

## Speech at the GA SIDE EVENT on

### The launch of World Atlas of Illicit Flows, and a policy brief examining the Security Council Responses to Organized Crime, 26 September 2018

Co-sponsored by France

By

*Amb. Jean-Paul Laborde  
Director of the Centre of Expertise on Counter-Terrorism,  
Special Military School St-Cyr-Coëtquidan*

In his key note address to the INTERPOL's 45th European Regional Conference, convened in Austria on 16-18 May 2017, Mark Shaw already underlined that *“As a reflection of the degree to which the phenomena of TOC have risen higher up on the public policy agenda over the last number of years, it is now almost **unprecedented** that organized crime appears in policy discussions where it was never mentioned before. To take only one example: the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations makes clear reference to organized crime, with one in ten targets covering areas where organized crime will have a decisive impact on success or failure”*.

In addition, in a report on the situation in Mozambique the Global Initiative has also provided clear evidences the links between those TOC activities and terrorism; according to this report, networks of powerful, politically connected criminal actors have created an enabling environment for an Islamic insurgency in Northern Mozambique that is terrorizing local communities and threatening the country's stability. For example, in that report, the Global Initiative against TOC mentioned that *“Aside from any ideological and sociological factors driving the group, Al-Sunna has capitalized on the ease with which illegal activities can be conducted on this stretch of the East African coast. Underlining this point, we have also been told that*

*the group is using camps and routes that have long been used by organized-crime syndicates in Cabo Delgado to evade authorities”.*

The launching of the World Atlas on Illicit Flows issued by Interpol and the Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses goes a step further since it shows evidences, at the worldwide level, of links and connections between illicit flows and situations of conflicts, including environmental crimes. Among those elements, links between the terrorist organization and organized criminal groups appear to be evident in many regions of the world. Moreover, as stated in the Atlas, the costs of those criminal activities are huge for humanity and especially children.

The new World Atlas of Illicit Flows could also constitute a solid basis for further thinking on how financing of terrorism could be based on those illicit markets, which is a core issue to defeat terrorism. We should never forget, in that context, that, for example, in the 2015 Havocscope report, it was indicated that *“Government security agencies in Jordan seized 300 percent more weapons and firearms on its border with Syria in 2013 when compared to 2012; 900 weapons were seized in 2013 while attempting to be smuggled into Jordan and of course belonging to terrorist organizations. This is a significant element to demonstrate, at least, links between arm smuggling and the increase of the intensity of insurgency in Syria, noting that the growing influence of Daesch in Syria started also to have more impact around that period of time”*. Also, in the Sahel, and according to the study of NATO, Direction South on illicit trafficking in North Africa and Sahel of 27.03.2018<sup>1</sup>, *“Unsecured weapons storage facilities that were previously guarded by the Libyan government are the main source of the outflow. The movement of these weapons across state borders by former fighters”..... “has led to the proliferation of arms, to the benefit of arms traffickers and terrorists and other armed groups operating in the region. The large scale movements of foreign fighters fuelled the transfer of weapons » and “the reported presence of Middle Eastern SALW, in Sahel terrorist attacks, denote an emerging trend in arms*

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*smuggling: the transnational supply chains take advantage of the terrorist groups' links in other crisis areas”..*

Furthermore, as the chair of the Cyber Security Unit, I have really to underline the fact that cyber-crime which is now one of the key pillars of transnational organized crime is also a terrible threat for the stability of our societies and a possible source or vector of financing of terrorism.

To be absolutely clear on those links and their financial aspects, we should, also, look into the conceptual approach of those links. Actually, there should be described as objective links. Indeed, at the conceptual and legal levels, there is a distinction between the ultimate goals between terrorist organizations and organized criminal groups. According to definitions of terrorist acts encapsulated in the United Nations Sectorial Conventions against terrorism such as, for example, the Convention against Financing of Terrorism or the Terrorism Bombing Convention, the specific intentional element of terrorism is to terrorize the general population or to coerce a government to do or not to do something. At the same time, the intentional element of an organized criminal group is to obtain a financial or other material benefit. However, at a certain point in time, it happens that an organized criminal group sells arms to terrorist organizations or even more, a terrorist organization may not hesitate to become an organized criminal group in order to get appropriate resources to support its structure and commit its terrorist attacks. This is what we see with the evidences collected in the Atlas. In such a situation, we should never forget that the Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Convention would be applicable to such terrorist organization which de facto and de jure, has become an organized criminal group in addition to be at the same time a terrorist organization.

This is the reason why that, in addition to the presentation of the Atlas, the introduction of the Analysis of UN Security Council Resolutions on Organized crime and its role in Contemporary Conflicts by the Global Initiative against TOC, is absolutely crucial. Actually, that analysis

constitutes an excellent tool for the Council stressing, inter alia, that *each year from 2012 to 2017, more than 60% of the resolutions have mandated a response to criminal flows and markets, reaching a peak in 2014 of 63.5%. It means that the Security Council, whose remit is centred on major global threats to peace and security and has so consistently concerned itself with criminal groups and markets in recent years is a remarkable trend*".

Those two pieces of work are obviously in symbiosis with the latest Security Council Presidential Statement on those matters. (S/PRST/2018/9). In that Presidential Statement of 8 May 2018, the Council "*recalls its noted concern about the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, and, in this regard, strongly encourages Member States and relevant regional, subregional, and international organizations, as appropriate, to enhance cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, and to build the capacity to secure their borders against and investigate and prosecute such terrorists and transnational organized criminals working with them, including through the strengthening of national, regional, and global systems to collect, analyze and exchange information, including law enforcement and intelligence information*" It also added that "*The Security Council encourages Member States and international, regional and subregional organizations **and fora** to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address, in the design and implementation of global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies, the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, including in accordance with resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#), where relevant.*

The side event of today for the launch of World Atlas of Illicit Flows and "The Analysis of UN Security Council Resolutions on Organized crime and its role in Contemporary Conflicts" as well as the policy brief examining the Security Council Responses to Organized Crime is, in this regard essential and fits perfectly with the para 7 mentioned I just read just of that PRST.

First, the Global Initiative against TOC (GI), the Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses are exactly fora in which the topic of the links is studied in a strategic perspective and analyzed in depth based on tangible facts. Interpol being a partner in that work is also a guarantee of a solid connection between a specialized organization and those fora. This is exactly what the SC requested in its PRST, as a support for its implementation and in perfect complementarity with the important work of OCT and CTED on the crime terrorism nexus. At the same time, it is essential to stress that, involving civil society through think tanks and academic world is essential for having a chance to defeat those two criminal phenomena. It also brings to the table all the aspects related to good governance, promoting rule of law and human rights, without which there is no real positive evolution of the terrible human living conditions and the environmental protection of our planet on which organize crime has a so bad impact as described in the Atlas.

With regard to all those elements, France has decided to co-sponsor that side event. Unfortunately, due to a conflict of agenda, no representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was able to attend; however, they asked me, as a director of the Centre of Expertise on Counter Terrorist Measures and Chair of the Cyber-Security at the Military Schools of St-Cyr Coëtquidan to express that strong support to your initiative.

In this regard, I would like to thank Norway to not only to its co-sponsoring but, indeed, for its efforts to counter terrorism and organized crime in a manner which, consistently, support academia works and the involvement of civil societies in that endeavor.

I would like also to address my sincere thanks to the Global Initiative for all its efforts deployed in a very committed way to involve all the necessary actors but also to provide us with such high-quality documents. It requires many actions on the ground and often in an extremely difficult environment in which international organization members have not the authorization to access. Thank you so much to you not speaking about the excellent work of the Norwegian Centre for Global Analyses and Interpol.

## The way Forward:

Having said that, after the presentation of those documents, we should not let them to be only excellent pieces of work. We are gathering, here today, at the margins of the GA High Level Segment. It means that our respective national authorities may wish to bring those reports to the attention of the GA and its first and 3d Commissions but also to provide the Security Council with them as a substantial contribution for the implementation of the 8 May Presidential Statement. On my side, I will revert to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to see how those next steps could be feasible.

Countering transnational organized crime and terrorism is a collective effort. The President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, underlined this aspect of that work in his address during the No Money for Terror Conference organized by France on 25-26 April, in his insisting, in particular on transparency and cooperation. That event of today provides us evidences that we are going on the right direction in doing so. We should be persistent in our joint actions and unite the international community and people of our planet to defeat those intolerable threats.