

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to hold this informal briefing to the wider membership to update you on the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373. But allow me first to pay tribute for the dedication, leadership and professionalism with which my Colleague and Friend H.E. Mr Hardip Puri, Permanent Representative of India has presided over the CTC during 2 years. For my part I will spare no efforts to build on his achievements during the two previous years of his successful mandate.

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

The Committee will continue to pursue a strategic and transparent approach to its work and seek to raise the visibility of its work within the broader United Nations and counter-terrorism community. In this regard, I intend to keep a regular interaction and briefings to update you on the progress made in the work of the Committee and benefit from your views and perspectives.

Furthermore and in order to increase the transparency of the Committee's work, I will continue, as appropriate, to hold periodic informal briefings for Member States. In addition, the Chairman will request the Executive Directorate, in close cooperation with relevant members of the CTITF, to hold periodic briefings for Member States on thematic and regional aspects of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

The Committee, acting in close consultation with CTED and the Secretariat, will continue to streamline its working methods, as appropriate, to enable it to devote more time to achieving the priorities objectives, and activities set out in the CTC programme of Work for 2013.

The Committee and CTED will continue to explore how best to enhance its dialogue with Member States and to collaborate actively with them to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will work to identify available practices, elements and good standards that might help Member States develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies.

The Committee will follow the preparations of visits to Member States to be conducted during this year period leading to December 2013.

The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will organize a special meeting, open to the wider United Nations membership, and other special events, focusing on key aspects of the Committee's mandate.

In this regard the Committee has approved my proposal to hold a Special Meeting during the Autumn on "***Enhancing cooperation and technical assistance to States in the Sahel region to strengthen their capacity in the global fight against terrorism***".

There are a number of serious challenges in countering terrorism that are being faced by States in the Sahel. These challenges impact many areas of resolution 1373 (2001), including counter-financing of terrorism, border security, law enforcement and international cooperation. A special CTC meeting building on current undertakings, could be a good opportunity to explore more efficient ways to help countries of the Sahel region in their fight against terrorism.

The Committee will organize a special event on "***Enhancing the capacity of states to counter terrorism at their borders through technical assistance and the sharing of good practices***". Members of the CTC will explore possible link with the topic of the Special meeting.

During next May the Committee will organize a third special event on the topic "***Effectively countering the threat of terrorism through the use of new communications and information technology, allowing for an early warning system to prevent the threat from materializing***".

Experience has shown that Terrorists continue to take advantage of the latest technologies and techniques in preparing and perpetrating acts of violence. In this regard, counter-terrorism officials worldwide face an increasingly challenging landscape in countering such measures. Many of the solutions for law enforcement officials lie not just in keeping up with the technology and techniques used by terrorist, but in developing sophisticated communications and information technologies and tools aimed at countering current and future threats posed by terrorists.

An event of the Committee could consider a range of communications and information technologies and methods that should be deployed in efforts to prevent terrorist acts.

Furthermore, as part of its outreach efforts, the Committee will also explore the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and to his team, for their excellent work on the Committee's behalf, and to thank the Secretariat for its continued support.