

BRIEFING NOTE FOR AN EVENT OR BILATERAL MEETING



TITLE: Tenth United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee Meeting

Format: Hybrid

Date/Time: Wednesday, Jan 24th, 2024, from 10.00 am to 12.00 p.m. EST.

Location: UNHQ, Conference room 6 and WebEx

PURPOSE: The Compact Committee meeting is organized by UNOCT to provide updates on the progress made by Compact workgroups in implementing their respective AWP and to present and approve the Compact work plan for the coming year.

The tenth Compact committee meeting is held over two days, the 24th and 25th, in a hybrid format and will focus on *“Strategic Coordination of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.”* It follows up on the eighth Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee meeting held in June 2022, which focused on *“Strengthening international and regional cooperation to address the increasing terrorist threat in Africa.”*

RUN OF SHOW

The meeting will commence with an introduction covering the global outlook by USG Voronkov, followed by a keynote address by the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres. Representatives of the African Member States, the African Union, and civil society working in the region will brief on regional perspectives. The outcome-oriented session will be dedicated to statements by the heads of entities participating in the Compact (3 minutes each), focusing on concrete recommendations for coordinating counter-terrorism efforts in Africa. The outcome-oriented session starts at 10:50 am and ends at 11:50 am. The order of speakers in this segment is as follows:

1. **Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), **attending virtually**
2. **Ms. Natalia Gherman**, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), **attending in-person**
3. **Ms. Sarah Hendriks**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), **attending virtually**
4. **Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris**, Assistant Secretary-General, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), **attending in-person**
5. **Mr. Turhan Saleh**, Deputy Director, Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), **attending in-person**

TALKING POINTS

Secretary-General, USG Voronkov, distinguished panellists, good morning.

- Against the context of the expansion of terrorism and violent extremism in the region, it is critical to recall that misogyny and toxic masculinity are at the core of most terrorists' ideology, and women and girls are disproportionately affected by the insecurity and aggravated inequalities caused. For instance, women and children constitute 78 percent of the forcibly displaced population in the East and Southern Africa Region¹.
- It is also critical to reiterate that women play a crucial role in prevention efforts. Yet, gender mainstreaming is often overlooked in PVE and CT policies and efforts, which tend to favor highly securitized and militarized approaches.
- We have seen some progress in addressing this gap at normative and coordination levels. Since the adoption of resolution 2242 in 2015, for example, there has been a noticeable increase in gender-related recommendations to Member States by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. UN Women has supported these efforts at all levels, including across Africa.
 - We have also seen increasing prioritization of the prevention of violent extremism into National Action Plans on WPS, and the inclusion of WPS considerations into national strategies on counter-terrorism.
 - As the co-chair of the Gender Working Group, UN Women has supported women's organizations in high-level advocacy, including with member states surrounding the 8th review. We are also proud to serve as Secretariat for Funds that provide direct resources for women's organizations, such as the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.
- In promoting further strategic coordination to respond to terrorism in Africa, we underscore the imperatives of meaningful participation and leadership of women in coordination, policies, and programs. We also reiterate the continued criticality of funding women's organizations for Countering Terrorism and

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/East-Horn-Africa-and-Great-Lakes-74-ExCom-English.pdf>

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Preventing Violent Extremism (CT/PVE), and of using gender data to inform all interventions on CT/PVE.

- Excellencies, gender integration is not only a matter of equality but a critical imperative in countering terrorism and preventing its spread in Africa. Acknowledging and addressing the distinct experiences, vulnerabilities, and contributions of both men and women is essential to combating terrorism in the African region. We look forward to continued collaboration towards this end.
- I thank you.

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