

Special Meeting of the CTC Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Adoption of UNSC resolution 1373 (2001) and the Establishment of the CTC

Session II: International cooperation, including relationships with key international and regional organizations and UN bodies, highlighting steps taken and further steps required to facilitate and build Member States' capacity to counter terrorism and violent extremism

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SPEAKING POINTS

Introduction

- Madam Chair, thank you for this opportunity to contribute to your deliberations.
- This Special Meeting on the collective UN-wide CT efforts is very timely, given the GA's 7th Review of the GCTS which brought several issues to the forefront of the UN's CT agenda – and which has reaffirmed UNODC's mandates.

Evolution of the terrorism threat

- Twenty years ago, the horrors of 9/11 prompted the establishment of the CTC – but since then, the terrorism landscape has transformed drastically.
- Terrorists and their means of operations have evolved and expanded substantially over the years - as has the international community's response to them, including through the UN.
- We have seen the ramifications of an increasingly globalized world reflected in terrorists' methods of radicalization, recruitment, fundraising, and mobilization.
- And recently, even as the COVID-19 pandemic diverted the world's attention and resources, the terrorism threat continued, and in some areas terrorist strikes grew more bold and deadly.
- Therefore, the objectives of **UNSCR 1373** (2001) are as relevant today as they were 20 years ago. As is the need for UN entities to support MS implement the resolution and the GCTS, and to build resilience and capacity at the national, regional, and global levels while promoting international cooperation.

Partnerships

- While the terrorism landscape has been subject to several changes, one thing which has remained the same over the years is our shared understanding that strong partnerships - among UN bodies and regional and international organizations – offers the best chance of effectively preventing and countering terrorism.
- Of equal importance is the multi-agency cooperation with actors both within and beyond the security sector – including, civil society organizations, victims of terrorism, women and children, youth, among others. *[Also emphasized in the recent Review of the GCTS.]*
- One of the more significant developments since the adoption of UNSCR 1373 (2001) has been the establishment of formalized cooperation mechanisms such as the Global CT Coordination Compact – and OCT, to which UNODC is an active contributor.
- UNODC has built strong partners with UN bodies and regional and international organizations – while they are far too many to count, many have spanned across decades.

Partnership with CTC/CTED

- Our partnership with CTC/CTED is as long-standing as the resolution itself. Our partnership has been highly effective and fruitful.
- We have regularly exchanged expertise over the years. We have contributed to over 100 country visits. Our work with CTC/CTED has been not only complementary but also mutually reinforcing. CTC/CTED assessments have contributed to the development of our CT programming – many of which were informed by CTED-issued recommendations.
- While implementing SCR 1373, UNODC has produced these results:
 - Over 31,000 criminal justice professionals trained in terrorism prevention
 - 70 countries assisted per year, on average
 - Over 60 evidence-based tools and publications produced and used to build capacity
 - 3677 counter terrorism professionals are now registered in our online learning platform
- We have adopted a “One-UN” approach, while leveraging one another’s comparative strengths - all while working toward the same goal, and supporting MS.
- This collaboration over the years has proven to be a central pillar of the UN’s CT efforts.
- With CTED, we collaborate in many thematic areas as we develop tools and solutions for emerging terrorism challenges. Here is the most recent example:

- Since 2017, TPB and CTED have been working together under the framework of **UNODC's Global Initiative on Handling Electronic Evidence, to support MS** (1) investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorist acts; and (ii) promote international legal cooperation. Ultimately, the project enables and facilitates MS' implementation of legal obligations under UNSCR 1373 (2001).
- We developed practical tools tailored to the needs of law enforcement and judicial authorities, namely the ***Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders***.
- Together, we developed strong relationships with the private sector, service providers, MS, international, regional and sub-regional organizations.
- Another recent example is the development of battlefield evidence preservation tools.
- All the while, we have put human rights and gender perspectives at the center of our work.

TPB - international cooperation

- Since the establishment of UNODC's TPB, we have served as a centre of excellence for international cooperation.
- The SC and GA have also called on UNODC (and TPB in particular) to support MS with specific regard to promoting international cooperation, given its years of experience and readily available resources.
- One example which perfectly captures the impact of our work in this area is the **Multi-Agency Task Force** which we established to facilitate cooperation between countries in the MENA region.
- As a direct result of our assistance, CT authorities cooperated across borders to successfully share information, investigate and prevent attacks, and to identify and extradite suspects. The success of this initiative is evidence that UN-supported international cooperation works, promotes accountability for terrorism crimes, and saves lives.

International and regional approaches to build MS' CT capacity

- The need to strengthen cross-border cooperation remains imperative – as well as further enhancing regional and international cooperation to share information, monitor borders, facilitate MLA, access evidence, and disrupt illicit activities that facilitate and finance terrorism.

- At the same time, VE and terrorism do not exist in a vacuum. Addressing its root causes which are aggravated by socio-economic factors must be implemented in parallel with measures that are focused on strengthening MS' institutional capacity to counter terrorism.
- This is an area in which UNODC is well-placed to offer its support – both as a technical assistance provider and partner.

Closing / Way forward

- Over the last 20 years, we have seen a multitude of new threats and challenges emerge on the terrorism landscape – but these are challenges we can only overcome if we work together.
- We must continue to work in a comprehensive and integrated manner – utilizing one another's unique expertise and skills to develop people-centred approaches, and promote inclusive whole-of-society, and whole-of-government policies and practices- including women and youth- to effectively prevent and counter terrorism.
- We look forward to continuing to build on our invaluable partnership with CTC/CTED and other key partners, including OCT, to address CT challenges.
- Thank you, Madam Chair.