

**HIGH-LEVEL LAUNCH EVENT OF FIVE THEMATIC MODULES TO PROTECT VULNERABLE TARGETS AGAINST TERRORIST ATTACKS**

**6 September 2022**

**Remarks of Mr. Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director, CTED**

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**I wish to thank the Office of Counter-Terrorism and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for organizing this event and voice a big congratulation on UNOCT on the launching of the five thematic modules to protect vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks.**

**The issue addressed in the modules and the mission before us today are challenging ones.**

**In accordance with Security Council resolutions 2341(2017), 2396 (2017) and 2617 (2021), measures to protect critical infrastructure and soft targets are an integral part of CTED assessment work, both in country visits conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as in CTED's desk review through the Committee's stocktaking tools.**

**In the *Addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (2018)*, the Security Council provides further guidance as to the elements that constitute effective "soft" target protection.**

**CTED has been focusing on this issue also within the framework of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure.**

**Working together with UNOCT and INTERPOL, CTED contributed to the development of the 2018 *Compendium of good practices for the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks* and its updated version currently being finalized.**

**CTED is a close partner in the United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets. Since its launch in 2021, this programme has achieved concrete results, including through national capacity consultations led by CTED with Tunisia and Togo, with more beneficiary States following in the months to come.**

**The programme is a demonstration of close partnership, cooperation and coordination by UNOCT and CTED and the other programme partners, such as UNAOC, UNICRI and INTERPOL. It incorporates elements that CTED has identified as gaps or good practices and needs for technical assistance from our assessment visits.**

**The five modules launched today will have added value to Member States in strengthening their capacity as well as in enhancing their understanding on how risk assessments and measures should be taken into account in front of the threats against vulnerable targets.**

**In this regard it is also of utmost importance to address the gender implications, and ensure that national frameworks provide for effective measures and safeguards to comply with international human rights standards.**

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

**The modules being launched today will be promoted through CTED's work.**

**CTED will continue to take a proactive approach to help States counter the terrorist threat to "soft" targets and critical infrastructures, in line with the relevant Council resolutions and under policy guidance of the Committee.**

*Thank you.*