

Innovation and Public/Private Partnership in Urban Security

Concept note

Cities and businesses must work together to protect inhabitants from security risks and threats against urban spaces ("soft targets") and create safer communities. Innovation serves to enhance the responses of cities and businesses to existing and potential risks and threats.

A. Background

In its resolution 2396 (2017), adopted in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council calls on Member States to establish or strengthen national, regional and international partnerships with stakeholders, both public and private, to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect, mitigate, investigate, respond to, and recover from damage from terrorist attacks against “soft” targets.

In 2015, at the United Nation General Assembly, the Strong Cities Network (SCN) of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) launched an initiative aimed at uniting mayors and city practitioners in sharing information and forging solutions to polarization, extremism and terrorism. The SCN consists of around 120 cities, located all around the world.

In accordance with resolution 2396 (2017), the ISD and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) developed a global initiative aimed at assisting cities and businesses to cooperate in countering security risks and threats to cities.

A joint workshop, coordinated by CTED and the ISD, was held in London in June 2018. It was attended by representatives of major corporations, such as NEC, Radisson Group, CEMEX and JCDcaux; the cities of London, Nice, Leicester and Bristol; and a number of other entities, including the World Economic Forum.

The participating organizations also included the Federation of Local Authorities of Israel, an NGO that serves as the umbrella organization of all Israeli local governments, providing training, assistance, guidance, and other vital services.

The workshop participants noted the need to strengthen global support for public/private partnerships aimed at ensuring urban security.

Chairman

This observation was endorsed by the participants in the SCN Global Annual Summit held in Melbourne in July 2018, in cooperation with CTED. The participants also noted the need to hold similar summits in cities around the world to enable public authorities and businesses to explore ways to strengthen protection of the urban environment, including against terrorist attacks.

Central and local governments bear the primary responsibility for protecting citizens against acts of violence, including terrorism, and natural disasters. However, private entities also have a significant and vital role to play, including to address potential vulnerabilities. Protective techniques can include, inter alia, the establishment of communications networks and early-warning mechanisms, the delivery of training to public officials and business staff, and the provision of technological solutions such as improved lighting and monitoring of public urban areas. It is also vital that the government and private sectors share information about threats, vulnerabilities and risks, as well as potential response measures.

In June 2108, acting within the framework of the CTITF Working Group on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure, including Vulnerable Targets, Internet and Tourism Security, CTED and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) launched the *Compendium of good practices on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks*, which is intended to guide Member States in their development of strategies for reducing risks to critical infrastructure. Mindful of the differences in conceptual and normative frameworks applicable to critical infrastructures and “soft” targets, the *Compendium* also highlights possible synergies and includes references to the provisions of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) and the protection of “soft” targets.

B. MUNIWORLD and MUNIEXPO Conferences

From 26 to 28 February 2019, the Federation of Local Authorities of Israel will host the MUNIWORLD 2019 City Innovation Conference, which will focus on urban security. The conference will be attended by mayors, deputy mayors, local authority leaders, and senior corporate executives from around the world, as well as by “smart-solution” providers in the field of urban security.

On the second day of the conference, the Federation of Local Authorities of Israel and CTED will jointly lead discussions on potential solutions to urban security hazards through public/private partnerships. Each panel discussion will focus on a specific area of cooperation. The aims of the discussions will be to strengthen participants’ awareness, knowledge and capacities in preventing, protecting, mitigating, investigating, responding to, and recovering from terrorist attacks and other urban security threats against “soft” targets; promote the sharing of related information and good practices; and encourage the various stakeholders to cooperate more effectively.

Chairman

Simultaneous interpretation in several languages will be provided.

Simultaneously, an exhibition of Israeli and international service providers engaged in city innovation will showcase (on 27-28 February) the work of major companies, start-ups, and local governments in the area of urban technologies. The goal of the exhibition is to promote discussion of smart solutions to the many related challenges faced by local authorities and municipalities, including cybersecurity threats, transportation, infrastructure, building, engineering, security and defence.

The conference will be attended by, inter alia, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, from Israel and abroad, city and municipal leaders; corporate directors; financial managers; information officers; treasurers; city planners; architects; security officers; education, welfare, sports and culture administrators; city and municipal council members; and procurement administrators, as well as by members of parliament and government officials.