PRESS RELEASE

CTED publishes paper about COVID-19 and counter-terrorism

New York, 24 June 2020 – The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) published a new paper about “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism.” Since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Global Pandemic in March, CTED has been proactively engaging with Member States and all of our partners to understand how the pandemic has, and will, impact counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE).

In this new analysis, CTED provides a concise overview of the short-term impact of COVID-19 on terrorists and terrorist groups; how Member States’ COVID-19 responses have affected or intersected with counter-terrorism and CVE; and the potential long-term impacts of COVID-19 on terrorism, counter-terrorism, and CVE. The paper aims to provide a global picture of these potential and actual impacts, while recognizing that – as with the impact of COVID-19 itself – those impacts are unlikely to be experienced consistently by all Member States or across all regions.

CTED will continue to monitor trends, issues and developments relating to the impact of COVID-19 on terrorism, counter-terrorism and CVE through its assessments of Member States’ efforts to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and its dialogue with relevant United Nations entities; international, regional and subregional organizations; the private sector; civil society; and the research community.

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**Background**

Established by the Security Council, the **Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)** is a Special Political Mission of the United Nations, tasked with assisting the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in monitoring the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. CTED conducts on site country assessments visits with Member States’ approval to identify progress made and remaining challenges in addressing threats posed by terrorists to international peace and security. The findings of the assessment visit also constitute the basis for the concerned technical assistance and capacity-building projects. **Michèle Coninsx** was appointed Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 11 August 2017.

The **Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)** 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 in the United States. The Committee, comprising all 15 Security Council members, was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which requested countries 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. On 5 May 2020, **H.E. Mr. Kais Kabbani**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of CTC.