

## PRESS RELEASE

### UNOCT AND INTERPOL SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE JOINT CT TECH INITIATIVE, PAVING THE WAY FOR NEW PROJECT THAT LEVERAGES EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN COUNTERING TERRORISM

**New York, 7 August 2024** - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has successfully concluded its joint CT TECH initiative with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Launched in 2022, the initiative is funded by the European Union and implemented under UNOCT's United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies.

Since its inception, CT TECH has supported law enforcement and criminal justice authorities in 34 Partner States, helping them to counter the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, and leverage these tools in the fight against terrorism in a manner that is human rights compliant.

The project was implemented in three phases. First, the CT TECH initiative assessed the specific needs and capabilities of Partner States through virtual regional meetings to provide targeted capacity-building assistance.

In its second phase, the CT TECH team produced [seven knowledge products](#) with contributions from Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. The knowledge products were officially launched on 23 June 2023, during a side event on the margins of the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. Following the launch, regional workshops were conducted in Africa, Central Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, South- and Southeast Asia regions to introduce these products to Partner States.

In the final phase, CT TECH promoted the use of the knowledge products and supported requesting Partner States in conducting national threat assessments, developing national counter-terrorism policies on new technologies, and law enforcement capability assessments. Tailored capacity-building assistance was provided to five countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan – resulting in specific recommendations to strengthen their capabilities to counter terrorist use of new technologies.

In addition, INTERPOL delivered 14 training courses to CT TECH Partner States on open-source investigations (OSINT), facial recognition, darknet, and virtual assets, to over 400 participants, and produced guidelines for law enforcement officials on Seizing Virtual Assets.

A total of 1,333 participants, including over 700 individual officials from 34 Partner States enhanced their skills and knowledge on countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes and leveraging them as tools to counter terrorism.

*“Throughout the CT TECH initiative, we saw positive signs of new technologies being incorporated in the counter-terrorism strategies of participating Member States. We could also see how willing Member States are to enhance their threat assessments by including the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. All this is done to make our countries safer. As the threats evolve continuously, we need to adapt our responses to it as well,”* said Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) at UNOCT.

To continue supporting Member States in adopting innovative measures and approaches, the CT TECH initiative will continue its activities for another 2.5 years. It will focus on advancing the key milestones achieved under CT TECH and establishing mechanisms for knowledge management and sharing of best practices to inform strategic national-level policies.

**Additional Quotes:**

**Mr. Greg Hinds, Director, Counter-Terrorism Directorate, INTERPOL:**

*"We must accept and acknowledge that the fight against terrorism is adapting and shifting from the physical to the virtual. This is where our collective endeavor under CT TECH plays a key role in supporting law enforcement in these efforts."*

**Ms. Maria-Rosa Sabbatelli, Head of Unit, Global and Transregional Threats and Challenges, European Commission, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments:**

*"While the threat of the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes is clearly identified by the last EU Terrorism Situation and Trends report, these technologies also have immense potential to increase the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts. Thanks to the work done by CT TECH on trainings, awareness raising and technical support to partner countries we have seen important progress in the promotion of rule of law and the development of human rights-compliant legislation."*

**Ms. Ivana Veselcic, Assistant Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

*"Prevention and suppression of all challenges that can lead to terrorism are highly ranked on the security scale for Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily due to technological progress that have brought an unprecedented prevalence of intolerance and hate speech, as well as other extreme behaviors on digital platforms. The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its gratitude to UNOCT and UNCCT for the support provided for the implemented activities."*

**Mr. Darren Lall, Assistant Superintendent of Police (Ag), Special Branch, Trinidad and Tobago:**

*"The CT TECH program successfully integrated the country's counter-terrorism initiatives with its cybersecurity mission, demonstrating the critical need to align these frameworks. By fostering greater cooperation and coordination, the program aims to fortify the nation's defences against both physical and digital threats, ultimately working towards a safer and more resilient Trinidad and Tobago."*

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For more information:

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