

Chairman

RE: Invitation to the Municipal Innovation Conference of the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel, in cooperation with CTED- the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in the United Nations

The Federation of Local Authorities in Israel is a non-political, not-for-profit NGO representing all of the local governments in the country, both Arab and Jewish, central and peripheral. The Federation will be holding its annual international Municipal Innovation Conference, or MUNI WORLD 2019, at the Tel Aviv Convention Center on February 26-28th, 2019.

This conference will be a large-scale, unique international conference, simultaneously translated into several languages. It shall serve as fertile ground for innovation, entrepreneurship and business interactions and will supply members of local authorities with practical means of realizing innovative goals within their regions of jurisdiction.

Over 200 mayors from Jewish and Arab towns in Israel will be in attendance at the event. Conference visitors will also have the opportunity to attend special roundtable sessions with ministers, parliament members, local authority administrators and key figures in local governance, representatives of the Israeli economy, members of the academia, members of the media, as well as dozens of mayors and chief municipality administrators from cities worldwide.

Within the general framework of municipal innovation, the central theme of this year's MUNI WORLD conference will be **Urban Security**.

In fact, this year, we are honored to hold the MUNIWORLD conference, in cooperation with CTED- the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in the United Nations!

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Over recent years, enhanced government security measures and changing terrorist strategies have led to an increase in the number of terrorist attacks carried out against “soft” targets. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da’esh), in particular, encourages its supporters to carry out small-scale attacks with whatever means at their disposal, including bladed weapons and vehicles. Attacks carried out in Paris, Brussels, Berlin, London, Istanbul, Bamako, Ouagadougou, Orlando, Grand-Bassam, and elsewhere demonstrate the significant human, economic, and political consequences of such attacks, as well as the urgent need to strengthen protection of “soft” targets.

In its resolution 2396 (2017) the Security Council calls on member states to establish or strengthen national, regional and international partnerships with stakeholders, both public and private, as appropriate, to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damage from terrorist attacks against “soft” targets.

Governments bear the primary responsibility for protecting “soft” targets against terrorist attacks. However, private owners and/or operators must also address their security needs and reduce their vulnerabilities. ***It is vital that governments, local authorities and cities work together with the private sector and share information on threats, vulnerabilities, risks and mitigation measures.*** Joint training, communications networks and early-warning mechanisms should be introduced or strengthened, including in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, preparedness, investigation, response and recovery.

Pursuant to Council resolution 2396 (2017), United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, including CTED, work to identify good practices, gaps and vulnerabilities and facilitate delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance to states with a view to enhancing implementation of resolution 2396 (2017) and other relevant resolutions on counter-terrorism.

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Another highlight will be the **MUNI EXPO exhibition** dedicated to urban innovation and smart cities. The exhibition will be attended by at least 170 technology-oriented companies and service providers, including significant private sector actors in the global arena, as well as at least 8,000 buyers and decision makers from Israel and abroad.

Furthermore, we shall offer our guests out-of-the-box tours to innovative urban projects in various locations in Israel, free of charge.

We would be honored to have you, along with a delegation of your preference, as our guest during the conference.

For further information please don't hesitate to contact:

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Sincerely,

Haim Bibas

Chairman, Federation of Local Authorities in Israel

Mayor, Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut