

Tenth Meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee

25 January 2024

Border Management and law enforcement working group

I am delighted to represent CTED as the Chair of the BMLE working group and provide you with a brief to highlight main challenges withing the areas that the WG covers and actions that can support the joint efforts to counter terrorism in Africa

1. The main deliverable of 2023 was the seed funded joint initiative on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons including promoting, through regional workshops in the Sahel/Maghreb and East Africa, the *Technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) and related international standards and good practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons*, launched in March 2022. The WG will continue this initiative including taking into account t 2023 report on Small arms and light weapons which recalls small arms and light weapons were the second most prevalent weapons used in terrorist attacks in 2022, following explosive devices. In the Sahel region alone, firearms were used in 70 per cent of attacks, while the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, also saw significant firearm use in this context. North Africa region, there has been a notable increase in the use of firearms in terrorist attacks. The continued trend of terrorist groups benefiting from easy access to large quantities of weapons remains a cause for concern across Africa. Against this background, the technical guidelines provide a comprehensive set of measures to strengthen efforts to disrupt flow of weapons to terrorists and terrorist groups including by providing solutions that support establishment of national coordination mechanism, overall border management and proper risk based approaches.
2. The WG continues efforts to promote its compendium on the responsible use and sharing of biometrics in counterterrorism and the Counterterrorism watchlisting toolkit developed under the GCTF watchlisting initiative, co-led by the United States and the UN, to advance the requirements by Council resolution 2396. In the absence of these tools, CTED has assessed that the capacity to detect potential terrorist suspects, including FTFs, at the border remains limited across Africa. This provides an opportunity to increase promotion of the Compendium and toolkit to respond to the specific needs of the African countries and using the UN biometrics Compendium and the watchlsiting toolkit as practical guidance tools.
3. The BMLE working group also has regular updates on the developments under the CT Travel Programme facilitating the global implementation of API and PNR. Currently CT Travel is providing support to 28 African Member State and created the Regional Informal Working Groups (IWGs), for West and South Africa have already shown significant success in bringing together key actors. Despite the gaps in API/PNR data collection systems throughout Member States in Africa

in place. Considering the figures currently the region has made significant progress in the last 3 years.

4. Of significant concern are also threats to civil aviation, despite recent terrorist threats and CTED/CTC recommendations for Member States to strengthen internal cooperation on