

UNSC CTC BRIEFING REPORT
by the Deputy Director, Russia's FSB,
Head of the National Antiterrorism Committee Central Office
Colonel General I.G. Sirotkin

(February 28, 2019, New York, USA)

*Distinguished Chairperson,
Distinguished Mr. Voronkov,
Distinguished Mrs. Coninsx,
Distinguished Mr. Djani,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to have the floor at this joint session of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UN Sanctions Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267/1989/2253, and to brief you on the progress in the activities of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

We attach a particular importance to the ongoing constructive dialogue between the Meeting and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

We are confident that Indonesia's chairmanship in the Security Council ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee will ensure continuity of high-level contacts.

Dear ladies and gentlemen.

Introduced since 2002, the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations has become an essential part of the global counterterrorist architecture, an effective tool for the implementation of the UN Security Council's counterterrorist resolutions and the UN Global Counter- Terrorism Strategy (GCS). In this regard, it should be noted that the need to enhance the dialogue and to coordinate efforts of CT professionals was emphasized in the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in June 2018 after a review of the GCS.

We welcomed the attendance in the 17th Meeting of a high-ranking delegation from the UN to include Mr. Voronkov (Under-Secretary General, Head of the UN OCT), Mr. Meza-Cuadra (CTC Chairperson), Mrs. Coninsx (ED CTED) and Mr. Umarov (Head of the UNSC Sanction Committees). Their statements at the plenary session were of a particular interest to the audience.

The growing number of participants of the Meeting demonstrates greater interest on behalf of special services and law-enforcement agencies in

consolidation of their efforts in the face of new challenges and threats posed by terrorism. The inaugural Meeting in Saint Petersburg saw 49 delegations from 37 countries, while the 17th Meeting in Moscow was attended by the delegations of 125 special services from 80 countries and 5 international organizations.

In his welcoming speech at the 17th Meeting, Director of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) Mr. Bortnikov emphasized that the rising global terrorist threat required coordinated operational measures, confidence building and stronger depoliticized interaction among special services and law-enforcement organizations all over the world, both on bilateral and multilateral level.

Given the efficient suppression of the international terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, losses in manpower and resources, the leaders of ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusrah and affiliated groups are seeking to expand their activity to the countries, which have never faced the terrorist threat before. International terrorist leaders still use foreign terrorist fighters as the main tool of expansion, resorting, inter alia, to the use of labor and humanitarian migration channels.

The possible merger of Al-Qaeda's and ISIL's capabilities may pose a serious threat, since the groups are guided by similar ideology and share common human resources to replenish their ranks.

Stronger connections with transnational criminal groups provide terrorist groups with greater capabilities to conduct their terrorist activity worldwide.

A significant threat may also come from the advanced technologies in the hands of terrorists and, in particular, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the militants. Uncontrolled proliferation of drones raises an issue of collaborative development of a regulatory framework for the use of UAV.

International terrorist organizations are more widely using sophisticated digital technologies, primarily to radicalize and recruit new followers, as well as to coordinate the activity of their cells in terrorist planning and perpetration of lone wolf attacks in different regions of the world.

The activities within the 17th Meeting were centered around the exchange of opinions and elaboration of coordinated approaches to effective counteraction against pressing terrorist threats.

For the first time ever, the participants of the Meeting actively supported the idea to single out the issue of terrorism prevention as a separate item on the agenda. Some delegations shared their national experience in this area.

Dear ladies and gentlemen.

With reference to the aforementioned subject the Russian side presented a general outline of the results of operation of the nationwide antiterrorist system, which includes a set of measures, among them terrorism suppression and terrorism prevention, i.e. building social resilience to the spread of terrorist ideas, reducing the number of individuals exposed to the terrorist ideology and ready to provide any assistance to terrorists.

Nationwide preventive work, either on the federal, regional or municipal level, is carried out in line with the Comprehensive Plan for Terrorism Ideology Prevention designed by the National Antiterrorism Committee and approved by the President

The activities are based on a thoroughly elaborated legal framework to include the Federal Laws “On Counterterrorism” and “On Fundamentals of Prevention of Offences in the Russian Federation” and are organized under the guiding and coordinating role of governmental institutions with active engagement of civil society institutions.

Russian experience shows that the general prevention practices, for instance, activities devoted to the all-Russian Counter-Terrorism Solidarity Day, which is celebrated annually on the 3rd of September to commemorate the victims of terrorist attacks, have maximum social outreach.

Meanwhile, from the practical point, individually tailored approach to the social groups, which are at greater risk of potential exposure to the terrorist ideology in view of their social, age-specific and psychological features, proves to be the most effective.

To arrange this work in a productive manner, special councils made up of experts in social sciences and psychology, prominent religious and cultural actors, have been set up and operating under the regional antiterrorism committees (in every region of Russia). These specialists provide assistance in social integration of individuals who served prison terms for terrorism-related offences, as well as legal and psychological assistance to the relatives of the identified terrorists (including those killed as part of CT efforts), are engaged in social and cultural integration of migrants.

Educational work in the youth milieu, among students and schoolchildren, including minors, is of a particular importance for us to immune them from the influence of radical ideology since this particular category is the main and, unfortunately, the most vulnerable target of terrorist propaganda mostly spread via the social media, which are very popular among youngsters these days. The activities in this domain are currently reaching out to the municipal level. A legislative decision was made in 2018 to set up municipal antiterrorism committees.

The practice shows that the effective preventive action greatly depends on the expertise of the individuals engaged. For this purpose, the National Antiterrorism Committee has come forth with an initiative to establish training centers in 10 leading Russian universities to provide advanced training for the subject-matter experts at all administrative levels, from the federal to the municipal one.

Over the past two years, the system has enabled us to train more than a thousand specialists in terrorism prevention. More than 7 thousand government and municipal officials underwent advanced training.

Public surveys reveal that the majority of Russians are positive about the counterterrorism efforts of the governmental agencies. We believe that this speaks for the correctness of the approach chosen by our country, which stipulates the government's leading role in organization and coordination of the preventive efforts pursued by the government and governmental agencies with an active engagement of civil society institutions.

In the course of discussions on this subject during the Meeting it was underscored that despite the differences we might have in some issues related to counterterrorism, Russian side was still committed to sharing the best practices in preventive action and to discuss these matters with the parties concerned, and, in its turn, to grasp the positive experience of our international partners.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to recall that the best practices in this area were also highlighted by the Russian side during the informative discussions within the framework of the UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in New York last June.

Dear ladies and gentlemen.

The subject of FTF has been on the Meetings' agenda for several years. The meetings have become a perfect ground for sharing experience and systematic analysis of the specificity of the FTF's activities, for defining the future threats emanating from FTF. Apart from mentioning, in particular, the emergence of new conflict zones (the AFPAK area, North Africa, South-Eastern Asia), in the course of discussions the participants of the 17th Meeting expressed their common concern over the increased threat posed by the spouses and children of terrorists. There is a risk that the terrorists will try to use them as recruiters, liaison and perpetrators of terrorist attacks, should the latter flee the battlefield and return to the countries of origin. The ongoing developments once again underscore the importance of effective intelligence exchange among security/intelligence and law-enforcement agencies of personal details of the returning and relocating FTFs. The International

Counterterrorism Database, inter alia, also serves this purpose. Utilized capabilities and potential of the ICD contribute to the foil extent to the implementation of the UNSCR 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) on counteraction against foreign terrorist fighters.

In 2018 we continued to develop the structure and technical capabilities of the ICD:

- Collection and generalization of fingerprint information on the individuals suspected of or engaged in terrorist activity. At present, the ICD contains relevant information on 170 individuals;
- ICD user certificates were updated;
- An advanced training curriculum was designed for the technicians of security/intelligence and law-enforcement agencies connected to the ICD (data array operation).

Special services from 6 countries and the Interpol General Secretariat joined the ICD last year. At present, 44 competent agencies from 35 countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as 7 specialized structures of international organizations are the users of the ICD.

At a dedicated interactive exposition arranged on the sidelines of the 17th Meeting the participants could familiarize with the functional capabilities of the ICD, enhanced structure of the data array, check its accessibility from mobile devices, try ICD navigation to make combined requests, to perform search and to find connections between the subjects.

Dear colleagues.

In furtherance of the international information security agenda, FSB suggested that the participants of the 17th Meeting should engage into discussion of the prospect of creation of a trustworthy environment to ensure security intelligence and law- enforcement cooperation in the information domain.

In our view, the practical inability to gain access to the encrypted correspondence of terrorists using specialized mobile applications in their communications is a serious technological setback on the part of security services, whose task is to prevent the terrorist use of ICTs.

Therefore, at the Meeting's subject section titled "International Information Security" FSB announced Russian Counter-Terrorist Initiative based on mobile devices key escrow principle, and presented the draft international regulations required in this area, which would ensure social- and government-level security by developing and applying legal mechanisms for implementation of the aforementioned Initiative.

The implementation of the Initiative by the international community will provide special services and law-enforcement organizations globally with the capabilities for effective joint action in investigation and prevention of terrorism-related offences.

Therefore, the aforementioned approach will pave the way for legal and technical capabilities to obtain operational intelligence by picking up the data sent by terrorists via mobile platforms featuring robust cryptographic tools, but in the meantime to preserve the system of civil rights and freedoms in each country.

The subject session titled “Countering the General Public Radicalization and Extremist/Terrorist Recruitment, including in the Information Environment” was marked by plentiful discussions. Within the scope of implementation of the UNSCR 1624 (2005) and 2354 (2017) the experts shared the experience and law-enforcement practices in prevention and suppression of radicalization of different social groups, among them, the youth. They also discussed the forms and ways of illegal activity conducted by extremist organizations, and the main channels used by extremist and terrorist groups to disseminate their ideology.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Our collaborative work with the foreign partners on security provision of the FIFA World Cup held in Russia in 2018 was a vivid example of successful consolidation of efforts of the security/intelligence and law-enforcement community against global threats.

Intelligence exchange mechanism initiated at the Meeting in 2004 has been used by the international security/intelligence community to share intelligence on realtime and potential security threats to the major international events. At the meeting of the Working Group of Security Intelligence and Law-Enforcement Experts held on the sidelines of the 17th Meeting, FSB presented the outcomes of implementation of measures related to security provision of the FIFA World Cup.

The Center for International Cooperation was set up and functioning under the aegis of the Federal Security Service during the preparatory and active phase of the tournament, which enabled 24/7 cooperation of 55 security/intelligence and law-enforcement agencies from 35 countries. Daily security briefings covered the situation in 11 host cities, provided the ground for discussion of the matters requiring operational response and taking appropriate action.

We are grateful to our foreign colleagues engaged in the security-related activities for their interaction and are looking forward to a productive

cooperation, including within the framework of XXIX Winter Universiade 2019 in Krasnoyarsk.

Dear colleagues.

The analytical activity within the framework of the Forum continued in 2018. In the run-up to the 17th Meeting, we revised and updated the Consolidated Assessment of Future ' Terrorist Threats. The document incorporates the consolidated position of security/intelligence and law-enforcement community on existing and future terrorist threats. The key positions of the document outline the areas of partner cooperation in the short- and medium-term prospective.

In the Communiqué and Joint Statement of the 17th Meeting the participants expressed their all-round support of the activity of the UN Security Council in fighting terrorism, called for implementation of the UNSCR 2178 (2014), 2354 (2017) and 2396 (2017), came forward with counterterrorism initiatives.

We would like to express our gratitude to the senior executives of the UNSC CTC and CTED for their assistance in pushing forward the key documents of the Meeting. We are hopeful that these documents will contribute to the decisionmaking processes to achieve global stability and security, to build up counterterrorism potential of the international community.

Ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that according to the decision made by the President of the Russian Federation V. Putin, the 18th Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations will be held in October 2019 in Sochi, Russia.

On behalf of Mr. A. Bortnikov, FSB Director, let me extend an invitation to Mr. Voronkov, Mr. Meza-Cuadra, Mrs. Coninx and Mr. Djani to take personal part in the next Meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

Now I am ready to answer your questions.