



Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2024

Original: English

Nineteenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat

I. Introduction

1. In adopting its resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#), the Security Council expressed its determination to address the threat posed to international peace and security by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant¹ (ISIL, hereinafter referred to as “Da’esh”)² and associated individuals and groups and requested that the Secretary-General provide an initial strategic-level report on the threat, followed by updates every four months. In its resolution [2734 \(2024\)](#), the Council requested that the Secretary-General continue to provide, every six months, strategic-level reports that demonstrate and reflect the gravity of the threat posed by Da’esh to international peace and security, and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat, particularly that reflect the impact of these efforts. It further requested that the latest biannual report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions [1526 \(2004\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities be annexed to the present report.

2. The present report is the nineteenth such report³ and the first pursuant to resolution [2734 \(2024\)](#). It was prepared by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, with the input of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and in close collaboration with the Monitoring Team and other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

3. In the reporting period, the threat posed to international peace and security by Da’esh remained high, with the group and affiliates continuing to demonstrate resilience and adaptability despite sustained counter-terrorism efforts. The United Nations continued to support Member States in countering the threat, including in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

¹ Listed as Al-Qaida in Iraq (QDe.115).

² In line with General Assembly resolution [75/291](#).

³ See [S/2016/92](#), [S/2016/501](#), [S/2016/830](#), [S/2017/97](#), [S/2017/467](#), [S/2018/80](#), [S/2018/770](#), [S/2019/103](#), [S/2019/612](#), [S/2020/95](#), [S/2020/774](#), [S/2021/98](#), [S/2021/682](#), [S/2022/63](#), [S/2022/576](#), [S/2023/76](#), [S/2023/568](#) and [S/2024/117](#).



II. Threat assessment

A. Overview and evolution of the threat

4. The threat assessment prepared by the Monitoring Team (see annex) regarding Da'esh reveals that the risk of resurgence of Da'esh in the Middle East and concerns about the ability of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) (QDe.161) to project a threat outside Afghanistan, raised in previous reports, have increased or materialized in the reporting period, while the impact of Da'esh activity continued to be disproportionate in conflict zones, in particular in Africa.

5. Notwithstanding sustained counter-terrorism efforts as well as persistent leadership attrition and lingering questions about the identity and location of the group's leader, Abu Hafs al-Hashimi al-Qurashi, the adoption of less hierarchical and more networked, decentralized structures⁴ enabled the group and its affiliates to remain resilient and adapt. Da'esh increased its operational pace in the Syrian Arab Republic while maintaining a reduced pace in Iraq. Da'esh core has used its media capabilities to derive propaganda value from terrorist attacks globally, including the ones in Kerman, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Moscow, stimulating media coverage to amplify a perception of heightened threat and seeking to recruit support. Da'esh core's "kill them wherever you find them" campaign of the first weeks of 2024 claimed coordinated operations in each of the group's self-proclaimed "provinces", demonstrating such intent.

6. Following the terrorist attacks in Kerman, on 3 January, and in Moscow, on 22 March, the terrorist threat emanating from multiple groups based in Afghanistan heightened concerns among Member States. While Da'esh core formally claimed responsibility for the events, several Member States assessed that fighters, funds and training to perpetrators of these two attacks were provided by ISIL-K. Da'esh core has reportedly directed operatives from Afghanistan and neighbouring countries to undertake attacks abroad, while tapping into the Afghan and Central Asian diaspora communities for logistical, financial and operational support.

7. Da'esh continued to focus its activities on Africa. The situation in West Africa and the Sahel has not changed since the previous report. The Furqan "office"⁵ has grown in importance and capability, establishing cells and facilitation networks in north-west Nigeria and facilitating Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (QDe.162) support for Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) (QDe.163) operations in the Sahel, under the direction of Da'esh core leadership. The localized détente established in 2023⁶ between ISGS and Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) (QDe.159) has largely held, enabling both groups to expand the territory where they operate. ISWAP has increased its activities. In East Africa, the Karrar "office" remained a significant financial hub, and the Da'esh affiliate in Somalia grew stronger, increasing the number of recruits and enhancing its financial infrastructure. In Central and Southern Africa, the pace of terrorist attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique has increased. In North Africa, the activity of Da'esh was significantly reduced by counter-terrorism operations conducted by national forces.

8. Elsewhere, terrorist threat levels have risen in Europe following the attack on the Crocus City Hall near Moscow, with Member States assessing ISIL-K to represent the greatest external terrorist threat to the continent. Increased propaganda possibly inspired actors to attack vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places ("soft" targets), raising concerns as high-visibility sporting events, such as the

⁴ S/2023/568.

⁵ S/2022/576.

⁶ S/2024/117.

European Football Championship of the Union of European Football Associations and the Paris Olympics, were scheduled to be held. In South-East Asia, the threat posed by Da'esh and affiliates has been suppressed by counter-terrorism operations, but the risk of resurgence remained.

9. More detail on the threat posed to international peace and security by Da'esh and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities can be found in the thirty-fourth report of the Monitoring Team ([S/2024/556](#)).

B. Situation of suspected Da'esh members and their family members in conflict zones

10. According to information verified by the United Nations, as at June 2024, more than 44,000 individuals, including more than 28,900 foreign nationals, remained in the Hawl and Rawj camps and in detention and other facilities, including “rehabilitation” centres, in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic for their alleged links or family ties to Da'esh. A significant number of that population continued to consist of children, including more than 17,180 of foreign nationality, primarily Iraqi, as well as 10,500 Syrian children. While these figures represent a slight decline from those reported in 2023,⁷ the population in the camps continued to face dire living conditions. Overcrowding, limited services, inadequate shelter and scarce access to essentials, such as food, medical care and clean water, exacerbated the suffering of those individuals, including children. The situation in Hawl camp, in particular, was made worse by the constant threat of violence. Many individuals held in camps and detention continued to face significant barriers to repatriation, stemming from such factors as lost or stolen documents, countries of origin opposing repatriation or having been rendered stateless. These individuals remain in legal limbo, unable to return to their country of nationality, and are being held indefinitely without having been tried or having meaningful access to legal remedies.⁸ Member States remained concerned about the situation in the camps, including a reported incident of fundraising for Da'esh in the Hawl camp, as well as about the continued intent of Da'esh to free its members from prisons in the region.

11. In Iraq, victims of Da'esh continued to face challenges ranging from physical injuries and psychological trauma to social stigmatization and economic hardship. Several individuals from the northern Sinjar district, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, who had been internally displaced during the conflict with Da'esh and had remained in camps in the Kurdistan Region, were reluctant to return to their homes because of prevailing insecurity and lack of services.

12. Hundreds of thousands of individuals remained internally displaced in other conflict zones owing to Da'esh activity. In West and Central Africa, the modus operandi of Da'esh and affiliates included complex attacks against security forces and civilians, harassment, extortion and mass atrocities against civilians, including children, leading to injury, death and displacement. In the Lake Chad basin, ISWAP remained active in Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there were 2.9 million internally displaced persons in the region as of 23 May 2024.⁹ Grave violations perpetrated by ISWAP against children, in particular girls, included abduction, recruitment and sexual violence.¹⁰ Women, girls and boys remained at serious risk of gender-based

⁷ [S/2023/568](#).

⁸ [A/78/269](#), para. 44.

⁹ United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Lake Chad basin: humanitarian snapshot (as of 23 May 2024)”, 23 May 2024.

¹⁰ [A/78/842-S/2024/384](#).

violence by terrorist groups, including sexual violence, abduction and forced marriage. The impact of Da'esh operations on children in the central Sahel region also remained significant, with a constant deterioration in the protection of civilians and frequent violations of human rights affecting people and property. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) (Cde.001) remained the principal perpetrator of grave violations against children, including child recruitment, abductions, sexual violence, killing and maiming.

III. Updates on responses to the evolving threat

13. The United Nations continued to assist Member States in their efforts to counter the threat posed by Da'esh, including by enhancing capacities in border management and in countering the financing of terrorism, supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees, and bringing terrorists to justice. The United Nations continued to address barriers to the sustainable return and reintegration of displaced individuals from Da'esh-affected conflict zones. Efforts included working towards transitional rehabilitation and transitional justice and improving social cohesion. Initiatives were also launched to promote unity among young persons, including returnees and former affiliates, through sports and cultural events aimed at fostering teamwork, reducing stigma and enhancing community acceptance.

14. Recognizing the devastating impact of acts of terrorism on individuals, families and communities, the United Nations continued to support victims of terrorism globally, including those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, to address their diverse needs. Efforts included working closely with Member States to support survivors of terrorist acts perpetrated by Da'esh and with civil society organizations towards ensuring accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh, as well as spotlighting the role of various institutions in advancing a comprehensive approach to supporting victims of sexual and gender-based violence in terrorism contexts.

15. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) concerning counter-terrorism held an open meeting on the criminalization of terrorist offences and strengthening of international cooperation in bringing terrorists to justice in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. At that meeting, the members of the Committee reviewed progress made by Member States in the criminalization of terrorist offences as required in resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#) and other relevant resolutions. In April, the Counter-Terrorism Committee convened an open meeting to discuss strategies for building resilience of communities to prevent radicalization to terrorism. The event brought together a broad spectrum of experts from across the globe, including representatives from civil society, research institutions, regional organizations and United Nations entities, to share experiences, identify emerging trends and discuss best practices.

A. Addressing the situation of suspected Da'esh members and their family members in conflict zones

1. Repatriation efforts

16. Between January and July 2024, 11 Member States repatriated 1,080 children, including nationals of Azerbaijan, Canada, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Spain, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, from the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition, more than 1,970 Iraqi individuals, including more than 900 children and 410 adults, were repatriated to a

rehabilitation centre in Iraq. On 6 June, the United Nations and the Government of Iraq agreed that all individuals will be repatriated from Hawl camp by 2027.

17. The United Nations continued to work with the Government of Iraq to issue civil documentation for returnees. Such documentation is especially important for children, who need identification in order to have access to basic services, including education. Acquiring identification documents remained challenging and expensive, as the authorities require that applications for new documents be submitted in person in the applicant's district of origin and not at their current location. Female heads of household without a male guardian face additional challenges in acquiring identification documents.

2. Prosecution and investigation

18. Prosecution and investigation, supported by a strong evidentiary basis, remained indispensable for addressing crimes perpetrated by Da'esh. The United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD) produced evidence and materials, in cooperation with the Iraqi judiciary, to support Member States in prosecuting war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Da'esh. In January 2024, the Central Criminal Court in Lisbon convicted, based on evidence provided by UNITAD, a Da'esh member of Iraqi nationality for committing war crimes in Mosul, Iraq. In April, UNITAD initiated its drawdown and liquidation plans to withdraw from Iraq by 17 September 2024, in line with Security Council resolution [2697 \(2023\)](#).

19. The United Nations continued to advocate with Member States to ensure that prosecution efforts comply with international law. In Iraq, where children continue to be detained owing to their perceived association with Da'esh, the United Nations advocated for recognizing and supporting children recruited by Da'esh primarily as victims. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as of May 2024, there were more than 2,000 children, mainly boys, in pre- and post-detention facilities in Iraq, with many sentenced to the maximum 15-year prison term for their or their families' perceived links with Da'esh. The United Nations and the Government of Iraq, through the technical working group for the implementation of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq Third Country National Returnees, continued to coordinate United Nations support for returnees, including through four task forces on legal protection for children, security and accountability for adults, rehabilitation and transitional services, and reintegration.

20. The United Nations promoted accountability for terrorism through advocacy and knowledge products to disseminate good practices. In the Lake Chad basin, where investigation and prosecution for terrorism-related crimes remained rare despite high levels of terrorist activity, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate encouraged the deployment of further efforts to bring perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice in compliance with the relevant international legal frameworks, including human rights law. Several strategic considerations have been identified with regard to enhancing the ability of the region's countries to investigate, prosecute and reintegrate individuals associated with terrorist activities, including building the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officers, strengthening national criminal justice policies, as well as victim and witness protection measures, among others. In June, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate published an analytical brief that includes a commentary on the codification of the terrorism offence,¹¹ with a view to contributing to a common understanding among Member

¹¹ United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, "A commentary on the codification of the terrorism offence", CTED analytical brief, June 2024.

States on establishing terrorist acts as serious criminal offences in their national legislation.

3. Rehabilitation and reintegration

21. The Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq Third Country National Returnees, continued to provide support to Iraq and Central Asian States on human rights-compliant approaches to the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals returned from the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic. Based on the needs identified by the technical working group for implementation of the Global Framework, the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility, a joint initiative that is managed by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, provided technical assistance between March and June to the Government of Iraq in support of the registration of individuals with alleged links to Da'esh seeking voluntary repatriation from Hawl camp. In May, the Office of Counter-Terrorism supported the establishment in Tashkent of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones to strengthen national and regional support for returnees.

22. In collaboration with 10 civil society organizations, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) contributed to addressing barriers to the sustainable return and reintegration of Iraqi nationals from the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic. Localized interventions focused on communication, transitional rehabilitation, transitional justice and social cohesion between returnees and host communities. UNICEF, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, continued to support community-based reintegration efforts for Syrian children and families in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic, with a view to preventing discrimination and stigmatization and facilitating access to essential services.

23. In Nigeria, the inaugural "Football for Peace Competition" of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promoted unity among young persons, including returnees and former Da'esh affiliates, by fostering teamwork, reducing stigma and improving community acceptance. In addition, UNDP organized cultural events that showcased diverse traditions to strengthen public engagement and promote peacebuilding, reconciliation and reintegration.

24. To share experiences related to rehabilitation and reintegration strategies through multidisciplinary collaboration, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Sri Lanka delivered a regional workshop for practitioners in the context of the UNODC-supported South Asian Network on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

B. International and regional cooperation

25. Effective responses to terrorism demand multilateral action, including through international and regional cooperation arrangements. To strengthen cooperation between international partners and African Member States, the Office of Counter-Terrorism supported the Government of Nigeria in organizing the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, which took place in Abuja on 22 and 23 April. The meeting was attended by more than 350 participants from 29 African Member States, 21 international partners, 6 regional organizations and 17 civil society organizations. The participants adopted a declaration that launched the Abuja Process, an Africa-led and -owned initiative aimed at coordinating and mobilizing counter-terrorism resources in the continent. In June, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in partnership with the Government of Morocco, organized the third edition of the Marrakesh Platform, the high-level meeting of the heads of African counter-terrorism and

security agencies, in Fez, Morocco. The event, which was attended by delegations from more than 60 Member States, was aimed at enhancing the coordination of joint counter-terrorism initiatives in the Sahel and other parts of Africa.

26. The European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility continued to provide capacity-building support, as requested by Member States and based on technical assistance needs identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with regard to detecting, preventing, countering, responding to and investigating terrorist threats, including to Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Tajikistan, Togo and Uganda. These efforts included the provision of advisory assistance to the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyzstan on investigating terrorism-related offences and a train-the-trainers course to enhance the capacities of investigators, digital forensics experts and police academy trainers to collect and preserve digital evidence for counter-terrorism investigations, in compliance with the rule of law and international human rights standards.

C. Coordination and coherence across United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities

27. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, comprising 47 entities, continued to serve as the primary institutional framework for advancing coordination and coherence of United Nations efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In January, the Coordination Committee of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact set the strategic direction for the Coordination Compact for the period 2024–2026, adopting a joint programme of work with a focus on, inter alia, addressing the threat posed by terrorism in parts of Africa. The Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism continued to support Member States and the other thematic working groups on ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in their counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism activities. The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact digital platform continued to support coordination, engagement and information exchange among more than 1,050 focal points from 137 Member States, 14 regional organizations and all 47 member and observer entities.

D. Supporting the victims of Da'esh

28. United Nations entities continued to support and address the diverse needs of victims of terrorism. The Office of Counter-Terrorism, in collaboration with UNODC, supported efforts to strengthen national frameworks for victims of terrorism in the Philippines, including by developing a road map to coordinate inter-agency efforts and establish a national day to commemorate victims and survivors. In March, on the margins of the commemoration of the twentieth European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism, which took place in Madrid, the Office of Counter-Terrorism launched a series of consultations with victims and survivors, as well as victims' associations, to discuss the development of a victims of terrorism associations network, as called for in the Chair's summary of the United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism held in 2022. At the commemoration, the Office of Counter-Terrorism unveiled an exhibition entitled "Memories" to honour victims and raise awareness of the long-lasting impact of terrorism.

29. Working closely with the Government of Iraq and civil society organizations, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence

in Conflict provided comprehensive assistance and redress to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated by Da'esh, including children born as a result of rape and newly liberated survivors returning from the Syrian Arab Republic. In Nigeria, UNODC launched State-level committees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe to protect children from violence in contexts of insecurity and enhance government coordination and capacity in prioritizing the protection, support, rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims of Boko Haram and ISWAP. The committees also oversee the operationalization of the Nigeria Call for Action, a political declaration acknowledging that children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups should be considered and treated primarily as victims of crime. In February, UNODC launched a research study¹² examining the unique risks faced by children owing to terrorist groups' tactics and related State responses.

30. Engaging civil society as part of efforts to identify and address the needs of victims and survivors of terrorism remained a priority for the United Nations. In April, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate published a report¹³ containing insights from a broad range of civil society organizations from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America involved in responding to the needs of victims and survivors. In its report, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate further highlighted the role that civil society can play in advancing a comprehensive approach to addressing sexual and gender-based violence in terrorism contexts.

E. Border management and law enforcement

31. Border management and law enforcement remained a challenge. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported a spike in judicial executions of prisoners convicted of terrorist offences in Iraq. In the reporting period, 11 adult male prisoners who had been sentenced to death were executed on 22 April and another 11 were executed on 6 May, all in Nasiriyah Central Prison. Those events followed the execution, in the same prison, of 13 adult male prisoners on 25 December 2023. The Office of Counter-Terrorism helped Iraqi law enforcement and intelligence entities to further incorporate protection of human right in their efforts to counter terrorism in Iraq. With the support of OHCHR, the Office of Counter-Terrorism helped Iraqi law enforcement and intelligence agencies improve their monitoring of human rights violations committed as part of counter-terrorism efforts and ensure accountability for such violations.

32. To streamline the coordination and impact of capacity-building activities in the context of border security and management and preventing the cross-border movement of terrorists in West Africa, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, together with IOM, UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization, established the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism for West Africa in Dakar in February. A mapping of all the relevant projects and programmes in the region, as well as two baseline assessment visits, were completed to ensure alignment with the needs and priorities of Member States. Under the border security and management programme, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in partnership with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, produced an addendum and a train-the-trainer curriculum for the Forum's framework document on good practices with regard to border security and

¹² UNODC, "Targeted by terrorists: child recruitment, exploitation and reintegration in Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria", 22 February 2024.

¹³ United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, "Civil society perspectives: advancing accountability for sexual and gender-based violence linked to terrorism", April 2024.

management in the context of counter-terrorism and stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

33. The Global Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets added Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Senegal as new beneficiaries under its technical assistance and capacity-building pillar. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with the support of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, led in-depth consultations with Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan and Mauritania to identify priorities and needs to protect vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places ("soft" targets), against terrorist attacks. The findings of each consultation were used to develop a national action plan or road map with tailored recommendations to address those priorities and needs.

34. The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme enhanced the capacities of 55 Member States to detect and prevent terrorist movement and identify potential nexuses with transnational organized crime. The Programme strengthened the capacities of government officials from Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan to implement and maintain advance passenger information and passenger name record systems. In May, the Programme strengthened regional cooperation and coordination in the area of passenger data exchange by organizing a coordination meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on the implementation of passenger data systems in West and Central Africa.

35. The United Nations continued to build the capacities of Member States to counter the acquisition and use by terrorists of weapons, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material, small arms and light weapons, improvised explosive devices and unmanned aircraft systems. During the reporting period, the Office of Counter-Terrorism strengthened the capacity of 232 participants from 35 Member States with regard to, inter alia, operational measures to address interlinkages between illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, transnational organized crime and terrorism, the promotion of technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#) on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, the prevention of the terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction and the promotion and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The modalities used for delivery of activities included training courses, workshops and tabletop exercises for practitioners.

36. The United Nations contributed to produce analysis and disseminate good practices to assist Member States in addressing the challenge of managing borders. In April, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate published a two-part "CTED Trends Alert" report¹⁴ in which it addresses these challenges and makes recommendations for counter-terrorism and border management in Africa. Among the main findings was that there is a need for an integrated approach to border security and management that considers local communities' links, including cultural, religious and ethnic, and addresses the underlying causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

F. Countering the financing of terrorism

37. United Nations entities continued to support efforts to promote and strengthen regional collaboration to curtail the ability of Da'esh and affiliates to generate and

¹⁴ United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, "Counter-terrorism and border management in Africa: fundamental and cross-cutting challenges", CTED Trends Alert, April 2024; and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, "Counter-terrorism and border management in Africa: technical and capacity-related gaps", CTED Trends Alert, April 2024.

access resources for terrorism purposes. The Office of Counter-Terrorism facilitated the development of regional risk assessments on terrorism financing for the jurisdictions of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, as well as for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. In May, to support the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Office held a capacity-building workshop in Riyadh to align the practices of members of the League of Arab States with international standards to counter the financing of terrorism, including financial investigations and prosecution of terrorism financing offences committed with new technologies. In June, at a meeting of the Egmont Group, the Office of Counter-Terrorism presented a preliminary version of goFintel, an innovative software solution developed with partners in order to support the efforts of Member States in conducting investigations into financial transactions by suspected criminal organizations, including terrorist groups.

38. The United Nations continued to cooperate with the Financial Action Task Force and its global network of Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies, including through participation in plenary meetings, relevant workshops and webinars, and by providing inputs to updates on Da'esh financing. In May, at a meeting organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the President of the Financial Action Task Force delivered a briefing to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with a view to exchanging information on efforts and challenges in implementing the international standards against the financing of terrorism, as well as global progress made towards compliance with those standards.

39. United Nations entities continued to produce analysis and disseminate good practices from various stakeholders in support of efforts to counter terrorism financing. In February, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate held a multi-stakeholder discussion on establishing effective public-private partnerships on countering the financing of terrorism and published its third annual thematic summary assessment of gaps in implementing key countering the financing of terrorism provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions with a focus on investigating and prosecuting the financing of terrorism.¹⁵

G. Impact of information and communications technologies and new technologies on counter-terrorism

40. The United Nations continued to support Member States in their efforts to leverage developments in information and communications technologies and new technologies for counter-terrorism while countering the threat posed by their exploitation by terrorists. In collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization, the Office of Counter-Terrorism strengthened the capacities of law enforcement personnel from 27 Member States in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to counter the escalating misuse of new technologies by terrorists, while ensuring respect for human rights and pursuing gender-sensitive approaches. Tailored support was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan to enhance their law enforcement capabilities against terrorist exploitation of technology.

41. The evolving exploitation by terrorists of cyberspace poses ongoing challenges to addressing that threat. In June, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations

¹⁵ United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee Executive Directorate, "Thematic summary assessment of gaps in implementing key countering the financing of terrorism provisions of Security Council resolutions, with a focus on investigating and prosecuting the financing of terrorism", December 2023.

Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute released a report¹⁶ containing information and recommendations on the interaction between terrorists and cybercriminals on the dark web, with a view to assisting United Nations entities and Member States in developing effective, rule of law-based responses to countering terrorism online.

H. Countering terrorist narratives and engaging with communities to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism

42. United Nations entities continued to promote whole-of-society approaches to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including through capacity-building support and technical assistance in designing and implementing effective counter-narratives and communication strategies. The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre strengthened the capacity of young leaders across Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to contribute effectively to prevention efforts through strategic communications. The initiative resulted in the development of four national strategic communication campaigns, a regional narrative to guide campaign messaging and a youth-driven training manual for strategic communications. The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility provided technical advice and training to the National Counter-Terrorism Centre of Kenya in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism and a framework for strategic communication campaigns for preventing and countering violent extremism.

IV. Observations

43. Da'esh continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Counter-terrorism efforts notwithstanding, the risk of resurgence of the group in the Middle East, as outlined in previous reports, has materialized, with Da'esh increasing its operational pace in the Syrian Arab Republic. Unless security-centred approaches to counter terrorism are not also accompanied by efforts to counter terrorism that are comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society, human rights-based and gender-responsive, the risk of the group growing stronger is all but certain to remain. In this regard, preventing terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism remains the best measure to address these threats. I continue to encourage Member States to consider developing and adequately investing in regional and national prevention strategies that are aimed at addressing all forms of violence, centred on the rule of law and human rights and based on all-of-government and all-of-society approaches.

44. The threat emanating from Afghanistan manifested itself in the multiple terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL-K, both in Afghanistan and abroad, in the reporting period. I condemn all terrorist attacks in the strongest terms and mourn the loss of civilian lives they caused. I call on all Member States to unite to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a hotbed of terrorist activities that affect other countries. The United Nations, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, will continue to support

¹⁶ United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, "Beneath the surface: terrorist and violent extremist use of the dark web and cybercrime-as-a-service for cyber-attacks", 2024.

Member States in Central Asia in their efforts to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

45. I remain concerned about the threat of terrorism in parts of Africa, in particular the risk that the continued expansion of terrorist groups may create an expanding area of instability across West Africa and the Sahel should Da'esh affiliates enjoy greater operational, financial and logistical autonomy. The magnitude and complexity of the problem are alarming and require concerted action. In this regard, the launch of the Abuja Process represents a positive development.

46. The situation faced by thousands of individuals, mostly women and children, in camps and other facilities in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic remains dire. While progress was made repatriation efforts in the past year contributed to reducing the number of individuals in these camps, the individuals these camps continue to face the most precarious conditions, affecting their human rights and access to humanitarian assistance. Urgent action is required to address the precarious conditions faced by these individuals, especially since Da'esh continues to exploit the situation in the camps. I reiterate my repeated call for Member States with nationals in these facilities to consider the medium- and long-term implications of the situation and to significantly boost their efforts to facilitate the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of all those individuals, in line with Member States' respective obligations under international law, including having the best interests of the child as a primary consideration. The consent of the relevant governments for any activity to be undertaken in territories under their control is a paramount consideration in all such repatriation efforts. The United Nations will continue to support, including through its Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive programmes to address identified capacity gaps.

Annex

Thirty-fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution [2734 \(2024\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities

The report was issued as document [S/2024/556](#).
