

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

**Launch of the Summary Findings and Recommendations  
of the Blue Sky VI Report**

*United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7*

*Wednesday, 31 May 2022, 1:15– 2:30 p.m. EDT*

**Statement of**

**Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman  
Executive Director  
CTED**

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,*

**I am pleased to be with you here today and take this opportunity to reflect on the sixth edition of the *Blue Sky* report, and on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) within the broader United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.**

**And I would like to thank the Global Center on Cooperative Security for providing this platform for engagement.**

**The biannual release of the *Blue Sky* report, coinciding with the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) review is one of the most important items on the counter-terrorism calendar at the United Nations.**

**The report provides Member States and entities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Global Coordination Compact with a critical and constructive viewpoint from which to assess, review, and strategize our collective multilateral counter-terrorism efforts now and in coming years.**

**This year's report is no exception.**

**The last GCTS review took place during a time of significant change and reform.**

**This iteration of the strategy is set to consolidate progress made in recent years, and to measure the significance of our collaborative efforts in that regard.**

And this *Blue Sky* report does much the same – taking stock of the United Nation’s counter-terrorism architecture, envisaging enhanced cooperation among Compact entities, and considering our overall impact, as “one-UN”.

Additionally, this iteration of the report provides us with a window into the experience and expertise of civil society in countering terrorism.

Civil society not only defends mechanisms for the protection of human rights in counter-terrorism policies at national and international levels, but they also offer significant evidence-based and experience-based insight into improving the effectiveness of prevention and counter-terrorism practices.

It is incumbent on us to consider these perspectives and incorporate them into our policy-making and programming at the United Nations.

Last year, the Counter-Terrorism Committee hosted a special meeting in New Delhi, which set a high-water mark for engagement with civil society.

While discussing the challenges of new and emerging technologies, including the countering of terrorist financing, information and communications technology, and the threat posed by terrorist use of unmanned aircraft systems, the Committee benefited significantly from the expertise and experiences of a broad range of civil society representatives, academics and human rights defenders.

That productive dialogue has only continued.

Tasked with developing a set of non-binding guiding principles on behalf of the Committee to address terrorists’ misuse, as well as States’ use, of new and emerging technologies, CTED has ensured a consultative and inclusive approach.

In drafting the non-binding guiding principles, CTED has sought contributions from more than 100 civil society, academic and technical partners.

Over 50 civil society organizations have contributed to the formulation of the three sets of principles and discussed the benefits and risks of new technologies.

This has taken place through virtual workshops as well as through written contributions which we are still receiving and incorporating as we continue to develop the principles.

The principles will assist Member States in countering the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, in line with international human rights standards, and will include a gender perspective.

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,*

CTED's mandate, as it is spelled out in Security Council resolutions, including most recently resolution 2617 (2021), places assessment of Member States' implementation of relevant Council resolutions at the core of our counter-terrorism efforts.

Our work ensures thorough, consistent and coherent assessments of 193 Member States.

These assessments are also complemented by CTED's expert analysis.

**In its resolution 2617 (2021), the Council notes, “the crucial role of CTED within the United Nations and its expertise in assessing counterterrorism issues and in supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counterterrorism responses”.**

**It also urges, “UNOCT and all other relevant UN bodies to take into account CTED recommendations and analysis in the implementation of their programs and mandates”.**

We have been working closely with our partners, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the Global Compact entities to provide informed and evidence-based data that could benefit Compact entities and their programming, allowing for projects and programmes to be tailored to specific needs of Member States.

However, we recognize that more needs to be done to maximize our capabilities and enhance our impact in a more meaningful way.

**The Global Compact's digital coordination platform, for example, has allowed for access to critical data in CTED assessments that will better inform the design, planning and implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes. And we work closely with our counterparts in constantly updating and improving this platform to maximize benefit.**

**Furthermore, CTED remains committed to following up on its recommendations and insights with all its Compact partners and engaging in open dialogue to better align our resources, capabilities, and impact.**

**The Security Council has underscored the importance of strong coordination and cooperation between CTED and UNOCT, as we each work within our specific mandates and distinct roles towards ensuring effective United Nations engagement with Member States to improve the implementation of the GCTS and other counter-terrorism resolutions in a balanced manner.**

**Against the backdrop of the ever-changing and ever-evolving terrorism landscape, a whole-of-UN approach is more important than ever.**

**As such, we must increase our efforts to strengthen our partnerships to develop comprehensive policy responses that address radicalization to violence, provide support to the most affected countries, and create and implement effective, coordinated, and comprehensive counter-terrorism policies, while upholding international human rights mechanisms and gender-sensitive approaches.**

**Thank you.**