

CONTRIBUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

TO

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

The Council of Europe co-ordinates and co-operates with all relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and, in particular, with the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT), to assist in the proper implementation at regional level of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

In close cooperation with its 46 member States, the Council of Europe actively contributes to preventing, combating and eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the European region. This is done in co-ordination and co-operation with the European Union (EU), the International Criminal Police Organization (CPO-INTERPOL) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). At the global level, the Council of Europe, in addition to working with the United Nations, co-ordinates and co-operates with the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) on a regular basis.

The Council of Europe provides a regional binding legal framework for the intergovernmental co-operation on preventing terrorism and bringing terrorists to justice in the form of *the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (2005) and its Additional Protocol (2015)*. The Convention currently has 43 ratifications and the Additional Protocol 32. Both treaties have been ratified by the European Union.

The Council of Europe also operates a *24/7 network of contact points on foreign terrorist fighters* and a *Network for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism*. In order to enhance the efficiency of international co-operation to prevent and combat terrorism and protect victims of terrorism, both networks are also open for participation by non-member States of the Council of Europe (e.g. US) and relevant international and regional organisations (e.g. Europol and Interpol).

The Council of Europe recognises that member States have the primary responsibility for preventing and combating terrorism. To support these efforts, the Council of Europe works to promote international co-operation and co-ordination, to provide a platform to discuss and elaborate means to prevent and combat terrorism and ensure that all counter-terrorism measures respect human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

This work is primarily done through the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT). The CDCT is responsible for formulating the Council of Europe counter-terrorism policy, inclusive of its counter-terrorism strategy, and binding and non-binding legal instruments. It also provides a venue for exchanges between members on practices regarding implementation of different counter-terrorism tools. In addition, monitoring of the implementation of the *Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol* is being done through the Conference of Parties (CoP), composed of parties and signatories to the Convention (and its Additional Protocol), as well as other member States and Observers to the Council of Europe.

In 2024, the CDCT continued with the implementation of the second Council of Europe [Counter-Terrorism Strategy \(2023 – 2027\)](#) and formal negotiations concerning the new definition of terrorism.

Pursuant to the Strategy, the CDCT prepared the Guidelines on strategies for the prosecution of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 February 2025, the Report on the misuse of technology by terrorist actors, expected to be adopted in May 2025, and the [Comparative practices on the use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence in criminal proceedings for terrorist offences](#) adopted in May 2024. While Guidelines and Comparative practices seek to equip practitioners with concrete advice on steps to be taken when handling cases of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and cases involving battlefield evidence, the Report on misuse of technology seeks to provide greater insight into ways in which new technologies are being used to promote and incite violence leading to terrorism.

The CDCT moreover initiated five new activities, namely the drafting of the Guidelines on disengagement and reintegration programs for women with links to terrorism, Development of Guidelines on (re)integration programmes for children affected by terrorism, Recommendation on prosecuting terrorist offences and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of an armed conflict, Recommendation on combating the promotion of terrorism and radicalisation on the internet, including through social media, and the conduct of the analysis of factors driving violent extremism leading to terrorism. Efforts aimed at production of these documents and analysis are expected to be finalised end of 2025, beginning of 2026, leading to their formal approval and adoption.

In parallel, the CDCT also held two other rounds of negotiations on the text of the Protocol amending the Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196), as a formal instrument introducing the new definition of terrorism, approved in 2023, into the existing Council of Europe legal framework, and the text of its Explanatory Report. The two were discussed and approved during the 12th and 13th CDCT Plenary meetings, held in May and November of 2024, respectively. With the approval of the two texts, the CDCT concluded the negotiations regarding the new definition of terrorism on its level, paving way to its adoption on the level of the Committee of Ministers and subsequent opening for signatures.

As always, the CDCT continues to cooperate closely with its counterparts in the United Nations. During the reporting period it benefited from input received from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to work of its different working groups and has equally had the pleasure to support the CTED initiative on updating the Guiding Principles for Counter-Terrorism Strategies, which took place beginning of 2025. The Council of Europe remains committed to the aim of the United Nations to eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and will continue its close co-ordination and co-operation with the United Nations to achieve this aim.
