

Summary of the meeting of

“Steering Committee within the framework of the EU-UNODC Initiative on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) in the Middle East, North Africa and South-Eastern Europe”

Vienna 16 April 2018

After the opening remarks by the UNODC-Terrorism Prevention Branch Chief and the EU representative, the first session of the Steering Committee focused on the evolution of the threat posed by the FTF. It was agreed upon that the new activities of the project should be to support countries of the region to review their policy according to the new trend of the FTF movements. When the project started in 2014, the main target of the project was to stem the flow of the FTF going to the conflicts zones. Nowadays, the issues related to the FTF are more in connection with the returning and the rehabilitation of the FTF to their countries of origin or travelling to other countries in which they could continue their terrorist activities.

Concerning that topic, **Mr. Talgat Ashetov**, Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) was the only presenter; during his presentation, he insisted on the relocation of many FTF outside of the conflict's zone.

Following his presentation, I made an intervention, based on our PAM common understanding of the phenomenon as well as the studies of the ST-Cyr Military Academy's Centre of Expertise on CT capacities, both organizations converging to the same conclusions concerning the FTF traveling to countries still situated in conflicts areas. Hence, I insisted on the importance of following up with the project on those FTF which represent a real danger

for the international community, including for the PAM geographical areas countries, which constitute not only returning countries but moreover states which could be targeted for future terrorist attacks from well trained and extremely dangerous FTF who have joined Daesch in Afghanistan, Libya or in the Sahel and Sub-Saharan region.

During the second session, I insisted again on the importance of reviewing legislation of the countries of the region to allow solid and sustainable international cooperation in criminal matters and underlining again the lack of consistency between the legislation of those states. An action on that issue must constitute the first basis of a real, concrete and rule of law oriented States cooperation; hence, I proposed a Strategic Alliance between the UNODC-EU project and PAM to support the countries members of or observers to PAM to review their legislation which should be aligned on the international instruments against terrorism that many of them have already signed and ratified. I also added that it may be also a golden opportunity that, at the same time, we could review the legal framework of those countries regarding the implementation of resolution 2178 on the definition of the FTF as well as its subsequent resolutions.

During the third session, Interpol, Europol and OSCE made presentation on their projects, especially on the establishment of specialized e-database on which the relevant law enforcement authorities could be trained.

In the final session, I made a proposal in name of PAM to participate to the evolution of the project and, especially concluding an exchange of letters for closer cooperation between UNODC and PAM for supporting the implementation of this project to counter the evolution of the FTF phenomenon; follow-up should be made on that point. I also made a proposal for

cooperation between CELT of the ST Cyr Military Academy and UNODC on which I received a positive answer as well.