

Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
CTED at Twenty:
Advancing Global Counter Terrorism Efforts for the Future

United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 2
27th October 2025 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (EST)

Concept note

I. Introduction

1. In 2025, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) will commemorate its twentieth anniversary. In its resolution 1535 (2004), the Security Council established CTED to assist the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in monitoring the implementation of Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent counter-terrorism resolutions. CTED became fully staffed in September 2005 and was formally operational in December 2005.

2. Since its formation, CTED has played a unique role within the United Nations system. Through its assessments, conducted on behalf of the CTC, of Member States' implementation of counter-terrorism obligations, identification of good practices, facilitation of technical assistance, promotion of international cooperation, and analysis of emerging issues, trends and developments, CTED has significantly contributed to strengthening national, regional and global efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. To date, CTED has conducted, on behalf of the CTC, 216 assessment visits to more than 120 Member States, amassing a unique data set and significant expertise. In completing those visits, CTED has partnered with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities.

3. CTED's mandate has been expanded by the Security Council to include assessing Member States' responses to a broad range of threats and emerging trends, including integrated and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies, legal and judicial measures, international cooperation, countering the financing of terrorism, law enforcement, border management, countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including countering terrorist narratives, and the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. CTED has also consistently addressed all human rights and rule of law issues relevant to Member States' implementation of Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent resolutions and integrated gender as a cross-cutting issue, in accordance with its mandate. It has likewise assessed the extent to which measures taken by Member States are consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

4. Over the past two decades, CTED has deepened its constructive dialogue with Member States through its assessment visits and stocktaking processes, ensuring that the CTC reviews all counter-terrorism efforts made by Member States in an even-handed and consistent manner. CTED encourages Member States to share their assessments with United Nations entities and international bodies, to ensure that capacity-building initiatives respond to identified gaps and needs and are in line with relevant Council resolutions.

5. CTED has continued to develop its expertise to assess and respond to emerging issues, trends and developments in terrorism and counter-terrorism. In recent years, terrorists groups, such as Da'esh and affiliates, have been exploring and deploying Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Digital platforms, including cryptocurrencies, and online fundraising tools are being exploited to move funds discreetly. Some terrorist groups have also experimented with artificial intelligence. While these threats are expanding globally, they pose a particular concern in parts of Africa, which has experienced a sharp increase in terrorist activity in recent years. To assist Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter these threats, CTED has supported the CTC in developing non-binding guiding principles on threats posed by the use of UAS for terrorist purposes, also known as the Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles, and preventing, detecting and disrupting the use of new and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes, also known as the Algeria Guiding Principles. At the same time, CTED has continued to analyse trends and developments in terrorism and counter-terrorism to ensure the CTC remains well placed to guide Member States in responding to changes in the terrorism landscape.

II. Objectives of the open briefing

6. The open briefing will bring together representatives from Member States and international and regional organizations, as well as civil society and members of the Global Research Network, to reflect on two decades of CTED. The forward-looking discussion will focus on the impact of CTED's work and lessons learned; trends and developments in terrorism and counter-terrorism; and CTED's unique ability to support Member States in their counter terrorism efforts.

III. Format of discussions

7. The open briefing will reflect on the impact of CTED's work on behalf of the CTC in assessing Member States and facilitating technical assistance. The briefing will then examine emerging issues, trends and developments in terrorism and counter-terrorism and reflect on CTED's unique expertise and preparedness to adapt to the evolving global terrorism threat.

8. The segments will be followed by interactive dialogues, during which Member States will be encouraged to share lessons learned, including good practices and challenges.

9. The Chair of the CTC will chair the open briefing.

10. The Chair of the CTC, supported by the Security Council Affairs Division, will circulate briefing documentation and other logistical information, which will also be posted on the CTC's website.

IV. Panellists

11. Representatives of Member States, United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, civil society, the private sector and academia will be invited to serve as panellists.

V. Date and venue

12. The open briefing will be held at United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 2, on 27th October, 2025 10:00 am to 1:00 pm