

Open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on

**“The nexus between international terrorism
and transnational organized crime”**

Statement by

**Ms. Michèle Coninsx,
Assistant Secretary-General,
Executive Director,
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

*United Nations Headquarters, New York; Conference Room 3
Monday, 8 October 2018*

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime is an issue of growing concern to us all.

The international community continues to develop its response, whether through operational-level initiatives and research or through the adoption of international and regional legal instruments.

The Chair noted a number of very relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1373 (2001), which lies at the heart of CTED’s mandate.

And of course the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols are also invaluable tools in this context.

Linkages between terrorist and criminal groups also thrive in situations of conflict and instability.

Under the guidance of the Committee, CTED has undertaken a number of actions to increase its understanding of the nexus and to identify possible responses.

Within the framework of the country assessment visits conducted on behalf of the CTC, CTED engages with the host States concerning their perception of the nexus, any identified and investigated links between terrorist and criminal groups, and lessons learned.

We have identified a number of good State practices, including the creation of joint investigative units and prosecution authorities to handle both organized crime and terrorism.

A significant vulnerability in some visited States is their continued failure to assess the risk posed to certain economic sectors, as well as the informal sector, by tracing the financial flows deriving from their illicit exploitation and by identifying the ways in which they are exploited by terrorist and criminal groups.

Aware that the terror/crime nexus may take different forms, depending on the specific political and/or geographical context, CTED contributed to three of the four regional workshops held on this topic by the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in partnership with UNICRI.

The workshop outcomes were presented last week, here in New York.

Later this week, we shall also take part in the first meeting of the Council of Europe Working Group of experts on terrorism and transnational organized crime.

And, acting in accordance with Council resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017), we continue to conduct research into the nexus between human trafficking and terrorism.

The preliminary findings of our research will be shared with you today.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Events such as today's open briefing provide us with opportunities