

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

The Council has emphasized the need to coordinate efforts at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels to respond to this challenge. The Council has also encouraged Member States and the United Nations to continue enhancing their understanding of the nature and scope of the links that may exist between terrorism financing and transnational organized crime. And this brings us to today and the objective event.

Under the guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED has worked to increase its understanding of the terrorism-transnational organized crime nexus and to identify possible responses. The most important way it does this is through its dialogue with Member States, including its assessment visits on behalf of the Committee. CTED

Member States view the nexus. Through that dialogue, it identifies and investigates links between terrorist and criminal groups, and listens to the lessons learned by Member States. CTED also supports

Most still face challenges relating to corruption, insufficient inter-agency cooperation and lack of resources. Although all Central American States have established financial intelligence units, there is considerable variation in their levels of capacity, funding, staffing and output. Central America remains vulnerable to the continued viability of powerful organized crime groups and drug cartels, which cause violence, the erosion of the rule of law and violations of human rights.

In the Caribbean, the increased complexity of the possible links between terrorism and organized crime underscores the growing challenge to capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases and their links to transnational organized crime. Because of its geography, the subregion is an attractive maritime transit route for the smuggling of drugs, small arms and light weapons, people, and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials.

In South America, Member States have continued to make good progress in preventing and countering terrorism, but significant challenges remain. Despite the general perception that the terrorist threat to the region is low, the region remains vulnerable to terrorism financing; transnational organized crime; and the illicit cross-border movement of funds, arms and people. A positive development we have observed is a significant degree of cooperation and information exchange between the financial intelligence units and the competent authorities, and many units cooperate with counterparts outside the region. In terms of criminal investigations, CTED is working to assess whether national prosecution offices have the authority, capacity, expertise, technical means, and human resources to handle complex terrorism cases.

Throughout the whole region, we observe that many Member States have yet to establish specialized teams with expertise to handle complex terrorist cases. In some subregions, judicial and

prosecutorial capacities and expertise to counter terrorist acts remain limited.

Effective strategies to disrupt the linkages between terrorism and organized crime require a proper understanding and assessment of the risks and the adoption of a risk-based approach. Moving forward, effective responses should include at least the following elements: (1) a comprehensive legislative framework against terrorism, organized crime and corruption; (2) the institutional capacity to carry out complex investigations and ensure inter-agency information exchange; and (3) cooperation and partnership with the private sector and academia to understand and address the issue both strategically and operationally.

The Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean have long been strong and consistent supporters of the work of the Committee and CTED, and we very much value the dialogue we have with them. Just last week, my team of technical experts returned from a successful visit to Chile, where the Government generously hosted

