

**Joint open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the  
1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee on**

**“ISIL in Africa: nature of threat and responses”**

*7 April 2022, 3.00 p.m.–6.00 p.m.*

**Session II: Overview of responses, progress achieved, and challenges**

**Statement**

**of**

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*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**I am pleased to make a brief presentation on behalf of CTED on such a topic of  
priority importance to our work.**

**The Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED have continued to carefully monitor  
the activities and ambitions of Da'esh in Africa.**

**And we have continued to engage with Member States to understand and support  
their responses.**

**We have noted their commitment, as well as their many successes and progress.**

**We have also noted the many challenges that remain.**

**Acting on behalf of the Committee, CTED has conducted nearly 60 assessment visits to African Member States for the past years.**

**The virtual components of the assessment visits were conducted in 2021 in accordance with a hybrid approach adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee during the COVID-19 pandemic. The physical components for the visits are being negotiated with the host governments.**

**In 2021, CTED finalized the complete cycle of stocktaking assessments for all Member States, which underpinned the publication of the updated Global survey of Member States' implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions and our updated Global survey of States' implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).**

**The Global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) includes two spotlights on Africa, focusing on the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin — two regions in which Da'esh is active.**

**Because Africa is such a large continent, terrorism trends and threats are diverse and contexts differ greatly.**

**We have made some key analytical observations.**

**In several States of the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin region (but also in Somalia and, more recently, in Mozambique) the military have been at the forefront of counter-terrorism efforts.**

**The G5 Sahel Joint Force, the Multinational Joint Task Force, AMISOM, and the SADC Mission in Mozambique are multilateral military operations which seek to**

**coordinate actions against those terrorist groups and elements which do not stop at national borders, and indeed thrives in porous frontier zones.**

**In those areas, civilian law enforcement entities are often inadequately equipped.**

**In many cases, no such entities are present.**

**It is clear that a military response alone will not be sufficient to address conditions conducive to terrorism or the impacts of terrorism, which has traumatized societies in Africa for so many years.**

**We must also further strengthen our efforts to prevent terrorism; address the enablers of recruitment, terrorism financing, and the proliferation of weapons; enhance border security; bring terrorists to justice; rehabilitate and reintegrate former terrorists; and support those affected by terrorism.**

**Many African States face the significant challenge of handling alleged terrorists who are captured or who surrender.**

**How are the authorities to determine which approach is most appropriate?**

**How are such individuals to be screened, investigated, and prosecuted while also ensuring respect for due process and fair trial, if the military has not collected evidence or cooperated effectively with the criminal justice authorities?**

**Here, I would draw your attention to the “United Nations Guidelines to facilitate the use and admissibility as evidence in national criminal courts of information collected, handled, preserved and shared by the military to prosecute terrorist offences”, which**

were developed within the framework of a CTED-led UN Global Coordination Compact project.

Although significant hurdles remain, we have observed the progress made in this area by the States of the Sahel.

A further major challenge — especially in the Lake Chad Basin Region — is to determine how to promote the surrender of members and associates of Da'esh in West Africa Province and Boko Haram in order to degrade the capacity of those groups while also ensuring the protection of vulnerable communities and victims.

If the need to secure justice — including for victims — is not adequately and holistically addressed, overly expedient approaches aimed solely at achieving a rapid cessation of hostilities could conflict with longer-term efforts to achieve sustainable peace and reconciliation.

The Security Council has called for a comprehensive approach to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, which reinforces the rule of law, takes justice into account, and recognizes the impact of terrorism on victims and communities.

The past eight months have brought a massive wave of apparent defections from Boko Haram, caused by the death of its leader, at the hands of ISWAP.

The States concerned must find ways to address the significant opportunities and risks that this development represents.

The Governments concerned could seize this opportunity to rebuild and to rehabilitate the individuals concerned.

**In the first instance, it is necessary to decide whether prosecution of the individuals concerned is appropriate.**

**Such decisions of course depend on the availability of sufficient information.**

**And the sustainability of such efforts depends on having a system in place to safeguard the rights of all persons affected, ranging from the accused to the victims.**

**Moreover, the processing of thousands of individuals through justice systems with extremely limited resources has proven to be very difficult.**

**And the rehabilitation and reintegration programmes currently under way must be significantly scaled up in order to be effective.**

**Communities that remain under threat but are not supported and are deprived of justice are not well positioned to move forward.**

**Those are just two of the considerable challenges that confront States in this area.**

**Rebuilding and strengthening the resilience of societies that are still being targeted by Da'esh will require significant efforts in many areas.**

**A comprehensive approach to countering terrorism encompasses a full range of efforts, including countering the financing of terrorism while also facilitating economic growth; secure borders while also facilitating freedom of movement and access to livelihoods; controlling the proliferation of arms and ammunition without compromising safety; and securing justice for terrorist crimes while also encouraging reconciliation efforts.**

**It also requires addressing conditions conducive to terrorism, including underlying grievances, intercommunal conflict and climate shocks; as well as continued efforts to counter terrorist narratives and recruitment to terrorism.**

**We must also ensure respect for human rights and for the need to promote development, trust, and transparency.**

**CTED is pleased to learn about the continued efforts of Member States to address these many complex challenges and remains committed to working closely with its partners to assist them in those efforts, acting in accordance with the “One-UN” approach.**

**This second session of the briefing, which is focused on the responses to the threat, will hopefully enable us to take away concrete ideas for action and to translate them into progress where it is needed.**

*Thank you.*