



PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY BRAINSTORM ON COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGIES

23 January 2015 | Nairobi, Kenya Government officials and civil society leaders gathered for three days this week (20-22 January) in Mombasa to brainstorm on effective strategies for countering radicalization and extremism that can lead to terrorism in Kenya. The meeting was facilitated by the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which supports the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council in New York. It was co-organized by the Government of Kenya and the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism based in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The dialogue was designed to promote effective action by Kenya in implementing Security Council resolution 1624 of 2005, which addresses terrorist incitement, and Security Council resolution 2178 of 2014, dealing with the issue of foreign terrorist fighters, or persons who travel across international borders to commit terrorist acts.

The proceedings in Mombasa were opened Tuesday with a statement of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, delivered by CTED Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Weixiong Chen, and a speech by the director of the National Center on Counter Terrorism, Mr. Isaac Ochieng. Mr. Victor Okioma, Secretary of National Administration, Ministry of Interior closed the workshop on Thursday afternoon.

Topics addressed involved effective strategies for countering messages that advocate terrorist violence, including on the internet, and the role of the education sector and civil society in promoting tolerance and understanding among all groups within society. Discussions took place on possible strategies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign fighters who were renouncing involvement in terrorist activities. There was also strong emphasis on the importance of ensuring that Kenya's counter-terrorism measures comply with the country's human rights obligations, as well as the need to engage women and youth groups, and other sectors of civil society, in confronting the terrorist threat.

The workshop was a follow-up to the first national workshop on resolution 1624, held at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) in May 2014. One of the main objectives of the workshops has been to support Kenya in developing an integrated, multi-sectoral strategy to confront the threats of terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism that leads to terrorism. Participants at the Mombasa workshop agreed on the importance of further work in this area, including at the county level.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Edward J. Flynn
Senior Human Rights Officer
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
tel. (+1) 212-457-1882
e-mail: flynne@un.org