Fact Sheet on TNTD Activities to Counter the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters

The OSCE is well equipped to contribute to countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) with its comprehensive approach to security, its dedicated Action against Terrorism Unit with the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/ATU), its network of 16 field operations in South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and in Central Asia closely engaged with their respective host authorities, its experience in co-operating with civil society, and its specialized institutions, namely the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), and the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

**OSCE Mandate**

Recognizing the complex challenge of countering the phenomenon of FTFs, OSCE participating States (pS) adopted Ministerial Declaration No.5/14 (MC.DOC/5/14), committing themselves to take resolute action to counter the threat posed by FTFs in full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), in line with all obligations under international law (available at http://www.osce.org/cio/130546).

**TNTD/ATU Focus Areas**

In accordance with UNSCRs (2170 and 2178) and to implement the OSCE Ministerial Declaration No. 5/14, TNTD/ATU builds upon its existing programmes, which correspond to strategic focus areas identified in the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism (Permanent Council Decision No. 1063):
- countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multi-dimensional approach;
- countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes;
- strengthening travel document security;
- promoting the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism and enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

**Reference Documents**

- OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism
  [http://www.osce.org/pc/98008](http://www.osce.org/pc/98008)
- Overview of OSCE Counter-Terrorism Related Commitments
  [http://www.osce.org/node/26365](http://www.osce.org/node/26365)
- Policy Guidebook on VERLT and Community-Policing:
  [http://www.osce.org/secretariat/111438](http://www.osce.org/secretariat/111438)
- Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations: A Practical Manual for Law Enforcement Officers:
  [http://www.osce.org/odihr/108930](http://www.osce.org/odihr/108930)
### Programme

#### VERLT Programme

**Preventing and Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multidimensional approach**

Supporting pS “to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including by empowering (…) concerned groups of civil society”.

#### Internet Programme

**Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes**

Supporting pS to act co-operatively “to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law”.

#### Legal Programme

**Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism and enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism**

Supporting pS in addressing the criminalization of offenses related to FTFs and to “develop and implement prosecution of returning FTFs”.

#### TDS Programme

**Strengthening travel document security**

Supporting pS in preventing “the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents.”

### Requirements under UNSCR 2178 to counter the phenomenon of FTFs

#### TNTD/ATU Activities (Past & Upcoming)

- Policy guidebook in six languages on how to leverage community-policing for countering violent extremism (CVE), and customized training courses for community police officers;
- GCTF Good practices on women and CVE drafted by TNTD;
- National seminars and regional expert meetings on countering VERLT, including public authorities, academia, civil society and the media;
- Courses to build capacity of civil society stakeholders (e.g., youth, women, and religious leaders) to speak out, mobilize others, and undertake initiatives against intolerance and violent extremism.

- High Level conference in co-operation with RFoM following up on the OSCE-wide Expert Workshop on “Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies”;
- E-learning module for countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes;
- Regional two-day training workshops for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

- Regional Workshop in Central Asia on strengthening Central Authorities in charge of international legal co-operation in criminal matters, in co-operation with UNCTED and UNODC;
- National Seminars on Rule of Law compliant Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism in South Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in co-operation with the GCTF. The events in Central Asia also form part of a joint regional UNODC-OSCE initiative on the FTF phenomenon and related criminal justice responses.

- Capacity-building workshop, in co-operation with UNCTED and CTITF, in Central Asia on issues related to countering terrorism at the border;
- Assessment missions, seminars and projects to strengthen evidence of identity in the documents feeding into electronic Machine Readable Travel Documents (eMRTDs);
- National training for border police and customs officials to strengthen operational and analytical capacities to detect forged travel documents;
- Facilitating participation in the ICAO Public Key Directory through national seminars in Central Asia.