

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I avail this opportunity to extend you all a very warm welcome to the first briefing this year on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

I am pleased to have with me Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), who will join me in this briefing. Following the briefing, the CTED will provide a thematic presentation on “Developments in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) in West Africa”.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I would like to provide you a roundup of key developments in the CTC during 2011 and to update you on the Programme of Work of the Committee for this year. We will focus on thematic as well as regional presentations concerning areas of resolution 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) including on the role of financial intelligence units, trafficking in small arms, the revised FATF standards, technical assistance, human rights aspects of terrorism cases etc in subsequent briefings.

During 2011, the Committee had held two Special Meetings. The first such meeting was co-organized with the Council of Europe with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in Strasbourg, France from April 19-21, 2011 which focussed on the ‘prevention of terrorism.’

The Second Special Meeting was held in New York on September 28, 2011 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and establishment of the Committee in pursuant to that resolution. The day-long event witnessed overwhelming participation from member-states, UN entities, international and regional organizations with over 50 delegations taking the floor. The UN Secretary-General in his opening address outlined his vision on the global fight against terrorism. A side-event was also arranged for the civil society on the margins of the Special Meeting.

The Committee adopted an Outcome Document at the conclusion of the Meeting, which emphasized on ‘zero tolerance’ towards terrorism and was circulated as a document of the Security Council.

The Outcome Document is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raises the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level. It urges all Member States to ensure 'zero-tolerance' towards terrorism and take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant international instruments relating to terrorism. At the same time it reaffirms that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Coinciding with the September 28th Special Meeting, the Committee issued an updated global survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The global survey provides a comprehensive overview – on regional as well as thematic basis - of the status of counter-terrorism efforts around the world and evaluates Member States strengths and vulnerabilities, identifies gaps in implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), and recommends further action.

The Committee also issued a global survey of the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) in December, 2011. Both these global surveys suggested regional approaches and recommended areas for improvement.

The elements of this year's Programme of Work include organizing another Special Meeting, open to the wider membership, focussing on the key aspects of implementation of the CTC's mandate. The agenda and timing for the Special Meeting are yet to be worked out in detail by the Committee. The Meeting will provide a further opportunity for CTC members and the rest of UN membership to discuss counter-terrorism issues of priority concern.

The Committee is scheduled also to conduct an interim review of CTED by 30 June 2012 as mandated by UNSCR 1963 (2010). Further, the Committee will explore the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), identifying available practices, elements and good standards that could help Member States develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1963 (2010), and would focus on further improving the format of global surveys on the implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1624(2005).

The Committee is also in process of reviewing the format of the Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIAs) in order to enhance their usefulness as a diagnostic tool. In this regard, all Member States of the UN have their own PIAs, and the stocktaking of their country counter-terrorism profiles is being carried out by CTED.

The Committee will continue to contribute towards the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism strategy and through CTED, will remain engaged with activities of different working groups of CTITF and the newly setup UN Counter Terrorism Centre. The Committee and CTED will also continue to engage with the Global Counter Terrorism Forum setup in September, 2011.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I attach high priority to enhance transparency, public outreach and strengthening cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations in the work of the Committee and to strengthen its engagement with Member States.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mike Smith, Executive Director, CTED and his team for their excellent work.

Now, I would like to give the floor to Mike Smith to provide you an update on the work of CTED.
