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Distinguished guests and dear colleagues,

Kku'ò { 'r gcuwtg'q'y greqo g' {qw'q'qf c {ø'gxgpvì cvj gtgf 'q'hcwpej 'EVGF ø'hcwv'Trends Tracker on Exqixkpi "Vtgpf u"lp"vj g'Hpcpekpi "qh'Hqtgki p"Vgttqt ku"Hki j vgtuø"(FTF) Activity and discuss how the their financing methods and main expenditures evolved in the past 10 years.

Vj ku'r wdkcvkqp"cpf "qf c {ø'gxgpv also mark the 10th years anniversary since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), and pave the way the upcoming discussions of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the implementation of this resolution. Let me recall that in this resolution the Council in particular underlined the need to disrupt financial flows supporting FTFs, while respecting international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law. The Council also directed CTED to identify issues, trends and developments related to FTFs.

In this regard, the Trends Tracker offers a brief examination of how financial flows related to FTF travel and activities have evolved over the past 10 years, reflecting the changes in their locations and circumstances, especially as new conflict zones attract new terrorist networks.

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legal means, often personal savings, and sometimes could be collected by family or support groups. To sustain the needs of FTFs, funds could be wired to them abroad through formal or informal money service businesses, or, if collected in cash, passed to couriers. The flow of funds primarily followed a straightforward path from countries of origin to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, or neighbouring countries, mirroring the movements of FTFs, making their the financial footprints quite easily traceable.

However, in subsequent years there has been a marked diversification and evolution in these trends. The financial flows now traverse a wider geographical expanse, accompanied by a rise in regional FTF recruitment, encompassing a number of regions in Africa, Afghanistan, and Central and South-East Asia. The role of regional financial hubs has evolved and expanded.

Soon after the adoption of increased due diligence measures for transactions, particularly in regions bordering conflict zones or high-risk jurisdictions, financiers adopted various methods of concealing their financial trails, using false identities and forged documents, electronic wallets or prepaid cards funded through third countries.

The expenditures and purpose of funding have also undergone a notable shift, from covering travel costs, living expenses in conflict zones, medical expenses and purchasing weapons or other equipment used in combat, towards sustaining individuals who move between different conflict zones, or financing their return to their countries of origin, including through smugglers and traffickers.

As technologies have advanced and new ways have been sought to obfuscate financial trails related to FTFs, donations are more and more often coordinated through encrypted mobile applications, closed chat groups, and funds are sent in the form of virtual assets. We foresee that technological advancements will continue to play an important role in the evolution of FTF financing, with an anticipated further increase and sophistication in exploitation of new and emerging financial technologies as they continue to spread across jurisdictions.

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Overall, the financial patterns associated with FTFs have demonstrated remarkable adaptability, shifting from relatively simple methods to increasingly sophisticated and technologically advanced approaches.

Today, by bringing together diverse stakeholders and experts, CTED aims to foster a more sustainable, inclusive, and innovative approach to understanding this evolving threat and adapting our responses to it.

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Thank you.