Security Council Arria-formula meeting

"Preventing terrorism and violent extremism through tackling gender stereotypes, masculinities, and structural gender inequality"

Wednesday, 28 July 2021, 3.00 p.m. EDT

Statement of

Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx, Executive Director, CTED

Thank you, Mr. President.

In its resolutions 2242 (2015) and 2395 (2017), the Security Council requests CTED to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout its activities.

Gender mainstreaming is thus an extremely important aspect of CTED's mandate in working on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

The term *gender* refers to socially constructed identities, attributes and roles for women and men and the resulting social, cultural and economic power dynamics between and among men and women.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy for ensuring that women's and men's experiences are an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

CTED strives to ensure that this full meaning of gender mainstreaming is integrated into all its work.

We have highlighted the role of masculinities in several of our analytical publications.

Last November, CTED worked with the International Peace Institute to organize a series of consultations with academics, policymakers and practitioners to reflect on the ways in which the consideration of masculinities can be more meaningfully integrated into counter-terrorism efforts.

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Terrorist groups themselves are very aware of the power of gender.

They exploit ideas about femininity and masculinity in their narratives, recruitment strategies, and operational methods.

There is a growing awareness that integrating gender into counter-terrorism and CVE must therefore include a focus on masculinities.

This is reflected in a growing body of research into the relevance of masculinity to various aspects of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Violent masculinity is also a core element of terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief.

We are all aware of the deeply misogynistic ideas that underpin the ideology of such movements, including rape culture, violence against women and control over female reproductive health.

We also see how those ideas intersect with, and reinforce, the racist, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic ideas of such groups.

Incorporating a focus on these constructions of masculinity into our analysis and policies is thus an essential part of addressing the root causes of radicalization to terrorism.

In our counter-terrorism and CVE responses, we must continue to strengthen our consideration of gender perspectives, as well as our efforts to address the role of gender inequality in violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Yet, as we collectively seek to better integrate these issues into our work, we must be careful not to perpetuate gender stereotypes and cause gendered harms.

Insufficient reflection on notions of masculinity and on how those notions intersect with racial, ethnic and religious stereotypes has led to harmful practices in some cases.

For example, in some existing policies and prograW*m118rgnd prograW*m118rgnd prograW*m