

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Location:

New York, USA

Contact Information:

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
United Nations, Room CH-5135
The Chrysler Building
405 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10027
USA
E-mail: cted@un.org

Focal Points:

Mr. Michael Smith
Executive Director
Tel: +1 212 457 1880
Fax: +1 212 457 4041
E-mail: mike.smith@un.org

Mr. Weixiong Chen
Deputy Executive Director
Tel: +1 212 457 1107
Fax: +1 212 457 4060
E-mail: chenw@un.org

Website: www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/index.html

Year of Establishment: 2004

CTITF Working Group Membership:

- Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism (co-chair)
- Preventing and Resolving Conflicts
- Tackling the Financing of Terrorism
- Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes
- Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1535 (2004) as an expert body to support the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Security Council adopted UNSCR 1373 under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, requiring states to take specific measures to combat terrorism. The council established the CTC—a “committee of the whole”—in which all fifteen sitting council members are represented, to monitor states' implementation of the resolution.

Established as a “Special Political Mission” by the Council, CTED consists of approximately forty experts in areas such as legislative drafting, the financing of terrorism, border and customs controls, police and law enforcement, refugee and migration law, arms trafficking, and maritime and transportation security. The team is led by an executive director, appointed at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. Its annual budget of approximately \$8 million is met from the United Nations' regular budget.²⁶ Currently, CTED is divided into two sections: the Assessment and Technical Assistance Office (ATAO), which is further divided into three geographical clusters to enable the experts to specialize in particular regions of the world, and the Administrative and Information Office (AIO).

Unlike previous Security Council resolutions related to terrorism which targeted specific states, such as Sudan, Libya, or Afghanistan under the Taliban, UNSCR 1373 applies to all states and obligates them to criminalize the financing, support, or protection of terrorists and their associates. Moreover, it urges states to cooperate to prevent and suppress terrorist acts and bring their perpetrators to justice. All states are obligated to submit reports detailing their initiatives to fulfill these obligations.

Recognizing that many states would require some form of

technical assistance to enhance their counterterrorism and law-enforcement capacities, the council adopted UNSCR 1377 (2001), which further directed the CTC to “explore ways in which States can be assisted, and in particular to explore with international, regional and subregional organizations: the promotion of best-practice in the areas covered by Resolution 1373, including the preparation of model laws as appropriate, the availability of existing technical, financial, regulatory, legislative or other assistance programmes which might facilitate the implementation of Resolution 1373, and the promotion of possible synergies between these assistance programmes.”²⁷ To this end, CTED conducts dialogues with all member states and undertakes country visits to help states identify key gaps in their counterterrorism capacities and identify priority needs; it then liaises with donors and partners, such as the G8’s Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) or the Financial Action Task Force, for example, to facilitate the necessary assistance.

In the extraordinary political period that followed 9/11, Security Council member states showed a collective spirit in adopting resolution 1373 and reaffirming a position condemning international terrorism, such as the attacks on the US on September 11, 2001. The CTC received hundreds of first and second round reports from states detailing the measures taken to fulfill their obligations under Resolution 1373, with 191 countries submitting a first report. However, subsequent rounds have witnessed a reduction in submissions, with only twenty-six fourth-round reports from member states.²⁸ This reduction in states’ responsiveness to the CTC has been attributed to critiques of the Security Council’s counterterrorism regime, in particular, disagreement over its authority to pass binding and open-ended legislation on all member states outside the traditional consensual processes associated with the development of international law.²⁹ Moreover, states have complained of reporting fatigue, given the multiple reports they are required to submit pursuant to the council’s counterterrorism-related resolutions.

Nonetheless, CTED has developed a constructive working relationship with the majority of member states and has expanded its efforts to meet their counterterrorism capacity-building needs. Though the committee has been criticized for its reluctance to name