

Open briefing of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to Member States

Wednesday, 13 December 2017, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Conference Room 2, 10.00 a.m.

Statement of

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Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for inviting me here today.

As you are aware, CTED is a close partner of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and continues to work within the CTITF Framework as Chair or co-Chair of its working groups on areas that fall within its mandate and scope of expertise.

As one of the key entities within the CTITF Framework,, CTED has also supported the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with its three distinctive capability, namely, assessment, analysis and expertise. Our work covers three primary areas:

- (i) monitoring and assessment of Member States' implementation of the relevant Council resolutions on terrorism;**
- (ii) facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to Member States;**
- (iii) analysis and identification of challenges, gaps and trends in the global terrorist threat and promotion of effective counter-terrorism practices.**

The CTITF Working Group model aligns strategically to these areas of our work and helps ensure that our assessments and recommendations are effectively aligned with both the capacities and programmes of our implementing partners and with Member States' needs.

Regular and close interaction with the Office of Counter-Terrorism is also essential. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and I have established a strong cooperative relationship, and our two teams are having consultations on a regular basis. We continue to explore ways to further enhance our interaction.

Allow me to share a few brief highlights of our work within the CTITF Framework:

As Chair of the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement related to Counter Terrorism, CTED joins in the efforts of specialized international organizations and UN entities working in these areas.

The Group has made notable progress in assisting States within the framework of the Airport Communication Programme, or “AIRCOP”, as well as in promoting States’ implementation advance passenger information systems in accordance with resolution 2178.

In 2018, the Group will move to the implementation phase of our joint project on biometrics, which aims to develop a compendium of existing good practices and recommended principles and guidelines for the responsible use of biometrics.

The group will closely follow the implementation of SC resolutions 2309, 2322 and 2370 and related developments regarding resolution 2341 on protection of critical infrastructure.

As co-Chair of the Working Group on National and Regional Strategies, CTED works with its partners to support the development of comprehensive and holistic responses to terrorism that involve multiple stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector.

The development of national comprehensive and integrated strategies has become increasingly important as terrorists increasingly turn to online recruitment tools in an effort to bypass law enforcement and border-control measures.

It should be recalled that, in promoting the development of such strategies, Security Council resolutions 1963 and 2129 are aligned with Pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

CTED has designed a project for the OCT to finance the appointment of counter-terrorism advisors in capitals of Member States that have asked for support in the development of such strategies.

We anticipate that we shall be able to assist several priority Member States in this area during the coming year.

As co-Chair of the Working Group on Legal and Criminal Justice, we have notably partnered with Working Group members to secure UNCCT seed funding and additional funding support for two flagship projects:

- i. A large multiyear project on addressing Violent Extremism in Prisons (VEP);**
- ii. A project on the role of military actors in collecting and sharing evidence with the aim of ending impunity for terrorist suspects.**

As co-Chair of the Working Group on Strategic Communications, CTED is working with its partners to develop an “All-of-UN” strategy for communicating UN programmes to counter terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization.

In this regard, CTED and the co-Chairs will implement a UNCCT-funded project aimed at producing a written compilation of good practices in countering terrorist narratives.

A second project will support the Council's request, in its resolution 2354, to "contribute to efforts of the United Nations and its departments and agencies to develop models for effectively countering terrorist narratives, both online and offline".

As co-Chair of the interagency Working Group on Gender established this year, CTED is working closely with UN Women and the members to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue as outlined in resolution 2242 and reflective of the Member States' review of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy last year, in which gender was flagged as a key issue.

CTED is also actively engaged in the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and will continue to fully support its activities, including the planned training activities under the joint OCT-OHCHR project on capacity-building for law enforcement officials, as well as the development of guidance documents on human rights-compliant counter-terrorism measures.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming the priority that we attach to our engagement with the OCT, including through our work as part of the CTITF Working Groups.

CTED looks forward to working with all of you to further strengthen our cooperation in combating the global terrorism threat.

Thank you.