



PRESS RELEASE

The Counter-Terrorism Committee and the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee hold joint special meeting on latest terrorism financing trends and threats and the implementation of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019)

On Thursday, 18 November 2021, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the [ISIL \(Da'esh\) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee](#) held a joint special meeting at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on “Terrorist-financing threats and trends and the implementation of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019)”.

“All around the globe, terrorists and terrorist groups continue to raise funds through a wide variety of means, including the abuse of legitimate enterprises and non-profit organizations; the exploitation of natural resources, donations, and crowdfunding; and a range of criminal activities”, noted H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The joint special meeting was held pursuant to paragraph 36 of resolution 2462 (2019), the first Council resolution exclusively devoted to preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism. Held in hybrid format, the meeting was attended by representatives of Member States and a broad range of United Nations and other partners, including international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

The discussions served to highlight numerous trends and evolving threats in the area of terrorism financing, including, inter alia, financing methods currently used by UN-designated terrorist organizations (e.g., the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh, and Al-Qaida), as well as by other types of terrorists, including those motivated by xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance; linkages between terrorism financing and transnational organized crime; abuse of new technologies and payment methods such as virtual assets and crowdfunding; the raising of funds for terrorist purposes through exploitation of natural resources; risks associated with the use of cash and money and value transfer services; and region-specific risks and vulnerabilities (presented by several FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)). It was noted that, if States and relevant financial institutions do not understand the nature of current risks and threats, they cannot adequately prevent or respond to abuses for terrorism-financing purposes.

In her introductory remarks, Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninx, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), said, “If Member States are to keep pace with the rapid evolution in financial tools and terrorism-financing methods, there is an urgent need to enhance the specialized expertise of personnel engaged in handling increasingly complex cases that involve advanced investigation techniques and complex international cooperation mechanisms”.

The joint special meeting served to highlight practical experiences of several Member States in implementing effective responses, underscoring good practices to be followed by other jurisdictions, as well as remaining challenges, including measures to enhance the integration and use of financial intelligence in terrorism-related cases; effective implementation of asset-freezing mechanisms; and the implementation of the risk-based monitoring and supervision of virtual asset service providers (VASPs).

The meeting also addressed efforts to assist Member States to conduct periodic risk assessments of their non-profit sectors to inform the implementation of risk-based approaches.



Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown, Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, noted an emerging consensus that ISIL's financial resources were depleted, although far from gone, adding that recent assessments put the group's financial reserves at between \$25 million and \$50 million.

“An enduring concern are the thousands of ISIL fighters and their family members who remain in detention or in displaced persons camps in the region. Financial flows in and out of these facilities suggest that the risk of terrorism financing remains high”, he stated.

Dr. Marcus Pleyer, President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), noted that “many countries still don't understand the risks to look out for to stop funding for terrorism. This is despite the adoption of UNSCR 2462, which consolidated obligations on terrorist financing for the first time in a UN instrument”.

Other participants also emphasized the importance of remaining dynamic while responding to terrorism financing threats.

As noted in a [joint report](#) issued in June 2020 by CTED and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, many States also continue to face challenges with respect to the institutionalization of public-private partnerships, integration of human rights obligations into CFT measures, and cooperation with civil society actors in developing policies to ensure risk-based supervision of the non-profit sector.

To watch the full meeting or to read the statements, please click [here](#).

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Background

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee** was established by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which was adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks carried out in the United States. The Committee (which consists of all 15 Members of the Security Council) is tasked with monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which requests States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal, institutional, and operational abilities to counter terrorist activities at home, in their regions, and around the world.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of the Committee on 25 September 2020.

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)** was established pursuant to Council resolution 1535 (2004) as a special political mission tasked with assisting the Committee to monitor Member States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions.

Acting on the Committee's behalf, CTED conducts on-site country assessments visits, with the consent of the host State, to identify progress made and remaining challenges in addressing threats posed by terrorists to international peace and security. The findings of the assessment visits also form the basis of technical assistance and capacity-building projects delivered by partner entities.

Ms. Michèle Coninx was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED by Secretary-General António Guterres on 11 August 2017.

The **ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee** was initially established pursuant to Council resolution 1267 (1999) and oversees sanctions measures imposed by the Council, currently including an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo targeting listed individuals and entities. The Committee is mandated to, inter alia, designate individuals and entities who meet the listing criteria set out in the relevant resolutions, consider and decide upon asset-freeze exemption requests and delisting requests from the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List, conduct periodic and specialized reviews of the entries on the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List, examine the reports presented by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team regarding the implementation of the sanctions measures, and conduct outreach activities.

H.E. Ms. Trine Heimerback, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of the Committee in January 2021.

The Committee is supported by the **Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team**, which currently consists of 10 experts, based in New York. The Monitoring Team's mandate includes periodic reporting on the implementation of sanctions measures, as well as the evolving nature of the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and affiliated groups.

Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown was appointed Coordinator of the Monitoring Team on 17 January 2018.