

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

**Security Council briefing on**

**“Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”**

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**Statement of**

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**United Nations Security Council**

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

*Mr. President,*

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

**Allow me to begin by thanking the Ethiopian Presidency and the Russian Federation for supporting the inclusion of this topic on the Council’s agenda and for inviting CTED to address the Council.**

**On behalf of CTED, I also wish to welcome the recent reforms introduced by the Secretary-General and to congratulate Under-Secretary-General Voronkov on his appointment as head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.**

**CTED looks forward to strengthening its partnership with the Under-Secretary-General and his Office, including through the working groups of the counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.**

*Mr. President,*

**These are not ordinary times.**

**Terrorism today affects every region of the world and every Member State.**

**And no single country can claim to be invulnerable to it.**

**As you are aware, CTED has been tasked since its inception with providing the Counter-Terrorism Committee with neutral and independent expert assessments of Member States' implementation of Council resolutions on terrorism.**

**And one of the principal tools used in the assessment process is the country visit — a highly collaborative process that involves experts from many partner organizations.**

**The visits are designed to help Member States develop an effective road map, while also avoiding duplication of effort.**

**Our assessments bring to the attention of the CTC, the Council and all our partners in New York and in the field the most updated and objective assessment of Member States' counter-terrorism situation and needs.**

**They also serve as a practical way to discuss current trends with national experts and to advise Member States on developing and implementing comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies.**

**Since the beginning of this year, CTED has visited 16 States: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.**

**Seven further visits are scheduled for the remainder of the year - more than in any other equivalent period since the Committee's creation in 2001.**

**CTED has now conducted 133 visits to 96 Member States — including 45 since its previous review.**

**Much has been accomplished through this process since the adoption of resolution 1373.**

**New national and regional laws have been enacted, new institutions established, and capacities strengthened.**

**This progress reflects not only the impact of resolution 1373, but also the determined efforts of Member States to comply with their international obligations.**

**And yet, many States still do not have all counter-terrorism measures in place.**

**Moreover, many CTC recommendations still await action by States, including States visited more than once.**

**As you are aware, the recommendations are usually divided into two categories: those that require technical assistance for their implementation and those that do not.**

**Over the years, many of our partners have delivered technical assistance on the basis of the Committee's recommendations or integrated them into their work programmes.**

**However, the Committee's recommendations could be acted upon more rapidly and more widely.**

**The establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism with a strong mandate on PVE and capacity-building provides an opportunity to strengthen the links and shorten the time period between our assessments and the delivery of assistance.**

**We look forward to discussing the issue with USG Voronkov and his Office.**

**Regardless of these efforts, we should avoid any perception that technical assistance delivery is a precondition for implementing binding Council resolutions.**

**The Council may wish to consider ways to encourage States to implement CTC recommendations – especially in cases where technical assistance is not the reason for the lack of implementation or when States are visited more than once.**

***Mr. President,***

**The Council has adopted six new resolutions on terrorism in a short period of time.**

**CTED has in many cases contributed to their elaboration.**

**One notable example is CTED's development of the comprehensive framework on counter-narratives which served as a foundation for resolution 2354.**

**CTED relying on its thematic expertise will continue to advise the CTC on the implementation of these resolutions as required under its mandate "to advise the CTC on practical ways for Member States to implement" relevant Security Council resolutions.**

**CTED will also work with its partners – including ICAO, INTERPOL and UNODC - on their promotion.**

**It will also continue to integrate them into its work streams and identify gaps and challenges, as well as practical ways for Member States to overcome them.**

**In this regard, I would note that CTED recently updated the Technical Guide to the implementation of Council resolutions on terrorism.**

**The Guide serves to strengthen and deepen CTC assessments and helps Member States prepare for them.**

**Since last week it has been available for download in English on the CTC website.**

**The new resolutions require that CTED prepare analytical and in-depth assessments and reports in a wide variety of thematic areas that require new and constantly developed expertise.**

**New areas include, inter alia, foreign terrorist fighters, the use of digital evidence and battlefield evidence, new border-control measures (including advance passenger information and biometrics), the use of internet by terrorists, the situation of vulnerable young people, and the role of women.**

**It is essential that all UN bodies benefit from this assessment and analysis.**

**It is CTED's hope that the OCT will make full use of CTED's analysis and expertise in its work to build States' capacities.**

**Let me be clear, most CTED work products — including in particular its thematic and regional analysis — are not confidential.**

**As demonstrated in the multiple open briefings it held including meetings held on Iraq, financing of terrorism or challenges in international cooperation, CTED can share and does share its work.**

**Since its last review CTED is also mandated to identify emerging issues, trends and developments related to its resolutions and to advise the CTC on practical ways for Member States to implement these resolutions**

**Our cooperation with the Monitoring Team of the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, and the joint drafting of five Secretary-General's reports required under resolution 2253 (2015) on the threat from ISIL and member states response as well as periodical exchanges between the two bodies allowed us to gain valuable analysis of the threat and Member States' responses.**

**We are thankful to the team and the Committee for this cooperation.**

**CTED also strengthens its capacity to identify new and emerging trends, and developments including through its Global Research Network.**

**Through its enhanced research capacity, CTED is able to provide the CTC with research-based advice on a range of issues, from prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and protection of critical infrastructure to the effectiveness of counter-messaging.**

**CTED also takes great care to ensure that identified trends and developments are thoroughly and consistently integrated into its assessments and analysis.**

**CTED analysis of trends and developments is also free of confidentiality requirements.**

**We need to explore ways to ensure that the entire UN system benefits from CTED analysis – which is probably the most updated and comprehensive research-based analysis in the UN system on counter-terrorism trends and developments.**

*Mr. President,*

**Over the last 12 months, CTED has organized four open briefings and four special meetings on behalf of the CTC.**

**These meetings and briefings serve several important purposes:**

**Firstly, they bring transparency to the Committee's work.**

**On numerous occasions, Member States — notably States not serving on the Council — have thanked CTED for these meetings and expressed a strong wish that they be continued.**

**Secondly, they enable the CTC to identify new and emerging trends and developments and forge new partnerships with IROs, civil society and private-sector actors.**

**The meeting held yesterday on aviation security is one example and so is the recent establishment of the Global Internet Forum and its partnership with the CTC.**

**The meetings enable the CTC to promote the relevant Council resolutions, as well as practical, human rights-compliant ways to implement them.**

**Lastly, they play an important role in policy formulation by encouraging feedback from States, experts, academia and civil society concerning issues on the Committee's agenda.**

**This helps ensure that CTC policy is comprehensive, inclusive, and responsive to the current threat environment.**

**The meetings and briefings have more than once paved the way for the adoption of new CTC policies and even new Council resolutions. SC resolution 2370, on SALW, is a good example of the effectiveness of this practice and its role in supporting policy formulation and promotion at the CTC and at the Council.**

**CTED remains committed to working constructively with all its partners in its work to assess implementation, facilitate technical assistance delivery, identify trends and good practices, and support and promote the policy decisions of the Committee and the resolutions of the Council.**

**However, these tasks are also stretching our capacity and resources to the maximum.**

**It is therefore CTED's hope that the Council will provide it with the resources required to fulfil its significantly expanded mandate.**

**The incoming CTED Executive Director, Ms. Michele Coninsx, will submit a report to the CTC setting out CTED's vision of how the CTC and the Council can maximize CTED impact.**



*Mr. President,*

**Together, we have achieved a great deal since the adoption of resolution 1373, in 2001.**

**However, the terrorist threat continues to evolve at an alarming pace.**

**And terrorist organizations continue to demonstrate flexibility and the capacity to quickly adapt their operational methods and strategies.**

**They are also particularly adept at exploiting new technologies — whether to spread their messages; recruit new members; or finance, plan and perpetrate attacks.**

**More than ever before, the Committee needs a dynamic, agile and responsive body of experts to support and promote its work.**

**CTED will continue to do its utmost to fulfil that role, and is honoured to serve this cause.**

*Thank you.*