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**Letter dated 5 February 2020 from the Chair of the
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution
1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism, I have the honour to refer to my related letter of 27 December 2019, as well as to the attached report on the activities and achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate during the period from 2018 to 2019 (see annex I) and the attached observations of the Executive Director on the way forward for the work of the Executive Directorate (see annex II), for the consideration of the Council in the context of the interim review of the Executive Directorate's mandate, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#).

The Committee would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Moncef **Baati**
Chair

Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism

* Reissued for technical reasons on 1 July 2020.



Annex I

Report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the activities and achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate during the period from 2018 to 2019

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), decided that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate would continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Committee for the period ending 31 December 2021 and further decided to conduct by 31 December 2019 an interim review. The Counter-Terrorism Committee, in its 2019 work programme, stated that it would assist the Security Council in conducting an interim review of the mandate of the Executive Directorate by 31 December 2019, in accordance with resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#) ([S/2019/192](#), annex, para. 4). The Executive Directorate, in its 2019 work programme, stated that it would support the Committee in assisting the Security Council in conducting an interim review of the mandate of the Executive Directorate by 31 December 2019, in accordance with resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#) (*ibid.*, enclosure, para. 4).
2. The present report, prepared by the Executive Directorate pursuant to resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), its work programme and that of the Committee, describes the activities and achievements of the Committee and the Executive Directorate during the reporting period, with a particular focus on the elements specifically identified in resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.
3. It should be recalled that the Executive Directorate's mandate derives from Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [1963 \(2010\)](#), [2129 \(2013\)](#), [2133 \(2014\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2185 \(2014\)](#), [2195 \(2014\)](#), [2220 \(2015\)](#), [2242 \(2015\)](#), [2253 \(2015\)](#), [2309 \(2016\)](#), [2322 \(2016\)](#), [2331 \(2016\)](#), [2341 \(2017\)](#), [2354 \(2017\)](#), [2368 \(2017\)](#), [2370 \(2017\)](#), [2388 \(2017\)](#), [2395 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#), [2467 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#).
4. The present report, together with the accompanying note of the Executive Director (see annex II), is intended to assist the Committee in advising the Security Council within the framework of the interim review.

II. Emerging terrorism issues, threats, trends and challenges

5. During the period under review, terrorism continued to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. In an increasingly complex and volatile global security landscape, terrorists and terrorist groups have continued to evolve, adopting new tactics, techniques and narratives. Despite the loss of the territory it once controlled and the recent death of its leader, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) posed, and is likely to continue to pose, a significant global challenge, maintaining a diminished, but enduring presence in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as a network of regional and national affiliates, and an online network of supporters seeking to inspire terrorist attacks. Other terrorist groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaida, also continued to pose a threat and sought to exploit conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to the spread of terrorism, in States suffering from political instability and ongoing or unresolved armed conflicts. These various groups increasingly shifted

towards more localized narratives and attempts at State-building or governance of territory.

6. The return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters from the conflict zones of the Middle East remained a major policy challenge for Member States, many of which continued to encounter significant challenges, as identified in the Committee's country assessments, in their efforts to comply with the Security Council's requirement to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for suspected terrorists and returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. Those challenges, as the Executive Directorate's assessments and analysis show, include knowledge gaps about returnees and relocators; lack of enabling legislation and skilled capacity; and ineffective inter-agency cooperation.

7. The detention of women and children suspected of affiliation with ISIL in the Middle East and North Africa and in South and South-East Asia presented States with a new set of challenges. Although some States began to repatriate their nationals, with a significant focus on children, including orphans, thousands of foreign terrorist fighters and their families remain in camps, often living in difficult conditions. The Security Council has called on Member States to develop a range of age-sensitive and gender-sensitive measures, such as tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, risk assessment tools, counter-narratives and programmes to counter violent extremism.

8. Terrorists also continued to conduct attacks against soft targets, including places of worship and other religious sites. Effective protection of such targets requires not only the implementation of physical protection measures, but also the development of strong and resilient communities and close engagement with civil society and local leadership, including religious leaders, as well as with the private sector.

9. Terrorists and their supporters continued to exploit information and communications technology (ICT), in particular the Internet and social media, to communicate, spread propaganda, share instructional materials and carry out attacks. Terrorists and violent extremists also increasingly used live-streaming technology to publicize their attacks. This trend was notably illustrated during the attacks carried out in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019. Although detection from large social media platforms has improved significantly, owing to the efforts of the technology industry and multi-stakeholder collaboration, terrorist groups and associated individuals increasingly exploited smaller platforms, which are less capable of detecting and removing content, while simultaneously seeking to bypass the controls introduced by larger platforms. This has resulted in an increasingly decentralized, but interconnected online terrorist "ecosystem", which includes mainstream social media platforms, as well many other much smaller platforms, such as file-sharing sites, instant messaging services and chatrooms.

10. In its resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council noted that technology had also played an increasingly central role in counter-terrorism, including the use of advance passenger information, passenger name record data and biometric systems developed for border-management purposes, and measures to counter the potential threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems. States continued to experience challenges in their efforts to respect their international obligations to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, notably the protection from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, and for the rule of law when using technology for counter-terrorism purposes. Member States have identified these and the misuse of other new technologies, including unmanned aircraft systems and cryptocurrencies, as potential future risks.

11. Member States sought to develop measures to address those threats, risks and challenges. Over the past two years, a large number of Member States from different regions made progress in their implementation of the measures required pursuant to Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and other relevant resolutions. Those measures included the enactment of new legislation, the creation of new counter-terrorism institutions and the strengthening of international cooperation. Member States also enhanced cooperation with civil society, where appropriate. The implementation of such measures was enhanced following the adoption of resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#) on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, which was aimed at addressing the exacerbated threats following the emergence of ISIL.

12. In spite of those efforts, terrorists and terrorist organizations continued to circumvent existing and newly introduced counter-terrorism measures by adapting their *modi operandi*, including by developing new ways to raise funds to finance their activities and new routes for crossing borders and by identifying new soft and vulnerable targets. As reflected in Security Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), this development required the adoption of a more comprehensive and holistic approach in countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. In particular, with respect to the protection of soft targets, the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders beyond law enforcement agencies, including civil society, the private sector, academia, the media, youth, women and cultural, local, educational and religious leaders, can assist in mitigating the risk to those targets and in preventing, investigating and recovering from such attacks.

A. Terrorism financing

13. As reflected in Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), disrupting terrorist capacities to raise, move and use funds remained an integral part of the counter-terrorism response. The evolving and opportunistic funding methods used by terrorists and the trend for terrorists to carry out low-cost attacks make it difficult for States to identify and halt the flow of funds. A growing number of States are conducting terrorism-financing risk assessments with a view to detecting vulnerabilities, identifying their most vulnerable sectors and prioritizing their responses. An increasing number of States have developed effective public-private cooperation mechanisms to identify, analyse and share financing information. However, financial intelligence units should continue to become more systematically involved in counter-terrorism efforts. Further efforts are also needed to ensure that financial intelligence is fully exploited and that terrorism-financing investigations are conducted regularly, both in parallel to terrorism investigations and autonomously. The Executive Directorate's assessments on behalf of the Committee indicate that States often underestimate the "disruption" potential of domestic designations and asset-freezing measures. Although most States have introduced asset-freezing provisions, the use of such provisions remained limited. States should continue to ensure that the measures adopted to protect non-profit organizations from terrorism-financing abuse are proportionate to the risks identified and do not unduly impede the legitimate activities of non-profit organizations. In accordance with the specific mandate provided for in resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) and in accordance with resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate will strengthen its assessment process relating to countering the financing of terrorism, including through targeted and focused follow-up visits.

B. Legal and criminal justice

14. In its resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#) and other recent resolutions, the Security Council set forth a number of new requirements for Member States to, inter alia, bring perpetrators of terrorist attacks to justice and to stem the inflow and outflow of foreign terrorist fighters, requiring all States to take steps to review, revise, update and amend their domestic legislation in order to fulfil their obligations. Low-capacity States continued to require technical assistance in this regard, including in the context of their efforts to ratify the international counter-terrorism instruments and transpose the offences defined therein into domestic law. International cooperation, including through mutual legal assistance and extradition, remains key to addressing the many transnational operational challenges frequently encountered by national judicial and law enforcement authorities in terrorist cases. States should also consider developing and participating in regional inter-agency judicial and law enforcement cooperation platforms or networks to facilitate the timely gathering and sharing of information and evidence relating to suspected terrorists, in accordance with international law. In their efforts to bring terrorists to justice, investigators and prosecutors continued to face challenges relating to access to digital evidence and evidence collected by the military and the use of intelligence as evidence in court.

C. Border management and law enforcement

15. Pursuant to several Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), Member States are required to take steps to strengthen their border management and law enforcement. In that regard, many States continued to encounter challenges in connecting to, using and populating the relevant databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). A number of Member States have not developed watch lists or databases of known and suspected terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, for use by law enforcement, border security, customs, military and intelligence agencies to screen travellers and conduct risk assessments and investigations. The lack of watch lists and databases at the national level may also prevent early and effective identification and detection of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters. Watch lists and databases enable States to share information through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and with relevant international authorities. All such watch lists and databases should be operated in accordance with the national laws and international obligations of Member States.

16. However, there continued to be challenges related to technical issues, such as legal enrolment criteria, data retention or deletion policies, data processing, data sharing, preventing the misuse of data, data security, validation and oversight. This creates a serious impediment to international cooperation and international sharing of data, since many States are prohibited, pursuant to their respective national laws, from sharing protected and personal data with States that have weaker data protection regimes. It is imperative that all systems developed to support law enforcement and border security be implemented in full compliance with the relevant international obligations and international human rights law, in particular the right to freedom of movement, the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, safeguards for the protection of data and the principle of non-discrimination. New developments, such as advances in the field of artificial intelligence (such as machine learning) and increased reliance on tools powered by artificial intelligence, make the development of such guidance necessary. Further guidance on developing the necessary legislation, establishing connectivity and access for all competent authorities, interoperability and international information-sharing may be required.

In this regard, the Executive Directorate proposed, within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, that a compendium of recommended practices on developing relevant watch lists and databases be developed. The Executive Directorate also continued to advise Member States on measures to be undertaken to enhance their implementation efforts in the areas of border management and law enforcement pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

D. Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration

17. In its resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council called upon Member States to develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters. In the wake of the territorial defeats inflicted on ISIL and other terrorist groups, large numbers of individuals associated with those groups are currently held in prisons, military or administrative detention facilities or camps for internally displaced persons; returning to their States of origin; or relocating to other States. As a result, thousands of individuals, including women and children, have entered into already strained criminal justice systems. Member States also face difficulties in determining the extent to which individuals may have committed terrorism-related offences, the specific roles that they may have played and the extent to which their association with the group was voluntary.

18. Member States continued to adopt various approaches to those challenges, including conducting summary trials of individuals associated with terrorist groups, developing rehabilitation programmes and allowing persons who voluntarily disengage from terrorist groups to return to their communities without being subjected to the criminal justice process. Several States report that they have introduced some form of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration programme, project or activity. However, many of the States that are most affected by terrorism (including the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon) have yet to develop and/or implement such strategies. In some cases, strategies are implemented as short-term programmes that are accorded low priority and investment. The related challenges have been further exacerbated by increased insecurity and political tension, as well as by declines in funding. Member States, United Nations entities and agencies and international and regional organizations and entities such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum have identified a number of lessons learned and common denominators for an effective approach to overcoming these challenges. The guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (Madrid Guiding Principles) (2015) ([S/2015/939](#), annex II) and the addendum thereto (2018) ([S/2018/1177](#), annex) also provide guidance for States in this area.

E. Human rights in the context of counter-terrorism

19. Efforts to ensure compliance with international human rights obligations while countering terrorism continued to be a priority concern for Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Recent developments and related Security Council resolutions have raised new challenges in this area. The increasing rate of returns of foreign terrorist fighters has led States to consider the human rights safeguards that should be preserved for returnees, especially for family members, including children, who may not have criminal liability for terrorist acts and are victims. The importance of ensuring respect for children's rights is a growing issue of concern. Terrorist abuse of ICT to recruit terrorists and incite terrorist acts has led to enhanced surveillance practices, which raise serious issues with respect to the rights to freedom of

expression and to privacy. The Committee and the Executive Directorate have considered steps that may be taken to guard against human rights infringements, including the use of independent oversight mechanisms. Other new counter-terrorism approaches mandated by the Security Council, such as the international exchange of watch lists and reliance on biometrics, also entail human rights implications.

20. The Committee continued to consider how these human rights challenges are being addressed by Member States. The Executive Directorate has welcomed Member States' efforts to identify ways to implement their Security Council obligations while also respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with obligations under international law. Discussions on this matter with States of all regions were constructive, and the Executive Directorate continued to include specific human rights recommendations in its visit reports, often urging engagement on these issues between the States concerned and United Nations human rights mechanisms, as well as consideration of technical assistance, where appropriate.

III. Assessment of Member States' implementation efforts

21. Country visits are a critical component of the direct interaction and engagement between the Committee and Member States. Conducted on the Committee's behalf by the Executive Directorate, the visits provide visited Member States with a vital opportunity to demonstrate to the United Nations and to the international community the range of legal, institutional and practical efforts that they have undertaken to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions on terrorism. During the visits, the Executive Directorate engages in in-depth dialogue with national experts to learn about their experiences and to identify strengths, good practices and progress made in implementing the relevant Council resolutions and related international standards, as well as to identify new and emerging terrorism trends and methods, including remaining challenges and areas in which the visited State may benefit from receiving technical assistance. The on-site dialogue enables visited Member States to examine their own national counter-terrorism measures against the relevant Security Council resolutions and the related international standards, prioritize the competing action plans of their various national agencies and share their good practices with the international community. In recognition of the added value of the Committee's visits, a number of visited States consider the assessment to be a "free" assessment or "audit".

22. The on-site assessment visits are conducted in accordance with a fixed methodology that is applicable to all Member States, neutral, uniform, even-handed, and consistent. The Committee's report of the on-site assessment visit has a number of unique characteristics, including the following: (a) it is drafted by the Executive Directorate, rather than by the visited Member State, thus reducing the burden on the visited State; (b) it is shared with the visited State prior to its adoption by the Committee in order to give the host Government an opportunity to comment on the Executive Directorate's findings, in order to ensure transparency; (c) it addresses multiple thematic areas, thereby assisting the host Government in ensuring that coordination at the policy level cascades down to the operational level and helps the Government to prioritize competing national counter-terrorism demands; and (d) it serves as a valid and solid reference for technical assistance donors and providers.

23. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Committee and the Executive Directorate adapt the nature and duration of the visits to suit each specific context and ensure that their approach remains needs-based, timely and flexible. During the period 2018–2019, 31 visits were conducted, covering all regions, including low-capacity and high-capacity States, as well as countries affected by the

foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and those neighbouring the conflict zones (see enclosure I), which will bring the total number of assessment visits conducted by the Committee since 2005 to 166, covering 107 Member States. It should be noted that late submission of consent or approval for the Committee's visit causes challenges in preparing agendas and in securing the participation of other international agencies in the visits in a short time frame, leading sometimes to the deferral of the visit to the subsequent year.

24. The Executive Directorate continued to submit to the Committee, at the beginning of each calendar year, a proposed list of country visits, supplemented by further visit requests received from Member States and recommendations for adjustments throughout the year. The Executive Directorate also continued to submit to the Committee the preliminary observations and assessment and the draft report on each visit. The related discussions and negotiations with visited States continued to be constructive. In consequence, a number of visited States gave their consent to share the visit findings, either in part or in whole, with a wider circle, including for the purpose of facilitating technical assistance. The Executive Directorate intends to officially request the dissemination of this information to the Committee members.

25. In accordance with paragraph 13 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to engage in constructive dialogue with visited Member States with a view to sharing the adopted visit reports with relevant United Nations partners (with the exception of selected information that the visited Member State may request be kept confidential). Four visited Member States (Armenia, Ethiopia, South Africa and Switzerland) agreed to share their entire visit reports. Three States (Côte d'Ivoire, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia) agreed to share a portion of their reports under this procedure. The Executive Directorate continues to engage in discussions with a number of other Member States to build on these practices. The sharing of visit reports provides transparency to the assessment process, allows for the faster and more targeted delivery of technical assistance and the broadest sharing of identified good practices in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions.

26. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate also engaged in discussions with visited Member States with a view to inviting their representatives to brief the Committee on steps taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee pursuant to its assessment visits. The first of these briefings took place in December 2019. A number of Member States have also submitted responses to the Committee on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Committee's assessment reports. The Executive Directorate intends to officially request that this information be disseminated to the Committee members before it is shared with the Committee for consideration in the context of the subsequent stocktaking assessment exercise.

27. On 8 October 2018, pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Committee, with the support of the Executive Directorate, adopted its updated guidelines for enhancing the Committee's post-visit follow-up, including shortening timelines for the drafting and reviewing of reports. The guidelines describe the various scenarios for handling visit-related documents in a timely manner.

28. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), its work programme and that of the Committee, the Executive Directorate is scheduled to submit in 2019 its draft updated framework for the Committee's visits to Member States aimed at monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions. The document will take into account developments and needs relating to the preparation and conducting of and follow-up to visits since 2005 and is intended to provide guidelines and references to Member States, the Committee

and the Executive Directorate in conducting country visits with a view to facilitating the dialogue between the Committee and Member States through the assessment exercise.

IV. Stocktaking of Member States' implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and other Council resolutions

29. The overview of implementation assessment and the detailed implementation survey continued to serve as important tools of the Committee and its Executive Directorate in continuing their constructive dialogue with Member States and in monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and other relevant Council resolutions. The detailed implementation survey and the overview of implementation assessment were developed to ensure thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in the Committee's stocktaking process. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2395 (2017), the Executive Directorate prepared overview of implementation assessments or detailed implementation surveys for more than 60 States during the period 2018–2019, bringing the total number to 114 (see enclosure II). Some Member States have now entered their second round of stocktaking. The stocktaking exercise continued to draw the attention of Member States to challenges and remaining shortfalls in implementing measures in line with Security Council resolutions and to identify areas in which they might require technical assistance. Consideration of the stocktaking exercise takes into account multiple factors, including: the level of the threat of the assessed Member State, the level of the existing capacity of the Member State to address any shortfalls (without an assessment visit, for example) and whether the State is scheduled for a Committee visit in the near future.

30. Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 2395 (2017), the Executive Directorate has taken steps to update its assessment tools by developing a cloud-based assessment and analysis portal with a view to simplifying and streamlining its assessments; improving their utility for the design of technical assistance and capacity-building support; reflecting updates to the Executive Directorate's mandate; and facilitating current and real-time production of analysis and reports.

V. Facilitation of technical assistance delivery

31. The Executive Directorate has taken a number of steps to strengthen its facilitation efforts, including: (a) identifying Member States' implementation shortfalls and technical assistance needs and referring them in a timely manner to the Office of Counter-Terrorism for its consideration and delivery; (b) providing advice and support to other entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, including at the country level, and to other United Nations inter-agency networks in order to assist in their design and programming of technical assistance activities and projects; (c) making technical assistance referrals to the relevant specialized United Nations agencies and international and regional organizations immediately after country visits; and (d) exploring with the donor community and other implementing partners ways and means to meet the identified technical assistance needs, with a view to securing the delivery of technical assistance needs, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017), in particular paragraphs 10, 13 and 18. The Executive Directorate will also continue to enhance its facilitation of technical assistance and its efforts to collaborate with the Office of

Counter-Terrorism, including by reviewing emerging trends across country assessments, as appropriate, to strengthen its advice to the Office on evolving trends and challenges and how to address them in the Office's capacity-building efforts.

32. In follow-up to the Counter-Terrorism Committee visit to Sri Lanka in 2016 and at the invitation of Sri Lanka, the Executive Directorate conducted a high-level follow-up mission to Colombo in July 2019 in the wake of the Easter Sunday attacks carried out against three churches and three hotels, in which 259 people were killed. An Executive Directorate expert was assigned to work with the United Nations country team to produce a comprehensive programmatic framework for capacity-building on counter-terrorism and to follow up with other technical assistance donors and providers, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism. The mission also resulted in the submission to the Office of Counter-Terrorism of several project proposals for technical assistance delivery.

33. In December 2018, the Executive Directorate launched its South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges, which was one of the outcomes of its ongoing dialogue with South Asian judges and was produced in collaboration with the Global Center for Cooperative Security, with the pro bono contributions of a law firm. A series of launch events were held in South Asia and, in collaboration with bilateral technical assistance providers, a major initiative was carried out in 2019 to get the toolkit into the hands of judges in the region. As a result of that initiative, the country team in Afghanistan translated the Toolkit into Dari. This is the first time that judges in the region have had access to a targeted counter-terrorism toolkit based on Security Council resolutions and their own judicial systems.

34. In February 2018, the Executive Directorate convened a workshop on promoting and enhancing the adoption and implementation of national strategies to counter violent extremism for Afghanistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The workshop brought together criminal justice practitioners from those countries in New York to discuss ways in which criminal justice systems could counter violent extremism. The event was part of the follow-up to the visits of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to the subregion and the ongoing dialogue of the Executive Directorate with South Asian practitioners, contributing to enhancing the knowledge and benefits of participants in further pursuit of their undertakings to fulfil their obligations under Security Council resolutions.

35. United Nations agencies engaged in a number of technical assistance activities in Africa on the basis of the recommendations of the Executive Directorate. In the Niger, for example, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assisted the specialized judicial unit in developing a plan of action to deal with its backlog of terrorism cases. The International Organization for Migration began to construct new border posts and electrify existing border posts in the Niger and is currently assisting its Government in revising its visa policy and legal framework.

36. As an outcome of the efforts made by the Executive Directorate to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Djibouti, the University of New Haven launched a two-year programme for Djibouti on strengthening forensic capabilities and border control in July 2019. The programme is based on the assessment carried out by the Executive Directorate. The Executive Directorate submitted a project proposal to the United Nations peace and development trust fund, which selected the project proposal and provided funding in the amount of \$2 million.

37. The Executive Directorate continued to work actively with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia on follow-up to the Executive Directorate's assessments and recommendations for technical assistance, as well as the development and implementation of technical assistance projects within the framework of the Joint

Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. On 2 July 2018, the Executive Directorate facilitated the Committee's open briefing on Central Asia, at which Member States and international and regional organizations and civil society discussed the technical assistance provided to the five States of the region pursuant to the Committee's visit recommendations and highlighted outstanding and new assistance needs.

38. Throughout the period under review, the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism worked closely together to address the priority technical assistance needs identified by the Executive Directorate and Iraq pursuant to the Committee's assessment visit to Iraq in 2015. Five projects were developed by the Office, in close consultation with the Executive Directorate, following the high-level consultations held jointly by the Under-Secretary-General of the Office and the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate in Iraq in March 2018, during which they visited the areas most affected by ISIL, including Fallujah. Several of these projects are drawn from the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the Executive Directorate or take into account the content of those recommendations. In line with the Committee's recommendation, a United Nations consultant was recruited to advance the development by Iraq of a national comprehensive and integrated strategy, pursuant to the Committee's recommendations and in accordance with the focused activities of the Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is chaired by the Executive Directorate and the Office.

39. The Executive Directorate supported UNODC and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in their implementation of a joint project on "Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons". This issue has become an area of focus during recent visits by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to a number of countries. The project provides tailored assistance to Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda aimed at strengthening security and safety in prisons, enhancing risk and needs assessment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. The Executive Directorate's contribution to the project was based on its assessment and expertise relating to the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration processes and was provided in accordance with the related provisions of Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#). During the period 2018–2019, the Executive Directorate participated in "scoping" missions to the three beneficiary States and contributed to a series of workshops for prison staff on prison security audits and prisoner classification tools.

40. Enhancing aviation security is one of the key areas identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its visits and in recommendations of the Executive Directorate for visited States and areas in which the Executive Directorate has worked with the Office of Counter-Terrorism. In May 2019, the Office launched the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which is implemented in partnership with the Executive Directorate, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Office of Information and Communications Technology and UNODC. The programme is aimed at supporting Member States in using travel information to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters in accordance with Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), which calls upon Member States to require the transport industry operating in their territories to provide travel information (advance passenger information/passenger name records) to appropriate national authorities to detect terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters and their movements. Pursuant to the programme, beneficiary Member States will be provided with support to develop the necessary legislative, administrative and operational frameworks and also provided with software ("goTravel") to analyse

travel data. Thus far, the Executive Directorate has led two “deep-dive” missions, to Sri Lanka and Togo, and drafted a road map for the implementation of advance passenger information/passenger name records by the two countries. The Executive Directorate has supported ICAO in its ongoing process to develop the standard for passenger name records, aimed at enhancing the detection and prevention of the cross-border movement of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters.

41. Pursuant to resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre continued to work together on the joint initiative, funded by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, on the responsible use and sharing of biometric information, developed by the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Regional workshops are planned, using the *United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism* (2018) as a practical tool to strengthen biometric capabilities. The Working Group drafted, together with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, a proposal for a two-year project with a budget of \$800,000, covering, inter alia, five targeted regional workshops.

42. The Executive Directorate continued to facilitate the provision of technical assistance by other United Nations entities with a view to setting up domestic asset-freezing systems that comply with international standards. Based on the relevant recommendation contained in the Committee’s 2015 visit report, Tunisia requested the Executive Directorate’s advice on setting up and operationalizing its asset-freezing mechanism. The Executive Directorate engaged with the Office of Counter-Terrorism to develop a comprehensive programme to support Tunisia. In close cooperation with the Executive Directorate, the Office organized a series of expert consultations, between January 2017 and July 2018, which led to the issuance by Tunisia, in November 2018, of its first list of domestic terrorist designations. Those efforts also contributed to the withdrawal of Tunisia in October 2019 from the list of States being monitored by the Financial Action Task Force for their deficiencies with regard to strategic anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. The Executive Directorate and the Office are continuing to provide assistance to Tunisia with a view to the effective implementation of the national asset-freezing mechanism. A new programme of work through June 2020 has been agreed upon.

43. The Executive Directorate also contributed to the project of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre on the exploitation of social media and the Internet to counter the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and violent extremism. During the first half of 2019, the Executive Directorate participated in the project’s regional and national activities for States of the Middle East, North Africa and South-East Asia and provided expert support on digital evidence, human rights obligations in counter-terrorism investigations and counter-narratives. The Executive Directorate also provided expertise and guidance for the development by INTERPOL and the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of a handbook entitled “Using the Internet and social media for counter-terrorism investigations”, which includes information in the areas of the gender dimension of online terrorist presence, human rights, foreign terrorist fighter trends and digital evidence. The handbook was built on the Executive Directorate’s expertise and ongoing work in this field through the global initiative on “Lawful access to digital data across borders”. These activities are aimed at supporting Member States’ efforts to bring terrorists to justice, which increasingly rely on the availability and admissibility of digital evidence.

44. The Executive Directorate regularly exchanges information with regional organizations on technical assistance provided through their platforms to respective Member States to follow up on the recommendations made by the Committee

following its visits. For example, in June 2019, the secretariat of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism submitted a detailed compilation of technical assistance initiatives undertaken by the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring in Belarus and Central Asian countries in 2013–2019, following the Committee’s visits in which experts of the Eurasian Group participated. Similarly, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization provided information on counter-terrorism and projects related to countering violent extremism implemented in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and several Central Asian countries. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) implemented, and accordingly informed the Executive Directorate about, several capacity-building events in South-East Europe and Central Asia that drew directly on the Committee’s relevant recommendations and the Executive Directorate’s analytical reports, including in relation to the protection of critical infrastructure and countering the use of ICT for terrorist purposes.

VI. Outreach activities of the Chair of the Committee and the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate

45. The Executive Directorate provided support and advice to the Chair of the Committee within the framework of his engagement with a wide range of partners aimed at facilitating the exchange of views on emerging threats, challenges and measures to address them. The Chair conducted missions to the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Russian Federation and Spain (a joint high-level mission with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate) and participated via videoconferencing in a conference of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States. The Chair held meetings with Member States on issues relating to preparations for country assessment visits. The Chair also held meetings with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council whose work relates to counter-terrorism to discuss effective ways to cooperate and implement the Committees’ respective mandates. The role of the Chair in this context is to embody the political weight of the Committee in implementing the mandate conferred upon it by the Security Council.

46. The Executive Director of the Executive Directorate engaged in a broad range of activities with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders and interlocutors aimed at promoting effective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Executive Director’s engagement in this area is aimed at addressing the strategic, institutional and operational aspects of the mandates and tasks conferred upon the Executive Directorate by the Security Council and the Committee, including by: (a) leading the Committee’s assessment visits to States, as endorsed by the Committee, including direct engagement with high-level officials of the visited States and conveying the messages of the Committee and the Council; (b) participating in major international events (including, in the case of the plenary of the Financial Action Task Force, held in Orlando, United States, in June 2019, on behalf of the Secretary-General); (c) attending Executive Committee meetings to discuss regional and thematic issues and contribute the analysis and assessments of the Executive Directorate; (d) maintaining close contact and working relations with senior officials of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations entities, as well as high-level officials of Member States and leaders of international, regional and subregional organizations, with a view to establishing or strengthening cooperation and

collaboration; (e) engaging with civil society organizations, academia and the media, whether through direct engagement, videoconference, other media platforms or traditional interviews; (f) providing support and advice to the Chair of the Committee; and (g) leading the Executive Directorate's overall efforts to implement the tasks conferred upon it by the Security Council and the Committee or undertaken together with other United Nations entities.

47. The high-level bilateral meetings and briefings provided an opportunity for the Committee Chair and the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate to raise awareness among their counterparts of the evolving threat of terrorism (including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and foreign terrorist fighter returnees and relocators); the latest Security Council resolutions on terrorism; and the activities of the Committee and the Executive Directorate aimed at, inter alia, supporting Member States and relevant international and regional partners in their efforts to address emerging terrorist threats and overcome the related challenges. These bilateral meetings also provided an opportunity to identify areas in which the Committee, the Executive Directorate and their partners could enhance their cooperation and promote the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

VII. Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) by States affected by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters

48. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate notably assisted the Committee in preparing the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles (2018) (S/2018/1177, annex). The Committee also held an open briefing to introduce and promote the addendum, which contains 17 new guiding principles to complement the 35 principles contained in the Madrid Guiding Principles (2015) (S/2015/939, annex II), following the adoption of resolution 2178 (2014). The aim of the addendum is to provide Member States with detailed, specific guidance to ensure that the relevant tools and strategies are deployed and implemented in a manner that is compliant with domestic law and international obligations. In that context, the Executive Directorate also engaged in in-depth assessment dialogue on measures being taken to implement resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) within the framework of the assessment visits conducted on behalf of the Committee, leading to the identification of further challenges and good practices that have proven vital to the Committee's development of policy guidance.

49. Pursuant to the work programme of the Committee, the Executive Directorate assisted the Committee in arranging briefings by senior officials and experts on their national experiences and practices in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Representatives of the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America delivered briefings to the Committee. This interaction enables the Committee and the Executive Directorate to exchange views on issues of common interest and concern and to explore ways to strengthen cooperation.

50. The Executive Directorate also participated in a wide range of global and regional activities and events to raise awareness of the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles. In March 2019, it participated in the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on the theme "Taking stock of efforts to prevent and counter terrorism as well as violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism in the OSCE area" and organized a side event, jointly with the European Union, on "Returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters: international framework, regional perspectives and practices in the implementation", which focused on the addendum

and its implementation. Attended by over 100 participants, the side event featured presentations by experts from the Executive Directorate, the European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, UNODC and the Global Center on Cooperative Security. Such events also enabled participating delegations to understand the action required under relevant Security Council resolutions and findings and recommendations of the Executive Directorate to strengthen their respective institutions and operations to deal with those challenges.

51. In April 2019, the Executive Directorate took part in the conference of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on “Countering international terrorism”, and also addressed the Interparliamentary Assembly at its 49th plenary session. Participation in the conference enabled the Executive Directorate to raise awareness among the high-level parliamentarians of the relevant Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism and violent extremism and of its work and that of the Committee on identifying related gaps, good practices and trends. The Executive Directorate also informed participants about its recent products and promoted implementation of the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles. The conference outcome document includes references to the addendum and recommends that parliamentarians take the addendum into account when drafting or revising legislation on counter-terrorism.

VIII. Implementation of other Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism

A. Security Council efforts to address the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da’esh)

52. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2253 \(2015\)](#) and [2368 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to lead the drafting of the reports of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the terrorist threat. Through those reports, the wider membership was informed about the emerging threats posed by Da’esh and the ongoing efforts of the different United Nations bodies to support Member States in addressing those threats, including through its inter-agency cooperation and its cooperation with Member States. The reports have also generated open debates of the Security Council aimed at identifying effective ways and means to counter those threats and challenges.

B. Border management

53. Pursuant to resolutions [2309 \(2016\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to advise Member States on enhancing their implementation efforts in the areas of border management and law enforcement, including actively supporting and contributing to ICAO programmes and the implementation of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) strategy, which is aimed at developing a holistic and systematic model for traveller-identification management. The Executive Directorate also contributed to the development of the *ICAO TRIP Guide on Border Control Management*, supported implementation of the Global Aviation Security Plan, and provided inputs and advice for the development by the Global Counterterrorism Forum of the Soft Target Protection Initiative, which led to the Antalya Memorandum on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context, as well as the Initiative on Improving Capabilities for Detecting and

Interdicting Terrorist Travel through Enhanced Terrorist Screening and Information-Sharing, and the drafting by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of a handbook developed to assist States in taking a human rights-based approach to the treatment of children accompanying individuals suspected of being foreign terrorist fighters. The engagement of and provision of support by the Executive Directorate in such exercises helped to promote the development of tools to assist Member States in their implementation of their obligations to strengthen border management and prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists.

C. Battlefield evidence

54. Pursuant to the Madrid Guiding Principles, the addendum thereto, Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) and reports of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh), the challenge for law enforcement officers and prosecutors in dealing with terrorist offences committed in high-risk situations, including conflict and post-conflict settings, was addressed. One of those challenges is how to secure evidence that meets the requisite evidentiary threshold for criminal proceedings.

55. The Executive Directorate has been engaged on this issue since 2014. To address the above-mentioned challenge, in 2017, the Executive Directorate launched a project on the role of the military in supporting the collection, sharing and use of evidence aimed at promoting rule of law-compliant and human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism, within the framework of the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism of the former Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The project is aimed at building consensus among key stakeholders and developing United Nations guidelines to facilitate the use and admissibility of evidence collected, handled, preserved and shared by the military to prosecute terrorist offences before national criminal courts. The Executive Directorate is currently working on the third draft of the guidelines, which reflect comments and inputs from United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, Member States, civil society organizations and academia. The guidelines, which were launched in December 2019, will be used as the basis for the related technical assistance to be provided by UNODC.

56. The anticipated outcomes of this initiative include developing further global consensus and non-binding United Nations guidelines to facilitate the use and admissibility of information and evidence collected, handled, preserved and shared by the military to prosecute terrorist offences before national criminal courts, in accordance with domestic law, while taking into account Member States' obligations under international law, including human rights law.

D. Digital evidence

57. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2322 \(2016\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), which address the significant increase in requests for cooperation in gathering digital data and evidence from the Internet, the existing challenges, and the need for public-private cooperation in addressing them, the Executive Directorate, UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors launched, in December 2017, the global initiative on "Lawful access to digital data across borders". One key output of the project was the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders*, issued in September 2018, which is currently being used in the training of relevant officials. The Guide was translated into Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and will soon be available in French. As part of the global initiative, the Executive Directorate has facilitated the engagement of technology companies in three regional workshops

for South and South-East Asia, one workshop for Latin America, one regional workshop for Sub-Saharan Africa and one national workshop in Pakistan. A regional workshop for Central Asian States was held in December 2019 in Vienna. In November 2019, the Executive Directorate held an expert group meeting on the standardization of requests for digital evidence and ways to support small platforms in this area. In December, the Executive Directorate organized a specialized workshop on sharing practices in obtaining electronic evidence via mutual legal assistance processes.

58. Participation and involvement in those activities enabled the Executive Directorate to engage with various stakeholders and the private sector and identify priority areas and good practices to be incorporated into its dialogue with Member States, in order to fulfil their obligations of bringing terrorists to justice. The aforementioned activities also helped to strengthen international cooperation in this area by enhancing the capacity of investigators, prosecutors and central authorities to obtain evidence in a timely manner.

E. International humanitarian law

59. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions, including most recently [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#), measures to counter terrorism, including measures to counter the financing of terrorism, comply with obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and all stakeholders are called upon to engage in efforts to identify solutions in this area. The Executive Directorate established an internal working group in October 2018 to address the issues of counter-terrorism measures in relation to international humanitarian law. Since then, the Executive Directorate has worked closely with organizations with expertise in international humanitarian law and humanitarian assistance, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Executive Directorate brought this topic to the attention of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in May 2019 and will report back to the Committee on its progress in 2020. The Executive Directorate will continue to liaise with United Nations humanitarian actors and non-governmental organizations and hopes to obtain financial support from States for this work. The Executive Directorate is also engaged in identifying related good practices and challenges to be brought to the Committee's attention. In the area of identifying the potential impact of terrorist financing sanctions on humanitarian activities, including medical activities, the Executive Directorate is also collating States' existing practices regarding cooperation between government entities, civil society actors and the private sector, including financial institutions.

60. In its resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), the Security Council reiterated the importance of depriving terrorists of access to any funds. Assessing Member States' implementation of the resolution's provisions will continue to be a key priority for the Executive Directorate. It will produce, in consultation with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions [1526 \(2004\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, an annual thematic summary of gaps in this area in order to assist in the design of tailored capacity-building programming by United Nations entities. The Executive Directorate will also support the Committee in the organization, during the first quarter of 2020, of a joint special meeting with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on terrorism financing threats and trends and on the implementation of the resolution's provisions. Prior to the special meeting, the Executive Directorate will issue a joint

report, together with the Monitoring Team, on actions taken by Member States to disrupt terrorism financing. A dedicated questionnaire developed jointly by the Executive Directorate and the Monitoring Team was disseminated to all Member States in October 2019.

F. Links between human trafficking and terrorism and its financing

61. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate conducted a study on the links between human trafficking, terrorism and terrorism financing, which was issued in February 2019. It also supported the Committee in the organization of an open briefing and a joint special meeting with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime, which focused on various manifestations of the nexus, from thematic and geographical perspectives.

62. With a view to better understanding the linkages between terrorist and criminal groups, the Executive Directorate engaged actively with regional and international partners, including the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, UNODC, the Council of Europe, OSCE, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, and with members of its Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network). The work of the Executive Directorate in planning and organizing these events, both on specific themes and on the occurrences of the linkages in various parts of the world, contributed to shaping the discussions that led to the adoption of Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#).

G. Countering the financing of terrorism

63. The Executive Directorate continued to play an active role at international events on countering the financing of terrorism. The Executive Director took part in the high-level discussions of the international ministerial conferences entitled “No money for terror”, organized by France in April 2018 and by Australia in November 2019. The “No money for terror” process provides a unique forum in which to discuss, at the ministerial level, ways to ensure the strategic and effective integration of efforts to counter the financing of terrorism into overall counter-terrorism efforts, thereby complementing and reinforcing existing workstreams on countering the financing of terrorism (namely, the implementation of resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#)), as well as the operational plan on countering the financing of terrorism of the Financial Action Task Force and its Global Network. The Executive Directorate represented the United Nations New York-based entities in the negotiation of the final declaration, which highlighted key issues relating to countering the financing of terrorism that were then reiterated in Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#). In June 2019, the Executive Director addressed the plenary of the Task Force, on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

64. On the basis of the expertise acquired during its country assessments, the Executive Directorate contributed substantively to the drafting of the UNODC *Guidance Manual for Member States on Terrorist Financing Risk Assessments* (June 2018) and provided expert advice for the development of a UNODC dedicated training course on resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and asset-freezing mechanisms (December 2018), an International Monetary Fund module on financial investigations (February–March 2019), a pilot training course of the Training and Research Institute of the

Financial Action Task Force on countering the financing of terrorism (May 2019), and an International Monetary Fund handbook on terrorism financing and targeted financial sanctions (July 2019). The Executive Directorate also coordinated a round-table discussion on the United Nations approach, and its technical assistance programme, in assisting Member States in protecting organizations in their non-profit sectors from abuse for terrorism-financing purposes (July 2019). The expertise of the Executive Directorate, either through its engagement with partners or with Member States, has been actively solicited to help to refine technical assistance programmes aimed at addressing shortcomings in countering the financing of terrorism identified during Executive Directorate-led visits and to contribute to the development of policy guidance, tools and materials with a view to fostering a more strategic integration of financial intelligence and frameworks on countering the financing of terrorism into counter-terrorism policies and operational measures.

H. International law-enforcement and judicial cooperation

65. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2322 \(2016\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to promote international law enforcement and judicial cooperation in counter-terrorism matters, identifying related gaps and trends such as challenges relating to the use of electronic evidence and the role of the military in evidence collection. Those efforts culminated in the launch of the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders* by the Executive Directorate, UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors, which is aimed at enhancing Member States' efforts to promote cooperation among the judicial and law enforcement authorities, as required by several Council resolutions.

I. Counter-narratives

66. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2354 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate took a number of concrete steps to implement the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives ([S/2017/375](#), annex), including through a joint project developed by the former Working Group on Communications of the now superseded Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The consultancy project on strategic communications and countering terrorist narratives was approved by the Programme Review Board of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in August 2018, based on terms of reference developed by the Executive Directorate, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Department of Public Information. The consultant was subsequently selected in late 2018 and began work on the project in March 2019.

67. The 12-month project consists of three major parts and corresponding deliverables: (a) a comprehensive literature review and desktop study of effective counter-terrorist narratives and strategies (including positive and alternative narratives), covering all parts of the globe, including specific recommendations for the United Nations, its Member States and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector; (b) evidence-based recommendations for the effective monitoring and evaluation of efforts to counter terrorist narratives; and (c) the development of a toolkit to guide stakeholders in counter-narrative efforts undertaken on their own or in cooperation with other actors. The toolkit will include principles or conditions under which counter-narrative efforts are likely to have a positive impact, as well as offline and online tools, models or samples.

68. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre collaborated in the areas of strategic communications and countering terrorist narratives to promote awareness-raising and

knowledge-sharing through workshops covering both South-East Asia and Eastern Africa. In 2019, the Executive Directorate and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre delivered four workshops on strategic communications and countering violent extremism, including countering terrorist narratives, in four different States, including a joint workshop with the Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

IX. Special meetings, open and closed briefings and other events

69. The Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#) and its work programme, and with the assistance of the Executive Directorate, arranged a series of special events (see enclosure III) with Member States and international and regional organizations on issues of common and current concern with a view to maximizing the impact of the relevant resolutions and sustaining the commitment of the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The Executive Directorate also delivered a series of briefings to the Committee on regional and thematic issues of relevance to the implementation of the relevant resolutions, including on engagement with partners that increasingly play a vital role in shaping and adopting national counter-terrorism policies and legislation, such as parliaments and various international and regional forums. The Committee Chair arranged similar, public briefings by the Executive Directorate for the wider membership. These arrangements and discussions helped the Committee not only to raise awareness of its strategic and transparent approaches, but also to raise the visibility of its work and maintain its dialogue with the wider membership. Such activities also provided a useful forum for States and organizations to discuss new threats and capacity-building initiatives. They also promote the implementation of targeted follow-up activities in collaboration with Member States and international and regional organizations and entities.

X. Development of comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and mechanisms to implement them

70. In accordance with Security Council resolutions [1963 \(2010\)](#), [2129 \(2013\)](#) and [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued, within the framework of the assessment visits conducted on the Committee's behalf, to raise States' awareness of the need to develop comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and to introduce implementing mechanisms that include attention to the factors that lead to terrorist activities. Most national counter-terrorism strategies developed by Member States to date have tended to be focused too narrowly on law enforcement measures. Although such strategies can be effective to a degree, they do not include the many preventive measures necessary to address conditions conducive to terrorism. Today, terrorists are able to bypass law enforcement and employ other methods such as recruitment via the Internet and social media, which poses significant challenges to law enforcement and increases the overall threat. National strategies should therefore seek to strengthen the resilience of the population through a balanced, multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach that integrates law enforcement measures and measures to address the socioeconomic, political, educational, developmental, human rights and rule of law dimensions. The Executive Directorate has also identified several Member States that have employed a comprehensive and a multidisciplinary approach that includes law enforcement and security actors, departments and ministries of culture, education, science and development, civil society, religious leaders, the business community and the media.

This good practice could be considered as a reference by other States in developing their respective comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies and should help States to employ the same comprehensive approach within the regional organizations of which they are members. Around 29 States have made their strategies available or informed the Committee about their contents. In addition, since the establishment of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism have supported three Member States (Iraq, Qatar and Turkmenistan) in this area through a series of expert consultations, including by placing United Nations consultants in the field. In this connection, the Executive Directorate also serves as the Co-Chair of the Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

XI. Human rights in the context of counter-terrorism

71. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council encouraged the Executive Directorate to further develop its activities to ensure that all human rights and rule of law issues relevant to the implementation of resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and other resolutions are addressed as an important component of its work. In accordance with resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee's policy guidance on human rights, the Executive Directorate continued to take account of relevant human rights concerns in its dialogue with States, in the context of country visits and in its facilitation of technical assistance delivery.

72. The Executive Directorate ensured that human rights elements were taken into consideration during the preparation of reports submitted to the Security Council on the threat posed by ISIL pursuant to Council resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#), as well as in country visit reports and regional and thematic briefings and special meetings.

73. The Executive Directorate continued to maintain close contact with international and regional organizations concerned with human rights and international humanitarian law. It hosted a meeting to discuss the impact of counter-terrorism laws and measures on the work of civil society, including human rights defenders, with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, representatives of regional organizations (including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Council of Europe, the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) and civil society organizations (including the World Organisation Against Torture and the International Federation for Human Rights).

74. The Executive Directorate continued to cooperate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including through the organization of high-level meetings between the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate and the Assistant-Secretary-General for Human Rights and through the Office's contribution to various Committee activities, such as the thematic briefing on human rights and the special meeting on Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#). The Executive Directorate continued to engage actively in the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. It also maintained its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, including during a high-level meeting with the Executive Director. The Executive Directorate also supported the drafting, and participated in the launch in June 2018, of a publication entitled *Guidance to States*

on Human Rights-Compliant Responses to the Threat Posed by Foreign Fighters by the Working Group.

XII. Integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue and considering the roles of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism and in conflict areas

75. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to fully integrate gender into its country assessments and remained committed to ensuring that recommendations with regard to gender-sensitive counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism approaches are included in its assessment reports. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provided inputs for the Executive Directorate's efforts in this area and also participated in several assessment visits. In January 2018, the Executive Directorate and UN-Women convened South Asian judges, prosecutors and police officers in Bangkok to discuss the gender dimensions of investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating complex terrorism cases. This was the first time that criminal justice officials from the region had been convened to discuss the issue and it led to the inclusion of a section on the gender dimensions of the criminal justice response to terrorism in the South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges, published by the Executive Directorate in 2018.

76. The Executive Directorate briefed the Committee on integrating gender perspectives into its work on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism at a closed briefing held in December 2018 and at an open briefing held in November 2019. The Executive Directorate strengthened its data-gathering and analysis in this area, including in cooperation with UN-Women. In July 2018, the Executive Directorate and UN-Women held a joint research symposium to discuss emerging trends and research findings and chart a forward-looking research agenda to inform evidence-based policy programming in this area. In February 2019, the Executive Directorate published a trends report on the gender dimensions of the response to returning foreign terrorist fighters and, in September 2019, an analytical brief on the repatriation of ISIL-associated women.

77. In accordance with Security Council resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to work towards the greater integration of the women and peace and security agenda and counter-terrorism, including through regular participation in relevant expert meetings and coordination forums, such as the Council's Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security.

78. The Executive Directorate continued to consult with women's organizations to inform its work, in accordance with resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), including through its activities as Co-Chair, with UN-Women, of the Platform on Gender and Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism in North Africa, which serves as a forum to discuss and share regional experiences and good practices. The Executive Directorate also serves as Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Adopting a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. During the reporting period, the Working Group received seed funding from the Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre for a series of in-country workshops to promote proper implementation of United Nations guidelines (including resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) and the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles) on gender-sensitive approaches to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. The workshops will be conducted together with UN-Women, UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

XIII. Cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

79. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), in particular in paragraphs 18 and 19, the Security Council set out the parameters for enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. The joint report prepared by the Executive Directorate and the Office pursuant to paragraph 18 of the resolution was issued as a Security Council document ([S/2018/435](#), annex) and as an annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ([A/72/840](#), annex IV). The joint report outlines six key areas for enhancing collaboration and cooperation: (a) collaboration in setting priority regions and areas; (b) follow-up to Committee visits and joint outreach; (c) cooperation in designing and developing projects; (d) sharing of information; (e) strategic communications; and (f) evaluation of implementation.

80. Within that framework, the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate and the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism continued to hold regular weekly consultations; conducted joint high-level consultations to Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, Spain, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan; and held joint meetings with senior government officials at international events and during the general debates of the General Assembly. Those high-level joint visits illustrated a new emphasis on “speaking with one United Nations voice” on counter-terrorism, with increased coordination and coherence in United Nations technical assistance to visited States and demonstrated a renewed commitment to pursue a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism efforts through the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions, in accordance with outstanding priority needs identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the Executive Directorate.

81. The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism regularly shared information about their respective activities and workplans. The Executive Directorate provided information, analysis and findings to the Office concerning country visits and conveyed lists of high-priority States and technical assistances needs for the consideration of the Office and for project and programme design and delivery. The Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Director provided a semi-annual briefing to the Committee on the progress made in their work. The Committee also invited a representative of the Office to participate in the Committee’s meetings, as an observer, when the Executive Directorate was presenting its findings on country visits. The Office invited the Executive Directorate to participate in its global and regional events, and the Executive Directorate invited the Office to join the Committee’s country visits. The Office participated in the visits to Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger and Saudi Arabia. Following the Committee’s visits, the findings were also shared, especially in those cases in which the Office did not participate.

82. Within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the Executive Directorate serves as Chair of the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism; Co-Chair of the Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies; and Vice-Chair of the Working Groups on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism; Adopting a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism; and Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation.

83. In June 2018, the Executive Directorate and its partners issued the *United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism*. The *Compendium* was developed by the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism and the Biometrics Institute within the framework of a project aimed at raising awareness, increasing knowledge and strengthening the capacities of Member States to use and share biometric data on terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#). It contains key principles and recommendations to be taken into account by States when implementing actions at the national level and represents a major contribution to States' border management and immigration control strategies. A summary brochure of the *Compendium*, compiled by the Executive Directorate and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, was produced and issued in March 2019 within the framework of the open briefing on biometrics organized jointly by the Centre and the Executive Directorate.

84. The Executive Directorate also proposed the initiative that led to the development of *The Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks: Compendium of Good Practices*, which is aimed at raising awareness of the requirements under resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#) by providing Member States and international and regional organizations with guidelines and good practices in the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks. It also provides reference material on the development of national strategies in this area.

85. Within the framework of the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism, the Executive Directorate provided support in developing guidelines for law enforcement and border management, which are aimed at assisting INTERPOL and other experts in preparing for their participation in the Committee's country visits. The guidelines provide an introduction to the core legal documents governing the Committee's visits, including the relevant Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, with a focus on the role of law enforcement in countering terrorism. They describe the purpose and objectives of the visits and provide guiding elements for discussions with the host State. Annexed to the guidelines are samples of country visit reports, as well as lists of relevant materials for further study. The objective is to enhance understanding of the Committee's country-visit framework, the expected outcomes of the visits and the nature of the required follow-up action. The Executive Directorate also worked closely with the Office of Counter-Terrorism to develop a global programme on protecting vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks (including subprojects on the protection of religious sites, sports events and the use of unmanned aircraft systems).

86. Within the framework of the Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the Executive Directorate, together with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and INTERPOL, held two regional workshops in Singapore, in January and March 2019, focused on South-East Asian States and funded by Japan. The third workshop, held in Tunis from 30 April to 2 May and funded by the Office, was focused on the Sahel, the Maghreb and West Africa. A similar workshop, also funded by the Office, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2019, focusing on East and Southern Africa. The workshops are part of a joint initiative, developed pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2341 \(2017\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), on the protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets against terrorist attacks. The Executive Directorate and the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism led the development of the initiative, including presenting the project and budget to the Programme Review Board.

87. As part of its efforts to facilitate technical assistance, the Executive Directorate co-chairs the newly established Working Group on Resource Mobilization and

Monitoring and Evaluation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. The Working Group was established to provide guidance and contribute to coordinated resource mobilization efforts by all Compact entities, in particular through a consolidated multi-year appeal. The Working Group has put a strong emphasis on linking United Nations resource mobilization efforts to the Executive Directorate's recommendations and analysis. Currently, the Working Group is mapping activities of the Compact entities against the Executive Directorate's recommendations and the regions and Member States with the greatest needs are being targeted.

XIV. Cooperation with other Security Council subsidiary bodies and United Nations entities

88. Collaboration and cooperation among the three Security Council subsidiary bodies and their expert groups is essential to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in view of the complementarity between their respective mandates. Pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 27 of resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Committee Chair delivered a briefing, within the framework of the annual joint briefings of the three subsidiary bodies to the Security Council, on the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate. The Chair also held joint briefings on issues of common interest with the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The Committee Chair, together with the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate, also arranged meetings with the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) to explore ways to further enhance cooperation. The Executive Director also participated in the joint briefings of the Chairs, held in October 2018 and May 2019. The Executive Directorate, together with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions [1526 \(2004\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) and the Expert Group of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), updated the comparative table of experts of the three teams. The Executive Directorate continued to work with the Monitoring Team and the Expert Group to enhance information-sharing, coordination of visits to States, coordination of the facilitation and monitoring of technical assistance, and other cooperative measures to assist Member States in their efforts to comply with their obligations pursuant to the relevant resolutions. The Monitoring Team participated in the Committee's visits to China, Maldives, Mali and the Niger, and the Expert Group joined the Committee's visits to Armenia and Georgia. The Executive Directorate also liaised permanently with the Monitoring Team and the Expert Group to further strengthen collaboration and cooperation at both the strategic and operational levels.

89. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council recalls the Executive Directorate's central role in supporting the Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate and notes the crucial role of the Executive Directorate within the United Nations and its expertise in assessing counter-terrorism issues and in supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counter-terrorism responses. In this regard, the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate actively participated in meetings of the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General on emerging terrorist threats and challenges and country-specific counter-terrorism issues. The Executive Director also closely followed the programme of work of the Security Council and worked with the rotating presidencies of the Council on issues such as terrorism

financing and the links between terrorism and organized crime, including within the framework of the adoption of Council resolutions [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2382 \(2019\)](#).

90. The Executive Directorate also participated in various inter-agency mechanisms, both within and outside the United Nations system, on country-specific and region-specific counter-terrorism agendas (for example, the Lake Chad basin and West Africa) to share its analysis and expertise and facilitate the design and programming of technical assistance projects and activities. More specifically, the Executive Directorate contributed strategically to the development of targeted support in priority areas for Burkina Faso within the framework of the United Nations emergency task force for Burkina Faso established on 27 March 2019. The Executive Director, together with the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and for Central Africa and the Special Envoy of the European Union for the Sahel, conducted a joint high-level visit to Chad in March 2019. The visit reinforced the political support for Chad and key regional institutions in the response to terrorism; served to align key messages on terrorism and strengthened the cooperation between the Executive Directorate, the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and the European Union, a key donor in Africa. Within the context of the Inter-agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, the Executive Directorate has been an active contributor to efforts to develop a legal module for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration practitioners that includes relevant guidance on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration.

91. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) and the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles, the Executive Directorate and UNODC launched a global initiative to develop specific operational guidance on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration for Member States to support them in their implementation efforts. These efforts drew on the Executive Directorate's extensive dialogue with Member States, particularly in Africa, and included consideration of other complex legal areas, including international humanitarian law, transitional justice and the use of amnesties.

92. The Executive Directorate continued its close collaboration with UNODC, including to provide technical and legal assistance to the secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the preparation of a draft additional protocol on combating international terrorism.

93. The Executive Directorate also signed memorandums of understanding or framework agreements with the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations and with the Office of Counter-Terrorism on enhancing cooperation in areas of common interest.

94. In November 2018, the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) co-organized an expert seminar on how to implement Security Council resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#). The Executive Directorate will continue to work with UNIDIR and Member States to promote the implementation of the resolution and address issues relating to small arms and light weapons and improvised explosive devices. It is also engaging with UNODC, UNIDIR, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Office of Counter-Terrorism concerning possible follow-up actions to better promote resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#) and prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons.

XV. Engagement with international, regional and subregional organizations and entities

95. Engagement and partnership with international, regional and subregional organizations and entities form an important part of the efforts of the Executive Directorate to assist Member States in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism.

96. The Executive Directorate continued to deepen its partnerships with United Nations entities and other partners delivering support in priority areas in Africa. In the Lake Chad basin, through a partnership with the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration, the Executive Directorate, building on its assessment visits and its strong partnerships in Nigeria, contributed substantively to the development of a key pillar of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region (validated by the Council of Ministers of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in February 2019).

97. The Executive Directorate's engagement with the Lake Chad basin States, the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission was essential to ensure that the requirements to bring terrorists to justice and develop comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, set forth in resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#), were included in the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy. Its engagement also helped to ensure a coordinated regional approach that encompasses transparent, inclusive, human-rights compliant disarmament, demobilization, de-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives in accordance with strategies for prosecution. The Executive Directorate continued to collaborate strategically to promote understanding and awareness of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, including through participation in key events held to clarify national approaches and harmonize regional cooperation. The Executive Directorate also contributed to the implementation of the programme of work on peace and security and development between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

98. Since the signing, in March 2018, of a framework document on partnership and collaboration between the Executive Directorate and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations, cooperation with the Department has continued to strengthen. The Executive Directorate has drawn on specific expertise within the Department for the Committee's visits to African States. A representative of the Department's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section participated in the Committee's visit to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mozambique. Representatives of the Justice and Corrections Section of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali contributed their expertise and support to the Committee's visit to Mali. The Executive Directorate continues to collaborate closely with its colleagues in the Justice and Corrections Section, among others, in addressing priority areas relating to ensuring respect for the rule of law in countering terrorism. Representatives of the Justice and Corrections Service and the Standing Police Capacity of the Department of Peace Operations, based in Brindisi, Italy, joined the follow-up assessment visit to Ghana. The participation of the Department in the Committee's visits and the sharing of the Executive Directorate's assessments also helped to keep the Department informed about technical assistance and capacity-building in peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping settings.

99. The Executive Directorate and ICAO signed a formal cooperation arrangement in May 2018 with a view to further strengthening their long-standing partnership and enhancing the complementarity and consistency of their cooperation. The Executive Directorate also participated in the Global Aviation Security Symposium and high-level conferences on aviation security held by ICAO. It also delivered training to ICAO experts on participation in the Committee's on-site assessment visits, in Montreal, Canada, in October 2018.

100. The Executive Directorate and INTERPOL signed a cooperation arrangement in July 2017. In February 2018, the two entities signed a joint action plan in follow-up to the cooperation arrangement. The Executive Directorate has thus continued to develop a consolidated and agreed basis for cooperation with INTERPOL by leveraging expertise, optimizing resources, reducing duplication of effort, fostering synergies and maximizing the value of deliverables to Member States. A two-day training of INTERPOL experts on participation in the Committee's on-site assessment visits was held at INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, in January 2018.

101. The Executive Directorate has engaged in a number of law enforcement initiatives, together with its partners, including the development of the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System and the promotion of the INTERPOL Project Watchmaker. The Executive Directorate and the Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism also continued to highlight the importance of implementing the Security Programme of the World Customs Organization, including Programme Global Shield. They also cooperated with UNIDIR on an initiative on implementing Security Council resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#) and identifying ways forward.

102. The Executive Directorate continued to work closely with the Financial Action Task Force. It is an observer to the Task Force and leads the Task Force delegation of United Nations New York-based entities. In a recent Task Force report, the United Nations was identified as one of the key and most active observer delegations. In the period under review, the Executive Directorate notably provided contributions to the report on financial flows related to human trafficking of the Task Force and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (June 2018) and the Task Force guidance on terrorism-financing risk assessment (issued in June 2019). In March 2019, the Executive Directorate co-moderated a Task Force session on terrorism-financing risk assessments, as well as the joint experts' meeting and workshop on prosecuting the financing of terrorism, held by the Task Force and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism in Tel Aviv, Israel, in March 2019.

103. On 25 March 2019, the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate and the Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at enhancing the strategic framework for cooperation between the two entities. The agreement provides, in particular, for enhanced information exchange on counter-terrorism and builds upon the framework of cooperation established between the Executive Directorate and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure through an exchange of letters in 2012–2013.

104. In May 2019, in Dushanbe, the Executive Directorate took part in the high-level conference on international and regional cooperation on countering terrorism and its financing through illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration, in which the participating Member States renewed their commitment to prevent and counter the financing of terrorism through organized crime, including illicit drug trafficking, and recognized that acts of international terrorism depend on financial support. They also highlighted

the need for Member States to fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions on this matter and to cooperate with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Executive Directorate and the Financial Action Task Force to receive related coordinated and integrated assistance.

105. The Executive Directorate continued to work closely with the Council of Europe. In November 2018, the Executive Director participated in the second plenary of the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism and the 1,329th meeting of Council of Europe Ministers' Deputies to brief participants on the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate, focusing in particular on work pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2395 \(2017\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#). The Executive Director also held bilateral consultations with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the President of the European Court of Human Rights and other Council of Europe officials.

106. The Executive Directorate also continued to work closely with the European Union and NATO. The Executive Director briefed the Political and Security Committee of the European Union in May 2019 and the Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects) and the Working Party on Terrorism of the Council of the European Union in October 2019. In May 2019, the Executive Director and the Chair of the Committee held high-level consultations with senior NATO officials.

107. The Executive Directorate continued to enhance its engagement with parliamentarians and their respective regional assemblies (including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly). This engagement revealed a number of areas for enhancing cooperation between the Executive Directorate and parliamentarians, aimed at raising their awareness of the relevant Security Council resolutions and international standards and informing their adoption of counter-terrorism legislation and strategies. On 2 July 2019, the Executive Directorate facilitated a closed briefing of the Committee on this theme.

108. The Executive Directorate continued to support the activities of EuroMed Justice and EuroMed Police (European Union-funded projects developed to strengthen cross-regional judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal matters between European and Mediterranean States), including within the framework of the EuroMed digital evidence initiative, in particular by providing expertise and facilitating engagement with communications and information service providers. In view of the significant collaboration and synergies between the EuroMed project on digital evidence and the global initiative on "Lawful access to digital data across borders", there are plans to merge the EuroMed Digital Evidence Manual with the *Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence across Borders*, published by the Executive Directorate, UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors, coordinate the upgrading of the *Practical Guide* and its translation into other United Nations languages and facilitate delivery of related assistance to States of the EuroMed region. The Executive Directorate had also been engaging with the SIRIUS project of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) on the issue of cross-border access to electronic evidence and is engaged with Europol on the development of joint projects in other areas.

109. The Executive Directorate helped to link the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia with that of the relevant regional organizations, including OSCE, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

In the area of countering the financing of terrorism, for example, those efforts resulted in two regional initiatives: (a) a regional training course held in Uzbekistan on 26 and 27 August 2019, focusing on countering the use of alternative remittance systems for terrorism financing purposes, the use of financial investigations and intelligence in strategies to counter the financing of terrorism, and the sharing of good practices in conducting risk assessments within the framework of countering the abuse of non-profit organizations for terrorism-financing purposes; and (b) the Eurasian Forum on Anti-Money-Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, held in Kyrgyzstan in September 2019.

110. Cooperation with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism included participation in the Group's plenaries, which in turn facilitated engagement with the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation and the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring concerning technical assistance on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism provided to Central Asian States in accordance with the Committee's recommendations.

111. The Executive Directorate also continued its cooperation with the League of Arab States and with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Cooperation with the latter was conducted in close coordination with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNODC with a view to advising the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the development of a protocol to its counter-terrorism convention to ensure measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions on terrorism are reflected in those instruments.

XVI. Interaction with civil society, the private sector, academia and other non-governmental actors

112. The Executive Directorate signed memorandums of understanding with the University of Chicago on cooperation in areas relating to the relevant Security Council resolutions on the protection of soft targets. The Executive Directorate also worked with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and the Arab Weekly on issues relating to implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. The Executive Directorate and the Biometrics Institute signed a cooperation arrangement in June 2018. The purpose of the arrangement is to promote the responsible use of biometrics in the fields of counter-terrorism, identity and border-control management, and aviation and maritime security, with a view to contributing to the sustainable development of land, sea and air security and transportation, preventing and countering terrorist threats and suppressing acts of unlawful interference.

113. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Executive Directorate continued to work with the member entities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network in identifying and assessing issues, trends and developments in relation to implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and to keep the Committee abreast of emerging trends and challenges, including by identifying and sharing good Member State practices. The Executive Directorate played an increasingly proactive role in engaging with the Network, included through the organization of multiple workshops, symposiums and conferences in partnership with member entities of the Network, and the use of surveys, digital outreach and videoconferencing to ensure that the Network's regional diversity was adequately reflected in the Executive Directorate's analysis of key trends.

114. During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate published two trends reports entitled, respectively, "The challenge of returning and relocating foreign

terrorist fighters: research perspectives” (April 2018) and “Gender dimensions of the response to returning foreign terrorist fighters: research perspectives” (February 2019). The trends reports gave counter-terrorism policymakers, practitioners and experts an analysis of the latest research in specific areas.

115. The Executive Directorate also issued three new publications, including three editions of its trends alerts entitled, respectively, “Concern at potential risks posed by the forthcoming release of imprisoned foreign terrorist fighters” (July 2018), “More support needed for smaller technology platforms to counter terrorist content” (November 2018) and “Greater efforts needed to address the potential risks posed by terrorist use of unmanned aircraft systems” (May 2019). Trends alerts are designed to increase awareness of emerging trends identified during the Executive Directorate’s engagement with Member States.

116. In September 2019, the Executive Directorate published three analytical briefs on, respectively, Member State responses to terrorist threats to soft targets, the repatriation of ISIL-associated women, and ISIL-associated children. In its analytical briefs, the Executive Directorate aims to provide a concise analysis of issues, trends and developments identified during its engagement with Member States. It also published eight research digests on a broad range of thematic issues and challenges, highlighting the latest and most relevant research conducted by members of the Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network, in a short, concise format.

117. The Executive Directorate continued to engage actively with technology companies and to support industry-led efforts to counter terrorist misuse of ICT by terrorists and violent extremists. The Executive Directorate-led Tech Against Terrorism initiative, a public-private partnership, continued to support the technology sector in this area, focusing on small platforms and start-ups that are often the most vulnerable to terrorist exploitation. The Executive Directorate has been working with Tech Against Terrorism’s partners to facilitate dialogue with Member States and other key partners and engage them in other relevant workstreams, such as access to digital evidence across borders.

118. During the general debate of the General Assembly, the Executive Directorate and Tech Against Terrorism organized a side event to update participants on its achievements and launch the Terrorist Content Analytics Platform, a project currently funded by Canada, which is generating great interest from other donors. Furthermore, the Executive Directorate and Tech Against Terrorism convened a meeting of the Advisory Group and the Experts Committee of Tech Against Terrorism to provide an update on past and future activities and the 2019 budget, revise the governance structure and collect actionable recommendations. Members of the Advisory Group and the Experts Committee highlighted the uniqueness of this initiative and the value of its neutrality, expertise and multi-stakeholder approach.

119. The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism continued to be a key strategic partner of the Executive Directorate. Concerted industry-led efforts to curb online terrorist and violent extremist content are having a considerable impact and complementing other stakeholders’ efforts. Thanks to the technical expertise and resources of its members, the tools and mechanisms developed by the Forum are helping to prevent and disrupt the spread of terrorist content online, share knowledge, promote the development of best practices and foster collaboration with smaller platforms, in close cooperation with Tech Against Terrorism. The Hash Sharing Consortium is an excellent example of this collaboration across platforms. During a joint side event organized by the Executive Directorate and the Forum during the general debate of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Forum announced plans to adopt a formal governance model and become a

non-governmental organization. The Executive Directorate was invited to be a member of its Independent Advisory Committee.

XVII. Updated global surveys on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)

120. Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 2395 (2017), the Executive Directorate submitted to the Committee a document identifying a number of practical ways to improve the utility of its assessment tools. This work will contribute to the updating of the global surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). It is expected that the updated surveys will be utilized within the framework of the preparations for the Committee's forthcoming special meeting to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee.

XVIII. Public communications and outreach

121. In accordance with the revised communications strategy, the Executive Directorate continued to raise awareness and enhance understanding of its work and that of the Committee, including through strengthened use of multimedia tools (especially visual elements). In 2019, communications were focused on the promotion of the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles (2018). The Executive Directorate launched a dedicated web page for the addendum, complete with its first video, showcasing each guiding principle, fact sheets for each guiding principle and links to other resources about the addendum. In keeping with the Secretary-General's multilingual initiative, the dedicated web page and related resources were also translated into French and Spanish (additional languages will be added in the near future). The Executive Directorate also produced a new print publication, which combined the Madrid Guiding Principles and the addendum thereto.

122. The Executive Directorate continued to improve its communications output by ramping up its social media engagement and expanding its range of audiences. Most activities of the Executive Director and the Executive Directorate were highlighted on all social media platforms, and the Executive Directorate increasingly shared French and Spanish content through its social feeds. In December 2017, the Executive Directorate had around 15,300 Twitter followers. As at October 2019, the Executive Directorate had some 22,300 Twitter followers, representing a 46 per cent increase since the beginning of the period under review. The Executive Directorate also re-launched its Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube accounts. During 2019, its Facebook page was verified (receiving a blue checkmark) and recognized as an official United Nations page on Facebook. As at October 2019, the Executive Directorate had some 7,000 Facebook followers – almost triple the number it had at the beginning of the period under review. The Executive Directorate also began to promote its content on its Instagram page, which was also verified in 2019. Instagram traffic is currently around 13 times higher than in the previous reporting period.

123. Although social media remain key to increasing the visibility of the Executive Directorate, its website remains the main source of information about its activities and those of the Committee. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate recorded a 200 per cent increase in the number of visitors to the website (from some 2,800 visitors in January 2018 to around 8,400 in September 2019). Over 100 web stories (covering major missions, meetings, conferences, workshops and other initiatives) were published. During the last quarter of 2019, the Executive

Directorate initiated the launch of a completely new website for itself and the Committee.

124. The Executive Director continued to distribute awareness-raising press kits to high-level officials, national practitioners and international experts during the Committee's assessment visits and at regional and national conferences. The kits included materials about the latest activities of the Committee and the Executive Directorate during 2018 and 2019, as well as fact sheets about each individual guiding principle contained in the 2018 addendum. All those materials were also translated into French and Spanish. The Executive Directorate also further increased its systematic distribution of folders in French in relevant Member States during official missions conducted on behalf of the Committee. Thus far, over 200 folders have been distributed during country visits, bilateral consultations and other events. The Executive Directorate also produced a brochure of its activities in 2019 for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

125. The Executive Directorate redesigned its newsletter, which was issued three times a year. In early February 2019, the Executive Directorate launched its third trends report, entitled "Gender dimensions of the response to returning foreign terrorist fighters: research perspectives", which was the first to be professionally printed. The report was translated into Arabic and attracted media attention, being covered by external media outlets such as Forbes. The Executive Directorate also participated in a podcast for Project Syndicate on the same theme. The podcast was featured on the Executive Directorate's Facebook page as a video.

126. The Executive Directorate redesigned its trends alerts. In early May 2019, it issued its third trends alert, entitled "Greater efforts needed to address the potential risks posed by terrorist use of unmanned aircraft systems". In order to promote the alert, the Executive Directorate produced a video that ran on all social platforms. It also launched a new product, an analytical brief, which was designed and distributed during the general debate of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

127. During 2019, the Executive Directorate arranged for the translation of several of its publications into other United Nations languages. The *United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism* was translated into French, Russian and Spanish, and professionally designed and printed as a brochure. *The Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks: Compendium of Good Practices* was translated into, and printed in, French. The South Asia Regional Toolkit for Judges was translated into Dari, and both the Dari and English versions were professionally printed.

128. In accordance with the revised communications strategy, the Executive Directorate continued to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the work of its work and that of the Committee, including through strengthened use of multimedia tools (especially visual elements). In 2019, communications focused on the promotion of the 2018 addendum. The Executive Directorate launched a dedicated web page, complete with its first video showcasing each guiding principle, fact sheets for each guiding principle and links to other resources about the addendum. In keeping with the Secretary-General's multilingual initiative, the dedicated web page with all of the related resources was also translated into French and Spanish (with additional languages to be added in the near future). The Executive Directorate further produced a new print publication, which combined the Madrid Guiding Principles and the addendum thereto.

129. During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate also instituted a new practice for its events and the Committee's open briefings, creating a communications plan that included the issuance of social media advisories, media advisories and a

press release upon the conclusion of certain events, such as the first joint visit undertaken by the Chair of the Committee, the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate and the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. A further example was the Committee's open briefing on the "Terror-crime nexus" in April 2019. To highlight both events, the Executive Directorate live-tweeted the events and shared video clips on Instagram. For the meeting on the "Terror-crime nexus", it also produced a highlight video for the first time. The Executive Directorate also worked with the Office to align their messages, especially for high-level joint visits.

XIX. Organization and operations of the Executive Directorate

130. The staffing structure of the Executive Directorate under the regular budget consists of 50 positions (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 19 P-4, 7 P-3, 3 P-2, 1 General Service (Principal level) and 7 General Service) and is currently complemented by 5 Junior Professional Officers and 1 P-4, funded under extrabudgetary resources. In view of the additional requirements under Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#), the Executive Directorate will submit a request for the provision of new positions under the regular budget for 2021, with a view to ensuring full implementation of its mandate.

131. In view of the measures introduced by the Secretary-General during the period under review to address the Organization's cash flow problems and align disbursements with overall cash availability, the Executive Directorate continued to exercise financial prudence and discipline and undertook a careful review of its projected expenditures in order to reduce risk and ensure that it could continue to fully implement its mandate.

XX. Conclusions

132. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate has undertaken efforts to fulfil the mandate, tasks and assignments entrusted to it by the Security Council in its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), as well as other relevant resolutions, and continued to work under the political guidance of the Committee in all aspects of its performance. The Executive Directorate will continue to pursue its work in accordance with its mandate to monitor, promote and facilitate Member States' implementation of the relevant Council resolutions and decisions and the 19 international counter-terrorism instruments.

Enclosure I

**Visits of the Committee to Member States, 2018–2019, as at
16 December 2019**

<i>Number of visits (since 2005)</i>	<i>Member State visited</i>	<i>Dates of visit</i>	<i>Total</i>
2018			
136	Greece (follow-up) second time	30 January–1 February 2018	15
137	Switzerland (focused)	27 February–1 March 2018	
138	Côte d'Ivoire (comprehensive)	26–30 March 2018	
139	Serbia (follow-up) second time	27–29 March 2018	
140	South Africa (follow-up) second time	7–9 May 2018	
141	Denmark (follow-up) second time	29–31 May 2018	
142	Niger (follow-up) fifth time	9–11 July 2018	
143	Burkina Faso (follow-up) third time	12–13 July 2018	
144	Armenia (regional) second time	11–13 July 2018	
145	New Zealand (regional) second time	11–13 July 2018	
146	Georgia (regional) second time	16–18 July 2018	
147	Australia (regional) second time	16–20 July 2018	
148	Azerbaijan (regional) second time	23–25 July 2018	
149	Mali (follow-up) fourth time	29–31 October 2018	
150	Saudi Arabia (follow-up) second time	4–6 November 2018	
2019			
151	Finland (follow-up) second time	8–11 April 2019	16
152	Uganda (follow-up) second time	22–24 April 2019	
153	United States of America (focused)	26 April–3 May 2019	
154	Turkey (follow-up) third time	11–14 May 2019	
155	Morocco (follow-up) third time	26–28 June 2019	
156	Indonesia (follow-up) second time	16–18 July 2019	
157	Togo (focused)	22–24 July 2019	
158	Ghana (follow-up) third time	2–4 October 2019	
159	Maldives (focused)	6–8 October 2019	
160	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (follow-up) second time	7–11 October 2019	

<i>Number of visits (since 2005)</i>	<i>Member State visited</i>	<i>Dates of visit</i>	<i>Total</i>
161	Philippines (follow-up) third time	10–12 October 2019	
162	China (focused)	29 October–2 November 2019	
163	Peru (focused)	12–14 November 2019	
164	Mozambique (follow-up) second time	18–21 November 2019	
165	Kyrgyzstan (follow-up) second time	2–5 December 2019	
166	Poland (comprehensive)	9–13 December 2019	

Enclosure II

Detailed implementation surveys or overview of implementation assessments by State, shown by geographical section as defined by the Executive Directorate, as at 16 December 2019

<i>Section A</i>	<i>Section B</i>	<i>Section C</i>
North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, Oceania (Pacific Island States, New Zealand and Australia) (73 States) 38 States with a detailed implementation survey or overview of implementation assessment	South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Western Asia and Egypt (67 States) 45 States with a detailed implementation survey or overview of implementation assessment	Africa (North Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, West and Central Africa) (53 States) 31 States with a detailed implementation survey or overview of implementation assessment
North America	South-Eastern Europe	North Africa
1. Canada	1. Albania	1. Algeria ^a
2. United States of America	2. Bosnia and Herzegovina ^a	2. Libya
Central America and the Caribbean	3. Bulgaria	3. Mauritania ^a
1. Antigua and Barbuda	4. Croatia	4. Morocco ^a
2. Bahamas ^a	5. North Macedonia ^a	5. South Sudan ^a
3. Barbados ^a	6. Montenegro	6. Sudan
4. Belize	7. Romania ^a	7. Tunisia ^a
5. Costa Rica	8. Serbia ^b	East Africa
6. Cuba	9. Slovenia	1. Burundi ^a
7. Dominica	Eastern Europe	2. Comoros
8. Dominican Republic ^a	1. Belarus ^a	3. Djibouti ^a
9. El Salvador	2. Czechia	4. Eritrea ^a
10. Grenada	3. Estonia ^a	5. Ethiopia ^a
11. Guatemala	4. Hungary ^a	6. Kenya ^a
12. Haiti	5. Latvia	7. Madagascar
13. Honduras	6. Lithuania ^a	8. Mozambique
14. Jamaica ^a	7. Moldova	9. Rwanda
15. Mexico ^a	8. Poland ^a	10. Seychelles
16. Nicaragua	9. Russian Federation ^a	11. Somalia ^a
17. Panama ^a	10. Slovakia	12. United Republic of Tanzania

Section A

Section B

Section C

18. Saint Kitts and Nevis ^a	11. Ukraine ^a	13. Uganda ^a
19. Saint Lucia	Western Europe	Southern Africa
20. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1. Andorra ^a	1. Angola ^a
21. Trinidad and Tobago ^a	2. Austria	2. Botswana
South America	3. Belgium	3. Lesotho ^a
1. Argentina ^a	4. Cyprus ^a	4. Malawi ^a
2. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	5. Denmark ^a	5. Mauritius
3. Brazil	6. Finland	6. Namibia ^a
4. Chile	7. France ^a	7. South Africa ^a
5. Colombia ^a	8. Germany ^a	8. Eswatini ^a
6. Ecuador ^a	9. Greece ^a	9. Zambia
7. Guyana ^a	10. Iceland ^a	10. Zimbabwe ^a
8. Paraguay ^a	11. Ireland ^a	West and Central Africa
9. Peru	12. Israel	1. Benin
10. Suriname ^a	13. Italy ^a	2. Burkina Faso ^a
11. Uruguay ^a	14. Liechtenstein	3. Cameroon ^a
12. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	15. Luxembourg ^a	4. Cabo Verde ^a
East Asia	16. Malta ^a	5. Central African Republic
1. China	17. Monaco	6. Chad ^a
2. Democratic People's Republic of Korea	18. Netherlands ^a	7. Republic of Congo
3. Japan ^a	19. Norway ^a	8. Côte d'Ivoire ^a
4. Mongolia ^a	20. Portugal	9. Democratic Republic of the Congo
5. Republic of Korea	21. San Marino ^a	10. Equatorial Guinea ^a
South Asia	22. Spain	11. Gabon ^a
1. Afghanistan ^a	23. Sweden ^a	12. Gambia
2. Bangladesh ^a	24. Switzerland ^a	13. Ghana ^a
3. Bhutan ^a	25. Turkey ^a	14. Guinea ^a
4. India	26. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15. Guinea-Bissau

<i>Section A</i>	<i>Section B</i>	<i>Section C</i>	
5. Maldives ^a	Central Asia and the Caucasus	16. Liberia	
6. Nepal ^a		1. Armenia ^a	17. Mali
7. Pakistan		2. Azerbaijan ^a	18. Niger ^a
8. Sri Lanka ^a		3. Georgia ^b	19. Nigeria ^a
South-East Asia		4. Kazakhstan ^b	20. Sao Tome and Principe
1. Brunei Darussalam ^a		5. Kyrgyzstan ^a	21. Senegal ^a
2. Cambodia ^a		6. Tajikistan ^a	22. Sierra Leone
3. Indonesia ^a		7. Turkmenistan ^a	23. Togo
4. Lao People's Democratic Republic ^a	8. Uzbekistan ^a		
5. Malaysia ^a	Middle East (including Egypt)		
6. Myanmar ^a		1. Bahrain	
7. Philippines ^a		2. Egypt ^a	
8. Singapore		3. Iran (Islamic Republic of) ^a	
9. Thailand ^a		4. Iraq ^a	
10. Timor-Leste ^a		5. Jordan	
11. Viet Nam ^a		6. Kuwait ^a	
Oceania		7. Lebanon ^a	
1. Fiji ^a		8. Oman ^a	
2. Kiribati		9. Qatar ^a	
3. Marshall Islands		10. Saudi Arabia	
4. Micronesia (Federated States of)	11. Syrian Arab Republic		
5. Nauru	12. United Arab Emirates ^a		
	13. Yemen ^a		

^a Member State has received its detailed implementation survey or overview of implementation assessment.

^b Member State engaged in second round of a detailed implementation survey or overview of implementation assessment

Enclosure III**List of meetings and briefings held by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Executive Directorate, 2018–2019**

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Date</i>
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on the United Nations guiding principles for the collection of evidence on the battlefield	24 May 2018
Open meeting of the Committee on countering terrorist narratives and preventing use of the Internet for terrorist purposes	29 May 2018
Informal meeting of the Committee on community engagement to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in South Asia and South-East Asia	6 June 2018
Joint briefing of the Executive Directorate and the Biometrics Institute on the use of biometrics in countering terrorism	21 June 2018
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on children and terrorism	21 June 2018
Open briefing of the Committee on Central Asia	2 July 2018
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on human rights in the counter-terrorism context, including the rights and roles of victims of terrorism	13 September 2018
Open briefing of the Committee on the nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime	8 October 2018
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters	25 October 2018
Interactive open briefing of the Committee for the wider membership in advance of the special meeting on “Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) : review of the Madrid Guiding Principles”	20 November 2018
Special meeting of the Committee on “Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) : review of the Madrid Guiding Principles”	13 December 2018
Joint briefing of the Executive Directorate and the International Civil Aviation Organization on follow-up to the Committee’s special meeting on cooperation in countering the terrorist threat to civil aviation	20 December 2018
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on integrating gender into the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate	20 December 2018
Open briefing of the Committee on the addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (2018)	22 February 2019
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on emerging trends (right-wing extremism)	8 April 2019
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on dangers and opportunities by use of unmanned aerial vehicles	25 April 2019

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Date</i>
Joint special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) , 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities on the link between organized crime and terrorism	26 April 2019
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on interrelations between counter-terrorism and international humanitarian law	23 May 2019
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on maritime security issues and terrorist acts committed at sea	20 June 2019
Open briefing of the Committee on the protection of soft targets through local engagement and public-private partnership	27 June 2019
Executive Directorate briefing to the Committee on strengthening the role of parliaments in enhancing Member States' counter-terrorism efforts	2 July 2019
Open briefing of the Committee on integrating gender into the work of the Committee and Executive Directorate	1 November 2019

Annex II

Observations of the Executive Director on the way forward in enhancing the functional capability of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and its support for the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council

1. As underscored in Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1535 \(2004\)](#), [2395 \(2017\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions and in the guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Executive Directorate plays an essential role in monitoring, promoting and facilitating Member States' implementation of the relevant Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and in supporting the Committee in its work.

2. In view of the recent evolution of the terrorism landscape and the evolution in the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, as well as the additional tasks conferred by recent Security Council resolutions and by the relevant decisions of the Committee, the Executive Directorate, as the executive arm of the Committee and as a special political mission operating under the guidance of the Committee, should give priority consideration to bringing into full play its comparative advantage within the United Nations system and within the framework of the international community by strengthening its functional capability and its support for the Committee and the Security Council in the overall context of the Security Council's peace and security, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism agenda and of the overall United Nations counter-terrorism architecture.

3. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council noted the crucial role of the Executive Directorate within the United Nations and its expertise in assessing counter-terrorism issues and in supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counter-terrorism responses and its expertise in assessing international counter-terrorism standards in accordance with a methodology based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and the international standards of the relevant international specialized agencies, with a view to supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counter-terrorism responses. It also underscored that neutral, expert assessment of the implementation of resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and other relevant resolutions, is the core function of the Executive Directorate, and that the analysis and recommendations from these assessments are an invaluable aid to Member States in identifying and addressing gaps in implementation and capacity and an essential support to the relevant United Nations and international partners in identifying the best available and most suitable projects to advance the capacities of Member States in need of assistance.

4. In this regard, there are several areas that should be considered in identifying ways to enhance the Executive Directorate's strategic and functional capacity, visibility, impact and positioning by strengthening its assessment work, its partnership with the United Nations system and other players, and its support for the work of the Committee, as outlined below.

I. Strengthen assessment of Member States' implementation efforts

5. Assessment of Member States' efforts to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions remains a primary task of the Committee and the Executive Directorate. There are several ways to further strengthen this work.

A. Country visits

6. Engagement in dialogue with Member States through country visits is a unique tool, which enables the Committee and the Executive Directorate to assess and understand Member States' overall national counter-terrorism efforts, including their strengths, weaknesses, technical assistance needs, useful experiences and good practices in fulfilling their obligations and in addressing new and emerging terrorism trends and challenges. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council requested the Executive Directorate to identify potential ways to strengthen the assessment process, including through a follow-up process that ensures that steps are taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee's assessments, by enhancing the Executive Directorate's role as a facilitator of technical assistance, including by making country assessments available throughout the United Nations system, especially to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in order to better align capacity-building with gaps in implementation and capacity identified by the Executive Directorate, and by considering targeted and focused follow-up visits as complements to the Executive Directorate's comprehensive assessments.

7. In addition to the eight types of visit described in the Executive Directorate revised organizational plan ([S/2008/80](#), enclosure) and the three types of visit (namely preventive, post-crisis and expert fact-finding visits) recommended in the Executive Director's note to the Chair ([S/2017/1101](#), annex II), under recent Security Council resolutions, such as resolutions [2370 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#) and [2462 \(2019\)](#), new areas of counter-terrorism (including the development of advance passenger information or passenger name record systems; countering the financing of terrorism; protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets; maritime security; preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons; addressing potential terrorist use of unmanned aircraft systems; and development of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies) may require a more focused, or "deep-dive", approach, with partners in accordance with a methodology that would ensure that the Executive Directorate is playing a leading role.

8. A number of missions relating to aviation security, conducted over the past two years in accordance with the "deep-dive" approach, have enabled technical assistance providers and implementing agencies to design and develop targeted capacity-building projects and programmes. The Executive Directorate should play a lead role in the assessment component of such missions, which may be considered as "targeted missions". The Executive Directorate, in collaboration with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, other member entities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force and other key stakeholders, will strive to ensure that these "targeted missions" are linked to the Committee's assessment visits or report recommendations and follow-up action and complement the Committee's ongoing dialogue with visited States.

9. As noted above, in the above-mentioned note to the Chair ([S/2017/1101](#), annex II), the Executive Director recommends three further types of country visit, one of which is a post-crisis visit to States in which a terrorist incident has occurred. Such visits enable the Executive Directorate to meet with officials of the State concerned to discuss capacity-building needs and share effective crisis-management practices. In June 2019, the Executive Director visited Sri Lanka to engage in high-level consultations with the Government, in the wake of the terrorist bombings in April. The visit was conducted with the approval of the Committee and within the framework of the overall United Nations engagement with Sri Lanka. In July 2019, the Executive Director conducted high-level consultations with the Government of Tunisia in the wake of the suicide bombings carried out in June. Such visits represent a timely response to crisis situations and a vital expression of support for, and

solidarity with, the affected State. They can also provide useful inputs for the work of the Committee, the Council and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. It would therefore be useful for the Committee to consider approving future missions of this type by the Executive Director. The Committee's approval of the post-crisis and high-level visits should be through a no-objection procedure regarding the Executive Directorate's proposal, which would also indicate prior coordination with other United Nations entities and, where applicable, with other international or regional organizations.

10. Throughout the next period, the Executive Directorate will be in a better position to advance the follow-up process owing to the Committee's adoption of its new guidelines for enhancing its post-visit follow-up procedures in October 2018. These guidelines shortened the time frame of the assessment dialogue with the visited Member State, thereby enabling the Executive Directorate to capitalize on the constructive dialogue it has established during the visit and maintaining the engagement of the visited States in the follow-up process. So far, several States have reported on steps taken to implement the Committee's recommendations. One Member State has been invited to brief the Committee on its national measures, and the Executive Directorate is expecting to receive more responses from other States, in particular those that were visited after October 2018. The Executive Directorate will bring to the attention of the Committee more visited States with a view to inviting their Governments to brief the Committee on steps taken to implement the Committee's recommendations.

11. In response to the Executive Directorate's proactive approach in encouraging Member States to share their confidential assessments, a total of seven Member States have agreed to share their assessments in full or in part so far. The Executive Directorate expects more States to follow the same practice. This approach is expected to enhance the role of the Committee and the Executive Directorate as facilitators of technical assistance, and facilitate the roles of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other partners as technical assistance providers since they would be in a better position to align their capacity-building projects with the gaps identified by the Executive Directorate in the light of the relevant Security Council resolutions on terrorism and the relevant international standards. The success of this process, however, will require robust follow-up and prompt feedback to the Executive Directorate in order to ensure that identified gaps are addressed expeditiously, especially in the current global climate of rapidly emerging threats of terrorism. It would also ensure that efforts of Security Council subsidiary bodies on counter-terrorism are fully underpinned by the "One United Nations" approach to counter-terrorism. Finally, it would also provide an incentive for other States to follow the same path and approve the sharing, in full, of their assessments. The Executive Directorate will pursue a robust outreach approach with its United Nations partners to ensure the attainment of the above outcome. The Executive Directorate, in close coordination with the Office, will also develop relevant internal procedures and update the Committee accordingly, including with a chart on document flow.

12. Effective counter-terrorism approaches involve the engagement of all relevant sectors in society. In this regard, parliaments play a significant role in Member States' counter-terrorism efforts by considering and approving draft counter-terrorism legislation and strategies. They also act as a useful counterweight to the action of the executive branch by considering their constituents' concerns and priorities and by ensuring that those concerns and priorities are included in the national debate. Parliaments are also particularly well placed to identify an appropriate balance between protection of national security and public order and respect for human rights. They are also able to assess and review implementation of counter-terrorism efforts and thus help to identify and recommend areas for improvement. It would therefore

be useful for the Executive Directorate to integrate into its country visit programme, whenever possible, discussion and dialogue with parliamentarians of visited States. The Executive Directorate should also make effective use of existing United Nations and regional platforms for networking with parliaments in order to keep abreast of the intention, momentum, status and development of the legislative efforts of particular States and explore ways for the Executive Directorate and the Committee to provide support in that regard.

13. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council encouraged the Executive Directorate to further develop its activities to ensure that all human rights and rule of law issues relevant to the implementation of resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions are addressed as an important component of country visits; assessments; analysis of emerging issues, trends, and developments; and facilitation of technical assistance. The Executive Directorate should continue its engagement with the United Nations and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, as appropriate, with other human rights and civil society organizations, and further inform Member States that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary to, and mutually reinforcing with, effective counter-terrorism measures.

B. International, regional and subregional engagement

14. The relevant United Nations specialized agencies and other international, regional and subregional organizations are close partners of the Committee and the Executive Directorate in undertaking their assessment work. Although relevant expertise is being developed within the Executive Directorate, the participation of experts from partner organizations and their contribution and engagement throughout the assessment process is essential. Upon request and on a case-by-case basis, the Executive Directorate has sponsored the participation of numerous experts from international organizations. However, in view of the current financial situation of the Organization and in order to achieve the desired outcomes and ensure their continued participation, there is a need to identify feasible financial arrangements with partner organizations and continue to assist their experts in understanding the working methodology and procedures of the Committee and the Executive Directorate.

15. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council directed the Executive Directorate to make country assessments, recommendations, surveys and analytical products available throughout the United Nations system, especially to the Office of Counter-Terrorism and United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes whose work is relevant to counter-terrorism, in order to better align United Nations technical assistance and capacity-building with gaps in implementation and capacity identified by the Executive Directorate, as well as in support of balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and further directed the Executive Directorate to enhance sharing of its findings with Member States and relevant counter-terrorism partners, as appropriate and in consultation with the Committee, international, regional, and subregional organizations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, academia, think tanks, civil society and the private sector.

16. In that regard, the Executive Directorate's participation in regional and subregional activities, such as symposiums, seminars and workshops on regional and thematic issues, provides a vital opportunity to interact and engage with the participating States, including to identify new terrorism trends, threats, risks and challenges, as well as technical assistance needs, and develop appropriate ways to address them. It would therefore be useful for the Executive Directorate to undertake further efforts to co-design and co-arrange (with sponsoring donors and implementing partners, including through its trust fund) activities relating to issues set forth in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Executive Directorate will continue to

incorporate the outcomes derived from such participation, interaction and engagement, in the form of qualitative and quantitative data, into its assessment and analytical products (for example, country visits, regional and thematic briefings, topical research, global implementation survey and digital detailed implementation surveys).

17. The Committee's addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (Madrid Guiding Principles) (2018) serves as an important policy guidance paper for the work of United Nations entities with Member States. It is essential to ensure the robust promotion and effective implementation of its intended objectives. The Executive Directorate should therefore continue to work with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Member States, parliaments and other stakeholders, including academia and civil society organizations, in raising awareness of the requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions and other complementary documents, such as the addendum. The Executive Directorate should also continue to promote the updated "Technical guide to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions".

II. Enhance partnerships with the United Nations system and other players in facilitating technical assistance delivery

18. The facilitation of Member States' implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions forms an integral part of the Executive Directorate's mandate and serves as a vital reinforcement of, and complement to, the assessment process. The facilitation of technical assistance delivery should not be considered as an alternative to Member States' own capacities and obligations in countering terrorism. Rather, it should recognize and build upon Member States' capacities to counter terrorism in accordance with the relevant international standards. However, the Executive Directorate's unique mandate and expertise in carrying out independent, integrated and even-handed assessments, in accordance with the agreed upon methodology, are important for identifying States' existing capacities and the related gaps that need to be addressed. Assessment visits are conducted with the consent of the visited Member States and their outcomes are endorsed by the Committee, by consensus, in an even-handed manner, and through an inclusive process. The mandate and methodology of the Committee and the Executive Directorate should enable technical assistance providers to focus their efforts and resources on the timely provision of technical assistance to Member States. In this regard, the active engagement of partners from the United Nations system and other organizations and timely follow-up to the Committee's country assessment visits and recommendations are essential. The Executive Directorate's methodology in identifying progress achieved and remaining gaps in implementing the relevant Council resolutions and international standards should serve to effectively guide its partners in their efforts to deliver technical assistance with a view to ensuring timely follow-up and tangible outcomes (not just in reference to the facilitation of technical assistance by the Executive Directorate, but also to the provision of timely support to Member States by the entire United Nations system). It is also imperative that United Nations field offices in visited States act as partners in the follow-up process in order to demonstrate the ability of the United Nations to react swiftly to the Member States' technical assistance needs in countering terrorism.

19. In view of the close contact between United Nations field offices and the Governments of visited States, there is a need to establish a close and effective network involving the Executive Directorate, United Nations resident coordinators, donors and implementing agencies, which would facilitate the timely exchange of information concerning the Executive Directorate's recommendations, the impact of

technical assistance delivered as a result of the Executive Directorate's facilitation efforts, and the activities of the donor community and implementing agencies. Officers of the Executive Directorate could therefore conduct follow-up missions with United Nations country teams to expedite the facilitation of technical assistance delivery. A tool could be designed to strengthen the recording and tracking of follow-up activities and the outcomes of delivery by donors and implementing agencies. This work could also involve the relevant working groups of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

20. It would also be useful to consider organizing an annual discussion between the Executive Directorate, resident coordinators and, as necessary, other United Nations entities working on the ground, whether through videoconference or in the form of a retreat, in order to facilitate stocktaking and the discussion of innovative and effective ways and approaches for United Nations field offices to assist Member States in their implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on terrorism, as well as recent developments in the Council and the Committee.

21. Effective partnerships with United Nations field offices and international, regional and subregional organizations provide an essential way for the Executive Directorate to share its findings, take stock of progress made in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, and propose recommendations for subsequent technical assistance design, programming and delivery. In this regard, it should be recalled that the Executive Directorate has worked effectively in recent years with the African Union, Nigeria, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and States of the Lake Chad basin on the development of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, national comprehensive and integrated strategies and a regional strategy. The Executive Directorate should therefore continue to work with such regional and subregional mechanisms and partners, including through working groups established within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In this regard, the Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation of the Compact is working on linking the design and programming of capacity-building projects and activities by the United Nations to technical assistance needs that have been identified as being of high priority in the Executive Directorate's assessments and analysis.

22. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact provides a useful platform to enable its participating entities to work in a coordinated and coherent manner in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Executive Directorate is currently the Chair of one working group, the Co-Chair of another and the Vice-Chair of three others (including the Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation). It is essential that the Executive Directorate continue to play an active part in the working groups in order to share its assessments and analysis and ensure timely and effective take-up and delivery of technical assistance, as well as funds allocation, in accordance with the recommendations identified during country visits and approved by the Committee. In this regard, the Committee and its Chair may wish to consider feasible ways to take stock of, and provide guidance on, the manner in which the Committee's technical assistance recommendations are taken up and acted upon.

23. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council also requested the Executive Directorate to report within 12 months after the initial assessment report to the Committee on steps taken to implement the recommendations of the assessment, bearing in mind differences in capacity and availability of resources, as well as the need for technical assistance in the implementation of some recommendations. In this regard, it should be stressed that Member States are obligated to effectively and fully implement the requirements of the relevant Council resolutions. Whenever and

wherever needed, international support should be provided to enhance their capacity-building through the provision of technical assistance, equipment and facilities. In this regard, it would be useful to arrange more frequent direct interaction and dialogue, at United Nations Headquarters, between Committee members and representatives of visited States concerning their respective country files, needs and challenges, the expectations of the Committee and the views of the Member States themselves. The Executive Directorate would submit to the Committee an annual list of Member States, indicating status of their reporting to the Committee and other indications of their implementation progress.

24. The Executive Directorate continues to undertake its activities in support of Member States, within its existing resources, as approved by the General Assembly. In this regard, Member States' generous contribution of Junior Professional Officers to the Executive Directorate serves both to strengthen its capacity, including its work on regional and thematic issues, and to offer young professionals an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in multilateral international cooperation at the United Nations. In this regard, the Executive Directorate would welcome further support by Member States of its activities through the United Nations Junior Professional Officers programme.

III. Increase the Executive Directorate's support for the Committee, as well as for the Security Council's peace and security, counter-terrorism, and countering violent extremism agenda

25. The Committee has a unique convening power in assisting Member States in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the Executive Directorate should continue to provide full support to the Committee in fulfilling its mandate, in particular by:

(a) Following up on the Committee's country visits with visited States, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other partners in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance and building Member States' capacities, and following up with non-submitting and late-submitting States, through informal meetings;

(b) Promoting assessment and reference tools to assist Member States in their implementation efforts, including the addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles (2018), the "Technical guide to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions", the revised framework document for country visits, the digital detailed implementation survey and compendiums of good practices;

(c) Using the Committee's unique convening power to raise awareness of all elements and requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as new trends and challenges and effective and good practices, by organizing more regular open events, meetings, briefings and joint briefings and by continuing to issue publications such as its analytical briefs, trends alerts and trends reports;

(d) Strengthening interaction and consultation among the Chairs of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council on terrorism with a view to exploring ways to enhance collaboration and cooperation through open joint interaction with Member States in areas of mutual interest, in accordance with the three committees' respective mandates.

26. The Executive Directorate remains an important counter-terrorism arm of the Security Council. Its assessment, analysis and expertise on global, regional and country-specific counter-terrorism profiles should continue to serve as a reference for the Security Council peace and security, counter-terrorism and countering violent

extremism agenda. In this regard, it would be useful to consider the following, where appropriate and necessary:

(a) The Security Council could invite the Executive Director to assist in its consideration of situations that have a counter-terrorism dimension;

(b) The Security Council could invite the Executive Director to deliver briefings, in its various formats and settings, on situations that have a counter-terrorism dimension;

(c) The Security Council could invite the Executive Directorate to deliver briefings within the framework of Council field missions on regional and country-specific profiles, as well as on thematic issues, as deemed relevant to the Security Council's work programmes;

(d) The Executive Directorate could function as an "information switchboard", using its partnerships with other relevant United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, academia (including the Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network), civil society and private sector actors, where necessary, in analysing and sharing information on emerging issues and risks (such as the use by terrorists of artificial intelligence, unmanned aircraft systems and cryptocurrencies and other new payment methods), as well as implementation challenges (for example, application of international humanitarian law, use and collection of electronic evidence and repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families).

IV. Conclusions

27. There have remained challenges and opportunities in the overall counter-terrorism landscape over the past few years, which warrant strategic thinking about how to maximize the unique role of the Executive Directorate in fulfilling its mandate and various tasks and advancing the objectives of the Security Council resolutions within the United Nations system. Acting under the policy guidance of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will continue its efforts aimed at prioritizing its activities in the light of the relevant Council resolutions and decisions of the Committee and in the light of its comparative advantage within and outside the United Nations system. The Council's next review of the Executive Directorate's mandate will take place in December 2021. In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Council stated that it looked forward to a special meeting of the Committee to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the establishment of the Committee. The Executive Directorate looks forward to assisting the Council and the Committee in the preparations for the mandate renewal and the special meeting, and looks forward to further enhancing its role, in accordance with the policy guidance of the Committee, to assist Member States in achieving the full and effective implementation of the relevant Council resolutions.