

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

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

*(draft)* Statement of  
**H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee**

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

*[1373 as a landmark resolution]*

The Security Council's adoption of its resolution 1373, 20 years ago, was a landmark in addressing the grave threat of terrorism to international peace and security.

The Security Council unanimously condemned the heinous terrorist attacks committed by al-Qa'ida on 11 September 2001, and reaffirmed the need to combat such threats caused by terrorist acts, by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council also decided that *all* Member States should act together against the threat posed by terrorism by taking a wide range of measures — legal, institutional and operational — in the areas of terrorism financing, criminal justice, border management, and international cooperation.

Resolution 1373 also established the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which is tasked with monitoring, promoting and facilitating Member States' implementation of those measures.

In 2004, the Council established its Executive Directorate (CTED) to support the Committee in its work.

**The Council has since gone a long way in its endeavours to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It has reaffirmed that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.**

**The Council has further reaffirmed that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.**

**The Council has also underlined the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and recognized that a comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to defeating terrorism requires national, regional, subregional and multilateral action.**

*[Evolving terrorism landscape]*

**The devastation brought by terrorist attacks around the world has resulted in countless lives lost and immeasurable suffering caused to individuals, communities and societies.**

**When we consider the nature of the terrorist threats we currently face, it is clear that much has changed in the intervening 20 years.**

**In particular, the nature of terrorist organizations and the methods that they use have evolved in significant ways.**

**We saw ISIL gain control of large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria; conduct scores of brutal attacks in the region and beyond; employ systematic sexual and gender based violence and trafficking in persons; exploit natural resources, smuggle drugs, cultural property, gold and other precious metals and stones, misuse of cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, to finance its activities; and recruit tens of thousands of individuals, including foreign terrorist fighters.**

**ISIL's military defeat and loss of territory in the Middle East changed the threat posed by that group, but did not eliminate it.**

**States remain today faced with many complex challenges, including threats posed by al-Qa'ida, ISIS, their affiliates, and foreign terrorist fighters, by the increase of terrorist attacks and of the emerging transnational nature of terrorism on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, , or in the name of religion or belief, and by the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes. The recent developments in Afghanistan have also raised concerns regarding the terrorist threat in the country and in the region. The full implementation of UNSC resolution 2593 is imperative in this regard.**

**The changes in the nature and underlying narratives of terrorist groups have also been accompanied by significant tactical changes.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has also created new opportunities for terrorist groups to exploit.**

**The Security Council has continued to adapt its approach in responding to these many changes, new challenges, and evolving threats.**

**The fundamental global counter-terrorism framework established by resolution 1373 has been built upon, expanded, elaborated and refined in response to the changing threat landscape through the adoption of more than 20 further Council resolutions and other key policy documents.**

**The Council resolutions have now addressed multiple dimensions of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including aviation security; protection of critical infrastructure; preventing terrorists' access to small arms and light weapons; the use of biometrics; the impact of gender on terrorism and counter-terrorism; prevention of the propagation of terrorist narratives in prisons and detention facilities; and, as appropriate, strategies for the prosecution of terrorist, including foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and rehabilitation and reintegration of their associated family members from Syria and Iraq.**

**In this regard, the Counter-Terrorism Committee has undertaken its mandated mission to ensure that all such issues are addressed in its work.**

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**Amid these many changes, implementation of the counter-terrorism framework developed by the Security Council requires — and has in practice involved — action that is truly multilateral.**

**This is true both of the way in which the framework has developed since 2001 and also of the ways in which its implementation has been monitored, promoted and facilitated by the Committee.**

**The Committee is at the forefront of monitoring the performance of Member States, by conducting through CTED, country assessment visits. Since 2005, 181 visits have been conducted by CTED on behalf of the Committee to 117 Member States**

**Those visits have provided visited Member States with opportunity for in-depth dialogue to learn about their experiences, progress, strengths, good practices in implementing the relevant Council resolutions and related international standards, as well as to identify new and emerging terrorism trends, challenges and areas in which the visited State may benefit from receiving technical assistance.**

**The stocktaking exercise of the Committee, has also enabled it and CTED to establish good understanding of the counter-terrorism profile of all Member States. The Committee has launched the e-DIS and updated OIA to ensure thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in its continued stocktaking process.**

**The Committee, with the support of CTED, has also stepped up its efforts in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance and follow-ups to the visits, including through strengthened coordination with UNOCT and enhanced follow up with visited Member States**

**Furthermore, the Committee has undertaken efforts to promote a series of policy guidelines and documents to assist Member States to address terrorism and CVE, such**

as in the Madrid Guiding Principles and its Addendum, CTED technical guides and the Global Implementation Surveys.

The Committee has also arranged, on a regular basis, special meetings, open and closed briefings and other events with Member States and international and regional organizations on issues of common and current concern with a view to maximizing the impact of the relevant resolutions and sustaining the commitment of the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Partnership, collaboration and cooperation with other Security Council subsidiary bodies such as 1267/1989/2253 and 1540 Committees and their experts' groups, as well as relevant UN entities and international organizations are essential in the collective efforts to tackle the challenges of terrorism. The Committee has also had active engagement with regional and subregional organizations and entities, as well as with civil society, the private sector, academia and other non-governmental actors.

The Committee has in particular taken steps to ensure that the gender perspective, respect for human rights, and the rule of law constitute essential components of Member States' efforts in counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and will continue to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to better understand these challenges and identify and promote the sharing of good practices.

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

The special meeting today will enable all of us to reflect upon what we have done, where we have achieved and how we may do even better.

There remain questions where we need to exchange views and thoughts, seek answers and solutions:

How can we be equipped to better adapt and to meet new terrorism trends and challenges?

How can we ensure an inclusive and comprehensive approach and engage all sectors of the society?

**How can we work better under the “all-of-UN” approach and ensure impactful deliverables for capacity-building and with sustainability?**

**How can we contribute to the effective implementation of Council resolutions and the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?**

**How can we make a world better and safer for all through multilateral efforts and for maintaining peace and security, achieving development and promoting and protecting of human rights?**

**I look forward to a productive series of discussions today.**

*Thank you.*