

**Joint Regional High-level Conference  
convened by the OSCE, UNOCT and Switzerland,  
in cooperation with the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship on  
“Foreign Terrorist Fighters – Addressing Current Challenges”  
(11-12 February 2020, Vienna)**

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA**

**11 February 2020**

**9:00 - 10:00 – Registration**

**10:00 - 10:30 – Opening Remarks**

**10:30 - 11.00 – Coffee Break**

**11:00 - 12.30 - Session I: *Responses to incitement, recruitment for and facilitation of FTF activities***

With FTF departures to conflict zones having peaked in 2015, OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation face an increase in the number of returning or relocating FTFs. There is a concern that these returnees may engage in violent acts at home, incite others to violence, take part in recruitment efforts and/or fundraise for terrorist organizations. Correspondingly, law enforcement and intelligence agencies need to be equipped with appropriate and effective tools to respond in a rule of law-compliant manner to terrorist activity. Equally important, programmes aimed at disengaging returning FTFs and their family members need to be developed/improved, and new recruitments of so-called “home-grown terrorists”, often inspired by FTF-narratives, need to be prevented – a comprehensive approach involving both government agencies as well as relevant civil society actors can be regarded as crucial.

Questions to be addressed in this session are, *e.g.*:

- How to counter and prevent the incitement by and recruitment into terrorist groups, both on- and off-line?
- What are the lessons learned in countering the recruitment for and facilitation of FTF activity in line with applicable human rights standards?
- How to strengthen co-operation between governments, the private sector and civil society organizations in this regard?

**12:30 - 13:30 – Lunch**

### **13:30 - 15:00 – Session II: *Preventing and disrupting FTF travel***

Returning or relocating FTFs pose significant challenges to border security and management agencies in particular. This session will examine existing efforts in identifying and detecting returning or relocating FTFs, and will explore how the UN, the OSCE and other international and regional actors can further support participating States and Partners for Co-operation in these endeavors. The discussion will address the use of passenger data collection (*i.e.* through Advance Passenger Information Systems and Passenger Name Records) and the role of capacity-building activities for front-line screeners, such as immigration, customs and border security agencies. While sharing relevant information is a key element of successful internal coordination and international cooperation, the conference will also highlight the need for this to take place in compliance with human rights.

Questions to be addressed:

- What are lessons-learned in detecting and disrupting FTF travel?
- How to exchange travel-related information in an effective and human rights-compliant way?
- How to establish effective Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record systems while respecting the right to privacy? How can we achieve better leverage on capacity-building programmes, such as the UN's Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and Border Security and Management?

### **15:00 - 15:30 – Coffee Break**

### **15:30 - 17:00 – Session III: *Gathering and sharing of evidence***

This session will reflect upon the question of how governments and international organizations could enhance cooperation in the sharing of evidence, including battlefield evidence, in order to enable the successful and rule of law-compliant prosecutions of FTFs in their home countries. Apart from evidence gathered by the military and sometimes by NGOs in the conflict zones, the digital space and especially social media content may be searched for investigation purposes, and this session will explore how such evidence can be obtained in compliance with the rule of law. Highlighting the need for making better use of existing mechanisms such as INTERPOL's databases and information systems, discussions will also address the question of how to build trust and enhance capacity for a more effective collaboration among state structures and internationally.

Questions to be addressed:

- How can governments and international organizations enhance cooperation in the sharing of evidence, including battlefield evidence, for rule of law-compliant prosecutions of FTFs?
- How can the Internet and social media be used for counter-terrorism investigations, in compliance with human rights and the rule of law?
- In what way could the use of existing mechanisms such as INTERPOL's databases and information systems be enhanced?
- How to build trust and enhance capacity as prerequisites for more effective collaboration within state structures and internationally?

### **18:00 - 20:00 – Reception**

## **12 February 2020**

**8:00 - 9:00 – Registration**

**9:00 - 12:00 – Side Events (with one coffee break – timing tbd)**

**12:00 - 13:00 – Lunch**

**13:00 - 14:30 – Session IV: *Prosecution of FTFs***

This session will explore criminal justice responses related to relocating or returning FTFs and their affiliates, or those inspired or directed by them. It will address challenges in the effective and human rights-compliant prosecution of suspected terrorist offenders, whose alleged criminal conduct mainly happened in remote conflict zones, with related evidence often having been gathered by the military. Moreover, discussions will also include how to ensure that criminal justice processes are gender-responsive, while at the same time adequately contributing criminal responsibility for support activities, where these qualify as a contribution to or participation in terrorism. Last but not least, the strict application of juvenile justice standards in cases where the criminal responsibility of a minor needs to be tested, and the support and protection of those children affiliated with FTFs that - due to their age or other circumstances - can only be considered victims themselves, will also be addressed in this session.

Questions to be addressed:

- What are the lessons learned for effective human rights-compliant prosecutions of suspected FTFs?
- How can the right to a fair trial, due process, and full respect for human rights be ensured in proceedings?
- How can criminal justice processes be gender responsive and ensure children's best interests and welfare?

**14:30 - 15:00 – Coffee Break**

**15:00 - 16:30 – Session V: *Repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration***

Given the humanitarian and security situation in formerly terrorist-controlled territory, the issue of repatriating FTFs and/or their family members has also come to the forefront of discussions. This was highlighted by the UN Secretary General's *Key Principles for the Protection, Repatriation, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children with Links to UN-listed Terrorist Groups, including analysis of pertinent UN Security Council resolutions 2178, 2396 and 2427*. Apart from addressing repatriation, this session will explore ways of managing and assisting in particular women, girls and boys associated with FTFs. Discussions will include appropriate gender and age-sensitive assistance and protection, as well as prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, in compliance with domestic and international law. Moreover, prison-based and non-custodial programmes to rehabilitate and reintegrate terrorist offenders and the need for linking these efforts to ensure sustainability will be addressed.

Questions to be addressed:

- What are the challenges, relevant international standards and obligations, and best practices in repatriating FTFs and their family members who wish to return to their countries of origin?
- How can the particular needs of women and children with links to UN-listed terrorist groups be addressed in compliance with international law?
- What are the lessons learned for effective disengagement and reintegration mechanisms, within and outside criminal justice systems?
- How can prison-based rehabilitation programs be linked to post-prison reintegration efforts?

**16:30 - 17:00 – Conclusions of the Moderators**

**17:00 - 17:30 – Closing Remarks**