

**Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of SALW and their illicit supply to terrorists**

**Phase I: virtual regional workshop on “Fostering judicial and law enforcement cooperation and information-sharing”**

*16-18 March 2021*

**Opening statement of**

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

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**Allow me to begin by thanking UNOCT for organizing this virtual regional workshop as part of the “terrorism-arms-crime nexus” project launched in February 2020.**

**I also wish to acknowledge and welcome the commitment of the participating Central Asian States to strengthen their national and regional measures to combat international terrorism and transnational organized crime and to prevent terrorists from accessing weapons.**

**CTED, acting on behalf of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, has conducted assessment visits to all Member States of Central Asia.**

**Some States have been visited more than once, and discussions are currently under way with several States concerning follow-up hybrid visits proposed for later this year.**

**These on-site assessment visits allow us to assess Member States’ overall national counter-terrorism efforts as well as to offer recommendations to Member States on ways to strengthen their capacity.**

CTED has systematically shared its assessment findings with UN partners (including UNOCT) and with regional partners such as OSCE with a view to facilitating delivery of technical assistance to Central Asian States aimed at addressing the needs and areas identified during the Committee's visits.

CTED is proud to be a partner in this project, leading its technical needs assessment component and also providing overall support and expertise.

As you are all aware, the Security Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of preventing terrorists' access to weapons, beginning with its resolution 1373 (2001).

Council resolution 2370, adopted in 2017, established a comprehensive set of provisions and approaches on this issue and strengthened CTED's mandate to address it through its assessments and dialogue with Member States.

Council resolution 2482 (2019) focused on the nexus between counter-terrorism and organized crime.

In 2018, CTED assisted the Committee to revise its 2015 *Madrid Guiding principles on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters*, adding a new principle on "Preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons".

Because of the constantly evolving nature of the operational terrorist environment, Member States continue to experience challenges to establish adequate procedures to exercise effective control over weapons.

As stated by the Council in its resolution 2370 (2017), it is critical that States strive to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorist organizations by actively supporting the relevant international protocols, including those designed to combat the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime.

**Under the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement, chaired by CTED, a comprehensive set of technical guidelines to facilitate implementation of Council resolution 2370 (2017) will be issued for Member States this year.**

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**It is essential that States remain committed to implementing the Council's resolutions on preventing illicit trafficking of SALW and their illicit supply to terrorists.**

**It is equally essential that we continue to assess their capacity to do so.**

**This project is a further demonstration of how CTED's expertise and recommendations can serve as an effective basis for the design, programming and funding of technical assistance projects and activities aimed at building Member States' capacity to counter terrorism, as guided by a results-oriented and impact-oriented approach**

*Thank you. I wish you all a successful workshop.*