

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 July 2020

Original: English

**Letter dated 30 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Indonesia in August, the Security Council plans to hold a high-level open debate on the theme “Addressing the issue of linkages between terrorism and organized crime” on Thursday, 6 August 2020.

The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno L.P. Marsudi.

In order to guide the discussion on the subject, Indonesia has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of Security Council.

(Signed) Dian Triansyah **Djani**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on the theme “Addressing the issue of linkages between terrorism and organized crime”, to be held on Thursday, 6 August 2020 at 10 a.m.

Background

1. Linkages between terrorism and organized crime are a growing threat facing the international community. There are increasing concerns that terrorists can benefit from organized crime, whether domestic or transnational, through, among other activities, trafficking in arms, persons, drugs, artefacts and cultural property; illicit trade in natural resources and wildlife; the abuse of legitimate commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, donations and crowdfunding; and proceeds from criminal activity, including, but not limited to, kidnapping for ransom, extortion and bank robbery, as well as transnational organized crime at sea.
2. While the degree of the threat varies by region, the transnational nature and complex interlinkages between terrorism and organized crime underpin the importance of international cooperation and coordinated responses at multiple levels. In optimizing measures to address the linkages, it is important to recognize their motives and nature. At times, the linkages can be opportunistic alliances between terrorists and organized crime groups based on their shared perspectives or personal relationships.
3. Furthermore, as national authorities have diverted attention and resources towards addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, new challenges have emerged. These include limitations of the law enforcement apparatus to conduct operations, as well as implications for border security, as transit patterns shift towards irregular routes owing to air travel restrictions.
4. In the light of these challenges, there has been increasing recognition of the need to effectively address the linkages between terrorism and organized crime. In 2019, the Security Council adopted two relevant resolutions, [2482 \(2019\)](#) and [2462 \(2019\)](#), that address these linkages and build on earlier resolutions, namely [2368 \(2017\)](#), [2322 \(2016\)](#), [2195 \(2014\)](#) and [1373 \(2001\)](#), as well as a statement by the President of the Council, [S/PRST/2018/9](#).
5. In previous resolutions, the Security Council addressed the relationships between some types of organized crime and terrorist activities, such as trafficking in persons (resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#)), illicit trafficking in firearms (resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#)), kidnapping for ransom (resolution [2133 \(2014\)](#)), illicit trafficking in cultural property (resolution [2347 \(2017\)](#)), illicit trafficking in oil (resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#)), illicit trafficking in charcoal by Al-Shabaab (resolution [2498 \(2019\)](#)) and illicit drug trafficking (presidential statements [S/PRST/2010/4](#), [S/PRST/2012/16](#) and [S/PRST/2013/22](#)).
6. The above-mentioned resolutions call upon Member States to, inter alia, better understand and address the linkages between organized crime and terrorism as a threat to security and development, as well as enhance cooperation on the issue and strengthen their law enforcement, prosecution, judicial and border control capacities to address the linkages, recognizing the role of regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms in strengthening the capacities of Member States. In addition, they request United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, to support Member States in this regard.

7. As requested in Security Council resolution 2482 (2019), a report of the Secretary-General on actions taken by Member States and United Nations entities to address the issue of linkages between terrorism and organized crime has been prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, with inputs from Member States and relevant United Nations entities, that highlights many of the measures and good practices adopted by Member States to address the linkages between terrorism and organized crime, as well as identifying areas for further action (S/2020/754).

Objective and scope

8. Since the Security Council held its most recent open debate on the issue of the linkages between terrorism and organized crime, in July 2019, there has been growing recognition of, and focus on, the challenges that Member States are facing in effectively addressing these interlinked threats.

9. The open debate will provide an opportunity for Member States and observer States to discuss continued challenges, especially in the light of the shifting dynamics as a result of COVID-19; highlight lessons learned and good practices for addressing the linkages between terrorism and organized crime; and identify areas for further joint action, including through the support of the United Nations system entities working on these issues.

10. During the open debate, participants are invited to discuss the following questions:

(a) What measures and practices can Member States implement to better prevent, detect and counter linkages between terrorism and organized crime, including the implementation of the relevant legal frameworks?

(b) What are the specific challenges and good practices at the strategic, legislative and operational levels to address the links between terrorism and organized crime, and how can the Security Council and relevant United Nations entities support Member States and observers in addressing those challenges?

(c) What efforts are being made to understand the nature of the linkages between terrorism and organized crime and how are they manifested in various regions?

(d) What are the new challenges that have emerged in addressing the links between terrorism and organized crime as a result of the COVID-19 global health crisis, and what good practices have been followed by criminal justice officials to overcome these challenges?

(e) What emerging trends have been identified in the area of linkages between terrorism and organized crime that may require further consideration for action by Member States?

(f) What areas of cooperation could be fostered among Member States with regional organizations and mechanisms, as well as with international organizations, including relevant United Nations entities, to prevent and counter terrorism benefiting from organized crime, and what good practices have been followed by regional organizations and mechanisms to address the linkages between terrorism and organized crime?

Format and briefers

11. The open debate will be held in the format of an open videoconference, to be presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

12. Member States and observer States are invited to submit a written statement of approximately 500 words to the Security Council Affairs Division (dppa-scsb3@un.org). Statements sent by 6 August 2020 will be included in a compilation document.
 13. The Security Council will hear briefings by the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ghada Fathi Waly.
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