Interactive open briefing for the wider membership in advance of the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on “Security Council resolution 2396 (2017): review of the Madrid Guiding Principles”

Tuesday, 20 November 2018, United Nations Headquarters, New York, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Concept note

I. Introduction

1. In 2015, following a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in Madrid, Spain, the Committee adopted the Madrid Guiding Principles on stemming the flow of FTFs, which provide a set of strategies and techniques to guide States in their efforts to address the foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) threat. In its resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council requests the Committee, with the support of CTED, to review the 2015 Madrid Guiding Principles in light of the evolving FTF phenomenon, in particular returning and relocating FTFs and their family members. In accordance with that resolution, the Counter-Terrorism Committee will hold a special meeting on “Security Council resolution 2396 (2017): review of the Madrid Guiding Principles”, on Thursday, 13 December 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York. (The 2015 Madrid Guiding Principles and the concept note and agenda for the special meeting are attached herewith.)

2. It is anticipated that the special meeting will lead to the adoption of an addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles, consisting of a set of additional good practices to assist Member States in their efforts to respond to the evolving FTF phenomenon. It is also intended to assist in the prioritization and development of capacity-building. The additional principles will build on existing guidance and good practices developed in other multilateral forums; information gathered by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the support of its Executive Directorate (CTED), primarily through country assessments and through its ongoing dialogue with Member States; its cooperation with the Analytical and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee; as well as additional information gathered from international and regional organizations; civil society, including members of the CTED Global Research Network; third-party intelligence; and the private sector.

II. Objective of proposed briefing

3. The Counter-Terrorism Committee has stressed the importance of engaging with the wider membership of the United Nations in the process of reviewing the Madrid Guiding Principles. In this regard, the proposed briefing by the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on Tuesday, 20 November, will provide the Committee and the wider membership with an opportunity to identify and discuss further practical ways to address the principal gaps that may hinder States’ abilities to appropriately detect, interdict, and where possible, prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate FTF returnees and relocators and their family members. It will also provide an
An effective response to this phenomenon requires that States continue to strengthen international cooperation, including on border security and information-sharing; preventing and countering incitement and recruitment to commit terrorist acts; countering terrorist narratives; developing and implementing risk assessments and intervention programmes; judicial measures; prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies; and international judicial cooperation. A comprehensive response to the evolving FTF phenomenon may also require the strengthening of efforts to: (i) prevent inmates who have been convicted of terrorism-related offences from radicalizing other prisoners to violence and ensure that prisons can serve a role in rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate; (ii) protect critical infrastructure, vulnerable targets, “soft” targets, and tourism sites; (iii) prevent and address the misuse of information and communications technologies (ICT) for terrorist purposes; and (iv) counter terrorism financing and improve the collection, use and sharing of financial intelligence.

4. Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law. Comprehensive strategies should also take into account gender and age sensitivities, the best interests of the child, and the differential impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the human rights of women and girls. States are encouraged to ensure the effective participation and leadership of women in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of counter-terrorism strategies and to enable and empower young people and other members of civil society to participate voluntarily in efforts to implement such strategies.

5. Additional events intended to create opportunities to exchange views with, and receive inputs from, various stakeholders in preparation for the special meeting, include a workshop with members of the CTED Global Research Network and other academics and analysts, held during the World Counter-Terrorism Summit hosted by the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Herzliya, Israel from 3 to 6 September 2018; an expert forum, organized by the State of Qatar, the Soufan Center and CTED on 30 and 31 October 2018 in Doha; and an upcoming interactive briefing for members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and other non-governmental actors on potential challenges and good practices in the implementation of Council resolution 2396 (2017), which will be organized by CTED and the Global Center on Cooperative Security on 19 October 2018.

III. Date and venue

6. The interactive briefing for the wider membership of the United Nations will take place on Tuesday, 20 November 2018, from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York. All Member States and United Nations entities with a valid United Nations grounds pass are encouraged to attend. Substantive questions may be addressed to Ms. Rebecca Brattskar, CTED Political Affairs Officer (brattskar@un.org). Logistical questions may be addressed to Mr. Norihito Yamabe, CTED Associate Political Affairs Officer (yamabe@un.org).
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Draft agenda

10:30–11:00 Opening session

Opening remarks:

• H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee, will brief the wider membership on the review of the Madrid Guiding Principles

Presentation:

• Mr. David Scharia, Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), will highlight the main thematic priorities in the review of the Madrid Guiding Principles

11:00–13:00 Discussion

Moderator:

• H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee