

Draft concept note

**Open meeting with Research Network partners
on “Foreign Terrorist Fighters”**

New York, 24 November 2015

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 2129 (2013), the Security Council directs the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to identify emerging issues, trends and developments relating to Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) and to advise the Committee on practical ways for Member States to implement the resolutions. Paragraph 19 of the resolution invites CTED to support the Committee’s efforts to promote the implementation of the two resolutions by enhancing its partnerships with civil society, academia and other entities in conducting research and information-gathering and in identifying good practices.
2. In February 2015, the Committee, assisted by CTED, launched a Global Network of Research Partners from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the Americas and Oceania. The participants in the launch event decided to establish a framework of follow-up meetings between CTED and its research partners on relevant counter-terrorism topics.
3. During the Committee’s special meeting on “Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, held in Madrid in July 2015 in accordance with Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), the participants identified a number of areas and topics that required further research and reflection.

II. Objectives and topics

4. The goal of the open meeting is thus to enable the Committee, CTED and Network partners to analyse and discuss emerging issues, trends and developments relating to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) and to build on research gaps identified during the special meeting, with a view to identifying priority areas of work, with respect in particular to the implementation of resolution 2178 (2014).
5. The presentations and discussions will focus on two topics:
 1. *The motivations and backgrounds of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)*. During the Committee’s special meeting, the participants stressed the need to strengthen research on the motivations and backgrounds of individuals who travel to zones of armed conflict for terrorist purposes and on how those factors differed from Member State to Member State and from region to region. It was stressed that a thorough understanding of FTFs’ motivations and backgrounds was a prerequisite for designing effective preventive strategies.
 2. *Rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning FTFs*. Paragraph 4 of resolution 2178 (2014) “[c]alls upon all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by [...] developing and implementing

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters”. During the special meeting, participants noted that a number of areas relating to returnees were under-researched and required further attention. Those areas included, in particular, the rehabilitation and reintegration of young and female FTFs, the risks posed by returnees, and their motivation for returning.

III. Format, date and venue

6. CTED proposes that a half-day open meeting be held on Tuesday, 24 November 2015 in Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York. The open meeting will include a panel of experts representing Network partners and will consist of an opening session, two thematic sessions focusing on the above topics, an interaction discussion, and a closing session. The meeting will be open to the wider membership.

7. CTED will propose a list of panellists, based on the expertise and current research focus of Network partners.

IV. Outcome

8. CTED will draft a summary of the presentations and discussions, which will be posted on the Committee’s website.