



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

PRESS RELEASE

Counter-Terrorism Committee conducts first assessment visit to Benin

New York, 4 April 2023 – Acting on behalf of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, its Executive Directorate (CTED) conducted its [first country assessment visit to the Republic of Benin](#) from 13 to 17 March 2023. The visit concluded the Committee’s hybrid assessment of Benin, following a visit in July 2021 conducted virtually due to travel restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The assessment covered all relevant Security Council resolutions, including [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), and [2396 \(2017\)](#), and included engagement with the Government of Benin.

The delegation – led by the CTED Chief of Section for Africa and including other CTED experts as well as representatives of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money-Laundering in West Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel – conducted on-site visits to the Akpro-Misséréké Prison, the Cardinal Bernardin Gantin Airport in Cotonou, the Port of Cotonou, the seat of the Court for the Repression of Economic Crimes and Terrorism, the Laboratory of the Technical and Scientific Police Service and the investigation laboratory of the Agency of Computer and Digital Systems. In accordance with Security Council resolution [2617 \(2021\)](#), the delegation met with representatives of civil society organizations to discuss measures taken by Benin in the area of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE) conducive to terrorism as well as the impact of Benin’s counter-terrorism measures on human rights.

Thematic areas covered during the visit included counter-terrorism legislation, criminal justice, and international cooperation in criminal matters; anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of terrorism; law enforcement; border management, including aviation and maritime security; and CVE conducive to terrorism. In accordance with the practice followed for the Committee’s previous visits, the discussions also included the gender dimension and the roles of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Vijai Singh-Persaud, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED),
vijai.singh@un.org

Background

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee** 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), in which the Council 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. Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of the Committee on 30 January 2023.

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.

Natalia Gherman was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate by Secretary-General António Guterres on 2 December 2022. Ms. Gherman took up her functions on 1 March 2023.