

Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

2023 Counter-Terrorism Week Side Event

Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m., EST

Closing Remarks of

Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman

Executive Director

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

**“Innovative Practices in the Implementation of National Counter-Terrorism
and Prevention of Violent Extremist Policies:
Examples from Kenya and Kyrgyzstan Devolved PCVE Model &
Kyrgyzstan’s National Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism”**

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

**It has been my pleasure to join you for this important side event,
and I would like to express my gratitude to the Governments of
Kenya and Kyrgyzstan for inviting me. I am confident we have all
benefited from the rich discussion that has taken place here today.**

**From our perspective at CTED, working in support of the Security
Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee, we are convinced that the
subject of today’s discussion is an essential part of an effective
approach to countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive
to terrorism.**

Promoting dialogue at all levels of society, including the grassroots level, through national CT and PCVE strategies is absolutely critical to understanding the conditions conducive to these threats. It is also necessary to identifying solutions that are practical and that respond to the very real concerns and needs of local communities.

CTED has had a long and dynamic history of engaging with Kenya on these matters, starting with regional and national workshops on CVE and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 going all the way back to 2011.

Our last visit to Kenya on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was in 2016. At that time, the Committee commended Kenya for its innovative national CVE strategy -- at a time when few countries had such strategies – and we noted the emphasis on devolving CVE discussions from the national to the county level in Kenya.

***[Mr. Ambassador]* Your country's work in this area has set a wonderful example for the world on how national CVE strategies can translate into real action and truly become inclusive, welcoming the inputs of local civil society organizations, young people, religious leaders and other actors.**

Kyrgyzstan has also been a global leader in demonstrating a “whole-of-government” and “whole-of society” approach to countering the terrorism and violent extremism threats.

In 2019, when CTED conducted its second follow-up assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan on behalf of the Committee, we commended the Government for its comprehensive national program with a detailed Action Plan that showed its commitment to taking a strategic approach. We know that Kyrgyzstan benefited from the lessons learned in the implementation of that strategy, which will now be put to use in the country’s new Programme on countering extremism and terrorism, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers for the period 2023-2027.

[Madame Ambassador] **We welcome your country’s commitment to an approach that is truly inclusive, and that recognizes the great benefits to national security that can be achieved through such inclusivity.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that we will all take the lessons and insights of today's discussion very much to heart, in our efforts in the field of counter-terrorism and CVE. What we have heard about today is not merely a collection of good theories. We have heard about real action taken by Governments to make the task of enhancing national security a truly shared mission -- one that seeks the views of all sectors of society and is committed to responding with policies that address people's concerns.

This ultimately is the path that I believe gives us hope for making progress in our collective efforts in the counter-terrorism field.

I thank you.