



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Press Release

**16th Advisory Board Meeting of the United Nations
Counter-Terrorism Centre held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 17 April 2018 – Today, the 16th Advisory Board meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) took place in Riyadh in the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres and the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. This Advisory Board is comprised of twenty-one (21) Member States representing all the regions of the world and the European Union as a Guest Member.

The meeting was hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and convened by the chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board, His Excellency Mr. Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations in New York.

The objective of the 16th Advisory Board meeting was to review the accomplishments of UNCCT and see how it should continue to best respond to the growing demand of Member States in their efforts to counter terrorism through the delivery of impactful capacity-building projects at the global, regional and national levels, in coordination with other relevant United Nations entities.

“Terrorism remains an unprecedented threat to international peace, security and development,” stated Secretary-General Guterres adding that countering terrorism was one of his top priorities. He emphasized that the Centre should continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of Member States for counter-terrorism capacity-building support to counter the evolving threat from terrorism.

The Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir emphasized the importance of the collective efforts to counter-terrorism and called for more countries to contribute to the Centre. “Hosting this meeting in Riyadh illustrates the unwavering commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in supporting these efforts,” he added.

UNCCT is the capacity-building part of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, which is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, who is also UNCCT’s Executive Director. UNCCT was established in 2011 with the generous support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With a total contribution of USD 110 million, the Kingdom is the largest contributor to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, which resources the Centre. So far, the Trust Fund has received financial support from 28 other Member States in an effort to diversify the funding base of UNCCT to ensure the sustainability of the Centre’s operations.

The Advisory Board Members heard from representatives of Nigeria and Pakistan on their experiences working with the UNCCT and the technical assistance provided by UNCCT to their respective countries. Ms. Natalia Gherman, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) also spoke. She briefed the Board on how the UNCCT supported the development and implementation of the Central Asia Joint Plan of Action,

which is an important regional framework designed to address the threat of terrorism based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and strengthened international partnership.

The outcome of this meeting will contribute to the 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly and to the High-Level Conference of the Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, which the United Nations Secretary-General will convene in June in New York in order to forge a new global counter-terrorism partnership between Member States.

Calling for a balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, Mr. Voronkov underlined the efforts undertaken by the UNCCT to strengthen its efforts to mainstream human rights and gender in the development and the implementation of its capacity-building projects.

In Riyadh, the Advisory Board Members will meet with senior Saudi Government officials and Saudi counter-terrorism partners.

On the margins of the Advisory Board meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Voronkov, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council of the League of Arab States to strengthen cooperation on countering terrorism at the regional level. The Office is planning to sign an MOU with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in June in New York.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The UNCCT was established to provide capacity-building support to Member States for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The capacity-building assistance is provided across all four (4) pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on issues such as addressing the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon; countering the financing of terrorism; enhancing border security and management; promoting human rights while countering terrorism; and supporting victims of terrorism, among others.

Since April 2012, UNCCT has implemented more than 60 capacity-building projects at global, regional and national levels. The Centre focuses its activities on countries and regions where the threat of terrorism is most acute, particularly in Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted through consensus by the General Assembly in 2016. It is reviewed every two years. It is comprised of 4 pillars: (1) addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; (2) measures to prevent and combat terrorism; (3) measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; and (4) measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

The Members of the Advisory Board include: Saudi Arabia (*Chair*), Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Russian Federation, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island, the United States of America and the European Union (*Guest Member*),

For more information, please visit www.un.org/uncct or contact:

Ms. Florencia Soto, Office of the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General sotonino@un.org

Ms. Laurence Gerard, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism in New York, gerardl@un.org