

PRESS RELEASE

CTED issues updated report on COVID-19 and counter-terrorism, concluding its analytical series

New York, 17 December 2021 – Today, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) issued a report on “[The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism](#)”, thus concluding its analytical [series](#) on this issue.

The [December 2021](#) report concludes the series by summarizing CTED’s analysis to date, noting that the pandemic has exacerbated many pre-existing issues and challenges that shape the terrorist threat landscape. Terrorists and violent extremists have sought to exploit pandemic-related sociocultural restrictions, including their efforts to recruit, radicalize, and organize via virtual platforms. Where pandemic-related restrictions have artificially and temporarily suppressed the threat of terrorism, their easing may result in an increase in terrorist violence.

The report follows on from CTED’s [June 2021](#) report, which provided an overview of the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic, as well as key regional and thematic trends, informed by CTED’s ongoing dialogue with Member States (including within the framework of the hybrid assessment visits currently being conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee). The June 2021 report also featured survey data collected from 49 of CTED’s partners from across the United Nations, civil society, academia and the private sector. More than two-thirds of respondents stated that COVID-19 had made counter-terrorism and CVE more challenging.

The pandemic has not only exposed social inequities and structural challenges but also provided an avenue for those inequities and challenges to be exploited by terrorists and their affiliates. The December 2021 report concludes that the counter-terrorism community should seek to address the threats of terrorism and violent extremism in a post-pandemic world based on the principles of cooperation, shared responsibility, and enhanced multilateralism. Existing policies and measures should therefore be adapted in order to ensure an adequate response to evolving challenges.

You can download the full report [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

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Background

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which was adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks carried out in the United States. The Committee (which consists of all 15 Members of the Security Council) was tasked with monitoring implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), which requests States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal, institutional and operational abilities to counter terrorist activities at home, in their regions, and around the world.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations, was appointed Chair of the Committee on 25 September 2020.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) was established by the Council as a special political mission of the United Nations, tasked with assisting the Counter-Terrorism Committee in monitoring Member States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. Acting on the Committee's behalf, CTED conducts on-site country assessments visits, with the consent of the host State, to identify progress made and remaining challenges in addressing threats posed by terrorists to international peace and security. The findings of the assessment visits also form the basis for technical assistance and capacity-building projects delivered by partner entities.