

Open briefing of the Counter-

Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. Its aims were to help strengthen understanding of the nexus as it pertains to criminal activities linked to trafficking in persons, drugs and arms and to initiate discussion of possible responses.

Introductory session

The introductory session focused on the main forms of interaction between terrorist and criminal groups, as well as on the “push-and-pull” factors involved in the establishment of the nexus.

It was noted that terrorist and criminal actors shared a common interest in exploiting unregulated spaces and weak State institutions and that linkages between terrorist and criminal groups thrived

CTED highlighted the preliminary findings of its study aimed at identifying and exploring the nexus between human trafficking, terrorism and its financing, which is expected to be finalized by the end of November 2018.

The participants made a number of follow-up recommendations, including:

Session III

During Session III, the participants considered terrorist involvement in arms trafficking and the connections between organized criminal groups and terrorists for the purposes of acquiring weapons. Panellists noted related initiatives of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNODC, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Small Arms Survey presented an analysis of the types of weapons used by terrorists and underlined the current lack of specific knowledge and data concerning sources and factors that contributed to the illicit acquisition and use of weapons by terrorists.

Speakers also underscored that criminal and terrorist groups could easily exploit legal loopholes and weak national control systems in order to divert arms from the legal to the illegal market.

It was noted that the related challenges could be addressed by, inter alia, enhancing national legislative and institutional frameworks; increasing controls on the possession, use and transfer of weapons; and providing an effective criminal-justice response. International cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies, customs and prosecutors should also be strengthened.

Member States should