

## **Contribution of CTED to report of the Secretary-General on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**

### **A. Ad hoc informal working group**

1. In its Survey of the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2009/620), the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) expressed their support for the initiative, developed by 20 States members of the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) and approved by the International Maritime organization (IMO), to address the challenges posed by maritime borders. This project aims to integrate the coastguards of West and Central African countries, including by building and maintaining a capacity for surveillance and enforcement to support multiple needs, including search and rescue, environmental protection, fisheries protection, and other law enforcement and security aspects. Illegal and pirate fishing and pollution undermine local fishing industries and constitute major threats to national income and development.

2. CTED continues to support the IMO-sponsored project and to facilitate the provision of relevant technical assistance to the States concerned in the form of surveillance boats, coastguard centres, training, and equipment. CTED also supports the initiative of IMO to develop a maritime early-warning mechanism in the region of the Gulf of Guinea to combat piracy and other crimes committed at sea. CTED will also include these programmes as key components of an integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and non-proliferation in Central Africa, working in collaboration with regional and subregional organizations. CTED is also organizing a workshop on border controls and arms trafficking, in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). This workshop will take place in Bujumbura in April 2014 and will address aspects of maritime safety and security, including in the Gulf of Guinea.

### **B. Developments in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea**

3. CTED, acting in cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco and the UNCCT/CTITF, held a conference on border-control cooperation in the Sahel and the Maghreb in Rabat in March 2013. The conference was co-sponsored by the UNCCT/CTITF and Morocco. The conference highlighted the importance of coordination and cooperation among national, regional and interregional agencies in adopting and implementing measures that are compatible with the needs of the 11 participating States and their obligations pursuant to international law, including instruments on maritime security, and that help them overcome the challenges that they face in protecting their borders against potential incursions by terrorist, traffickers and other transnational criminals. The conference also addressed the need to facilitate the exchange of information on the recent efforts of the United Nations, other international organizations, and donor States to help the participating States meet their needs in the above areas. IMO attended the conference and its workshop and helped to identify follow-up activities and projects. A similar meeting will be held in East Africa in 2014 for Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and other States of the region.

4. As a follow-up to the March 2013 conference held in Rabat, CTED and the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) have developed a joint training project for police, customs and other border-control officials in tools and methods for managing passengers, cargo and containers. The project consists of three workshops, to be held during 2014, on law enforcement, immigration, maritime security, civil aviation, customs processing, cooperation, intelligence, information-sharing and national coordination. The workshops provide training in accessing and using relevant international databases, as well as in good coordination and cooperation practices. The participating States include the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Libya, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of the Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Tunisia. The first workshop notably provided an opportunity for IMO to brief participants on the relevant international tools, such as the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code) and the use of the IMO Global integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

5. CTED is also working with IMO to develop the maritime security initiative in the Gulf of Guinea and to establish the above-mentioned coastguard network for MOWCA member States. The initiative aims to help States develop and implement the legislation necessary to facilitate enforcement activities and multilateral international cooperation. It also aims to strengthen regional cooperation in (i) tackling piracy, armed robbery and other unlawful acts against merchant vessels in accordance with the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation; (ii) combating human trafficking, terrorism and marine pollution in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; (iii) combating fraudulent exploitation of Member States' exclusive economic zones; and (iv) implementing the relevant international treaties on, respectively, maritime safety and security (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and ISPS Code), search and rescue of lives at sea (International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue), and the protection of the marine environment, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. During the Accra meeting on the integrated coastguard network, CTED was able to gather information from participating States on their implementation of the ISPS Code, measures to combat crimes committed at sea, and maritime border controls.

6. The CTC and CTED work with Member States to assess their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and the international counter-terrorism instruments and to identify priority areas in which they may benefit from technical assistance enabling them to take the necessary legal, administrative and practical measures to combat the various crimes that constitute terrorism, including terrorist crimes committed at sea. The Committee facilitates the provision of technical assistance, assists States in building national and regional capacity to combat terrorism, and supports any action that may enhance the coordination of United Nations activities in this regard. Its Directory of International Best Practices, Codes and Standards and the Directory of Assistance is frequently updated to include new information on the Implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), including information on maritime security. An updated version will shortly be uploaded onto the Committee's website.

7. One of the most effective tools for assessing States' efforts is the onsite visit. Since 2005, CTED has visited 90 States on the Committee's behalf. The visits are conducted in cooperation with numerous international partners, including IMO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). During the visits, the Committee, CTED and the relevant international organizations make recommendations on ways to improve the legal and administrative regime in place, as well as on technical assistance needs. This cooperation provides an essential framework for strengthening the capacities of Member States to cooperate in combating terrorism and other transnational crimes.