

**State of Terrorism 2023: Insights and Trends Towards More Robust Responses in  
Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism**

*Thursday, 16 March 2023, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Conference Room 8*

**Remarks of  
Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman  
Executive Director, CTED**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**It is a pleasure to be here for today’s important discussion on the state of terrorism in 2023. I would like to thank the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) for inviting me and for the fruitful partnership we share.**

**Given that this is my first statement in my capacity as Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), allow me to recognize the importance CTED ascribes to our partnerships, including with United Nations offices like UNOCT, and research centres like IEP, which is a member of our Global Research Network (GRN).**

**CTED’s Global Research Network, a consortium of more than 100 institutions worldwide, provides us the opportunity to disseminate and incorporate cutting-edge research on emerging terrorism trends, developments and challenges.**

**Let me congratulate IEP for this informative and insightful report, which will undoubtedly help counter-terrorism practitioners, policymakers, and Member States to explore emerging trends in terrorism on a global scale, assisting us in broadening our understanding of key drivers and root causes of terrorism, and shed light on the current threat landscape.**

**As the nature of armed conflict around the world evolves, so do the methods and effects of terrorism.**

**The terrorism threat has grown increasingly complex, diverse, and decentralized, as these groups demonstrate the capacity to conduct frequent and lethal attacks.**

**While terrorist attacks continue to occur in both conflict and non-conflict zones, the latest Global Terrorism Index confirms the ongoing shift in the dynamics of terrorism. The threat of terrorism has become more dominant in geographical areas already suffering from instability and conflict, such as the Sahel and Afghanistan.**

**Recent activity in the Middle East suggests the terrorist threat lingers in the region. In Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, worsening conditions and increased violence in camps and detention facilities allow Da'esh to grow their support base. Failure to address this situation not only suggests a security risk, but also carries grave humanitarian and moral challenges.**

**In its assessment visits conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED has also noted Member States' increased concerns about terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance. Operating as small groups or lone actors allows those groups and individuals to better evade detection. The stocktaking of the Committee and CTED of country profiles have also indicated those worrisome developments.**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**With emerging and new technologies, terrorist groups have access to a myriad of options that were not previously available or easily accessible.**

**New technologies have diversified the sources and facilitated the methods being used to finance terrorism.**

**Terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum are adept at misusing online forums, including gaming platforms, for radicalization, recruitment, and funding. And terrorists took advantage of COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns to target a more captive online audience.**

**The ongoing threat of the misuse of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) presents new challenges to law enforcement and border security.**

**Last year's special meeting of the Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, hosted by India, brought together Member States, technical experts, academics and civil society representatives to examine the challenges posed by new technologies.**

**The resulting Delhi Declaration provides guidance to Member States and stakeholders in countering terrorist use of new and emerging technologies and no less importantly a way forward for the CTC to develop recommendations and a set of non-binding guiding principles on how to address the terrorists misuse of these technologies.**

**Building on the foundation of the Declaration, CTED will consult widely with Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector to support the Counter-Terrorism Committee to draft non-binding guiding principles.**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**In our fight against terrorism, we must pursue a whole-of-society approach that includes collaboration between Governments and less traditional partners, including civil society, religious groups, and community leaders, as well as the private sector.**

**Promoting and protecting human rights, while uplifting and empowering marginalized groups, are imperative. Research shows that bolstering the role of women and young people, providing adequate mental health resources, especially for the prevention of radicalization**

**to violence, and investing in developing community resilience are key to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.**

**Civil society insights are invaluable in better understanding the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism and effective ways to address them, at both national and local levels. Our round-table series and publications on “Civil Society Perspectives” continue to bring together grass-roots organizations addressing terrorism in their communities to harness their expertise and highlight good practices, ongoing challenges, and recommendations.**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**Terrorism continues to evolve and undergo changes.**

**The varying drivers of terrorism create additional challenges, which can only be fully understood through empirical research, knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices.**

**It goes without saying that capacity-building is also another key aspect that should be enhanced for Member States in need, in their legislation, institution and operation.**

**Against the backdrop of these ongoing and developing challenges, multilateralism is more important than ever.**

**In my new capacity as Executive Director of CTED I want to reiterate that CTED stands ready to fulfil those roles – working with our numerous partners to ensure a holistic, global, and coordinated response.**

*Thank you.*