

**UNOCT Global Compact First 2021 Ambassadorial-Level  
Quarterly Briefing to Member States**

*Thursday, 28 January 2021, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams*

**Opening segment: “Enhanced UN counter-terrorism efforts  
in the COVID-19 context and beyond”**

**Statement of**

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

*Thank you, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.*

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**The COVID-19 pandemic is a generation-defining crisis that has significantly impacted the geo-political landscape and all areas of the global policy spectrum, including counter-terrorism measures.**

**Since the previous Quarterly Briefing, CTED has published its updated findings on the medium-term impact of COVID-19 on terrorism, counter-terrorism, and countering violent extremism measures.**

**Despite concerns at increased terrorist violence and fears that terrorist groups would exploit the fallout from the pandemic, we lack the evidence to comprehensively assess the overall impact of the pandemic on counter-terrorism and CVE.**

**CTED will therefore continue to work closely together with its partners (including the research community and other relevant stakeholders), in drafting the updated paper on the long-term impact of COVID-19, to be issued in June this year.**

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

**Allow me to briefly highlight some of the ways in which CTED has continued to deliver on its mandate in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, working in close collaboration and cooperation with its partners:**

- **In November 2020, Finland’s Minister of the Interior briefed the Counter-Terrorism Committee on steps taken by Finland to implement the recommendations stemming from the Committee’s April 2019 visit, and made the visit report publicly available on its website.**

**CTED continues to liaise with other recently visited Member States to build on this good practice and transparency, and looks forward to facilitating further such briefings to the Committee.**

- **With regard to CTED’s desk review assessments, I would note that we have seen an improvement in the rate of response from Member States, which provide a vital avenue for dialogue between the Committee and Member States that have not been visited and are an essential aspect of the Committee’s mandate to monitor progress made by States in implementing the Council’s counter-terrorism resolutions.**
- **CTED has also continued to organize open briefings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, including the briefing on “The threat of terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean” in December 2020, and yesterday’s briefing on “Protection of ‘soft’ targets against terrorist attacks”.**

**CTED is planning to organize a joint special meeting of the relevant Committees, during the first quarter of this year, on “Terrorism-financing threats and trends and the implementation of resolution 2462 (2019)”. In the fourth quarter, working jointly with the Monitoring Team of the ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions**

**Committee, we shall organize an open briefing of the Committee on “ISIL in Africa”.**

- This month marks the start of CTED’s flagship collaboration with the Government of Indonesia on “Strengthening supervision and community-based treatment for rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorist and violent extremist defendants and offenders” as follow-up to the CTC’s 2019 assessment of Indonesia and my visit with USG Voronkov in February 2020. UNODC and UNOCT are joint partners in the initiative, which is supported by the United Kingdom.**
- CTED has continued to engage closely with UNOCT and the entities of the Global Coordination Compact, including by leading both the assessment component of the Project on “Addressing the Connection between Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Illicit Trafficking of SALW in Central Asia” – under which the first deep dive assessment was concluded this week to Kazakhstan - and the Global Capacity-Building Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism. The CT Travel programme also concluded a deep dive to Djibouti last week. This engagement is aimed at facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to Member States.**
- Beginning this year, we shall produce annual gap assessments on countering the financing of terrorism and submit them to UNOCT, through the Committee, to facilitate the design of targeted technical assistance and capacity-building efforts.**
- We have also continued to enhance our partnerships with international and regional bodies (including OSCE and FATF) and to follow-up with partner organizations and UN bodies that have taken part in assessment visits in order to facilitate implementation of the Committee’s recommendations and the development of responsive, targeted capacity-building projects.**

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

**I would note that we have invited more than 14 such partner organizations to join us in the Committee's forthcoming hybrid visit to the Republic of Iraq.**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**In conclusion, let me assure you that CTED will continue to spare no effort in enhancing the Committee's ongoing dialogue with Member States and work closely with the Global Coordination Compact entities to support Member States to counter terrorism and violent extremism, including by integrating the gender perspective and by ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law.**

*Thank you.*