

Informal Briefing of Member States - 7 March 2013

Statement by Mike Smith, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Let me begin by saying what a pleasure it is to see you, Ambassador Loulichki, in the chair of the CTC. Morocco was the first country the CTC visited some 7 years ago, and since then it has been a valued partner in many of our activities. It is therefore particularly appropriate that you are now overseeing our work in the Committee.

Since the Committee's last open briefing, nearly 12 months ago, CTED has been involved in a wide range of activities both here in New York and in different parts of the world, in implementation of Security Council resolution 1963 which renewed our mandate for 3 years in December 2010. That mandate expires at the end of this year and the Security Council, following a review of our activities, will consider whether to renew it or not.

The Chairman has just talked about the Committee's work program and a number of special activities it will conduct this year under Morocco's chairmanship. Aside from these, to which of course CTED will be providing technical and logistical support, I want to mention a few other initiatives that we have been engaged in over recent months and that will in most cases continue through the rest of this year.

In July last year we held our second workshop looking at the implementation of resolution 1624 related to incitement, on this occasion, in Rabat, Morocco. Again we had a good cross-section of representation from regional governments and international and local civil society. As well as identifying good practices in this field, the 1624 w/s series facilitates a dialogue between governments and civil society that we believe is positive in broader fields of counter-terrorism. We are hoping to conduct one or two more such regional workshops before the end of 2013.

In October we launched an initiative to assist governments develop effective mechanisms to be able to freeze the assets of terrorists and terrorist groups as required by resolutions 1267 and 1373. The initial meeting was held in Amsterdam with a subsequent regional meeting in Dakar Senegal in

December. We are hoping to hold a further meeting on this in East Africa in May.

We have continued our series of symposia for prosecutors with experience prosecuting terrorist cases, having held one in Algiers in July and one in Dar Es Salaam last week. The prosecutors involved seem to find the exchange of experience and discussion of the special challenges of terrorism cases, valuable and are keen for us to continue this process.

In February we launched two initiatives – both with meetings in Colombia. The first, a joint effort with the CTITF and the UNCCT, was on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies; the second a joint exercise with UNODC, was on assisting countries to identify and utilize central authorities – agencies or offices that can facilitate legal cooperation between states and ensure that requests for assistance are processed quickly and positively. Both of these initiatives, now launched, will be followed up with meetings in other regions.

Many of you will have attended the special briefing this morning on the initiative to protect NPOs from the risk of terrorist financing, so I will not repeat what was said there. This has been a very good model of such exercises however, and we will be looking closely at how we can most effectively build on it in the specific field of NPOs, and replicate the methodology on other initiatives.

Finally I want to mention 2 other exercises that are imminent: one is the conference on building cooperation on border management in the Sahel/Maghreb region that will take place next week in Rabat. This is a timely and highly relevant joint project that we are conducting in close cooperation with the Moroccan Government and the UNCCT. We fully expect it to be followed up with more specific activities, particularly capacity-building in relevant border management agencies, given the acute challenges facing countries in that region to counter the terrorist menace.

And in two weeks time we will be holding the sixth session of our South Asian Police, Prosecutors and Judges workshops in Kathmandu. On this occasion we will be launching two spin-off projects from the series, notably training projects on witness protection and on building the capacity of regional judges to handle difficult terrorism cases.

I should also mention that since our last briefing, CTED has conducted assessment missions on behalf of the CTC to 9 countries since July last year and will carry out visits to a further 4 countries before the end of this June. As is now our standard practice, I would also like to underline that relevant human rights considerations always form a part of our activities such as those I have just described.

In all of the exercises I have alluded to, including the assessment missions, we have benefited greatly from input from our UN and wider partners, particularly UNODC, the CTITF Secretariat, the 1267 Monitoring Group, the 1540 Group of Experts, Interpol, OHCHR IOM and a number of others, as well as regional organizations and bilateral donors.

With that Mr Chairman I will conclude but of course will be happy to answer questions on these activities or other issues.