

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

**Quarterly Briefing of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to Member States**  
*Monday, 11 December 2023*

**Statement of  
Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman,  
Executive Director of CTED**

*Distinguished participants,*

**The global terrorism threat remains serious with the majority of terrorist acts continuing to occur in areas affected by conflict.**

**The Sahel and sub-Saharan regions in Africa have emerged as epicentres of terrorist activity with highest lethality.**

**In Iraq, and the Syrian Arab Republic, Da'esh continues to carry out insurgent activities and mount attacks.**

**In Afghanistan, activities of Da'esh persist to pose a significant threat throughout the Central and South Asia region.**

**Although there has been a shift in terrorists' geographical core, the impact of terrorism is compounded by environmental crises, poverty,**

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**weak governance and human rights abuses, allowing groups to exploit these local grievances.**

**Of additional concern is the growing number of lone actors, including self-radicalized individuals, carrying out attacks without direct affiliation to a terrorist organization or movement.**

**As such, the current terrorism landscape is characterized by a transnational and unpredictable threat environment, which is expected to become more diverse and fragmented, including through the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.**

**CTED, under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, has continued to engage with Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations to address those threats and challenges in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions on terrorism.**

**In doing so, I wish to highlight a few key activities:**

**On behalf of the Committee, CTED has thus far conducted 8 assessment visits to Member States in 2023, including Canada,**

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**Jordan, Benin, Spain, the Republic of Korea, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ecuador.**

**The visits have continued to provide an effective mechanism for constructive engagement and ongoing dialogue between the Committee, CTED, and Member States.**

**CTED also continues to raise awareness of the Security Council, the Committee and Member States concerning emerging terrorism trends and threats.**

**With the generous support of the Government of Switzerland, CTED launched its report “Towards meaningful accountability for sexual and gender-based violence linked to terrorism”, aiming to support Member States’ efforts to advance accountability for these types of crimes.**

**Today - on the margins of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights - CTED launched a trends tracker dedicated to human rights.**

**This publication provides an overview of the Committee’s evolving focus on human rights and identifies trends in Member States’**

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**implementation of respecting human rights while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.**

**Later this year, CTED will also issue an analytical brief on “Ways to further strengthen public private partnerships on countering the financing of terrorism”.**

**Finally, following the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, CTED continues to work closely with the Committee to develop a set of non-binding guiding principles aimed to assist Member States to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes in a holistic and comprehensive manner, in particular in the areas of ICT, terrorism financing, and unmanned aircraft systems.**

**In closing, I wish to reiterate CTED’s commitment to support Member States, advancing our collective efforts to counter terrorism.**

***Thank you.***