

14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**“Managing electronic evidence across borders in counter-terrorism
and transnational organized crime cases”**

Tuesday, 9 March 2021, 09.30 p.m. EST

Statement of

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

Distinguished participants,

Allow me to begin by thanking Japan for hosting the 14th United Nations Congress.

As you are all aware, the lockdown measures imposed during the pandemic have presented violent extremists and terrorists with a captive online audience to disseminate their divisive propaganda, disinformation and conspiracy theories to incite violence.

Young men and women continue to be strategically targeted by these malicious activities, including on gaming platforms.

We have also seen an increase in organized crime activities online.

For intelligence and law enforcement, the current online landscape presents significant new challenges.

Criminal-justice authorities are increasingly relying on information held by private companies to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes, including terrorism.

Following this development, private companies have seen an exponential increase in requests for data from law enforcement (such as basic subscriber information, traffic data, and content data).

In this context, CTED continues to explore ways to assist Member States in those efforts and to ensure that those efforts are conducted in compliance with both international law (in particular international human rights law) and domestic legal regimes.

The UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee recently considered and agreed that CTED should introduce such elements in its assessment tool, called the electronic detailed implementation assessment (e-DIS) for all UN Member States.

Together with our partners, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Association of Prosecutors, we have developed the *Global Initiative to facilitate legal access to data across borders*.

Working together with law-enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as with major and smaller private companies, we are currently finalizing an update to our *2019 Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders* and new *Standardized Direct Requests Forms*, developed with Eurojust and Europol, aimed at streamlining direct requests to communications service providers.

We are also developing *the Data Disclosure Framework* to help service providers deal with overseas requests for electronic evidence.

Distinguished participants,

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you that September 2021 will mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on counter-terrorism and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

The commemoration process will enable CTED and its partners and other stakeholders to reflect upon the progress and success that have been achieved, and identify ways to address new trends and challenges, including the topics that we are to discuss today.

CTED remains committed to assisting Member States to address all these issues, working closely with its many United Nations and other partners and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Thank you.