

Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Monday, 4 November 2021

Statement of

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx,
Executive Director, CTED**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

I am honoured to address you all at today’s special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee.

Twenty years ago, in the aftermath of the “9/11” terrorist attacks, the international community united in its rejection of terrorism, and the Security Council took the courageous step in its resolution 1373.

Since then, the Council has adopted a number of successor resolutions aimed at assisting Member States to address specific areas of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Resolution 1373 continues to serve as the foundation of the global counter-terrorism framework.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

And it continues to provide critical impetus and guidance for Member States in their efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to address the terrorist threat multilaterally and in a comprehensive and coordinated manner — not least in order to ensure accountability and justice for all victims of terrorism.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished participants,

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (or “CTED”) was established by Council resolution 1535 (2004) as a special political mission to support the Committee in its work.

The Committee’s special meeting and the review process leading up to CTED’s mandate renewal at the end of this year have provided a good opportunity for us to take stock of our activities in support of the Committee in its four pillar workstreams, which are:

- **Monitoring Member States’ implementation of the relevant Council resolutions;**
- **Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance for capacity-building;**
- **Promoting Council and Committee policy guidelines; international codes and standards; and effective practices; and**
- **Analysing new and emerging trends, threats and challenges and bringing them to the attention of the Council and the Committee.**

I am proud to lead a strong CTED team that is dedicated to deliver on these workstreams.

Allow me to highlight just a few aspects of our work.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

First, on monitoring Member States' implementation of the relevant Council resolutions.

In order to assess Member States' efforts, CTED conducts country assessment visits on behalf of the Committee.

Country visits provide a useful vehicle for direct engagement and dialogue between the Committee, CTED and Member States and are a critical component of the Committee's assessment role.

Since 2005, CTED has visited 117 Member States and completed a total of 181 comprehensive, focused, regional and follow-up visits.

The Council's policy guidance and the Committee's updated visit framework and temporary procedures for conducting hybrid country visits have enabled CTED to ensure business continuity and address the evolving terrorist landscape throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, our recently upgraded electronic desk review and stocktaking tools will help ensure that we continue to maintain an accurate global picture of Member States' implementation efforts on the basis of substantial qualitative and quantitative data.

We also have our two flagship products: the Global survey of States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions, and the Global survey of States' implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

CTED representatives will be making presentations later this morning on our global analysis of implementation of these and other Security Council resolutions by

Member States' analysis the advance outcomes of the two surveys, highlighting the progress made and the remaining challenges.

Second, on facilitating the delivery of technical assistance.

Member States are obligated to take effective measures to meet the requirements of the Council resolutions, but the international community also has a responsibility to assist them in their endeavours.

In facilitating assistance delivery, CTED has established strong partnerships with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, other specialized UN agencies, and international and regional organizations, including through the system-wide UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

The Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform currently contains 23 reports of the Committee on its visits to States that have given their consent to a full or partial release of the report and high priority technical assistance needs.

CTED continues to encourage Member States to share their reports and implementing partners to make full use of the available data in their designing, programming and funding of capacity-building projects and activities.

I also maintain regular contact with Under-Secretary-General Voronkov of UNOCT, UN Resident Coordinators, SRSGs, and donor States, along with many other operational partners, in order to ensure timely information sharing, coordinated efforts, and tangible impact on the ground.

Third, CTED promotes a broad range of policy guidance and papers developed by the Council and the Committee to assist Member States to address evolving terrorist

threats and challenges, including the *2015 Madrid Guiding Principles* and their *2018 Addendum*, as well as the international standards, codes and effective practices developed by numerous specialized organizations, including, inter alia, ICAO, WCO, IMO, INTERPOL and FATF.

CTED's *Technical guide to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other resolutions* also serves as a useful reference for Member States in their implementation efforts.

CTED's collaborations with member entities of the Global Coordination Compact have resulted in the publication of a number of compendiums on good practices in a number of areas, including the responsible use of biometrics, the protection of critical infrastructure, and battlefield-evidence collection.

Fourth, CTED continues to analyse new and emerging trends, threats and challenges to assist the Council and the Committee to address the evolving terrorism landscape.

The Committee's recent open meeting with the member entities of its Global Research Network entities provided further evidence of the added value of the work of the Committee and CTED in bringing new trends, challenges and ideas to the attention of the Committee and the Council.

CTED also routinely publishes *Trends reports* on emerging threats, including three reports on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global counter-terrorism efforts.

The June 2021 report outlines how the setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undermine some of the progress achieved over the past two decades.

In all our endeavours, we remain committed to upholding core values and our obligations under international law.

Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals.

Rather, they are both essential elements of successful counter-terrorism approaches.

CTED routinely integrates relevant human rights concerns into all its activities, including in its country assessments, desk review profiles, the facilitation of technical assistance, and other interactions with Member States.

I would also add that CTED has and continues to mainstream the gender dimension into all its work.

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Twenty years after the “9/11” attacks and the adoption of resolution 1373, the global terrorist threat persists and continues to evolve.

We face a number of new and significant challenges, such as new tactics and operational methods employed by terrorist groups; the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters and family members; the increasing links between transnational crime and terrorism; and the terrorist acts motivated by xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

We also face the threat posed by the misuse of ICT and other technological developments such as artificial intelligence, cryptocurrencies, and 3D printing for terrorist purposes, as well as issues relating to the roles of women and children in

terrorism, restrictions on humanitarian assistance operations, and shrinking civic space.

In all our efforts to address these challenges, we must continue to ensure full respect for, and protection of, human rights and the rule of law, while also continuing to integrate a gender- and age-sensitive approach and strengthen public-private partnerships.

And even as we recall the many heinous terrorist attacks that have occurred throughout the world over the past two decades, recent developments, including that Afghanistan, remind us that the global fight against terrorism is far from over.

As we commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and as we continue to address the rapidly evolving terrorist landscape, let us reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and to our common values and principles as enshrined in a series of adopted Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Rest assured that CTED continues to stand ready to assist Member States in their efforts to combat the global terrorist threat, acting under the policy guidance of the Committee and in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions.

Thank you.