



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

**“Valiant Eagle” and the response to nuclear terrorism:
The UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
organize a regional workshop in Abuja**

Abuja, 11 April 2019 - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), through its Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), the Nuclear Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Government of Nigeria organized a regional workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, from 9 to 11 April.

The workshop, entitled “Valiant Eagle”, focused on the coordination of the response in case of a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack. It was attended by more than 80 participants coming from 30 different countries in Africa, Europe and the Americas.

At the opening of the workshop, the representative of UNOCT/UNCCT stated that the possibility of terrorists gaining access to nuclear and radiological materials is a significant threat to international peace and security.

Nuclear security events come with their own set of challenges triggering a unique response. However, similar response principles apply to different types of mass casualty incidents using the same legal frameworks.

“Thanks to this workshop”, the Nigerian National Security Advisor stated, “African nations can start developing strong regional coordination procedures and legal frameworks to ensuring preparedness for response to a nuclear security incident of this nature, which would have impact beyond national boundaries.”

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources as well as the co-chairs of GICNT, namely the Russian Federation and the United States of America, also delivered introductory remarks.

The workshop included a table-top exercise where participants from different backgrounds had to jointly plan the response to an attack by balancing competing priorities and limited resources.

UNOCT, was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence through the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States, through UNCCT. In 2018, UNCCT began to expand its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) counter-terrorism activities to support Member States in prevention, preparedness and response in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

GICNT, seeks to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism through multilateral activities that strengthen the plans, policies, procedures, and interoperability of partner nations. It builds upon the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, and United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1540. It is composed of 88 Member States and six International Organizations.

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