

**Open briefing of the Chair of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001)
concerning counter-terrorism on
“New Initiatives to Address the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Challenge”
*New York, 19 June 2015***

Remarks of

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Excellencies, members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen,

The foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon has brought further confirmation of the increasingly transnational nature of the terrorist threat.

Our responses must also be transnational in nature, and therefore require continued cooperation and coordination among international and regional organizations.

It is in this context that I welcome the recent initiatives of the Council of Europe aimed at implementing Security Council resolution 2178, on foreign terrorist fighters.

On 25 September 2014, a day after the adoption of the resolution, I had the honour to meet with His Excellency Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, the Council of Europe’s Secretary General, to discuss a pan-European approach to the resolution’s implementation.

Following our meeting, I instructed my staff to continue to work closely with the Council of Europe and to provide strong support for its efforts.

I wish to thank the Secretary General for so quickly mobilizing the Council’s 47 member States to develop such an approach.

The success of his efforts is reflected in the recent adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which addresses not only the criminalization requirements of the resolution, but also (in providing for the development of a 24/7 network of cooperation on FTF matters) many of its international cooperation requirements.

The recent adoption of an action plan on countering violent extremism by the Council’s Foreign Ministers is a further significant, and very welcome development.

The Additional Protocol is the first legally binding regional tool developed for the purpose of implementing the resolution’s criminal-justice requirements.

As such, it will provide a vital reference point for Member States and other regional organizations seeking to implement the resolution’s criminal justice requirements.

Under my leadership, CTED will continue to work closely with all international and regional organizations in the development of tools and good practices that take into consideration the specificities of each region.

A robust criminal justice system is critical to effectively combatting the threat of terrorism and preventing impunity.

However, a criminal justice-based approach cannot stand alone against the threat. It must be accompanied by appropriate policy responses.

Resolution 2178 states that countering violent extremism is an essential element of addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

In May, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers issued a Declaration on countering violent extremism and adopted a three-year action plan to combat violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

And I am pleased to see that the Council prioritized, as part of its CVE plan, intends to assist non-member States to sign and ratify relevant Council of Europe instruments and that it is developing a "Cybercrime XR" project to promote implementation of the Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Xenophobia and Racism.

CTED also looks forward to working with the Council in its efforts to develop a tool to combat terrorists acting alone and guidelines for States on how to efficiently prevent and suppress this form of terrorism.

The CVE action plan will also encourage the adoption of concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools, prisons and on the Internet.

The initiatives to be implemented under the action plan will benefit from the practical tools already in place in the Council of Europe, as well as from the work of its monitoring and advisory bodies.

Examples of the latter include the adaptation of the Council of Europe Annual Exchange on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue into a forum for the discussion of issues relating to violent extremism, as well as the extension and enhancement of the "No Hate Speech" campaign.

The action plan also calls for the compilation of relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights on freedom of expression, religion and assembly, as well as for the mainstreaming of gender and civil society dimensions in its work.

I welcome all these initiatives.

If we are to be effective in combating terrorism, we must use the full authority of the law.

Otherwise, we will not be able to prosecute terrorists effectively.

I look forward to hearing the Secretary General's insights concerning the Additional Protocol and action plan, and I wish to reiterate the determination of CTED to provide continued support to the Council of Europe in its efforts to implement resolution 2178.

Thank you.