

Virtual launch event

CTED study on “The interrelationship between counter-terrorism frameworks and international humanitarian law”

Thursday, 20 January 2022, 10.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. EST

Draft concept note

I. Context

1. The number of armed groups designated as terrorist organizations engaged in non-international armed conflicts has increased in recent years, thereby confronting Member States with a number of challenges related to devising and implementing measures aimed at preventing and countering terrorism in an armed-conflict context.

2. Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism consistently require Member States to implement counter-terrorism measures in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law. In its relevant resolutions, the Council also reaffirms that those responsible for terrorist acts and for violations of international humanitarian law or violations or abuses of human rights must be held accountable.

3. Council resolutions 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) delve further into the interrelationship between counter-terrorism and international humanitarian law by addressing the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action and by urging States to take into account the potential effect of measures aimed at countering terrorism, including its financing, on “exclusively humanitarian activities, including medical activities, that are carried out by impartial humanitarian actors in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law”.

4. Within the framework of its efforts to analyse emerging issues, trends and developments in accordance with Security Council resolution 2617 (2021) and other relevant Council resolutions, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has prepared a study on “The interrelationship between counter-terrorism frameworks and international humanitarian law”, which builds on CTED’s engagement with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including in the context of the country assessment visits conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The study also benefits from a contribution by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which provided an anonymized analysis and synthesis of information collected from the humanitarian community on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian operations conducted in situations of armed conflict where

terrorist groups are active. The study has been made possible through funding provided by Switzerland.

5. The study maps the references to international humanitarian law contained in Council resolutions addressing threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. Based on that mapping, the study explores (without seeking to provide an exhaustive analysis) two pertinent issues that are repeatedly addressed in the relevant resolutions: (i) the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action carried out in armed conflict contexts in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law; and (ii) the linkages between terrorism and serious violations of international humanitarian law, with a view to promoting comprehensive accountability for terrorist conduct.

II. Objective

6. The study will be launched at a virtual event to be held on Thursday, 20 January 2022, during which participants will discuss issues relating to the intersection between counter-terrorism frameworks and international humanitarian law and ways to support Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism in compliance with international humanitarian law.

7. Panellists will explore existing practices, challenges and policy options relating to States' efforts to take into account the potential effects of counter-terrorism measures on exclusively humanitarian activities carried out by impartial humanitarian actors in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law. They will also address ways in which addressing the acts of terrorist groups through the prism of counter-terrorism frameworks, as well as that of international humanitarian and international criminal law, can support a more comprehensive approach to accountability.

III. Format

8. The launch event will be held in English and streamed live via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 20 January 2022, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. EST. No interpretation services will be available. The event will be recorded.

9. Those wishing to attend the event are requested to complete [this form](#) by 4.00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, 19 January 2022.

10. An email with log-in details will be provided on Wednesday, 19 January 2022.