streamline and strengthen existing initiatives. Malaysian recalled that in 2021 Malaysia had received the virtual component of a hybrid Committee visit, which had aimed to take stock of Malaysia's implementation of the growing number of relevant Security Council resolutions adopted since the Committee's 2006 visit. The virtual component of the visit had been conducted from 22 to 26 March 2021, with the participation of more than 60 officials from 21 agencies and ministries. The participants had held an open, constructive, and fruitful exchange of views on strategies and frameworks developed, inter alia, to combat the spread of terrorist ideology and to address violent extremism that leads to terrorism, the threat of FTFs, terrorism financing, and the misuse of new technologies for terrorist

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purposes. The Committee and CTED had welcomed the progress achieved by Malaysia since its 2006 visit, noting, inter alia, its robust anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework; its formation of a security force to respond to terrorist threats; and its launch of a large-scale smart project, involving the private sector and civil society organizations, aimed at preventing, protect against, and responding to security threats, including against critical infrastructure, “soft” targets and urban open spaces. Malaysia’s comprehensive prison-management policy to counter terrorist recruitment in prisons had also been recognized and it was noted that Malaysia was closely examining the initial priority recommendations made pursuant to the visit, including on information and communications technologies (ICT), the role of women and gender in countering terrorism and violent extremism, and the use of advance passenger information/Passenger Name Records (API/PNR) to detect and prevent terrorist movements. The contributions made by officials and experts from CTED were acknowledged; the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; INTERPOL; UNOCT; and UNODC during the visit and noted that Malaysia looked forward to hosting the team for the visit’s physical component when the COVID-19 situation allowed. Malaysia enjoyed a history of strong collaboration with the United Nations, particularly UNOCT and UNODC, in enhancing its domestic capacity to counter and mitigate the threat of terrorism. It was noted that Malaysia’s officials and experts regularly participated in United Nations-led training on various topics, including enhancing border security; countering the threats posed by nuclear terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; protection of vulnerable targets; and strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) of terrorism suspects, including FTFs and their families. It was recalled that, pursuant to its recent visit, the Committee had also recognized Malaysia’s experience and capacity in providing training and technical assistance to other States in counter-terrorism matters, including in areas such as AML/CFT regulations, building international frameworks, and critical infrastructure protection, as well as in sharing experiences and good practices in counter-messaging, as developed by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), based in Kuala Lumpur. It was reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to combatting terrorism and its partnership with other Member States and United Nations in fighting the scourge of terrorism.

***Representative of Japan*** thanked the Committee Chair for convening the informative briefing and recalled that Japan had long supported counter-terrorism efforts in South and South-East Asia. She congratulated CTED on its successful mandate renewal in December 2021 and noted that terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, despite decades of global counter-terrorism efforts. It was noted that effective mitigation of terrorist threats was crucial to regional peace, security, and prosperity. It was recalled that, through its implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Japan supported a wide range of counter-terrorism projects in South and South-East Asia, partnering with United Nations bodies such as CTED, UNOCT and UNODC. It was stressed that Japan’s support for more than 80 projects in the region over the past three years was testament to its commitment. One key area of Japan’s assistance was to help ensure effective criminal justice while also breaking the cycle of violence in order to prevent future terrorism, not only in bringing terrorists to justice, but also facilitating the social and economic reintegration of perpetrators and those associated. The need was noted to develop a clear understanding of how to develop effective PRR strategies. It was recalled that, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017),

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Japan had supported CTED's initiative in South and South-East Asia, which had enhanced the comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies of the beneficiary States and whose outcomes would feed into a global PRR document and help Member States to navigate the complexities of PRR development and implementation. It was recalled that Japan had also supported efforts to counter terrorists' exploitation of cyberspace for recruitment, propaganda and financing purposes. Japan had identified a growing need to enhance Member States' online investigation capacities and Japan had contributed to UNOCT's global programme to improve the investigative skills of law enforcement officials of South and South-East Asia, through capacity-building on the use of open-source intelligence and efforts to raise the awareness of terrorist exploitation of artificial intelligence (AI). It was noted that, in addition to providing tailored workshops, the global programme had produced two useful documents: a report on harnessing AI to combat misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes, with a focus on South and South-East Asia, and a comprehensive handbook on online counter-terrorism investigations. Japan welcomed those tangible, long-lasting outcomes. It was noted that other areas, including maritime security, must be addressed as part of Japan's counter-terrorism efforts in the region. Japan continued to work on those issues in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders. It was noted that, alongside its ongoing efforts to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a hotbed for terrorism, Japan remained committed to supporting the Member States of South and South-East Asia to combat terrorist threats through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and dialogue.

**12.44-12:47** Closing statement by H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee

*The meeting was adjourned at 12.47 p.m.*



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**Draft agenda**

**10.00-10.10 Opening session**

- Opening statement by H.E. Mr. T.S. Tirumurti, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee

**10.10-11.10 Session I: Introductory panel on United Nations dialogue with Member States of South and South-East Asia**

*Moderator: Mr. Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director, CTED*

- Ms. Elizabeth Joyce, Chief of Section, Americas, Asia Pacific, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in-person
- Mr. Márcio Derenne, Deputy Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations – in-person
- Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - VTC
- Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chief of Service, Political Affairs of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) - in-person

**11.10-12.10 Session II: Progress achieved, challenges, needs and ways forward**

*Moderator: H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee*

- Statements by representatives of invited Member States of South and South-East Asia
  - India: Mr Rajesh Parihar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
  - Indonesia: Mr. Andhika Chrisnayudhanto, Deputy for International Cooperation, National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT)
  - Maldives: Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Naeem, the Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
  - Philippines: Undersecretary Camilo Pancratius P. Cascolan, Executive Director, Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center (ATC/PMC)

**12.10-12.55 Interactive question-and-answer session**

**12.55-13.00 Closing session**

- Closing statement by H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee