

Virtual ministerial-level meeting of the Security Council

Twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee: achievements in international cooperation, challenges and opportunities

Tuesday, 12 January 2021, 8.30 a.m. EST

Remarks of

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx
Executive Director, CTED**

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

It is an honour to address you at today's event marking the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The adoption of the resolution, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States, was a seminal moment at which the Council and international community acknowledged the severity of the threat posed by transnational terrorism.

Over the subsequent two decades, the United Nations has been at the centre of multilateral efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We must continue to remember and honour all victims and survivors of terrorism; promote their rights and needs; and provide them with avenues for healing through justice and support in order to ensure that they attain truth, justice and dignity.

In adopting resolution 1373 (2001), the Council also established the Counter-Terrorism Committee to monitor, promote and facilitate States' implementation of its provisions.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (or “CTED”) was established by the Council in its resolution 1535 (2004) as a special political mission to assist the Committee in its work.

CTED's mandate includes the following main elements:

- **Assessing the implementation of counter-terrorism measures by Member States and recommending ways to address identified implementation gaps.**
- **Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance and expertise to States as needed with a view to strengthening their counter-terrorism capacities.**
- **Analysing counter-terrorism trends and developments at the national and global levels as well as promoting effective practices to address new and emerging challenges.**

CTED's unique mandate is underpinned by a human-rights compliant and gender-sensitive framework.

Within the framework of our ongoing dialogue with Member States, we also work to enhance international cooperation in countering terrorism.

Our numerous partners — including the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and other UN entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector — inform our facilitation of technical assistance delivery, as well as our understanding of trends and developments.

Close engagement with the member entities of our Global Research Network enables us to incorporate the latest evidence-based research into our work and publications.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Since CTED's establishment, its mandate has been further expanded and developed by more than 20 further Security Council resolutions.

As we look back over the past two decades, we see evidence of considerable evolution in the terrorist threat.

We have witnessed the dramatic rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and its subsequent defeat as a territory-holding entity.

But we remain aware that ISIL's destructive legacy will continue to pose challenges as we continue to seek truth and justice for its victims and survivors and address the situation of thousands of ISIL-associated foreign terrorist fighters and their family members.

In recent years, ISIL affiliates have emerged, including in South Asia, South-East Asia, the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, and Southern and Eastern Africa.

The proliferation of extreme right-wing (or racially and ethnically motivated) terrorism is also a cause of increasing concern.

Countering use of the Internet and other virtual platforms by terrorist groups for recruitment, financing, and planning purposes will also remain a priority, as will continued efforts to counter terrorism financing.

As emphasized in two recent CTED analytical reports, the COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated an already challenging threat landscape.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

As we continue to address existing and emerging challenges, we must also reflect on lessons learned and areas where we can further strengthen our responses.

Some States have introduced overly broad domestic counter-terrorism legislation, leading to overreach by State authorities, human rights violations, and suppression of dissent.

We must ensure that future counter-terrorism policies respect the rule of law and are both human rights-compliant and gender sensitive.

States should also engage all sections of society - including religious, community, and women leaders, educators, youth, and social workers – in their development of counter-terrorism strategies that are comprehensive and integrated.

They must also ensure effective implementation of their respective national plans, and seek to address underlying grievances, including by focusing on the inclusion of vulnerable communities.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Despite the many challenges that it faces, the international community has made significant progress in its efforts to counter and prevent terrorism. CTED has gathered a considerable amount of information from Member States about their implementation endeavours, including their progress; their strengths, shortfalls and

needs; their capacity to provide assistance to other States in need; and useful experiences to be shared with other States.

The Council and the Committee have continued to promote multilateralism and international cooperation as a means to strengthen national-level institutional capacity.

We must continue to pursue a comprehensive, coordinated, “One-UN” approach aimed at assisting States to develop and implement effective counter-terrorism measures while also addressing conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism.

CTED will continue to assist the Committee in its efforts to fulfil the mandates set forth in the relevant Council resolutions and to work closely with States in their implementation efforts, including by promoting the sharing of best practices and lessons learned over the 20 years since the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001).

Thank you.