

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

**Third High-Level Strategic Dialogue between Qatar and UNOCT**

*Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 9.00-11.00 a.m. EST*

**Statement of**

**Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninx  
Executive Director,  
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**Allow me to begin by thanking Under-Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov for inviting me to participate in today's Third High-Level Strategic Dialogue.**

**I welcome the continued, longstanding and fruitful cooperation between Qatar and the United Nations, and Qatar's continued support for the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.**

**In February this year, I was pleased to lead the CTED delegation for the follow-up visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Qatar.**

**I met with the Prime Minister; the Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Social Development; and the Human Rights Commissioner.**

**I was struck by their commitment to Qatar's counter-terrorism agenda and by their determination to ensure that Qatar meets its international obligations.**

**I look forward to having Qatar brief the Counter-Terrorism Committee early next year on measures taken to address the outcomes of our visit, in accordance with paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017).**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**A critical aspect of our assessment work at CTED is that we work closely with visited Member States in identifying their specific technical assistance needs.**

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**The Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, launched by UNOCT in March, with Qatar's support, has provided a secure, online space to systematically disseminate CTED's updated country reports and recommendations to all Compact entities.**

**This has strengthened CTED's ability to deliver on its mandate.**

**With Qatar's permission, we shared a version of the Committee's visit report with UNOCT in September.**

**I would encourage all Global Compact entities to consult the report and its findings.**

**Qatar's significant contributions to UN counter-terrorism programmes have catalysed new Compact Working Group initiatives that address some of CTED's priority recommendations to Member States.**

**For instance, CTED has jointly developed guidance products with its partners on:**

- Addressing the threat of small arms and light weapons**
- Responsibly using and sharing biometric information for counter-terrorism purposes**
- Protecting critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks, and**
- Addressing the role of the military in the collection, use, and sharing of evidence for criminal prosecutions in terrorism cases.**

**CTED has also used the seed-funding provided by Qatar to raise awareness of the UN's existing guidance tools and to undertake new research.**

***Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,***

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Following the Committee's assessment visit, CTED identified the need for Qatar to conclude drafting of its comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy.

Many of the participants in today's meeting will have already provided comments on the draft.

We hope soon to organize a focused meeting of the relevant agencies, together with Qatar, to provide UN feedback.

The report also identifies areas of good practice:

- In particular, we note that Qatar has used the small size and centralized nature of its Government to its advantage.
- We also note that Qatar's counter-terrorism institutions and practices are well organized and well coordinated, and that significant investment has been made in three areas:

*First*, in technology.

Within the financial system, border-control agencies, and law-enforcement services, the Government has invested in technology and integrated it seamlessly into day-to-day operations.

The relevant agencies demonstrate an impressive ability to ensure real-time monitoring of the movement of money, people and goods into, through, and out of Qatar.

*Second*, Qatar has invested in human resources and operational expertise.

Although some of its technology has been bought internationally, much of it has been developed in-house.

*Third*, Qatar has invested in coordination and whole-of-Government approaches.

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**This was reflected in the provision of joint access to common databases and the establishment of joint operations rooms staffed by multiple agencies.**

**Our report identifies these good practices as areas in which Qatar could provide technical assistance to other States.**

**I note, in this respect, that Qatar already provides a great deal of assistance to other Member States, on a bilateral basis.**

*Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

**Let me assure you that CTED remains committed to close cooperation and engagement with Qatar, both in the context of follow-up to the assessment visit and within the framework of Qatar's ongoing dialogue with the Committee on its implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.**

**I would like to conclude by again thanking Qatar for its support for the Global Coordination Compact, which has enabled CTED to collaborate more effectively with the UN system, make the most of its precious resources, and deliver maximum impact on its mandate, including in the context of the current global health crisis.**

*Thank you.*