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COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM (CDCT)

8th Plenary Meeting

Palais Strasbourg, Room 8 / 23 - 25 May 2022

Abridged Report and List of Decisions

Secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Division
Information Society - Action against Crime Directorate, DG I

DGI-CDCT@coe.int / www.coe.int/terrorism

The Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) at its 8th Plenary meeting held on 23-25 May 2022, in Strasbourg, under the chairmanship of Ms Päivi KAIRAMO (Chair, Finland) on 23 May 2022, and of Mr Nicola PIACENTE (Vice-Chair, Italy) on 24-25 May 2022, decided to:

1. Opening of the meeting

Take note of the opening remarks by Mr Jan KLEIJSEN (Director, Information Society – Action against Crime Department, Council of Europe) who welcomed all participants to the Plenary and explained the implications of the expulsion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe as a result of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He congratulated the CDCT on the production of the draft Report on Emerging Terrorist Threats and underlined its importance for all CDCT members and the Council of Europe more broadly. He further congratulated the CDCT on the adoption in March 2022 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of two Recommendations completed under the auspices of the CDCT: the Recommendation on the use of information collected in conflict zones as evidence in criminal proceedings related to terrorist offences and the Recommendation on the risk assessment of individuals indicted or convicted for terrorist offences. He welcomed the initial work on the next Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (covering the period 2023-2027) and informed the CDCT of the opening of the Second Additional Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention for signature.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopt the agenda.

3. Communication by the Chair, the Delegations and the Secretariat

Take note of the information provided by the Chair, notably regarding her recent participation in her capacity as Chair of the CDCT, at a Conference co-organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain on "Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism" in Malaga, Spain on 10-11 May 2022. Ms KAIRAMO also informed the CDCT of the outcomes of the last CDCT Bureau meeting held on 7-8 April 2022, and invited the Plenary to:

- I. Consider means to improve the visibility of CDCT instruments through promotional activities to launch new instruments and reports;
- II. Discuss whether new binding instruments need to be developed to gather and strengthen key standards and Recommendations across several fields.

Take note of the information provided by Mr Carlo CHIAROMONTE, Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and Secretary to the CDCT on the updates since the last CDCT Plenary meeting, namely that:

- I. Belgium ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No.196), which entered into force for Belgium on 1 May 2022;
- II. Armenia ratified the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 217), which enters into force for Armenia on 1 September 2022;
- III. The Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) has 42 ratifications and 5 signatures, and the Protocol now has 24 ratifications and 17 signatures.

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the deliberations of the virtual Seminar on Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Responses during and in the Immediate

Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks, held on 29 March 2022 and take these into consideration throughout the drafting of the new Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the modalities of possible bilateral support for States, by the CDCT, in implementing relevant instruments and reports and express interest in receiving further information from the Secretariat in this regard at its next Plenary.

Take note of the update provided by the Netherlands on the recent completion of its national counter-terrorism strategy and instruct the Secretariat to distribute this document to all CDCT members as soon as the English version becomes available.

Take note of the proposal submitted by Ukraine on elaborating a legal definition of state sponsors of terrorism, the potential designation of state sponsors of terrorism, the recognition of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism and one that supports and commits terrorism, in the context of the new Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

4. Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Completed, ongoing and future activities of the CDCT

Examine the state of implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018 – 2022), notably that almost all activities have been completed to date and that the six (6) remaining items in the current strategy will be finalised by the end of 2022.

5. Preparing the next Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Take note of the information provided by Ms Päivi KAIRAMO, Chair of the Working Group to prepare the new Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CDCT-ST), on the outcomes of the 1st meeting of CDCT-ST, which was held on 8 March 2022.

Hold an exchange of views on the preparation of the Strategy and submit proposals for activities/issues to be considered, in particular to:

- I. continue Activity 1.4 of the current Strategy on the Financing of Terrorism, also taking into consideration the outcomes of the forthcoming Conference on “New Challenges to the Freedom of Association”, currently being organised by the Venice Commission under the auspices of the Irish Presidency of the Council of Europe, scheduled for September 2022;
- II. further engage on the interaction between international humanitarian law (IHL) and terrorism, drawing from the positive experience and outcomes of the CDCT Guidelines on the Links between Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 March 2021;
- III. consider the inclusion of “Analysis/Information Collection” either as a separate pillar or under the Prevention pillar.

Take note that the next meeting of the CDCT-ST Working Group, currently scheduled for 30 June – 1 July 2022 in Paris, will be aimed at examining an initial draft of the next Strategy (prepared on the basis of the discussions from the 1st meeting, the aforementioned proposals by the Plenary, the outcomes of the ETT Report and the written contributions by members of the Working Group).

Invite those Delegations which may wish to participate in the CDCT-ST Working Group to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible.

6. Identification of emerging terrorist threats (Activity 3.4 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by Ms Ileana VIȘOIU (Romania), Chair of the Working Group on the Identification of Emerging Terrorist Threats (CDCT-ETT) on the outcomes of its 5th and final meeting held online on 22 February 2022.

Examine and approve the draft Report on Emerging Terrorist Threats, as finalised by the CDCT-ETT and instruct the Secretariat to submit the draft Report to the Committee of Ministers.

Endorse the proposal from the Bureau for the CDCT-ETT to be made a permanent working group of the CDCT for periodic updates or reviews as appropriate and discuss the possible organisation of a promotional event of the report at a later stage.

Thank Ms VIȘOIU for her chairmanship of the Working Group and for the successful drafting and finalisation of the Report and elect her as Chair of the newly established permanent CDCT-ETT Working Group.

Invite all interested Delegations to inform the Secretariat of their interest in participating in the permanent CDCT-ETT Working Group by 30 June 2022.

7. Compilation of Best Practices with regards to Deradicalisation, Disengagement and Social Reintegration (Activity 3.1 of the Strategy)

Hold an exchange of views with Mr Mario JANEČEK (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair of the Working group on the collection of best practices with regards to deradicalisation, disengagement and social reintegration (CDCT-DDR), on the outcomes of the 2nd meeting and the preparation and drafting of the expected output document, the Compilation of Good Practices with regards to Deradicalisation, Disengagement and Social Reintegration, renamed from “Best Practices” to “Good Practices”.

Reissue a call for responses to the Questionnaire on Deradicalisation, Disengagement and Social Reintegration distributed to all CDCT members on 5 November 2021.

Take note that the next meeting of CDCT-DDR is tentatively scheduled for early September 2022, where the objective will be to examine and finalise an advanced draft version of the Compilation, as prepared by the consultants based on the agreed revised Methodology and Outline.

8. Financing of Terrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Chair on the developments regarding the production of an opinion on the need to update the current Council of Europe financing of terrorism standards done jointly by MONEYVAL, Consultation of the Parties to Convention No. 198 (COP 198), and the CDCT.

Nominate Mr Martynas DOBROVOLSKIS (Lithuania) to represent the CDCT in the MONEYVAL-CDCT-COP198 Joint Expert Group in view of the removal of the current member by virtue of the decision of the Committee of Ministers to exclude the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe.

9. Bioterrorism

Examine and approve the Detailed Report on the replies to the Questionnaire on Bioterrorism and welcome the proposal from the Bureau to hold a one-day (or half-day) thematic session on bioterrorism

in the context of its next Plenary meeting in November 2022 to provide CDCT members with additional legal and scientific background to support future action in this field.

10. Definition of Terrorism

Take note of the Status update document prepared by the Secretariat and discuss elements of the possible future definition of terrorism as contained in the Document for Reflection on the potential future legal definition of terrorism (CDCT(2022)09) and comments received to date from members.

Support further consideration of Option 1 as presented in the aforementioned Document for Reflection, update and distribute the new version of the Status Update document to all members together with the report prepared by Professor Ana SALINAS DE FRÍAS, and invite CDCT members to consult with their respective capitals on the deliberations held in view of further discussion at the next Plenary meeting.

11. International Conference on Countering Terrorist Communications, Recruitment and Training (Activities 1.1, 1.2 and 2.2 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the means to implement activities 1.1, 1.2, and 2.2 of the current Strategy and approve the Concept Note prepared by the Secretariat on the organisation of an International Conference on “Countering Terrorist Communications, Recruitment and Training”, tentatively scheduled to take place on 12-13 December 2022.

12. International Conference on the Transnational Terrorist Threats from Emerging and Re-Emerging Violent Extremist Movements

Discuss and approve the Concept Note prepared by the Secretariat on the proposed event on the possible threat of terrorist attacks emanating from the violent far-right and violent far-left, in line with the findings of the draft Report on Emerging Terrorist Threats which highlights the rise of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Europe.

Instruct the Secretariat to incorporate into the conference programme further online-related issues as well as to expand on the context and roots of violent extremist movements.

Take note that the Conference is tentatively scheduled for 3-4 November 2022 and will serve to inform possible future activities in this area under the new Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

13. Network of Single Contact Points for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism (Activity 3.3 of the Strategy)

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the Network of Single Contact Points for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism, and the deliberations of its 4th meeting held on 5 May 2022.

Take note of the proposal by the Network for each State to nominate an ‘alternative’ Contact Point in addition to its ‘primary’ Contact Point and instruct the Secretariat to distribute this request to the CDCT.

Call upon all CDCT members who have not yet done so to notify the Secretariat of their designated Contact Points.

Take note that the next meeting of the Network is tentatively scheduled to take place in November 2022.

14. 24/7 Network of Contact Points on Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat that this activity had been postponed due to the sanitary situation and that an in-person meeting will now be reconvened as soon as possible.

15. Country profiles on counter-terrorism capacity and information on measures taken at national level against terrorism

Take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the status of the country profiles and call upon all members who have not submitted a country profile to consider providing the Secretariat with one as soon as possible or to provide updated versions where needed.

16. Elections

Take note of the information provided by the Chair on the current situation regarding elections to the CDCT, namely that 2 positions on the Bureau are currently vacant and postpone the elections until the next Plenary so that the new members will start their mandates at the beginning of 2023.

Invite all CDCT members to propose candidates to the Secretariat before the next Plenary.

17. Any other business

Take note of the remarks provided by Ambassador Christian MEUWLY (Switzerland), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe and Focal Point on the Fight against Terrorism and hold an exchange of views on the added value of elaborating (i) guidelines on international humanitarian law and terrorism, and (ii) a pan-European definition of terrorism.

18. Date and place of the 9th Plenary Meeting of the CDCT

Hold the 9th Plenary meeting for two days on the week of 28 November 2022.

19. Adoption of the Abridged Report and List of Decisions

Examine and adopt the Abridged Report and List of Decisions taken.