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“Enhancing International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism”
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Dear Excellencies, colleagues...

First, thank you kindly for your invitation to speak with you all here today. The Council of Europe is pleased to be able to share our experience and perspective on some of these common challenges.

We are especially pleased to be here at the United Nations once again in order to help address the many issues visible in the current international framework to counter-terrorism.

Naturally, the topic under discussion is a complicated and crowded area, so I will stick to the aspects that the Council of Europe has set as priorities for the coming period.

Background and introduction

But before I get into that, I would like to provide a little background on our role in counter-terrorism, for those of you less familiar with our work.

Since 1960, the Council of Europe has laid the foundations for co-operation in criminal matters between the 47 member States.

Our aim is always to facilitate co-operation; however, you that we have a diverse and often competing set of legal systems, norms and national interests at play in Europe.

Differences in principles and values between states are not a theoretical problem; such differences can be concrete obstacles.

2005 Convention and AP

The key instrument in our activities at the Council of Europe is the 2005 Warsaw Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

This is a comprehensive regional anti-terrorism treaty aimed at encouraging the implementation of a number of domestic measures while also facilitating greater international co-operation between all of our member States.

In that framework, and in response to R
aimed at preventing and curbing the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and conflict zones, the Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (the CODEXTER) drafted the Additional Protocol to the 2005 Convention, which was designed to enhance the ability of Parties to prevent both domestic and transnational terrorism by prosecuting persons from travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism.

Successfully drafted and adopted less than seven months after Resolution 2178, the Additional Protocol will finally enter into force on 1 July 2017.

The primary aim of the 24/7 Network is to ensure that border guards and other law enforcement agents facing suspicious travellers should be able to communicate with their counterparts immediately, through the designated contact points, in manner that complements pre-existing mechanisms.

This need has only increased since the adoption of the Additional Protocol: various reports have indicated that there were serious and consequential gaps in information exchange between member States before terrorist attacks in Europe in the past year.

We have already organised two meetings of the Network and will continue to host member States representatives in Strasbourg in order to build trust and facilitate sustainable co-operation.

or not, we believe this is a crucial aspect of the contemporary anti-

Naturally, this is a very contentious topic, since the national context of terrorism differs greatly between the member States, and we are still at an early stage of exploring our options.

Concluding Remarks

To bring my comments to a close: as you can see, we are undertaking a number of wide-ranging activities in legal co-operation at the Council of Europe.

This meeting also comes at a time when we are in the process of elaborating a comprehensive Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the period 2018-2022 focusing on legal measures for prevention, prosecution and protection.

Though we are a regional organisation, we believe it is always worthwhile aligning our efforts with international trends, to anticipate and prepare for shifts in the UN system and our partner organisations.

We applaud the efforts of CTED to help coordinate international approaches and are ready to continue to do our part.

As we find ourselves facing considerable challenges to the stability of the international system, ensuring sustainable international co-operation in the fight against terrorism and extremism is all the more necessary to our collective security.

And on that note, I would like to thank you for your time and attention and wish you all a fruitful event.