

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 April 2017

Excellency,

Further to the letter of the President of the General Assembly dated 10 April 2017, the Office of the PGA today convened a briefing on the report of the Secretary-General regarding the strengthening of the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner as requested in General Assembly resolution 70/291.

As requested by a number of delegations, please find attached a copy of the presentation delivered today by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

I take this opportunity to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs for his presentation and all delegations for the constructive engagement at this briefing.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Anker Christensen'.

Tomas Anker Christensen
Chef de Cabinet

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Paragraph 70:

“[...] requests the Secretary-General to **review**, in consultation with the General Assembly, **the capability of the United Nations system** to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementing the Strategy in a balanced manner, including by strengthening **cooperation with other international and regional organizations** and improving the **mobilization of resources** necessary for **capacity-building projects**, with a view to providing **concrete suggestions** to the Assembly in this regard, by May 2017, for consideration by the Assembly during its seventy-first session;”

Consultations with Member States

Focus on **inclusiveness** and **transparency**

- **3 Feb:** Letter of the SG to PGA with **SG's proposal**
- **22 Feb:** **SG informal briefing** to the GA
- **23 Feb:** UN Secretariat Note Verbale requesting **written inputs**
- **11 Apr:** Member State **inputs included** in an Annex to the Report
- **12 Apr:** **USG informal briefing** to the GA

Four main sections:

- I** – Introduction
- II** – Review of the current capability of the UN system to assist Member States in implementing the Global Strategy
- III** – Strengthening the capability of the UN system: A New Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT)
- IV** – Actions by the General Assembly

Two annexes:

- 1** – Member States inputs
- 2** – Terms of Reference of the UNCCT Advisory Board

I - Introduction

- General Assembly **mandate**
- **Fifth Review** of the Global CT Strategy
- Overview of the **evolving terrorist landscape**

II – Review of UN CT Capability

- **International legal & normative framework**
- **Current UN architecture;**
- **UN capabilities:**
 - (i) provision of **needs assessments & gap analysis;**
 - (ii) delivery of **capacity-building & technical assistance;** and
 - (iii) ensuring **coordination & coherence.**
- **Strengthening cooperation** with other international and regional organizations
- **Resource mobilization**
- **Challenges**

Rationale for UN CT Reform: 5 Key Factors

1. Terrorism is more **transnational, dynamic** and **multidimensional**
2. The **number** and **scope** of CT **mandates** given to UN entities, have **grown exponentially** over the past decade
3. **Demands** from Member States and regional organizations **have grown across all 4 pillars** of the Global CT Strategy
4. Increased number of mandates and scope of work **require stronger coordination efforts** (process and content)
5. Political implications of the growing threat and increasing demands from Member States **require dedicated UN senior CT leadership**

III - SG Suggestion for a new Office for CT

- Moving the CTITF Office-UNCCT (existing staff and resources) to a new **Office for Counter-Terrorism (OCT)** headed by a **new USG**, directly reporting to the SG
- The main functions of the OCT:
 - **Providing leadership** on the CT/PVE mandates entrusted to the SG across the UN system;
 - **Enhancing coordination and coherence** across the 38 CTITF entities to ensure balanced implementation of the UN Global CT Strategy;
 - **Strengthening delivery** of UN CT/PVE capacity building assistance to Member States;
 - **Visibility, advocacy and resource mobilisation** for UN CT efforts;
 - **Mainstreaming** of CT in the core UN work.
- **No change** in existing Mandates envisioned.

IV – Actions by the General Assembly

- **GA may wish to consider** during its 71st period to:
 - (a) approve the **establishment of 1 USG and 1 P-3** (Special Assistant) posts;
 - (b) approve the **establishment, separately from DPA, of an Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT)**—under Section 3 of the 2016-2017 programme budget—headed by the new USG reporting directly to the SG;
 - (c) approve the **transfer and consolidation of the current CTITF Office and the UNCCT**, including their existing programme budget and extra-budgetary resources, under the OCT.

- The relevant PBI is being prepared.

- **Changing threat and increase of mandates, demands and scope of work** need to be matched with an appropriate and urgent institutional response.
- To address this challenge, the SG has made the **restructuring of the UN CT architecture a priority**.
- The new OCT, headed by a dedicated USG, will enhance **leadership, coordination and coherence** in the delivery of UN assistance to Member States, and increase our **impact** on the ground.
- Member States support of this proposal through a consensus GA resolution will **show resolve and unity** of purpose of the international community against terrorism.