

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

**Technical consultations of the
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on**

terrorist fighters and FTF returnees. SC resolution 2178 (para 6) specifically obliges States to establish, as serious criminal offences, a number of FTF related conducts. It includes the active or passive recruitment, training, facilitation and the financing of FTF travel. The incorporation of the legislative elements of resolution 2178, especially related to countering the FTF financing, into national legal frameworks still remains a challenge for some Member States, posing further obstacles for cooperation. In this context, let me mention UNODC's five-year initiative on strengthening the legal regime against FTFs which helps to overcome these challenges.

Effective responses to the FTF phenomenon also require a proactive, flexible and multidisciplinary approach, involving FIUs, judges, investigators and prosecutors, often from different jurisdictions.

Second, States still lack and some remain reluctant to designate competent central authorities for multilateral judicial cooperation in terrorism matters, including for FTF related cases. Different from other UN conventions, such as the UNTOC and the UNCAC, none of the 19 counter-terrorism conventions and protocols requires to designate Central Authorities for CT cases. In this context, it is of high importance that SC resolution 2322 of 2016 welcomed, in one of its preamble paragraph, the efforts of UNODC "to upgrade its existing networks of Central Authorities to encompass the ones responsible for counter-terrorism matters". And at the same time, in operative paragraph 13 (e), it called upon States "to designate MLA and extradition Central Authorities or relevant criminal justice authorities" to ensure effective interstate cooperation in terrorism related cases.

What is absolutely clear and obvious that there is an urgent need to take actions to facilitate direct contacts between Central Authorities and between CT practitioners across borders.

Third, the lack of coordination and information exchange is often a fundamental

good practices to overcome obstacles in information sharing. Some of these mechanisms, such as the appointment of liaison officers, police-to-police cooperation, and the creation/use, when appropriate, of joint investigation mechanism are also recommended by resolution 2322.

The resolution also explicitly refers to information sharing with regard to the FTF phenomenon. FTFs, including returnees, are mentioned in its several operative paragraphs. What particularly distinguishes it from other resolutions, for example resolution 2178 of 2014, is that the SC for the first time called upon Member States to share, where appropriate, biometrical and biographical information about FTFs and other individual terrorists and terrorist organizations.

And my fourth point is about terrorism cases involving the use of information and communication technologies such as the Internet and social media. It is clear that Internet is a tool of choice for all terrorist groups. Almost on a daily basis practitioners face challenges pertaining to the collection of digital evidence, in particular taken into account a short time during which information can be deleted. The fact is that practitioners have to deal not only with state agencies but also with a private companies providing communication services. Obtaining digital evidence from other jurisdiction is another complex issue. In this context, I would like to highlight a joint initiative of UNODC and CTED with IAP for the collection of digital evidence, which we hope to start implementing in the very near future.

And finally, some States just do not have the capacity to provide swift support to their counterparts abroad, taking into account an enormous volume of requests which are difficult to cope with. In addition to promoting the universal legal regime against terrorism and provision of legislative services, building the capacity of the judiciary to effectively cooperate across borders is a key priority in UNODC's mandate.

In fact, UNODC has an extensive long-term experience in these issues. We have been developing important technical tools and providing robust technical assistance and capacity building to Member States, in this area.

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To facilitate international judicial cooperation, UNODC assists States in establishing and functioning regional networks for judicial focal points. The Office also maintains repositories of legislation by country and crime type, directories of competent national authorities and offers strong capacity building programmes.

We stand ready, alongside other UN entities, to support Member States practitioners, upon request, to equip them with necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities and ensure effective judicial cooperation in terrorism cases.

In line with operative paragraph 21 of resolution 2322, UNODC will be substantively supporting CTED in the elaboration of the report. I am looking forward to an interactive two-day discussion on the key aspects of this milestone resolution.