

**BRIEFING BY THE GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM
COORDINATION COMPACT COMMITTEE**

Remarks by

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninx,
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- **Terrorism remains a threat to international peace and security**, as reiterated by the Security Council in numerous resolutions over the past two decades. The response to the rapid evolution of the threat is also reflected in the significant number of resolutions on terrorism adopted by the Council since 2014 - especially to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as their subsequent return or relocation. Over recent weeks, the Counter-Terrorism Committee has been preparing a draft addendum to the *Madrid Guiding Principles* to address the evolution in the FTF phenomenon.
- **The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, or CTED, plays a unique role in assisting Member States to tackle the global terrorist threat.** CTED, as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, has the central role - as notably reaffirmed by the Council in its resolution 2395 (2017) - to support the work of the Committee to ensure full implementation of the relevant Council resolutions. CTED is the only UN entity to conduct on-site visits to Member States to assess their counter-terrorism capacities. The visits are conducted with the consent of the visited State and on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.
- **The assessment visits allow CTED and its many implementing partners to engage closely with the host Governments and to identify progress, strengths, effective practices and useful experience, shortfalls, technical assistance needs, and possible solutions.** During 2018, CTED conducted visits to 15 Member States. This assessment methodology is endorsed, not only by the Committee, but also by the international organizations and specialized UN agencies responsible for developing the relevant international standards, codes and best practices. Our reports address States' progress in implementing, inter alia, the counter-financing of terrorism standards of the Financial Action Task Force; the INTERPOL standards on international law enforcement cooperation in countering terrorism; and the ICAO standards on regulating the movement of persons. These and many other international and regional organizations participate in the visits. In addition, the reports address States' human rights compliance in the context

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of counter-terrorism, and integration of the gender dimension into counter-terrorism efforts, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

- **All these thematic areas** (and others, such as criminal justice, ICT, human rights, gender, CVE) **are addressed in a single, authoritative report**, which is approved by the assessed Member State and adopted by the Committee. The reports also identify a set of priority actions to help guide domestic practitioners and international partners in their development of future plans, enhance partnerships among implementing entities, and avoid duplication of effort. CTED thus acts as a facilitator of technical assistance delivery.
- **Our assessment reports are central to the mapping of national counter-terrorism measures and counter-terrorism assistance projects.** I therefore coordinate very closely with Under Secretary-General Voronkov of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to link the identified priority assistance needs to projects of the Office and of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. Effective cooperation between the UNOCT and CTED is crucial to the coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and to the efforts of any partner engaged in the development of projects to address terrorism as a threat to international peace and security. To provide a concrete example, CTED and OCT have been working closely to provide expert advice on the setting-up of effective asset-freezing mechanisms pursuant to Council resolution 1373 (2001)- an issue that lies at the heart of CTED's mandate. By using our assessments to design their technical assistance projects and programmes, our implementing partners thus save considerable financial and human resources. In this regard, I would note in particular the excellent cooperation established by the two Offices in relation to Iraq, one of the States most affected by ISIL and the FTF phenomenon. USG Voronkov and I held high-level bilateral consultations in Iraq in March 2018. Based on our assessment and the identified priority needs (which were endorsed by Iraq), UNOCT developed five projects. At present, both Offices are deploying a consultant from the region to work in Baghdad and advance the design and implementation of the required projects. This is an excellent example of how our cooperation at the policy level cascades down to the operational level with the ultimate objective of making an impact on the ground.

CTED plays a crucial role within the United Nations system in identifying and monitoring new and emerging terrorism issues and trends; providing expert assessments; and supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counter-terrorism responses. Within the framework of the country visits, CTED has increasingly paid attention to the links between terrorism and organized crime: an issue that is also a priority for the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In December, CTED briefed the CTC on “integrating gender into the work of the Committee and CTED”. The briefing formed part of CTED's ongoing efforts to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout all its activities, including in country-specific assessments and reports, recommendations made to Member States, and the facilitation of technical assistance. I should also mention our Global Research Network, which assists us in this analytical work. We remain aware of the important role of civil society as a key partner in strategies developed by States to counter violent extremism and terrorism, and we look forward to continuing to discuss with

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the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other Compact entities the best ways to strengthen this partnership.

- It would be very useful for all other relevant UN bodies to take CTED's recommendations and analysis into account in the implementation of their respective programmes and mandates.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- **The Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee require that we make every effort to prevent duplication of work in the United Nations system.** Duplication may cause confusion among our clients and recipients and may also lead to reporting fatigue, delay the delivery of assistance, and exhaust donor resources. The Global Compact gives us the possibility to accelerate our information-sharing, strengthen our networking in designing activities and programmes, and enhance our delivery of technical assistance.
- **Our response to the evolving terrorist threat requires an impact-driven compact** that prevents duplication of effort; ensures effective utilization of all available resources; reflects the Secretary-General's desire that we act "as one"; and ensures that we make a difference on the ground.