

2023 United Nations Counter-terrorism Week

Side event: Launch of the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa

Thursday 22 June 2023, 08:00 – 09:30 a.m.

Opening remarks of

**Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman
Executive Director
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate**

Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

My office conducted 65 visits and follow-up visits to African countries since its creation in 2005 producing thousands of specific recommendations to implement the UN CT regime.

It also produces desk assessments called electronic Detailed Implementations Surveys (eDIS) and Overview of Implementation Surveys OIAs) for all countries on the continent.

All these visit recommendations and OIAs are now accessible to relevant UN entities through the UN Global CT Coordination Platform to help them in their technical assistance mandates.

CTED also uses its finding to help other UN entities design new technical assistance programmes addressing the gaps identified.

My Office also published last year a report entitled “Civil Society Perspectives, ISIL In Africa – Key Trends and Developments”,

synthetizing the views of more than 50 representatives of Africa civil society organizations.

Africa is now the region of greatest focus to our Office in supporting other UN entities implementing technical assistance. Challenges and technical assistance needs we have identified on the continent are numerous.

Some are purely the result of a specific domestic context, such as a post war situation, while some represents issues we observe across the continent, for example porous borders.

To be also fair, many of the challenges we identify in African countries are also existing in other regions of the World. Being controlling illegal flow of goods, collecting evidence that will stand in a court of law and internal coordination of relevant agencies, gaps we see in Africa are also seen elsewhere to some degree.

From PCVE, to the rights of victims, the respect of human rights by law enforcement, empowering women and girls, travel of terrorists, border control, strategic communication, the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, CTED has been championing these topics through its assessment process and research products.

Let me mention for example our trend alerts concerning the use of proceeds from the exploitation, trade and trafficking of natural resources for the purposes of terrorism financing, and the one on masculinities and violent extremism as examples of our contribution to these important challenges.

For some of the selected initiatives, CTED's role will only be at the design phase with potential interactions during the implementation phase.

In some of them, however, CTED will be a full-fledge partner.

In the CT Travel and Transport in Africa project, CTED is in charge of producing the roadmap for country implementation. Similarly, for the project on the respect for human rights in the Gulf of Guinea countries, CTED will actively engage national authorities.

For all projects, CTED will use its assessment process to facilitate technical assistance matching its finding and recommendations.

CTED is proud to support and co-chair the work of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation and looks forward to enhancing its partnership with all the entities which are part of this working group.

Thank you.