

Conducting hybrid assessment visits to some Member States *pro tempore*

Adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee on 4 June 2021

(revised) Concept note

A. Background

1. In February 2020, the Counter-Terrorism Committee approved proposed assessment visits to 33 Member States. The Committee has since conducted visits to two of those States (Equatorial Guinea and Qatar)-
2. Owing to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions imposed by the United Nations, all scheduled or planned assessment visits have been postponed. It currently remains unclear when the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) will be able to resume conducting on-site assessment visits in their full physical form, on the Committee's behalf.
3. In view of the success of the recent virtual dialogue and engagement between CTED, Member States, international and regional organizations, and United Nations Country Teams, and based on the best practices and lessons learned drawn from the previous virtual components of visits conducted in 2021, CTED proposes that the Committee conduct hybrid assessment visits to some Member States, *pro tempore*, so that the Committee and CTED can, to the extent possible, continue to carry on one of the core businesses entrusted to them by the Security Council. Conducting hybrid visits will not alter the Committee's established physical assessment process, nor will be considered a precedent for any other future assessment visits under normal situations, the aim being to enable CTED to continue to monitor, facilitate and promote, on the Committee's behalf, Member States' efforts to implement the relevant Council resolutions.

B. Approaches and modality

4. The Committee should be requested to consider and approve the further revised concept note, bearing in mind the scenarios and status of preparation for hybrid assessment to some Member States (which have been submitted to the Committee separately for information). It is advised that the Chair circulate the present revised note with a suggestion to adopt the proposed *pro tempore* arrangements for an additional period of three months¹, subject to further extension on a monthly basis, if circumstances necessitate and based on consensus agreement by the Committee. The Executive Director is further expected to keep the Committee informed of the progress in this regard, including through regular monthly updates to the CTC.
5. The selection of the Member State to be visited should take into account several factors, including:

¹ The Committee adopted its concept note on 19 November 2020 on conducting assessment visits to some Member States *pro tempore* for an initial period of six months.

- (a) The State is included in the list of Member States approved annually, has given its consent to the visit and indicated its willingness to accommodate the visit in hybrid format (in writing or through the relevant Resident Coordinator);
 - (c) The available information and communication technology is able to ensure a reliable and secure connection between CTED and the relevant stakeholders in the visited Member State;
 - (d) Online dialogue is practically feasible (e.g., despite time differences);
 - (e) Interpretation is not required or can be provided; and
 - (f) A tailored modality for the visit has been agreed between CTED and the Member State, which takes into account each State's situation and priorities, including the geopolitical, political and socio-economic situation, specific historic and cultural features, evolution of the threat of terrorism, capacities, administrative organization and institutional and legal system.
6. The Committee's visit framework and established visit guidelines, policy and reporting procedures (e.g., CTED's submission of pre-visit documents, preliminary assessment and observations (PAO), and draft visit report to the Committee and the Member State and timeline for follow up) should continue to be used as the basis for preparing and conducting the visit.
7. The tailored visit modality referred to in paragraph 5 (f), above, should take into account the following factors:
- (a) The visit should consist of a virtual component and a physical component and both components should be led by CTED pursuant to the Committee visit framework. The virtual component should focus on several key areas of implementation, in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions. The physical component should include further discussions and a field mission aimed at verifying pending areas for evaluation and implementation on the ground (e.g., operations at the airport, seaport, border post, prison, rehabilitation and reintegration centre or other facilities);
 - (b) The virtual component of the visit should last for up to five days or longer (which may not be consecutive) and should be scheduled, pursuant to an agreement between the Member State and CTED, to ensure maximize flexibility in the timing and length of the discussions each day to be held on specified area of implementation. Arrangements will be made to accommodate discussions with a wider host team, in and outside the capital. The modality for the physical component will be an integral part of the discussions during the preparatory process, and to be reflected in the document on the status of preparation of the hybrid assessment visit to be submitted to the Committee for its information.
 - (c) In accordance with Council resolution 2395 (2017) and established Committee policy and practice, relevant human rights and gender issues will be mainstreamed throughout the discussions.
 - (d) At the behest of the assessed State, arrangement will be made for engagement with counter-terrorism experts from civil society, academia, think tanks, and/or the private

- sector of the visited State²;
- (e) Pre-prepared questionnaires (based on CTED's desk review and analysis of the areas of implementation to be discussed) should be transmitted to the Member State prior to the virtual component of the visit, together with the agreed visit agenda, in order to facilitate the preparations and discussions;
 - (f) Other United Nations entities and CTED partners (e.g., the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT); the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB); the Analytical and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA); and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO)) should be invited to join the visit, depending on the areas of implementation and relevance to be discussed. Invitations may also be considered to relevant international and regional and subregional organizations to join the hybrid assessment visits in accordance with the Committee visit framework.
 - (g) New York-based representative(s) of the Member State should be invited, as part of the host team, to join the virtual discussion, whenever possible;
 - (h) The Resident Coordinator and other representatives of the relevant United Nations Country Team should be invited to assist in the preparation of, and follow-up to, the whole process of the hybrid assessment visit; They may be invited to join the relevant portions of the discussion, either at the virtual or physical component, between the CTED delegation with the host team, such as on general national threat and security analysis, technical assistance and capacity-building in relevant fields, as deemed appropriate.
 - (i) The visiting teams will, if possible, summarize the discussions and findings of each working session as the visit proceeds and hold a wrap-up session with the Government at the conclusion of the visit.
 - (j) The media communications strategy should be agreed between CTED and the Member State in accordance with the Committee's established procedure;
 - (k) CTED will prepare and submit to the Committee for its information, in a timely manner, the initial elements for the PAO following the virtual component of each hybrid assessment visit, followed by an oral briefing by the visiting team to the Committee members during a physical meeting of the CTC. CTED will also submit the PAO, upon completion of both the virtual and physical components of each hybrid visit, for the

² Resolution 2395 (2017): paragraph 9:[*Security Council*] *Directs* CTED..., at the behest of assessed Member States, engaging with counterterrorism experts in civil society, academia, think tanks, and the private sector, including in visits to and assessments of Member States, as a complement to primary engagement with Member State actors to allow them to highlight productive counterterrorism efforts, so that assessments are more useful, accessible, and targeted to specific audiences;

consideration and adoption of the Committee, taking into account the initial elements of the PAO and bearing in mind paragraph 6 above³, with a view to immediate initiating work on facilitating technical assistance and eventually submitting a final visit report to complete the entire assessment process.

³ *Updated guidelines for enhancing the Committee's post-visit follow-up, including shortening timelines for drafting and reviewing reports, 8 October 2018:*

Paragraph 3: The document (PAO) should be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and adoption, usually at a formal meeting of the Committee. Under certain expedited circumstances and where deemed appropriate by the Committee, the report may be adopted under the no-objection procedure with the understanding that CTED will deliver a briefing on the report at a subsequent meeting of the Committee and that the PAO will then serve as a guideline for the facilitation of technical assistance delivery, the preparation of the final report, and further work with the visited State;

Paragraph 4: Following the Committee's consideration of, and action on, the PAO, CTED should immediately initiate follow-up activities in the identified priority areas and keep the Committee informed accordingly.