

**The seventh session of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group
on Firearms**

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Remarks of

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CTED plays a central role in supporting the policy development and responses of the CTC and the Council and in assisting them to define the international counter-terrorism agenda. In the core of our work are the on-site assessment visit missions conducted to Member States on behalf of the CTC. During these visits we assess and analyse the overall capacity of states to counter terrorism, identify gaps, challenges, trends as well as good practices. These assessments and analyses include measures to counter terrorist access to weapons.

The Security Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of preventing terrorists' access to weapons, including in its resolution 1373 (2001), in which it decides that States shall eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists. The Council's adoption of resolution 2370 (2017) marked the first time when the Council focused explicitly on this issue.

The council has recognized that in order to counter illicit trafficking of weapons and ammunitions, control systems at national level must be enhanced including in areas of export control, end-user verification, secure storage, and tracing of weapons used by terrorists.

The resolution is not to be read in isolation – it includes and complements other existing instruments and principal sources of international standards relating to prevention of trafficking in small arms and light weapons, such as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and

Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the United Nations International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Together they create a comprehensive family of instruments.

Assessment of Member States' performance and implementation efforts continues to be the unique mandate and key task of the Committee and CTED pursuant to relevant Security Council resolutions.

Our assessment and analysis reveal that many States lack the necessary capacity and resources to implement existing policies and measures, lack the requisite modern technology and equipment for effective weapons control, and also suffer from inadequate implementation mechanisms. We have also noted poor stockpile management and looting of weapons, as well as a lack of appropriate mechanisms for monitoring the production, control, sale, brokerage, export and import of small arms and light weapons.

CTED also monitors new risks and trends deriving from international arms trafficking via the Internet and across borders, including the consequences of terrorist and criminal access to, and use of, deactivated and reactivated weapons acquired from collectors. The Dark Web markets are becoming more and more attractive to terrorists because they offer almost perfect anonymity.

In terms of positive responses, we do have a very extensive international framework mentioned and CTC/CTED recommendations developed and addressed to assist Member States. For example, CTED promotes the importance of the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System, or "iARMS".

Customs Administrations play a critical role at the international border crossings to mitigate the threat of illicit trafficking of weapons and explosives, and illicit diversion of dual use goods. In this regard, CTED highlights the importance of implementing the World Customs Organization's Security Programme.

CTED respectively updated the Committee's Technical Guide to the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions including resolution 2370. This is a comprehensive and unique tool for Member states to take stock of their implementation efforts.

In 2018, the CTC adopted the Addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters that serves as a practical tool to assist States to address the FTF phenomenon, including guiding principles on preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

These materials aim to link the existing instruments, cross-reference them and raise states awareness of what is at their disposal. Rather than adding new elements to the existing framework, the implementation efforts must be strengthened. However, we must keep in mind that many States need assistance and this point must be integrated in discussions. The need to increase technical assistance and capacity building.

Addressing the connections between organised crime and terrorism has long been on the agenda of the Security Council. In February 2019, CTED issued a report on the correlation between human trafficking, terrorism and terrorism financing. In resolution 2482 (2019), the Council urges States, among other things, to adopt legislative and other measures, to prohibit the illegal manufacture of unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, as well as the illicit falsification, obliteration, removal or alteration of the unique markings prescribed in the International Tracing Instrument.

While a number of countries has expressed serious concern for the connections between criminal and terrorist groups, it seems that the actual level of investigation and prosecution of cases involving both criminal and terrorist groups remains low. CTED will continue to devote its attention to the organized crime and terrorism linkages in its engagement with Member States.

Currently, under the Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact working group on Border Management and Law Enforcement, we are developing technical guidelines facilitating the implementation of SCR 2370 and relevant international instruments and standards.

Where needed, we continue to support Member States' capacities to address new threats and challenges, by facilitating the development and implementation of technical assistance programmes and projects to ensure a holistic and effective approach to this grave threat.

We undertake these efforts in close cooperation with our partners, such as the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNODC.

Finally, I wish to remind that respect for human rights is essential to effectively countering the terrorism threat. The Committee and CTED continues to take close account of human rights and rule of law issues relevant to counter-terrorism, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

