



Security Council

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Letter dated 21 July 2020 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Committee), I have the honour to submit to the Council the updated “Framework document for Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to Member States aimed at monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions”.

The purpose of the updated framework document is to familiarize Member States, United Nations entities and international and regional organizations with the guidelines, goals, thematic areas, modalities, preparations and timelines related to the assessment visits to Member States conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee by its Executive Directorate.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Kais **Kabtani**

Chair

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism



Annex

Framework document for Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to Member States aimed at monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions

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I. Introduction

1. The visits to Member States conducted by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Committee) are recognized, in the report of the Committee on its revitalization (S/2004/124) and in Council resolutions 1535 (2004) and 2395 (2017), as necessary for the Committee to effectively fulfil its mandate to monitor, promote and facilitate the implementation by Member States of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions. The present framework document contains the general guidelines, modalities and procedures for preparing and conducting the visits.

2. Engagement in on-site dialogue with the Counter-Terrorism Committee provides visited Member States with a vital opportunity to demonstrate to the United Nations and to the international community the range of legal, institutional and practical efforts that they have made to implement the relevant Council resolutions on terrorism. On-site assessment dialogue with Member States is the central task of the Committee and the Executive Directorate, which is required, pursuant to the relevant Council resolutions, to conduct the dialogue on the Committee's behalf. During the visits, the Executive Directorate conducts in-depth dialogues with national experts to learn about their experiences and to identify strengths, good practices and progress made in implementing the relevant Council resolutions and related international standards, as well as remaining challenges and areas in which the visited State may benefit from receiving technical assistance. Authorities from a number of visited States have described the assessment visits as a free diagnosis that assists them with disseminating good practices, addressing challenges and facilitating technical assistance. Neither the Counter-Terrorism Committee nor the Executive Directorate provides technical assistance. Instead, their role is to facilitate the delivery of assistance by partner entities and organizations within and outside the United Nations system through targeted and tailored capacity-building projects. The on-site dialogues enable the authorities of visited States to examine their own national counter-terrorism measures in the light of the relevant international standards, prioritize the competing action plans of their various national agencies and share their good practices with the international community, including States with which they may not yet have established bilateral cooperation agreements.

3. The on-site assessment is technical in nature and conducted in accordance with a fixed methodology that is applicable to all Member States – neutral, uniform, even-handed and consistent.¹ Conducted in close partnership with international experts, the assessment also serves to bring the views of Member State authorities more in line with those of the experts of United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations that participate in the visits.

4. The report on the on-site assessment visit has a number of unique characteristics. First, it is drafted by the Executive Directorate, rather than by the authorities of the visited Member State, which helps to spare the State any additional reporting fatigue. Second, the report is shared with the visited State prior to adoption by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which gives the host Government an opportunity to comment on the findings of the Executive Directorate and helps to ensure transparency. Third, depending on the scope of the visit, multiple thematic areas may be addressed in the report. Consequently, the host Government is able to ensure that coordination at the policy level cascades down to the operational level in all relevant areas. Fourth, where appropriate, the report serves to give the Ministry of

¹ See the technical guide to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions (S/2017/716).

Foreign Affairs, government representatives, and embassies and/or permanent missions of the visited Member State to the United Nations a comprehensive overview of technical counter-terrorism measures taken by national practitioners. The comprehensive overview is very useful in facilitating discussions on counter-terrorism, whether held at United Nations Headquarters in New York or in other diplomatic forums.

II. General guidelines

5. All Member States, without discrimination, may be requested to receive a Counter-Terrorism Committee visit. All visits require the consent of the State concerned, unless the Council decides otherwise.

6. All visits are conducted by the Executive Directorate, on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

7. Relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities may be invited to join the visits, where appropriate.

8. The revitalization plan of the Executive Directorate (S/2008/80), which contained recommended changes to the Directorate's operational structure, provides for eight types of visit, all of which are designed to assist the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate to monitor, promote and facilitate the implementation by Member States of the relevant Council resolutions. The present framework document applies only to those visits that are focused on assessment.

III. Goals of the visits

9. The visits have four main objectives, as indicated below.

1. **Assessment of Member State implementation of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions**

(a) Pursuant to Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions, the Counter-Terrorism Committee is required to monitor, promote and facilitate their implementation by Member States. The Committee visit, conducted by the Executive Directorate, is just one element of the monitoring mandate, which also includes a permanent stocktaking exercise that enables Member States to provide the Committee with updated information on measures taken to implement the relevant resolutions. The assessment tools currently used by the Committee to take stock of Member State efforts are the overview of implementation assessment, and the detailed implementation survey. These two tools were developed by the Committee to ensure thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in the stocktaking process. Information included in the overview of implementation assessment and in the detailed implementation survey, as well as other relevant information provided to the Committee by intergovernmental and United Nations sources and Executive Directorate partners, is also considered during the visits, which form part of the ongoing constructive dialogue between the Committee and Member States and provide an in-depth understanding of the particular situation of each State. The visits also help to establish a direct, in-depth dialogue with government officials and, at the behest of assessed Member States, with counter-terrorism experts from civil society, academia, think tanks and the private sector, as a complement to the primary

engagement of the visiting delegation with actors in the Member State to highlight productive counter-terrorism efforts.

(b) The stocktaking exercise, which is separate from the Counter-Terrorism Committee visits, thus ensures that information provided by Member States to the Committee, whether through the assessment tools or through other communications, has been fully understood by the experts responsible for assessing it; that the relevant legislation and other counter-terrorism mechanisms have been correctly interpreted; that appropriate institutional mechanisms are put in place; and that lessons learned, challenges, and effective and good implementation practices are correctly identified. The aim is to ensure that the various exchanges with government officials, national experts and other non-governmental actors help to achieve a common understanding and accurate picture of the counter-terrorism measures implemented by the visited Member State.

(c) By giving the Counter-Terrorism Committee an accurate picture of the implementation by the visited Member State of Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions, the expert assessment conducted by the Executive Directorate accomplishes the following: (a) ensures that the current situation of the visited State is analysed in a practical, pragmatic and direct manner; (b) identifies the extent to which national measures are in conformity with the relevant Council resolutions and international standards; (c) enables the Committee to learn from national officials and experts about practitioners' challenges and effective and good practices; and (d) enables the Committee to assess the effectiveness of the measures taken.

(d) The assessment process includes exchanges with the Government of the visited Member State as well as on-site observations, which form the basis of the up-to-date assessment by the Executive Directorate of the measures taken by the visited State to implement Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions.

2. Analysis of terrorism trends and challenges and Member State capacity to implement Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions

(a) The provisions of the relevant Council resolutions vary in legal nature, and Member States are obligated to implement a number of the provisions in various ways. As the terrorist threat evolves, so, too, do the specific threats, trends and challenges faced by each Member State. Some provisions simply require Member States to integrate principles of action into their practice. Others, however, require practical steps such as the adoption of legislation or the creation of operational structures. Full and effective implementation of the relevant measures by Member States will strengthen their counter-terrorism capacities. Member States are also required to ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

(b) It is therefore important that the Executive Directorate be able to exchange views with the visited Member State and evaluate the State's efforts to comply with various obligations and implement other measures, bearing in mind the State's available resources and the environment in which it is acting.

(c) Thus, the visiting delegation should not assess the situations of Member States in a static manner, but rather consider the efforts they have made, taking into

account the available resources and the specific challenges and difficulties encountered. If gaps are noted, the visiting delegation should also indicate the capacity of the State to meet the relevant requirements set forth by the Council, as well as resources and needs for technical assistance in the implementation of future recommendations, in accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#).

(d) The visiting delegation should also identify any useful experiences and effective and good practices in the efforts made by the visited Member State to address the identified challenges and to implement the requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The identification of effective and good practices is also useful to the Executive Directorate in its compilation of thematic or regional good practices for global dissemination.

3. Identification of areas where the Member State would benefit from receiving technical assistance to fully implement Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions, or capacity and areas in which the Member State might be able to provide technical assistance to other Member States

(a) An assessment visit may demonstrate that the host Member State is facing challenges or difficulties in its efforts to fully and effectively implement the resolutions because of a lack of technical capacity. Thus, as part of the follow-up to the visit, technical assistance needs will be identified in consultation with the State concerned and referred to other United Nations bodies and/or international, regional and subregional organizations that are in a position to assist.

(b) The aim of the visit is to assess whether the identified shortcomings are attributable to needs that could be met through technical assistance and to propose solutions to correct those shortcomings. The visits also provide an ideal opportunity to engage with the host Government and other sectors of the society with regard to areas in which assistance appears to be a priority need. The visits may also enable the visiting delegation to identify, together with the host Member State, areas in which the State might be able to provide technical assistance to other Member States, as well as any effective and good practices and useful experience that might be shared with others.

(c) The technical assistance needs identified during the assessment visit on the basis of the relevant international standards may be referred to partner entities and organizations to help them to design counter-terrorism projects for the visited Member State. Those partners may include United Nations entities, such as the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; relevant international, regional and subregional organizations; and donor States.

(d) The experts who take part in the visit benefit from understanding the context in which the priority technical assistance needs are identified. Consequently, they will be in a stronger position to help their respective organizations and/or United Nations entities to develop projects that are appropriately tailored and targeted to address specific technical assistance needs with a view to making an impact. The participation of international, regional and subregional partners and United Nations entities in the visit also helps to minimize reporting and logistical fatigue for Member States that may receive multiple visits and/or missions from numerous organizations and with various objectives.

(e) Visited Member States may also use the Executive Directorate assessments to solicit technical assistance directly from donor States and international, regional and subregional partners.

(f) It should be recalled that efforts to facilitate the delivery of technical assistance to visited Member States are intended to support their national efforts to implement the relevant Council resolutions and other relevant United Nations resolutions and international standards. However, it should also be recalled that technical assistance is not considered alternative to the obligations incumbent upon Member States pursuant to international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

4. Preparation of recommendations on steps that should be taken by Member States to fully implement Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions

(a) On the basis of the findings on the implementation by the Member State of the relevant Council resolutions, and taking into consideration the State's capacity and technical assistance needs, the visiting delegation will, where appropriate, engage with the Counter-Terrorism Committee to identify areas in which further progress could be made.

(b) Where the visit reveals that the Member State concerned could take more steps, within its existing capacity, to implement the relevant Council resolutions, the visiting delegation should make relevant suggestions to the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In the event that external assistance is required, the visiting delegation should propose to the potential ways to increase the State's capacity.

(c) All proposals should take into account the steps already taken by the Member State concerned and, where possible, should be discussed with the host Government during the visit.

IV. Areas covered by the visits

(a) The Executive Directorate team and accompanying experts should focus on a number of key areas, including but not limited to those identified below.

(b) When focusing on the key areas, the Executive Directorate team and accompanying experts should assess the extent to which the measures taken by the assessed Member State are consistent with its obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as applicable. The Executive Directorate should also consider the issues outlined in the technical guide to the implementation of Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and other relevant resolutions ([S/2017/716](#)).

(c) The extent to which the visited Member State has adopted a holistic approach in countering terrorism should also be addressed during the assessment visit. Thus, the visiting delegation will assess any existing measures and efforts as well as any future plans to develop a comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy and effective mechanisms to implement it, including attention to the conditions conducive to terrorism, consistent with the State's obligations pursuant to international law.

(d) If, during the preparation of the assessment, it becomes evident that certain areas require special attention, other specialized organizations may be called on, in close consultation with the host Member State, to help to address those areas.

(e) In accordance with the existing mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the practice followed for all Committee assessment visits, the discussions with the host Member State will also address the human rights aspects of its counter-terrorism measures, including appropriate safeguards for freedom of expression relating to information and communications technology (ICT), as well as the integration of gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout the activities within the respective mandates of the Committee and the Executive Directorate, pursuant to Council resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#).

1. Counter-terrorism legal and criminal justice framework

- Acceding to and/or ratifying the international counter-terrorism instruments and their incorporation into domestic legislation
- Criminalization of terrorism-related offences
- Competence of the courts
- Criminal proceedings in terrorism-related cases
- Special investigative measures and the gathering and use of evidence
- Legislation on weapons, explosives and dangerous substances
- Legislation on new and emerging forms and manifestations of terrorist activity
- Capacity of the criminal justice system to bring terrorists to justice
- Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies

2. Countering the financing of terrorism

- Anti-money-laundering/counter-financing of terrorism regime, and national risk assessment
- Criminalization of the financing of terrorism
- Financial intelligence unit
- Freezing of terrorist assets
- Supervision of the non-financial sector
- Structures for oversight of the financial system
- Protecting the non-profit and charitable sectors from misuse for the purpose of financing terrorism
- Money/value transfers and cryptocurrencies
- Cash couriers
- Potential links between transnational organized crime (including trafficking in arms, drugs, artefacts and cultural property and trafficking in persons) and terrorism financing (including through mobile payments)

3. Effectiveness of law enforcement services

- National counter-terrorism strategies
- Structure of and coordination among law enforcement agencies involved in counter-terrorism

- Existence of an integrated database, its links to the relevant agencies, and whether it is populated on a regular basis
- Level of counter-terrorism expertise and tools available to relevant law enforcement agencies
- Information-sharing on a real-time basis
- Use of tools of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- Operation of National Central Bureau of INTERPOL
- Early-warning system
- Protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets
- Effective and independent oversight

4. International cooperation

- International and regional cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance
- Modalities and effectiveness of police cooperation
- Modalities of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations
- Border management cooperation

5. Border management

- Integrated Border Management Strategy
- Structure, capacity and coordination
- Processing the movements of persons (special measures to prevent travel of foreign terrorist fighters, in-country screening measures, advance passenger information/passenger name records, travel document security, refugees and asylum)
- Processing the movement of goods
- Civil aviation security and facilitation
- Security of cargo and customs
- Maritime security
- Measures to prevent trafficking of small arms and light weapons
- Structure of oversight

6. Information and communications technology and counter-terrorism

- Regulatory and policy frameworks relating to ICT
- Laws to counter the misuse of ICT (including the Internet and social media) for terrorist purposes, including related to incitement and privacy matters
- Capacity to use special investigative techniques to monitor the use of ICT for terrorist purposes

- Methods of identifying terrorist content and activities
- Operational practices to block, filter, and take down terrorism-related online content
- Cooperation with the private sector and civil society (public-private partnerships) to counter the use of ICT for terrorist purposes, including through technological solutions
- Use of digital evidence to bring terrorists to justice, including access to digital evidence stored in another jurisdiction (legislation, national structure, level of law-enforcement and judicial cooperation)
- Policies for critical infrastructure security and resilience against malicious activities by terrorists, including through the use of ICT

7. Countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism

- National strategy and action plan for countering violent extremism, and related policies and programmes
- Whole-of-government approach to countering violent extremism
- Engagement with, and role and empowerment of, local communities and non-governmental actors, including youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, academia, think tanks, media, the private sector, and all other groups concerned
- Efforts to counter incitement to commit terrorist acts, consistent with international law, and to develop effective counter-narratives, both offline and online
- Risk assessments and intervention programmes

8. Prisons

- Assessment of risks and needs assessment
- Classification, allocation and accommodation of prisoners, and conditions of detention
- Prevention of radicalization to violence
- Rehabilitation programmes
- Pre-release preparation and reintegration support
- Post-release measures
- Engagement with civil society organizations in rehabilitation and reintegration efforts
- Compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), as appropriate

9. International human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism

- Compliance of counter-terrorism legislation with the principle of legality
- Proportionality and necessity of counter-terrorism measures

- Compliance of counter-terrorism legislation and measures, including emergency measures and special laws, as appropriate, with international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law
- Effective and independent oversight and accountability mechanisms
- Existence of modalities of voluntary engagement with non-governmental actors, including civil society
- Ongoing dialogue between the assessed Member State and human rights mechanisms on issues related to counter-terrorism
- Potential effect that the measures taken may have on exclusively humanitarian activities, including medical activities, that are carried out by impartial humanitarian actors in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law

10. Gender

- Data on women’s radicalization to violence
- Gender-sensitive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies
- Gender-sensitive risk assessment tools
- Participation and leadership of women in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies for dealing with returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families
- Impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women’s human rights and women’s organizations
- Empowerment of women in efforts to counter violent extremism
- Gender-sensitive counter-narrative strategies

11. Technical assistance

- Identification of the technical assistance required by the State to effectively implement the requirements of the relevant Council resolutions
- Identification of capacity and areas in which the State is in a position to offer technical assistance to other States
- Identification of the State’s effective and good practices in implementing the relevant Council resolutions

V. Visit modalities

(a) The visiting delegation should, to the extent possible, take into account the specific situation of each Member State in order to provide the most accurate assessment of the highest-priority issues for each State, the difficulties that the State is encountering and the effectiveness of the solutions introduced at the national level to address them.

(b) The following aspects will be relevant to thoroughly understanding the situation of each Member State and to setting priorities for national steps to tackle terrorism:

- (i) Geopolitical situation
- (ii) Political and socioeconomic situation
- (iii) Specific historic and cultural features
- (iv) Evolution of the threat of terrorism in the Member State and other underlying criminal phenomena
- (v) Capacities
- (vi) Administrative organization
- (vii) Institutional and legal system

Face-to-face meetings

(c) Meetings with those responsible for the various areas covered by the visit will be one of the principal methods employed to exchange views, enhance understanding and gather information.

(d) It is essential that extensive preparatory work be carried out prior to the visit, together with the Government of the Member State and its permanent mission to the United Nations as well as the relevant United Nations country team, in order to ensure that the visiting experts are in possession of the most up-to-date information about the situation in the State concerned. Similarly, the programme of work should be designed so that the experts are able to meet, in a business-like manner, with national experts who possess genuine technical competence and have day-to-day responsibility for the area being evaluated. The host Member State will also arrange parallel high-level meetings for the head of the visiting delegation with a focus on strategic and political issues.

(e) With the consent of the assessed Member State, the visiting delegation will engage with counter-terrorism experts from civil society, academia, think tanks and the private sector, as a complement to its primary engagement with Member State actors, in order to allow those various actors to highlight productive counter-terrorism efforts with a view to ensuring that the assessments are useful, accessible, and targeted at specific audiences. The visiting delegation will also request to meet with members of the national parliament to discuss issues relating to the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions.

On-site travel to locations and facilities

(f) Visits to certain places or facilities of particular interest in the context of counter-terrorism can give the visiting delegation a clearer idea of the actions taken by the State to organize efforts to protect itself against terrorism. The delegation may therefore request to conduct on-site visits, for example to observe specialized administrative services, command and control rooms, border checkpoints, or operational units.

(g) All such on-site visits should be agreed to in advance in order to ensure that they are a fully integrated component of the broader visit.

Documents to be studied

(h) Where applicable, visiting experts will be provided with previous findings relating to the visited Member State, including relevant parts of the assessment products such as the overview of implementation assessment and detailed implementation survey, to assist them in preparing for the visit.

(i) The State concerned should also provide relevant additional and current documents, such as legislation, administrative decisions, executive regulations, circulars, statistical data, reports and studies, to assist the experts in their work. In preparing for the visit, the team of experts will gather information from relevant United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as from other relevant sources in accordance with the relevant Counter-Terrorism Committee procedures and practice.

(j) Information of a confidential nature provided by United Nations specialized agencies, such as audits of the International Civil Aviation Organization, should be subject to the relevant procedures (for example, State waiver). International, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities that are unable to provide experts to participate in the visits may provide information and reference materials to the visiting delegation.

Feedback to States

(k) In order to ensure transparency and clarity, the visiting delegation will hold a wrap-up session at the conclusion of the visit to present its main findings to the State (as described in paragraph 78 below).

(l) In accordance with the “Updated guidelines for enhancing the Committee’s post-visit follow-up, including shortening timelines for drafting and reviewing reports”,² adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee on 8 October 2018, the visiting delegation will submit the preliminary assessment and observations to the Committee within two weeks of the conclusion of the visit (see annex). The preliminary assessment and observations should include, in a concise form, an analysis of the terrorism threat, trends, concerns, risks and challenges; key factual findings and evaluations; recommendations, in a number of priority areas, on measures to enhance the effective implementation of counter-terrorism measures by the visited Member State; and, where applicable, the identification of priority technical assistance needs to be addressed by technical assistance providers and implementing partners in order to enhance the capacities of the visited State capacities to counter terrorism in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions. The preliminary assessment and observations should also serve to identify effective and good experiences and practices as well as the strength and focus of the visited State as a donor, as appropriate.

(m) A full draft report, containing conclusions and recommendations, should be shared with the visited Member State within 45 days of the visit. The State will then be given 30 days in which to review the report and submit any observations to the Executive Directorate. Where applicable, towards the end of the 30 days, the Executive Directorate may also remind the Member State to submit its comments by the deadline or to submit to the Counter-Terrorism Committee a request for an extension.

(n) Upon receipt of the observations of the visited Member State within the agreed timeline, the Executive Directorate will have 15 days to assess the information provided and, where applicable, to discuss the State’s observations with the national focal point. The Executive Directorate will then submit the revised final draft report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for consideration and adoption.

(o) In the event that the above-mentioned 30-day period for the submission of observations by the Member State expires and no request for extension is submitted, the Executive Directorate shall communicate to the Member State, by official letter,

² See https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/updated_guidelines_for_enhancing_ctc_post_visit_follow_up_adopted_8_october_2018.pdf.

that unless the observations are submitted within two weeks, the Executive Directorate will submit the draft report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for consideration and adoption.

Follow-up to the visit

(p) The adopted report will then be transmitted to the visited Member State, accompanied by a request that the State submit a report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, within six months, on the steps it has taken to implement the recommendations contained in the visit report in order to fulfil its obligations pursuant to Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2395 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions.

(q) The information provided by the State on its implementation of the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee will be considered as part of the subsequent stocktaking exercise.

(r) The Executive Directorate may arrange for subsequent meetings and conversations, as necessary, to provide feedback or updates to United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations that have contributed to and participated in the visit, with a view to identifying appropriate follow-up (including defining the role of the Executive Directorate role as facilitator in arranging necessary meetings and conversations with relevant implementing agencies and the donor community).

Confidentiality

(s) The visiting experts are bound to respect confidentiality in conducting their mission.

(t) In paragraph 13 of its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Council directed the Executive Directorate to make its country assessments available throughout the United Nations system, especially to the Office of Counter-Terrorism and United Nations counter-terrorism-relevant agencies, funds and programmes, in order to better align United Nations technical assistance and capacity-building with gaps in implementation and capacity identified by the Executive Directorate, as well as in support of balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, except when requested by the assessed Member State to keep selected information confidential.

(u) Pursuant to resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), once the final visit report has been adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee (namely after the visited Member State has been given the opportunity to comment on the draft visit report and the draft has been revised as appropriate), the Chair of the Committee will request the Member State to indicate, within 30 days of its receipt of the final report, whether the report contains any information which it prefers to keep confidential. Any such information will be excluded from the version of the final report made available by the Executive Directorate to its United Nations partners. In the event that no response is received, the Executive Directorate will share the report only with those partners that took part in the visit, together with a disclaimer of restricted distribution, and inform the Member State accordingly.

(v) The Executive Directorate will not make the report publicly available, nor will the report be posted publicly on the website of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. However, the Executive Directorate will make the report available to United Nations counter-terrorism-relevant agencies, funds and programmes, except when requested by the assessed Member State to keep selected information confidential, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#). An important benefit of this approach is that it allows the State's priority technical assistance needs

and/or good practices, as identified in the visit report, to inform the capacity-building efforts of relevant United Nations partners.

(w) In its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Council directed the Executive Directorate to make its country assessments, recommendations, surveys and analytical products available throughout the United Nations system, especially to the Office of Counter-Terrorism and United Nations counter-terrorism-relevant agencies, funds and programmes, in order to better align United Nations technical assistance and capacity-building with gaps in implementation and capacity identified by the Executive Directorate, as well as in support of balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, except when requested by the assessed Member State to keep selected information confidential. It further directed the Executive Directorate to enhance sharing of its findings with Member States and relevant counter-terrorism partners, as appropriate and in consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, in international, regional, and subregional organizations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, academia, think tanks, civil society, and the private sector, including through improved web access, outreach, workshops, open briefings, and utilization of the Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network, noting the importance of its geographic diversity.

(x) The Committee's website will provide a list of the visited Member States that have agreed to make their reports, or parts thereof, publicly available to United Nations partners for their capacity-building programmes. The website will also list the focal point(s) of the Executive Directorate for the consultation of the reports.

(y) Unless otherwise agreed with the Member State concerned, the only document that the Executive Directorate will make publicly available is a short press release on each visit, as deemed appropriate, after the conclusion of the visit. The press release will contain general information about the visit, but will not include specific information on the findings, and will be published on the Committee's website. Previous examples may also be consulted on the website (www.un.org/sc/ctc/news/).

VI. Visit preparations

1. Preparation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee

(a) The Executive Directorate submits proposals to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for visits to Member States in accordance with the report of the Committee on its revitalization ([S/2004/124](#)) and the relevant provisions of Council resolutions [1535 \(2004\)](#) and [2395 \(2017\)](#). The proposals are submitted to the Committee for consideration at the beginning of each calendar year.

(b) The proposals include the rationale for the visit and the list of international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities that could assist in the assessment process and potentially provide relevant technical assistance to enhance the State's implementation of Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions. The Counter-Terrorism Committee decides which States will be visited, based on the proposals submitted by the Executive Directorate.

2. Preparation with the Member State

(a) Consent: The Executive Directorate will approach the Member States whose visits are approved by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and arrange meetings, if necessary, to secure consent to the visit.

(b) Agenda: Once consent is received, the Executive Directorate will engage with the permanent mission of the Member State to the United Nations in New York concerning the key details of the visit. The details should include:

- (i) Dates of the visit;
- (ii) Scope of the visit;
- (iii) Preparation of the visit work programme;
- (iv) List of State agencies to be visited and the officials with whom the visiting team should meet;
- (v) List of civil-society organizations, academic organizations, think tanks and private sector actors that are engaged in or relevant to counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism and with which the visiting team would like to meet, as a complement to its engagement with the Government, including through the facilitation of the United Nations country team;
- (vi) Logistical arrangements, such as interpretation and translation, meeting facilities and courtesy local transportation, which will be made through consultations with the visited Member State.

(c) Security: The host Member State shall take steps to ensure the security of the visiting delegation in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations. Security issues will be discussed at the preparatory meetings and in close coordination with the Department of Safety and Security.

(d) Transportation: The host Member State shall determine the locations in which the discussions will take place and shall provide the courtesy transportation needed to conduct the delegation to those locations, as well as to the locations of the on-site visits requested by the Executive Directorate and agreed to by the host State. In the event that the host State is unable to provide transportation, it shall inform the Executive Directorate in writing so that Directorate can explore other solutions.

(e) Interpretation services: The working languages to be employed will be determined prior to the visit. Where applicable, the host Member State shall provide simultaneous interpretation in order to facilitate a constructive and effective dialogue with the delegation. In the event that the host State is unable to provide interpretation, it shall inform the Executive Directorate in writing so that the Directorate can explore other solutions.

(f) Financing: The Executive Directorate will cover all costs relating to the travel of its staff during its visit. Other participating international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities will cover the travel costs of their participating experts.

(g) Press coverage: In order to ensure the smooth conduct of the visit, the visiting delegation is encouraged to avoid press coverage and encounters. The visited Member State may exercise its discretion with respect to its own news reports and press coverage. The visiting delegation should be informed of any such arrangements.

3. Conduct of the visit

(a) The Executive Director will consider the composition of the visiting delegation and, in consultation with the host Member State, invite international, regional and subregional organizations and relevant United Nations entities to provide experts, as appropriate. The experts representing the relevant international, regional and subregional organization or United Nations entity will evaluate and provide technical advice on the international standards and best practices that apply to the

areas of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions that are covered by their respective organizations or entities. Their role will include assisting in the preparation of the visit, providing technical advice and evaluation during the visit, and preparing appropriate inputs for the preliminary assessment and observations and the visit report. Inputs for the report shall be sent to the Executive Directorate by the participating experts within one week of the final day of the visit.

(b) In order to ensure transparency and clarity and facilitate understanding of the issues discussed or pending further discussion, the visiting delegations will, if possible, summarize the discussions and findings of each working session as the visit proceeds and hold a wrap-up session with the Government at the conclusion of the visit. The participating experts will provide the Executive Directorate with an outline of priority areas of recommendations and of identified technical assistance needs, and/or capacity and areas in which the State could provide technical assistance to other States or share its effective and good practices.

(c) With regard to Member States that lack capacity and are in need of technical assistance, the delegation should also seek the State's general approval, during the wrap-up session, for the initiation of immediate follow-up action.

(d) In the case of follow-up visits, the input of the participating experts will address progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee since the previous visit, in addition to new findings emerging from the visit.

(e) During the visit, the delegation will, wherever possible, arrange meetings with the United Nations country team (in particular the resident coordinator), as well as with potential donor States and implementing partners. The meetings will enable the Executive Directorate to exchange views about the threats and challenges confronting the State and explore ways to facilitate assistance delivery.

4. Initial follow-up action after the visit

(a) The participating experts shall provide the Executive Directorate with their contribution to the visit report within one week of the conclusion of the visit. The report should contain the factual findings and analysis thereof, as discussed with the State during the visit.

(b) The contributions of experts representing the participating international, regional and subregional organizations and United Nations entities should be appropriately analytical and should include the factual observations and responses of the visited Member State, as discussed with the State, with regard to the following:

(i) Areas of concern with regard to the implementation of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions, identified by the visiting team;

(ii) Recommendations on the steps the visited State should take in order to fulfil its obligations under resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions;

(iii) Capacity of the State to implement resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019) and other relevant Council resolutions;

(iv) Priority assistance needs of the visited Member State, or capacity and areas in which the State is in a position to provide assistance and/or share its expertise, as appropriate.

(c) The full draft report of the visit, containing the above elements, will be shared with the visited Member State within 45 days of the conclusion of the visit, in accordance with the “Updated guidelines for enhancing the Committee’s post-visit follow-up”.

(d) The visited Member State should then be given 30 days to submit its factual observations on the draft report of the visit, as well as information on any new developments. Upon the submission of a written request by the visited State, the Committee may consider extending the deadline for submission of factual observations, provided that the extension does not exceed 30 days from the original deadline.

(e) In the event that no response is received within the above-mentioned allotted time period (see para. (d) above), the Committee may proceed with its consideration and adoption of the draft report of the visit in accordance with its procedures.

(f) In the event that one (or more than one) Committee member raises concerns regarding the content of the report, the Committee members will amend the draft accordingly and the Committee will consider adopting the draft report, as amended.

(g) Where applicable, remaining procedures in relation to the report format and time frame for submission and consideration, as outlined in the “Updated guidelines for enhancing the Committee’s post-visit follow-up”, shall apply.

(h) Once the report of the visit has been adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the visited Member State shall be requested to indicate, within 30 days of its receipt of the report from the Committee Chair, whether the report contains any information that it prefers to keep confidential. Any such information will be excluded from the version of the final report that the Executive Directorate makes available to its United Nations partners. In addition, the visited State should submit its response on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the report within six months of the date on which it receives the final report from the Committee Chair.

(i) Thereafter, the response of the Member State on implementing the recommendations shall be integrated into the Committee’s ongoing stocktaking exercise, which enables Member States to provide to the Committee with updated information on measures taken to implement Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [1624 \(2005\)](#), [2178 \(2014\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#), [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#) and other relevant Council resolutions.

(j) The Counter-Terrorism Committee, its Chair and its Executive Directorate shall follow up on the implementation of the recommendations pursuant to Council resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#).³

³ In paragraph 10 of its resolution [2395 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council requested the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to invite senior officials from assessed Member States to attend relevant Committee meetings, and further requested the Chair to invite assessed Member States to coordinate with the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism on implementation of Executive Directorate recommendations, and for the Executive Directorate to report within 12 months after the initial assessment report to the Committee on steps taken to implement the recommendations of the assessment, bearing in mind differences in capacity and availability of resources, as well as the need for technical assistance in the implementation of some recommendations, and directed the Executive Directorate to make recommendations to the Committee about the need for additional follow-up activities, as appropriate, to further implementation of assessment recommendations, including, as appropriate, additional technical assistance.

Annex

Timeline for follow-up to Counter-Terrorism Committee visits to Member States

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Time from conclusion of visit</i>
1.	Submission of preliminary assessment and observations to Counter-Terrorism Committee ^a	Executive Directorate	2 weeks	2 weeks
2.	Submission of draft report of the visit to visited Member State for comments	Executive Directorate and Counter-Terrorism Committee	30 days	45 days
3.	Response of visited Member State to draft report/recommendations	Visited Member State	30 days	2 1/2 months
4.	Submission of draft final report of the visit to Counter-Terrorism Committee	Executive Directorate and Counter-Terrorism Committee	15 days	3 months
5.	Submission by visited Member State of response to recommendations of the report	Counter-Terrorism Committee/ Executive Directorate and visited Member State	6 months	Within 12 months of the visit, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2395 (2017)

^a United Nations entities and international and regional organizations that participate in the visit will be requested to provide their full contributions to the draft report during the process of finalizing the preliminary assessment and observations.