

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Government and
the Shura Council of
the State of Qatar

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UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



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OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHURA COUNCIL
————— OF THE STATE OF QATAR —————

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2023 Annual Report for the Government and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Progress and ongoing challenges in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism

There has been significant progress in international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE) in the past few years. The multiple international treaties and agreements and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies adopted by Member States have helped harmonize and guide the design and implementation of counter-terrorism legislation and measures worldwide and ensure their compliance with international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Increased international cooperation, including through information sharing, capacity-building has also helped Member States reduce the spread of terrorism and address emerging terrorist threats.

Sustained counter-terrorism pressure has resulted in significant leadership losses for Al-Qaida and Da'esh, a reduction in military capabilities and the curtailing of terrorism financing. Notably, in 2023, counter-terrorist operations in Iraq, Mozambique, Syria, and Yemen curtailed terrorist capabilities and resulted in the elimination of key figures.¹

At the same time, the threat posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates, as well as other terrorist groups in conflict zones and neighbouring countries remains high. In the

last few years, Africa has become the “global epicenter of terrorism,” with terrorist groups exploiting local conflicts and fragilities.² In 2023, the levels of violence and threat continued to escalate in West Africa and the Sahel, with increasingly complex regional dynamics. Da'esh has adapted its strategy in the core conflict zone, embedding itself with local populations while rebuilding and recruiting from camps in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic and from vulnerable communities, including in neighboring countries.

Regionally focused groups, such as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, pose a threat in South and Central Asia, launching several attacks from within Afghanistan. Although activity by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) in Afghanistan has reduced, its ability to project a threat in the region and beyond is still a cause for concern.

Meanwhile, threat levels have also risen in some non-conflict regions, including in Europe. While the terrorist threat has been suppressed, a risk of resurgence remains in certain circumstances. The global terrorism threat landscape has also undergone profound transformations in recent years. These include the rise of terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism, and others forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion

¹ See [S/2023/568: n2321007.pdf](#)

² See: “Africa now ‘global epicentre’ of terrorism: UN chief,” 24 January 2024, at: [Africa now ‘global epicentre’ of terrorism: UN chief | UN News](#)

or belief³, as well as terrorists' exploitation of cyberspace and social media to spread their propaganda. The use of new technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems and improvised explosive devices for terrorist purposes, has added further complexity to the situation. Al-Qaida has enhanced its communications efforts and adapted them quickly to seek to capitalize on events in Israel and Gaza since 7 October 2023.⁴

In the last year, increased geopolitical mistrust and competition have further complicated efforts to address global peace and security challenges.⁵ Moreover, while the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) reaffirms that the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law are essential to all components of the Strategy, human rights

and fundamental freedoms are under assault worldwide, a situation worsened by widening economic and social gaps, as well as the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.⁶

At the same time, while the GCTS encourages the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach,⁷ their access to economic, civic and social spaces remains limited.⁸ Moreover, in several resolutions, the United Nations has recognized that certain terrorist groups have used sexual and gender-based violence as a tactic of terrorism and an instrument to increase their funds and power through recruitment and the destruction of communities.⁹

Reinvigorating multilateralism and adapting to a dynamic global terrorism landscape

Considering the dynamic nature of the terrorism threat, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's (UNOCT) continued focus on reinvigorating multilateralism and institutional cooperation, as well as its support to Member

States to adapt to new terrorism-related trends and developments, such as the rapidly evolving threat in parts of Africa, and terrorists' exploitation of new technologies, was pivotal in 2023.

Providing counter-terrorism policy leadership and support

In the area of counter-terrorism policy leadership and support, UNOCT continued to assist Member States in their efforts to sustain international consensus on counter-terrorism

and bolstering multi-stakeholder cooperation to address the conditions conducive to terrorism through increased information sharing, networking, and coordinated approaches. The

3 See [A/77/266: n2245052.pdf](#)

4 See [S/2024/92: n2343179.pdf](#)

5 See *Our Common Agenda Policy Brief: A New Agenda for Peace* (July 2023) at: <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf> and *Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization*, 2023, at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_annual_report_2023_en_0.pdf

6 See *Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization*, 2023, at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_annual_report_2023_en_0.pdf

7 See [A/RES/77/298: n2318901.pdf](#)

8 See *Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization*, 2023, at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_annual_report_2023_en_0.pdf, page 6

9 See for example Security Council resolutions 2242 (2015), 2331 (2016), 2388 (2017) and 2467 (2019) and see also [A/RES/77/298: n2318901.pdf](#), para 17

adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the GCTS in June 2023¹⁰ sustained Member States' consensus on counter-terrorism, sending a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms and manifestations, and that they have resolved to take practical steps, individually and collectively, to prevent and combat terrorism, including a wide array of measures ranging from strengthening their capacity to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating with the United Nations System's counter-terrorism architecture and activities.

UNOCT played a significant role in facilitating this outcome, serving as substantive secretariat for the review process, supporting the co-facilitators in the negotiations and consultations from March 2023 until the conclusions of the General Assembly debate. In anticipation of the review, UNOCT also prepared the Report of the Secretary-General on Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the GCTS (2 February 2023).¹¹ This report benefited from submissions from Member States and international and regional organizations on their efforts, as well as inputs from civil society organizations gathered by UNOCT through public calls for feedback in 2022.

Furthermore, UNOCT contributed, alongside the United Nations Department of Political

and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Department of Peace Operations (DPO), and Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), to the preparation of the Secretary-General's *Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace*, outlining his views and recommendations for a more effective multilateral system for a world in transition. The *Policy Brief* recognizes terrorism as a global threat and addresses the related value of collective security and international cooperation, comprehensive approaches and addressing the root causes of violence.

In June 2023, UNOCT organized the Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, under the theme 'Addressing Terrorism through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation', as part of the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week (CT Week). With the State of Qatar's strategic support, CT Week featured 40 side events exploring key counter-terrorism priorities under the GCTS, engaging over 1,000 participants from around the world. The Conference provided a critical and timely platform for Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector to exchange information, experiences, and good practices, and explore further cooperation on key counter-terrorism priorities under the four pillars of the GCTS.

Enhancing counter-terrorism coherence and coordination

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact ("Counter-Terrorism Compact") continued to promote greater coherence within and beyond the UN system in support of Member States' counter-terrorism efforts during the reporting period. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) joined the Counter-Terrorism Compact in May 2023, expanding its membership to 46 UN and non-UN entities and contributing to an essential area of expertise to the Compact.

During CT Week, the Counter-Terrorism Compact co-organized two side events to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations. Together with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Qatar, Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria, the Counter-Terrorism Compact launched the *United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa*, which seeks to steer and incentivize a new generation of joint UN system action for a more visible, transparent and effective multilateral contribution to the

¹⁰ See [A/RES/77/298: n2318901.pdf](#)

¹¹ See: [A/77/718: n2303329.pdf](#)

implementation of the GCTS in Africa. The Joint Appeal supports ten multi-partner flagship initiatives across the continent.¹²

In addition, the eight working groups under the Counter-Terrorism Compact made considerable progress in implementing their work plans, including convening 34 meetings, and completing three additional projects with seed funding from the State of Qatar. The secure, digital Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, made possible thanks to the State of Qatar's support, continued to serve as a practical tool for coordination among Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities. Moreover, and with a view to providing Member States with the most relevant, coherent, and impactful counter-terrorism support, UNOCT and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) continued to strengthen their vital collaboration

through regular meetings, briefings, and a stock-taking of capacity-building efforts. UNOCT participated in CTED's country assessment visits, helped to map the technical assistance needs identified and integrated its analysis and recommendations into the capacity-building programmes and projects of the Office.

UNOCT also strengthened further its engagement with civil society organizations, the private sector, and academia, broadening the scope and impact of its work through innovative and collaborative solutions. UNOCT's Connect and Learn platform,¹³ launched in 2021, served as a valuable tool for global counter-terrorism practitioners. Additionally, UNOCT increased its collaboration with the African Union (AU) and further strengthened the coherence and coordination of efforts in Africa, including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

Delivering results-based technical and capacity-building assistance

Thanks to the indispensable support of and strategic partnership with the State of Qatar, UNOCT continued to implement **40 technical and capacity-building assistance programmes and projects** during the reporting period, **benefiting 177 Member States and nearly 15,000 individuals through 230 capacity-building activities**. Despite resource limitations, UNOCT significantly expanded the geographic reach of its programmes in 2023 in response to increased demand from Member States.

Prioritizing support to Member States facing the most pressing counter-terrorism challenges, UNOCT implemented a comprehensive range of activities through its global programmes tailored to address their most urgent needs. During the reporting period:

1. The Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent
2. The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets produced six new technical tools,

Extremism (Global Sports Programme) provided training to Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Chile and Mexico, hosting major sporting events, held online expert meetings to engage the community of experts on topics like gender mainstreaming, preventing violent extremism (PVE) through sport, and emerging technologies, co-organized a side-event at during the CT Week, and developed e-learning courses on PVE through sport and security of major sporting events. Since its launch in November 2022, the global media campaign "#MoreThanAGame," developed in partnership with the Generation Amazing Foundation in Doha has been watched 657,000 times and generated 39 million impressions globally on social media.

¹² For more information, see: <https://jointappeal.org/>

¹³ <https://learn.unoct-connectandlearn.org/>

- expanded its Global Network of Experts to over 200 experts, provided tailored technical assistance for the development of national action plans or roadmaps and operationalize recommendations in Indonesia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Togo and Tunisia and launched several new initiatives, such as safeguarding religious sites and protecting tourism and cultural sites. Since its launch in 2021, the Programme has engaged over 2,655 participants from around the world in 70 activities.
3. The Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations delivered six training events to over 600 participants and facilitated a side event during the CT Week. Since its launch in January 2021, the Programme has provided support to 19 African Member States. Another eight Member States have expressed an interest in becoming beneficiaries.
 4. The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Programme) delivered training courses to security officials from Togo and launched the creation of two additional courses; and participated in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Security Week to raise awareness about the links between civil aviation, aviation security, and counter-terrorism. Since its launch in 2021, the AROS Programme has delivered critical capacity-building unmanned aerial systems (UAS) Operator Training Courses to over 50 security officials from the Kyrgyz Republic, Niger, and Togo.
 5. The Global Fusion Cells Programme expanded its beneficiary Member States to 23, delivered training to over 200 participants, and developed multiple knowledge products, including a Compendium of Good Practices. Since its inception in January 2020, the Programme has trained over 1,400 participants.
 6. The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme attracted nine new beneficiaries, bringing the total to 70 Member States, inaugurated four Passenger Information Units (PIUs), provided technical support to several beneficiaries, conducted national consultations on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) systems, and provided legislative assistance to beneficiaries.
 7. The Global Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security completed implementation activities with Botswana, the Philippines, Nigeria, Vietnam and Kingdom of Morocco and developed a suite of training and technical assistance materials. The Programme will transition to the TAM Project under the CT Travel Programme in 2024 to respond to the increased demand for support in establishing threat assessment capacity.
 8. The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme launched the first United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree, conducted a scoping mission to the Philippines to launch the “Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism,” and continued its UNCCT “Memories” exhibition.
 9. The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism advanced its Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme in Nigeria, and launched a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Toolkit to support beneficiaries involved in developing and implementing action plans to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism conducive to terrorism.

Applying behavioural insights to counter-terrorism

In 2023, the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioral Insights (BI) based in Doha continued to play a crucial role in strengthening the abilities of Member States and other critical stakeholders to better use behavioral insights in countering terrorism and PCVE. The BI Hub achieved significant progress through initiatives such as a podcast production, the development of guidance notes, conferences, and mindfulness-based training workshops. The BI Academy launched its inaugural course, led by experts from 22 countries working in diverse

fields, at which participants from developing countries learned how to incorporate BI into the design of projects and initiatives aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. These initiatives have been successful in raising interest in and awareness of the possibilities of using BI in CT/PCVE responses, in curating a space for BI in CT/PCVE programmes at national level and creating interest in the potential of BI and a potential “leadership role” of UNOCT in this emerging field.

Engaging parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism

The UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism) hosted in Doha organized the High-Level Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Conference on Youth Engagement in Lomé, Togo, the First Meeting of the Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Working Group for Africa, the Third Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies and the

First Parliamentary Policy Dialogue in Doha, Qatar. Throughout the year, the Programme Office participated in regional and international parliamentary events, raising awareness of its work, and building partnerships. It also engaged with its partners in the UN system on initiatives to support victims of terrorism and promote gender mainstreaming in CT/PVE efforts.

Integrating human rights and gender equality in all counter-terrorism efforts

UNOCT continued to reinforce the integration of human rights and gender equality into its programmatic functions, and to enhance its internal capacity to address the nexus between gender and CT/PCVE. In addition, the Office assisted Member States in bolstering their capacities to develop and implement human rights-compliant and gender-responsive CT/PCVE programmes and policies. UNOCT’s Human Rights and Gender Section supported a growing number of programmes and projects,

actively contributed to the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0) and advanced the implementation of Pillar IV of the GCTS on measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. Of significance, UNOCT exceeded requirements in four out of 17 performance indicators and met requirements in 11 others in UN-SWAP 2.0 in 2023.

The strategic partnership between the State of Qatar and UNOCT: Striving for a world free from terrorism

The 2023 achievements were only possible thanks to the strong political, technical, and financial support of the State of Qatar. Since 2022, the State of Qatar has continued to be the largest contributor to UNOCT and a vital strategic partner for the impactful delivery of the Office's mandate. The State of Qatar's active contribution to international counter-terrorism efforts was best demonstrated during the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance in 2022 and reaffirmed during the Fourth and Fifth High-Level Strategic Dialogues between the State of Qatar and UNOCT held in Doha in March 2022 and in New York in June 2023, respectively.

In addition, with the support of Member States, including the State of Qatar, the General Assembly approved the conversion of a total of 49 UNOCT extra-budgetary posts to the United

Nations Regular Budget for 2023 and 2024. This is a remarkable achievement and marks a significant milestone towards ensuring a more sustainable funding model for UNOCT as the Office continues to strengthen partnerships with existing partners and forge new ones with traditional and non-traditional partners to diversify its funding base. It also enables the diversion of more resources previously allocated for policy, coordination, and other non-programmatic functions to the implementation of UNOCT's high-impact capacity-building programmes.

Moving forward, UNOCT will continue to rely on the strategic investments of the State of Qatar and its other funding partners to deliver on its global counter-terrorism mandate effectively and with sustained impact.



On the margins of the 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the State of Qatar held their fifth High-Level Strategic Dialogue on 19 June 2023 in New York, USA. From left to right: H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations; H.E. Major General Nasser Saeed Al Hajri, Vice Chairman of the Inter-Agency National Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ministry of the Interior of the State of Qatar; and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT. Photo/UNOCT

1 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/291 (19 June 2017)¹⁴ which endorsed the competencies and functions as set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the GCTS (A/71/858),¹⁵ UNOCT is mandated to carry out the following five functions:

1. **Provide leadership** on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system.
2. **Enhance coordination and coherence** across the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.
3. **Strengthen** the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States.
4. **Improve** visibility, advocacy, and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.
5. **Ensure that due priority** is given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

This mandate was further reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/298¹⁶ on the eighth review of the GCTS.

In 2023, UNOCT's work continued to be informed by the Strategy and its review resolutions, relevant General Assembly and Security Council mandates, consultations with Member States, CTED analysis and recommendations and those of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, as well as findings of programme/project evaluations.

In delivering on its core functions, UNOCT is guided by its Strategic Plan, which provides an overarching strategic framework for the Office to operationalize its mandate over the period 2022-2025. The Strategic Plan presents UNOCT's vision, mission, and strategic goals; establishes UNOCT's institutional priorities; describes UNOCT's policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation work; and presents the Office's Results Framework with expected outcomes under each strategic goal.

In line with the institutional priorities, UNOCT continued building a 'results culture'; ensuring that its structure and staffing remain 'fit for purpose'; moving closer to partners and beneficiaries through the consolidation of its presences away from its Headquarters in New York for more efficient, impactful and sustainable programming; cultivating strong coordination and coherence including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact; main-streaming human rights and gender across all UNOCT programming; and ensuring sustainable and diversified funding.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, UNOCT engaged in extensive diplomatic efforts to strengthen

¹⁴ A/RES/71/291 (www.securitycouncilreport.org)

¹⁵ See A/71/858 (undocs.org)

¹⁶ See A/RES/77/298: n2318901.pdf

global cooperation in countering terrorism. **Under-Secretary-General Voronkov conducted 140 high-level bilateral meetings with representatives from Member States, international organizations, and regional bodies** to assess the terrorism threat landscape, discuss counter-terrorism priorities, and strengthen partnerships to address emerging challenges.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov also delivered four briefings to the United Nations Security Council, providing updates on the global counter-terrorism landscape, trends, and developments and facilitating informed discussions among Member States aimed at enhancing international cooperation against terrorism. UNOCT organized **one Ambassadorial-level briefing to Member States**, chaired by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov in February and **two quarterly briefings to Member States**, chaired by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of UNOCT, Mr. Raffi Gregorian, in September and December. These briefings enhanced the transparency and visibility of UNOCT's work and provided a platform for sharing information, exchanging views, and discussing emerging counter-terrorism issues. In 2023, UNOCT initiated the participation of civil society leaders in the briefings as part of its efforts toward strengthening the whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism, and in recognition of their contributions and partnership with the Office and the wider UN system in the implementation of the GCTS. In 2024, UNOCT will further strengthen the briefings by ensuring the participation of relevant regional organizations.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and his Deputy, Mr. Gregorian, also actively participated in various strategic engagements, including the UN Steering Committee on the New Agenda for Peace, the Preparatory Ministerial-Level Meeting of African Member States on the planned African Counter-Terrorism Summit, the Fifth EU-UN Leadership Dialogue on counter-terrorism, the UNOCT Fifth Strategic Dialogue with the State of Qatar and the tripartite CTC-UNOCT-CTED meeting. These engagements provided UNOCT with essential opportunities to contribute its expertise, collaborate with

partners, and influence policy decisions at the highest levels.

At the same time, while the generous funding of the State of Qatar was critical in the continued delivery of flagship capacity building programmes, meeting the increasing demand for technical and capacity-building assistance by Member States was contingent on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. As a result, UNOCT stepped up its resource mobilization efforts to diversify its funding base through enhanced engagements with Member States showcasing results-based delivery.

Whereas this has resulted in an increase in funding volume and number of Member States contributing to the Trust Fund in 2023, the Office will continue to further intensify efforts to deepen existing partnerships and forge new ones. To ensure a sustainable business model that is both impactful and cost-effective, UNOCT also strengthened the provision of integrated, coherent, and coordinated assistance at the field level through its programme offices in Budapest, Doha, Madrid, Rabat, and Nairobi.

By the end of 2023, **the cumulative pledges from the State of Qatar reached \$137,863,325**, making it the largest donor to the Trust Fund for a second consecutive year. The State of Qatar remains the only strategic partner contributing to all of UNOCT's core policy, coordination, capacity-building, as well as visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization functions.

In line with the terms and conditions of the contribution agreements concluded between the State of Qatar and UNOCT and to ensure transparency in the use of the contribution, the Office has reported on progress on the utilization of the financial contribution from the State of Qatar through its annual reports since 2019, and through the quarterly updates since 2022. This report covers implementation from 1 January to 31 December 2023 facilitated through the State of Qatar contributions to UNOCT, including through separate contributions agreements signed in 2020 for the Doha-based International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

2

POLICY ADVICE AND ANALYSIS

2.1

REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY



On 22 June 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, without a vote its resolution 77/298, on the eighth review of the GCTS , thereby maintaining consensus among Member States behind the Strategy and reaffirming the commitment among Member States to work together to counter terrorism. The resolution also acknowledged the emergence of new threats, the need to adapt counter-terrorism strategies accordingly and reaffirmed the need for an integrated and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, namely:

1	Addressing conditions conducive to terrorism
2	Preventing and combating terrorism
3	Building States' capacity
4	Respecting human rights and the rule of law



Throughout the review process, which encompassed three formal rounds of negotiations, the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB) within UNOCT played a pivotal role. The Branch provided timely and pertinent guidance to the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia, on how to conduct the process. They also shared information with all relevant stakeholders, including those in the Counter-Terrorism Compact. Additionally, they integrated contributions from diverse civil society organizations, ensuring that the process was comprehensive, transparent, inclusive, and effective.

2.2

REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

In anticipation of the eighth review of the GCTS,¹⁷ the Secretary-General submitted a report, as requested by the General Assembly, on the *Activities of the United Nations System in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and suggestions for its future implementation* (A/77/718). The report covered the period January 2021 to December 2022, and was released in February 2023.

To ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives, UNOCT gathered inputs through public calls for feedback and engaged with Member States, international and regional organizations, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, and civil society organizations. The report provided Member States with timely updates on the implementation of the GCTS, aiding in shaping their perspectives and priorities for negotiating the text of the upcoming review resolution. Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, the report emphasized the need for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to combating terrorism and to develop a robust framework for enhanced counter-terrorism cooperation at both international and regional levels.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, UNOCT, as one of the four co-leads alongside DPPA, DPO and ODA, worked with the Secretary-General and his Office to support Member States in drafting the *Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace*.

The Brief offers the Secretary-General's vision for a more effective multilateral system, with several proposed actions relevant for PCVE, including:



- **Strengthening measures** to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-state armed actors
- **Developing** national prevention strategies
- **Stopping the use** by terrorists of improvised explosive devices
- **Ensuring accountability and justice**, including through prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies in counter-terrorism cases
- **Developing a global framework** for oversight mechanisms for the use of data-driven technologies, including artificial intelligence, for counter-terrorism purposes

In total:



173
were young
women



125
were young
men



UNOCT actively participated and engaged in the drafting process by organizing consultations and preparing papers to frame discussions and ensure that CT/PVE priorities were mainstreamed adequately and effectively. Through these collaborative efforts, UNOCT

¹⁷ [A/RES/77/298](#)

contributed to the recognition of terrorism as a global threat within the agenda, emphasizing the importance of collective security, international cooperation, and comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of violence. This active involvement not only facilitated the effective operation of the group and system but also reinforced UNOCT's position as a vital partner within the United Nations peace and security pillar.

UNOCT also prepared several reports on behalf of the Secretary-General aimed at illuminating recent and emerging trends and developments in the global terrorism landscape, articulating

the Secretary-General's perspectives on critical issues, and guiding Member States' attention towards crucial areas of concern. These include the Secretary-General's 16th and 17th reports on the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat, developed in coordination with the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and CTED, and issued on 1 February and 31 July 2023, respectively. The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Security Council on the reports alongside CTED's Assistant Secretary-General on 9 February and 25 August.

2.3

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

In 2023, PKMCB embarked on developing its inaugural Knowledge Management Strategy by initiating an internal survey, fostering informal discussions within the Office and with other UN agencies, and conducting a comprehensive assessment of UN and non-UN knowledge strategies. This process yielded several areas of progress, including the establishment of a UNOCT Knowledge and Lessons Learned Repository, a normative database, and a mapping of UNOCT mandates, all of which will be accessible to Member States and partners on completion.

Additionally, regular "brown bag" events were launched to address topical issues related to CT/PCVE, exploring trends, policies, and programmes. Reinforcing UNOCT's policy and knowledge leadership in CT/PCVE, the Office collaborated with UN and non-UN partners to hold an annual high-level discussion on the "**State of Terrorism.**" The 2023 event in March focused on the evolving threat of terrorism in Africa.

In addition, from 2021 to 2023, PKMCB developed and launched an internal database on global terrorism and CT/PVE events to inform, update, and enhance the situational awareness of staff regarding developments in

the terrorism landscape. Furthermore, PKMCB established and maintains the Repatriation Repository of the AI-Hol Taskforce, fulfilling the need for consolidated and centralized data to guide UN efforts on repatriation from camps and detention facilities in northeastern Syria, including global advocacy.

By maximizing the utilization of knowledge and learning from experience, these efforts helped to enhance efficiency, minimize duplication of efforts, prevent the repetition of past mistakes, accelerate results, and safeguard institutional knowledge and expertise.





On 19-20 June 2023, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres convened the **Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States** under the theme of “Addressing Terrorism Through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation,” at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The High-Level Conference was one of the three components of the Third Counter-Terrorism Week, UNOCT’s signature event in 2023.

Held from 19-23 June, the Third Counter-Terrorism Week also comprised the debate and successful adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the resolution on the 8th review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) on 22 June (A/RES/77/298).



The Conference demonstrated that counter-terrorism remains a shared priority, generating high interest across all thematic sessions.

The Conference welcomed



1,000+
Participants from



It featured:

- 58** Diverse and expert chairs and panelists
- 10** Eminent speakers
- 10** Youth and civil society voices
- 85** Interventions from the floor, including:
- 11** Ministers and Vice Ministers
- 50** Heads of counter-terrorism intelligence agencies



160
Member States



23
International and regional organizations



23
United Nations entities



118
Civil Society Organizations



12
12 academic institutions



5
private sector companies

The third component featured the delivery by UNOCT of **40 side events co-organized with 95 stakeholders** from all geographic regions and covering a diverse array of CT/PCVE issues.

In addition, on 19 June, a dedication ceremony for the **United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree** was unveiled by UNOCT at UN Headquarters in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.



Photo/UNOCT

2.5

ROLE OF STATE OF QATAR IN THE COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK



Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

The State of Qatar contributed significantly to the success of the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week and the clarion call by participants for a reinvigorated and networked multilateralism to address the global counter-terrorist threat.

H.E. Major General Nasser bin Said Al-Fheed Al-Hajri, Vice-Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of the State of Qatar led Qatar's delegation, raising awareness of the increasing scope of the State of Qatar's unwavering commitment to support international CT/PCVE efforts in partnership with UNOCT.

He also made a strong call on the need to bolster multilateralism and institutional cooperation to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in his remarks at the High-Level Opening Session of the Conference.



UN Photo/Manuel Elías

The Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Sheikhha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani co-chaired a thematic session of the High-Level Conference on the critical theme of Multistakeholder Engagement in Countering Terrorism while Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights and Rule of Law.

On the opening night of the 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week on June 19, the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and the UNOCT Under-Secretary-General hosted a reception. Over 350 people, including the Secretary-General's Chef-de-Cabinet, attended the event. The reception helped raise awareness about the CT Week and strengthened the partnership between UNOCT and the State of Qatar, its largest financial supporter.

Finally, the Permanent Mission co-organized five side-events, including the:

6. Launch of the UNOCT Behavioural Insights Academy.
7. Launch of the Compendium of Good Practices in Monitoring and Evaluating CT/PCVE initiatives.
8. Launch of the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa.
9. UNOCT in the field - showcasing UNOCT Programme Offices.
10. The Role of Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport.

2.6

PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2024

To effectively prepare for the ninth review of the GCTS now planned for 2026, UNOCT is proactively developing a comprehensive working-level **Plan of Action** to operationalize and effectively implement the recommendations from the eighth review. This initiative is designed to ensure continuous attention to the implementation of the GCTS between reviews and support Member States in collaboration with relevant UN entities, particularly through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

UNOCT is also planning for another series of high-impact events next year. The Office will support the Federal Government of the Republic of Nigeria with the organization of the **African High-Level Counter Terrorism meeting**, which will take place in April 2024 in Abuja, with the attendance of 30 African Member States, regional organizations, international partners, UN entities and civil society organizations. Moreover, UNOCT is planning to co-organize

with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) a high-level regional conference on counter-terrorism in Trinidad-and-Tobago, as well as convene with Tajikistan and Kuwait the next **Dushanbe Process Conference**, both planned to be held in the fall of 2024. UNOCT is actively preparing for the **Summit of the Future** in September 2024, aiming for a meaningful and impactful outcome through the adoption of a transformative, robust, and actionable "Pact for the Future" to address critical global challenges and promote sustainable peace. Additionally, UNOCT will work closely with the State of Qatar on the organization of the **Sixth High-Level Strategic Dialogue** and is preparing for the **International Conference of Victims of Terrorism**, to be co-organized jointly with Spain. Finally, UNOCT will partner with the State of Qatar for the organization of the second Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance to take place in Doha in early 2025.

In 2023, UNOCT continued to engage closely with Member States and international, regional, and sub-regional organizations to facilitate dialogue and cooperation among key stakeholders, plan and prioritize technical and capacity-building assistance, evaluate the effectiveness of funding mechanisms to ensure efficient resource allocation, and promote the integration of human rights and gender perspectives in counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

Fifth High-Level Strategic Dialogue with the State of Qatar

On 19 June 2023, the State of Qatar and UNOCT held their Fifth High-Level Strategic Dialogue. The meeting provided an essential forum to discuss the persisting gaps and new challenges Member States face in their efforts to adapt to the evolving terrorism threat landscape, take stock of the results achieved with the support of the State of Qatar since the last strategic dialogue in March 2022, and identify new opportunities to address those gaps and challenges.

Remarks were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Major General Nasser

bin Saeed Al-Fheed Al-Hajri, Vice Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of the State of Qatar. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov thanked the State of Qatar for its vital support and collaboration across all areas of UNOCT's mandate.

Participants noted that UNOCT's leading role in several UN system-wide policy processes, expanded counter-terrorism coordination and coherence through the Counter-Terrorism Compact, strengthened efforts to mainstream human rights and gender considerations across all areas of its work, continued to advocate for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, and worked with its partners to develop practical tools to measure the impact of its technical assistance and capacity-building activities.

In addition, the innovative work of the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement and the BI Hub, based in Doha, was highlighted. Ms. Natalia Gherman, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED, and Mr. Justin Hustwitt, Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, underscored the importance of their engagement with the State of Qatar and of their partnership with UNOCT, and updated on their assessment of the terrorism threat landscape and Member States' counter-terrorism priority needs.



H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York at the Fifth High-Level Strategic Dialogue between UNOCT and the State of Qatar, New York, 28 June 2023. Photo/The Consulate General of the State of Qatar

Fifth EU-UN Leadership Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism

On 11 July 2023, Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, co-chaired the Fifth EU-UN Leadership Dialogue on counter-terrorism, held in Brussels, with the participation of several EU and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities. The Dialogue took stock of the current terrorism challenges and EU-UN cooperation on key joint priorities. To lay the ground for the Dialogue, PKMCB organized a series of EU-UN staff talks in April and June 2023, on key topics, namely terrorism based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief; counter-terrorism cooperation in Africa; and the situation in the camps and detention centers in Northeast Syria.

UN-NATO Staff Talks on Counter-Terrorism

Furthermore, on 18 December, Mr. Gregorian opened the UN-NATO staff talks on counter-terrorism. Co-chaired by PKMCB and the Counter-Terrorism Unit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the talks reaffirmed the interest of both organizations to further develop result-oriented and impactful technical assistance collaboration in identified priority areas, including information collected, handled, preserved and shared by the military ("battlefield evidence"), the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks, countering the threats posed by the misuse of UAS by terrorists, and ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women in CT/PCVE.

UNOCT Briefings to Member States

As requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the second and subsequent reviews of the GCTS, UNOCT organized Quarterly Briefings to Member States including the annual Ambassadorial-level Briefing on 28 February 2023, chaired by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, and two subsequent briefings

on 7 September 2023 and 11 December 2023. The briefings provided important opportunities to bring together Member States, regional and specialized organizations, Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, and civil society organizations to discuss the:

- Evolving terrorist threat landscape, including recent counter-terrorism trends and development.
- Progress made by UNOCT in the implementation of its mandate in line with the GCTS, including through its global technical and capacity-building assistance programme.
- Significant counter-terrorism conferences and events.
- Strategic, thematic, and regional counter-terrorism priorities.

The briefings supported UNOCT's commitment to provide full transparency to all Member States on its work and programmes, their outcomes and lessons learned, and efforts to mainstream human rights and gender. Consequently, the briefings also enabled Member States to assess the work being undertaken by UNOCT and provide policy guidance and feedback on recent and ongoing efforts to implement the GCTS.

Moreover, the remarks made by the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani during the Annual Ambassadorial-level briefing to Member States provided due recognition to the State of Qatar leading role in the international fight against terrorism and re-affirmed the strategic partnership with UNOCT.



The Permanent Representatives of Member States and Heads of Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities participate in the annual Ambassadorial-level UNOCT briefing to Member States on 28 February 2023. Photo/UNOCT

3

COORDINATION, COHERENCE AND COMMON ACTION

UNOCT, in its capacity as Secretariat, continued to guide and support the Counter-Terrorism Compact to ensure coherent and coordinated CT/PCVE assistance to Member States. UNOCT also worked closely with CTED, including using the Directorate's assessments, expertise, and guidance to promote policy coherence and facilitate effective action.

UNOCT also participated in and contributed to various UN inter-agency mechanisms to ensure more informed support to Member States from

across all parts of the UN system. To promote a comprehensive and inclusive approach, UNOCT engaged with civil society organizations, the private sector, and the technology industry. As part of its focus on supporting the CT/PCVE efforts of Member States in Africa, UNOCT also increased collaboration with AU and further strengthened the coherence and coordination of efforts in Africa, including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the Joint Appeal for Africa with its cross-cutting multi-partner initiatives.

3.1

THE UN GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT

The Counter-Terrorism Compact is the largest coordination framework across the three pillars of work of the United Nations: peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. It aims to strengthen a common UN action approach to support Member States, at their request, in the balanced implementation of the GCTS and other relevant UN resolutions and mandates. The Counter-Terrorism Compact was developed as part of Secretary-General António Guterres' reform of the UN counter-terrorism architecture, following the establishment of UNOCT.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact was signed on 23 February 2018 by the Secretary-General as an agreed framework with the heads of participating entities. The launch of the Counter-Terrorism Compact was a major step forward in enhancing the coordination and coherence in the work of the UN system on preventing and

countering terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism, while respecting existing mandates. UNOCT serves as Secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

"Since its launch, the Compact has demonstrated a fundamental truth. Countering and defeating terrorism depends on collaboration."



Mr. António Guterres
United Nations
Secretary-General

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Counter-Terrorism Compact remained the primary means of providing coherent and coordinated support to Member States to implement the GCTS and other relevant UN resolutions. The eighth review resolution of the GCTS, adopted in June 2023, mentions the Counter-Terrorism Compact 28 times, giving UNOCT a clear mandate to continue coordinating and unifying counter-terrorism efforts across the UN system. Member States also acknowledged the critical role played by the Counter-Terrorism Compact during the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023.



In May 2023, the Counter-Terrorism Compact expanded its membership further by IMF, a specialized agency within the United Nations system with decades of experience on countering the financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering. Their inclusion brought the total number of UN and non-UN entities participating in the Counter-Terrorism Compact to 46, contributing their significant expertise to the Compact's efforts to address illicit financial flows derived from terrorism and other forms of criminality.

In 2023, the Compact organized several strategic initiatives including the:

- Ninth meeting of the Coordination Committee, which brought together high-level representatives, private sector, civil society, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) to advance global "data action" in preventing and countering terrorism.
- Expert-Level Briefing to Member States ahead of the eighth review of the GCTS to showcase the central role of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in supporting Member States' implementation of the Strategy.
- Seventh Meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism to discuss the United Nations response to the spread of violent extremism in parts of Africa and its global implications.



Meanwhile, the eight Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups held 34 meetings to facilitate information flow, research, and capacity-building; held thematic briefings on various topics related to CT/PCVE; completed three joint projects funded by the State of Qatar; and made further progress in the implementation of the "Seven Steps for Enhanced Regional Coordination."

Furthermore, the Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group launched the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa together with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the State of Qatar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia to steer and incentivize a new generation of UN action across the continent and developed the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring

Results to support the effective measurement and evaluation of CT/PCVE initiatives.

Finally, the Compact continued to strengthen its partnership with the GCTF, facilitated digital interaction and information exchange between focal points, Member States, and regional organizations, and developed public newsletters, web stories, and news posts to increase its visibility and outreach.

Strategic Initiatives

The Coordination Committee as a forum to discuss developments in the counter-terrorism landscape



Ninth Coordination Committee Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact: 25-26 January 2023

Held from 25 to 26 January 2023, the Ninth Coordination Committee meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Compact served as a dynamic platform for information exchange and collaboration on advancing global “data action” to combat terrorism effectively. Aligned with the GCTS, the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, and the proposed New Agenda for Peace, the meeting emphasized the crucial role of data in addressing evolving terrorist threats.

Discussions focused on safeguarding human rights, privacy, and data protection during data collection and storage. Participants highlighted the importance of utilizing high-quality data, including battlefield evidence, for border security,

detection of terrorists, and legal proceedings. They recognized the need to balance freedom of expression with protections against security risks in digital platforms.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the significance of data in the 21st century and warned against



the dangers of a lawless cyberspace, where data fuels the intertwined worlds of terrorism, organized crime, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illicit financing.

He urged Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Working Groups to strengthen ties with Member States and other partners to leverage data for strategic insights, impactful action, and integrity.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed concern about the recent surge in terrorist attacks globally, emphasizing the imperative for evidence-based and data-centric approaches. He also stressed the need for effective responses rooted in human rights principles and sustainable practices to prevent and counter terrorist threats.

The meeting welcomed the participation of diverse stakeholders from 33 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia, high-level representatives from the AU and EU, and the heads of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups.

Notably, representatives from the private sector, civil society, think tanks, and GCTF joined this meeting for the first time, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive and collaborative efforts.

The meeting placed emphasis on building gender-responsive technology through diverse and cross-functional teams to address rising trends of violent misogynistic content, hate speech against women human rights activists, and misinformation. Additionally, participants acknowledged the growing challenge of hate speech online and the need for collective efforts to address this unresolved issue.

The meeting served as a valuable opportunity to share achievements, ongoing projects, and future priorities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its Working Groups.





Expert-Level Briefing to Member States ahead of the Eighth GCTS Review: 17 March 2023

On 17 March, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat organized a virtual expert-level briefing to Member States, as a preparatory step ahead of the eighth review of the GCTS.

The briefing allowed for a productive exchange of perspectives and emphasized the Counter-Terrorism Compact's significant role in supporting Member States to implement the GCTS through an integrated and balanced approach.

Participants included representatives from Canada and Tunisia (co-facilitators of the eighth review resolution), Working Group Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, a civil society representative, and over fifty Member States.

The co-facilitators emphasized the strategic importance of the briefing within the roadmap for the review process.

Member States commended the Counter-Terrorism Compact's strategic focus on enhancing their participation, recognizing the crucial role of the Compact in the eighth review.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group Chairs outlined their priorities for the eighth review, emphasizing the need to ensure the integration of human rights and gender dimensions.



“The Counter-Terrorism Compact will further align its work with the outcomes of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while addressing the targeted needs and expectations of Member States to further strengthen a coordinated and coherent response to the ever-evolving terrorism landscape.”

Rafi Shah

Chief of Policy, Knowledge Management and
Coordination Branch



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



Photo/Paulo Filgueiras



SIDE EVENT

Addressing the Evolving Terrorist Threat by Strengthening Cooperation Between the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and Regional Organizations: 22 June 2023

On 22 June, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, AU, and the Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) organized a side event on the margins of the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week under the theme *“Addressing the Evolving Terrorist Threat by Strengthening Co-operation between the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and Regional Organizations.”*

The event provided a timely opportunity to reflect on ways to strengthen cooperation on CT/PCVE between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and regional organizations, discuss the main challenges and opportunities for joint engagement, and stimulate institutional co-operation within and between Member States.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov underscored the urgent need to bolster prevention efforts through regional early warning mechanisms to swiftly identify and respond to emerging terrorist threats. He also noted:

“Now more than ever, the effectiveness of the United Nations rests on a deeper and more robust co-operation with regional and sub-regional organizations.” – **USG Vladimir Voronkov, UNOCT**

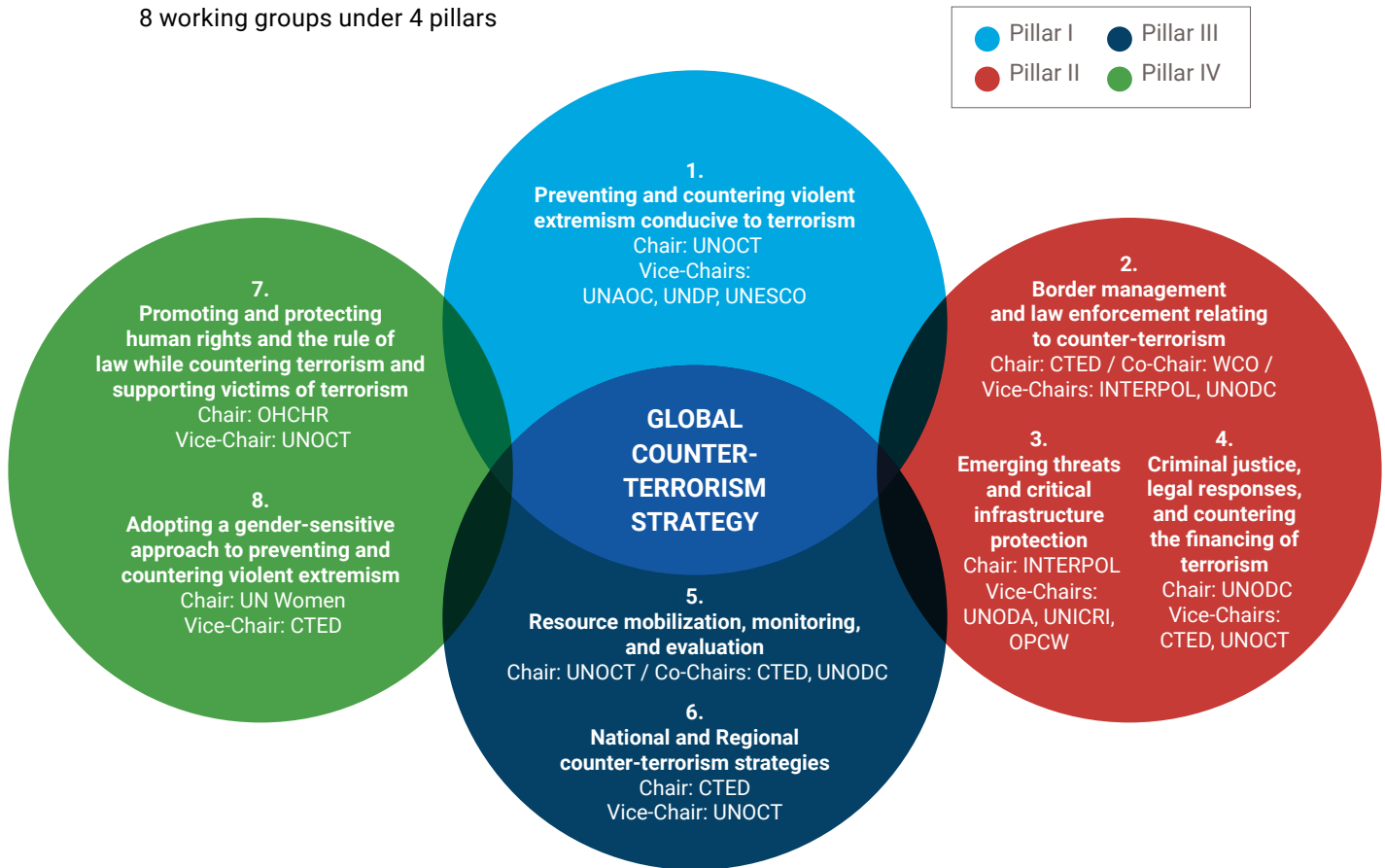
The OIC recalled it was the first inter-governmental organization to unanimously adopt an agreed definition of terrorism and a comprehensive policy to counter the threat. Commending the valuable role of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in supporting Member States’ implementation of the GCTS, the OIC remained dedicated to establishing stronger cooperation with global and regional partners.

The AU highlighted the cooperation between Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti to defeat Al-Shabaab, and the AU Mission to Somalia as examples of its collaboration with the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. Recalling the important work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, the OIC and other regional organizations, the AU also reiterated its commitment to a coordinated and collaborative approach to CT/PCVE in Africa.

Reiterating that strong partnerships within the international community are crucial to tackle all security threats, **the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and regional organizations.

The eight thematic working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact

8 working groups under 4 pillars



Information flow, dialogue, and cooperation

The eight Counter-terrorism Compact working groups advanced information sharing, shared best practices, and coordinated capacity-building initiatives. They conducted 34 meetings, including regular quarterly meetings on specific topics. They also increased the involvement of Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, and civil society representatives in their meetings.

Several meetings focused on the eighth review of the GCTS and identifying areas for collaboration to address emerging terrorist threats in Africa. The working groups also discussed pressing challenges such as countering the financing of terrorism, countering terrorist travel, maritime security, aviation security, and

safeguarding vulnerable targets. They also examined terrorism-related risks related to small arms and light weapons, unnamed aircraft systems, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, and new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

Furthermore, the working groups examined how some counter-terrorism measures have affected civil society and civic space and how to support Member States in conducting counter-terrorism efforts in line with international law. They explored the gender aspects of CT/PCVE and how to support Member States in addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls in those contexts. They also emphasized the need to support victims of terrorism and ensure that their rights are met. Finally, these meetings helped prepare for the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, commemorated on 12 February.

Joint research and capacity-building

With the support of the State of Qatar and other funding partners, the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism has provided seed funding to support a total of 19 joint working group projects. By the end of 2023, fifteen of those had been completed, including the following which were completed in 2023:

11. Guidelines for Member States to Facilitate the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2370 (2017) and the Relevant International Standards and Good Practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons. The Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism collected expertise and good practices through a series of regional workshops to produce guidelines aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and improve the capacity of Member States in this area.

12. Ensuring Effective Interagency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and Biological Attacks: Phase III. The Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection completed the project that strengthened international cooperation and effective communication in the event of a chemical or biological attack.

13. Promoting the implementation of United Nations Guidelines of Gender-sensitive approaches to Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. The project was completed by the Working Group on Adopting a Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism. And contributed to national efforts to effectively mainstream gender

perspectives in policy frameworks, processes, and measures to address Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration at the national levels. The Working Group completed two advocacy and knowledge exchange workshops in Iraq and Uzbekistan and produced a final report detailing regional and country-specific contexts and challenges in implementing the relevant international obligations and UN guidelines.

The remaining joint working group projects are ongoing and progressing towards completion.

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

The working groups held:



These efforts contributed to strengthening their implementation of the “Seven Practical Steps to Enhance Regional Cooperation” endorsed by the Coordination Committee in line with the seventh review resolution of the GCTS.

Seven practical steps to enhance regional cooperation

1	Take into account country-specific recommendations from entities that have developed a strong knowledge and expertise in country situations
2	Include agenda items focused on addressing thematic issues in specific countries or regions
3	Invite field staff of entities to their meetings, including Resident Coordinators and UNOCT of countries affected by terrorism
4	Engage with civil society organizations, women-led organizations and networks, youth, academic institutions, and the private sector representatives
5	Strengthen their engagements with Member States and regional organizations, and invite them to brief during their sessions and/or meetings
6	Explore concrete options for collaboration with the GCTF working groups
7	Leverage the Compact Platform to increase the online collaboration between Compact entities and Member States' focal points, and to grant access of field representatives from Compact entities to working group's spaces



United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa



Joint Appeal for
Counter-Terrorism in Africa

Recognizing that the threat of terrorism and violent extremism is currently felt most keenly in parts of Africa, the Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group launched the “United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa” in order to steer and incentivize a new generation of joint UN system action for a more visible, transparent and effective multilateral contribution to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the continent. The Joint Appeal unites 16



UN Photo

Counter-Terrorism Compact entities behind ten strategic multi-partner flagship initiatives which were competitively selected based on:

- Proven track record and potential of achieving transformative and impactful results.
- Strategic value proposition of multiple entities working together.
- Responsiveness to CTC/CTED identified priorities.
- Exceptional value-for money.
- High innovation potential.
- Strong focus on the meaningful integration of human-rights and gender considerations.

10 joint initiatives for Africa delivered by 16 UN entities



The Joint Appeal (www.jointappeal.org) was launched during the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week by the Counter-Terrorism Compact in partnership with the Permanent Missions of the State of Qatar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov opened the event on behalf of the UN system together with

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Ms. Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of CTED.

H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the



“The Joint Appeal is both timely and highly relevant as it supports the priorities and spirit of the 8th biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with a strong focus on preventive action.”

H.E. Ms. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thai
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar

Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Ambassador Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, and Mr. Thomas N Chukwu, Minister at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria participated

in the launch event. Mr. Stephen Jackson, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, addressed the audience via video message.

Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

The Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, in partnership with the EU, launched the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in CT/PCVE. This joint publication is a direct response to a recommendation made in the “Learn Better, Together: Independent Meta-Synthesis under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”, which was funded by the State of Qatar. This compendium aims to provide programme managers, evaluators, and monitoring and evaluation experts with valuable guidance to effectively measure and evaluate the results of CT/PCVE initiatives.

The Compendium serves as a comprehensive resource, bringing together a collection of

good practices and lessons learned from diverse CT/PCVE initiatives worldwide. It offers practical insights and methodologies to assist practitioners in the development of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The Compendium emphasizes the importance of evidence-based decision-making in CT/PCVE and promotes the use of rigorous monitoring and evaluation methods to generate reliable data and evidence to inform policy and programme design. By promoting a systematic and rigorous approach to measuring and evaluating CT/PCVE initiatives, the Compendium serves as a valuable tool for improving the effectiveness and impact of these efforts.

Collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum

In 2023, the partnership between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and GCTF continued to play a vital role in bolstering multilateral counter-terrorism collaboration across the international, regional, national, and local levels.

During the year, representatives of the Counter-Terrorism Compact participated in several GCTF

meetings: notably the 21st and 22nd GCTF Coordinating Committee Meetings (4 May in Cairo and 18 September in New York); and the 13th GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting (20 September). Furthermore, the GCTF and Counter-Terrorism Compact convened their 9th and 10th Partnership Consultations (on 21 March and 12 October, respectively) to

advance the implementation of the 2022 Joint Options Paper, including through joint efforts in five key areas: **1)** Border Security Management, **2)** Vulnerable Targets Protection, **3)** Terrorist Exploitation of New and Emerging Technologies, **4)** Gender Mainstreaming, and **5)** Increasing Cooperation with regional organizations, civil society, victims of terrorism, academia, and the private sector.



At the GCTF side event, DUSG Gregorian welcomed regional counter-terrorism and PCVE initiatives in Africa and reiterated UNOCT’s commitment to work closely with partners for a coordinated & comprehensive response to terrorism. 3 May 2023, Cairo, Egypt. Photo/UNOCT



Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform (“the Platform”), maintained with the support of the State of Qatar, continued to serve as an innovative and needs-based coordination tool for Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.



Counter-Terrorism Compact in numbers:
2023

46	Compact entities
137	Member States

14	International / regional organizations
1,050	Total Focal Points
3,475	Documents uploaded
237,250	Virtual visits to the CT Platform
842	CTED Technical Assessment recommendations
28	CTED country assessments



In addition to the collaborative spaces used by the Working Groups in their daily collaboration, the **Platform features a user-friendly matrix with 842 technical assistance needs, recommendations identified by CTED on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to inform entities' capacity-building efforts and a project matrix.** The Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat also developed a dedicated page for Member States, currently displaying country-specific information received from 30 Member States on their national counter-terrorism-related priorities, good practices, and challenges. This space is another step towards enhancing the Counter-Terrorism Compact's engagement with Member States and its key partners. It is expected to facilitate understanding by Counter-Terrorism Compact entities



of the counter-terrorism needs and priorities of Member States, foster further information exchange, and enhance Member States' visibility of the efforts carried out through the UN system.

The Coordination Platform Key Functionalities & Tools

- Global Networking
- Searchable Contact Directory
- Thematic Resource Library
- Joint Calendar
- Multi-stakeholder Collaboration
- Dedicated Working Group Spaces
- Joint Planning and Prioritization
- Matrix of UN Projects on preventing and countering terrorism
- CTED Country Assessments and Technical Assistance (TA) Recommendations
- Joint Resource Mobilization: United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism



Visibility and Outreach

The Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat also worked on increasing its visibility and outreach by showcasing its activities and achievements through the development of six [bi-monthly public newsletters](#), an [annual newsletter for 2023](#), public web stories on the Coordination Committee meeting, and news posts on the Platform.



Bi-monthly and annual newsletter highlight key activities of the 47 Compact entities.

Priorities for 2024

The Counter-Terrorism Compact's Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026 has five overarching priorities, namely:

- 14. Enhance coordination and coherence of UN counter-terrorism efforts** in supporting Member States through a strengthened common-action approach, highlighting inter-agency efforts, field engagements, maximizing synergies, avoiding duplication, and undertaking a comprehensive impact assessment.
- 15. Strengthen engagement with Member States**, aligned with the four pillars of the GCTS and national priorities of Member States. This will entail delivering United Nations support in addressing Member States' counter-terrorism capacity gaps in collaboration with relevant entities,

providing best practices, including with respect to new technologies, countering the financing of terrorism, vulnerable targets protection, and implementing the recommendations of CTED.

- 16. Advance partnerships** between the Counter-Terrorism Compact, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, academia, and the private sector, including through field engagement, capacity-building, coordination, and supporting victims of terrorism.
- 17. Consolidate joint planning and resource mobilization** for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, including through sustainable capacity-building assistance and sharing of knowledge and best practices.

18. Ensure the mainstreaming of gender, human rights, and the rule of law in CT/PCVE, including through gender analysis, engaging with Member States

on their efforts to mainstream gender considerations, and integrating relevant stakeholders in human rights and rule of law-based initiatives.

3.2

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the CTED Liaison Section in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General continued to facilitate UNOCT's close engagement with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), and CTED, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2617 (2021) and General Assembly resolutions 75/291 and 77/298 on the seventh and eighth reviews of the GCTS. These efforts were guided by the joint report (S/2022/1002) of UNOCT and CTED on practical steps to strengthen their collaboration and benefitted from renewed impetus with the appointment of Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman as CTED's new Executive Director in December 2022.

The Liaison Section supported monthly coordination meetings between the Heads of UNOCT and CTED, as well as regular meetings between their Deputies. The Section facilitated five thematic briefings by UNOCT to the CTC



USG Voronkov and CTED Executive Director Natalia Gherman.
Photo/UNOCT

and one joint briefing on collaboration between UNOCT and CTED. The Section also coordinated the contribution of UNOCT to the development led by CTED of non-binding guiding principles on countering threats posed by the use of UAS for terrorist purposes, which were adopted by the CTC in December as the "Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles."

Stocktaking and guidance

The Liaison Section conducted a stocktaking exercise to examine how 18 UNOCT programmes and projects have engaged with CTED to identify successes, good practices and lessons learned. A summary with recommendations was provided to the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and the Director of UNOCT to guide future efforts in strengthening collaboration. In this vein, an internal guidance document on incorporating CTED's analysis and recommendations into UNOCT's capacity-

building efforts prepared by the Section was issued in April. The guidance assists in the implementation of the Office's new Programme Review Board (PRB) policy by providing a checklist and marker system to distinguish between programmes and projects that fully, partially, or do not incorporate CTED's recommendations and analysis. So far, eight new or revised programmes and projects submitted to the PRB for consideration have been marked accordingly.

Participation in CTED assessment visits

In 2023, UNOCT participated in six assessment visits conducted by CTED to Benin, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Spain, and Thailand. The Liaison Section facilitated information exchange between UNOCT and CTED before and after the visits, including briefings for five specific visits. In follow-up to the visit to Benin and at the request of the Government, the Liaison Section started, on a pilot basis, to coordinate together with CTED and the Office of the United Resident Coordinator in Benin the development of prioritized and coordinated technical assistance plan from United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to address the needs identified by CTED.

Mapping of technical assistance needs

To assist CTED in its technical assistance facilitation role, the Section prepared and shared 13 mapping documents reviewing the technical assistance needs identified by CTED as a result of visits in 2022 and 2023 falling within the scope of ongoing or already planned support through UNOCT programmes, as well as which of those technical assistance needs would lead to the development of further support, subject to availability of necessary resources. Moreover, the Section continued to

encourage and support CTED to proactively and systematically brief other Counter-Terrorism Compact entities on its assessment findings and to enhance the Directorate's matrix of technical assistance needs hosted on the Counter-Terrorism Compact's digital platform, created, and maintained by UNOCT with the support of the State of Qatar. In this regard, the Section prepared draft guidelines for CTED to consider ensuring consistency in reviewing and updating the matrix.

Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the CTED Liaison Section will support the implementation of an agreed-upon framework for regular working-level interactions between UNOCT and CTED to enhance information exchange and foster collaboration across their respective areas of work. Subject to CTED finalizing the update of its matrix of technical assistance needs, the Section will develop an interactive dashboard as a more user-friendly interface for the Counter-Terrorism Compact to search and analyze this information. This initiative could also pave the way towards a process to be agreed upon within the Counter-Terrorism Compact to allocate technical assistance needs among entities and track follow-up. The Liaison Section will finalize the technical assistance plan for Benin and, based on lessons learnt from this pilot, explore the replication of this process for other requesting Member States.



USG Voronkov and CTED ASG/Executive Director Ms. Gherman attended a meeting held on the margins of the Central Asia Security Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan. 13 July 2023. Photo/UNOCT

3.3

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY PREVENTION MECHANISMS

UNOCT regularly participates in the Regional Monthly Review and the Directors' and Executives' Committee meetings organized by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the UN Operations and Crisis Centre. These mechanisms serve as an important forum to connect UN entities and agencies in Headquarters and in the field working across all three pillars of the United Nations. UNOCT is the only counter-terrorism-focused office to hold one of the thirteen standing memberships in the Regional Monthly Review Mechanism. Consequently, UNOCT's expertise in counter-terrorism helps the UN system consider terrorism-related issues in its risk analysis, early warning systems, support for field operations, and recommendations to address gaps.



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decisions or actions related to counter-terrorism were made through this process in 2023.

UNOCT also uses its participation in these mechanisms to draw on the UN system's knowledge of political, security, human rights, and socio-economic trends that affect CT/PCVE worldwide to provide better-informed technical and capacity-building support for the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States.

3.4

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

The External Partnerships Section (EPS) in the Special Projects and Innovations Branch (SPIB) of UNOCT works with various partners and stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector to broaden the scope and deepen the impact of UNOCT's initiatives.

Progress in 2023

Legal cooperation agreements

In 2023, UNOCT entered into 17 new legal agreements and renewed three existing agreements with various partners. These agreements, such as Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), provide a formal framework for collaboration and ensure a stable

and legally sound foundation for joint efforts. Additionally, EPS is currently negotiating and developing 32 legal agreements on behalf of the Office, indicating a solid pipeline of future partnerships.

Engagement with civil society organizations

In line with the UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy adopted in January 2020, the Office actively fostered engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) to enhance their role in countering terrorism.¹⁸ UNOCT organized two roundtable events in April and December 2023, bringing together global civil society representatives to discuss topics like 'Priority Activities and the New Agenda for Peace' and 'Digital Safety for Youth.' These events facilitated discussions, shared insights, and promoted collaboration among civil society organizations.

¹⁸ See: UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy, 17 January 2020, at: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/civil_society_engagement_strategy_website_mai_2020.pdf



UNOCT also maintained a comprehensive **database of 425 CSOs**, enabling effective engagement and collaboration. Of these, **44 CSOs were actively involved** in various UNOCT initiatives, contributing their expertise and perspectives. As part of the UN's Civil Society Focal Point Network, UNOCT participated in UN discussions related to "Our Common Agenda." Through its participation, UNOCT shared insights and perspectives gathered from CSOs during the roundtable events, ensuring their voices reached the highest levels of the UN.

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CSOs

Actively involved in various UNOCT initiatives

Engagement with the private sector and technology industry

In 2023, the EPS prioritized collaboration with the private sector and technology industry, emphasizing the responsible use of emerging technologies. It focused on addressing the misuse of these technologies and identifying emerging trends while considering human rights. Key highlights of the EPS's engagement initiatives with the private sector and technology industry in 2023 include:

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT
Dec 7, 2023

.@un_oct's 2nd #CivilSociety Roundtable of 2023 took place today on Digital Safety for #Youth: Preventing Online Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in #Africa🌍. Thank you to the #CSOs that joined to share their insights & feedback on this important issue

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
2023 Civil Society Roundtable Series
Digital Safety for Youth: Preventing Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Africa

Led by Mr. Raffi Gregorian
Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director, UNOCT
7 December 2023 11am – 1pm EDT

- Actively participating in **six Global Internet Forum to Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT)** meetings throughout the year, contributing to discussions and initiatives aimed at countering terrorist content online.

Global Internet Forum to Counter-Terrorism

Who We Are - What We Do - Join Us - News & Resources - Contact

Preventing terrorists and violent extremists from exploiting digital platforms

- Joining the World Economic Forum Global Coalition for Digital Safety, a multi-stakeholder initiative focused on promoting safer online environments. EPS provided expertise in developing global principles and toolkits for digital safety interventions.
- Conducting research on digital safety in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and the metaverse. This research focused on understanding potential risks and developing strategies to mitigate those risks, particularly in relation to digital identity and security in the metaverse.
- Contributing to the development of the Global Principles for Digital Safety and the Toolkit for Digital Safety Interventions. These resources provide guidance to technology companies and other stakeholders on implementing effective digital safety measures.

Cooperation with the African Union

In 2023, a central priority for EPS was bolstering collaboration and alignment between the AU and UN in countering terrorism across Africa. EPS fostered a vital platform for dialogue, strategic oversight, and information exchange by co-chairing the AU-UN Technical

Working Group on CT/PCVE. Established in 2022, this working group brought together key stakeholders from both organizations to assess and address terrorism threats and vulnerabilities specific to the African context. EPS facilitated strategic guidance on implementing crucial counter-terrorism initiatives through this platform, aligning with the AU and UN's counter-terrorism strategies. The working group provided a forum to share best practices, coordinate resources, and develop comprehensive strategies to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

Connect and Learn Platform

Launched in 2021, the **Connect and Learn Platform** remained a vital digital tool in capacity-building initiatives. Comprising "Learn" and "Connect" components, it offers e-learning courses, interactive communities, and extensive knowledge resources.

In 2023, the platform expanded to include **65 online training courses and 23 communities of practice, attracting 4,173 new users from 49 additional Member States**. By the end of the year, it had a global user community of 6,190 individuals from 193 nationalities, including professionals from diverse sectors. The impact



and success of the platform was recognized through award nominations, highlighting its effectiveness in counter-terrorism training.

Incorporation of Academic Insights

Another significant priority for EPS in the last year was ensuring the effective integration of contributions from academic institutions, think tanks, and research entities into UNOCT's policymaking and programming. To that end,

the Section **published 10 monthly internal Research Trackers**, providing data and insights to inform policy and programmatic decisions. EPS also expanded its **Academic Database to 256 entities, adding 10 new academic institutes in 2023** to broaden its knowledge base and ensure that UNOCT's policies and programmes are informed by diverse scholarly inputs and cutting-edge research.

Priorities for 2024

EPS will work to finalize 32 legal cooperation agreements on behalf of the Office to enhance UNOCT's capacity to address terrorism challenges through a comprehensive approach involving a wide range of stakeholders. In 2024, EPS plans to organize regional consultations on civil society engagement in Africa, establish a dedicated CSO community of practice on the Connect and Learn platform, and organize three closed roundtable discussions with CSOs on specific topics.

EPS also aims to expand its engagement with the private sector, focusing on security in the digital domain by participating in forums like the Security Leaders' Summit and the World Economic Forum (WEF.) EPS will also continue its involvement in the GIFCT and host events through its "Protection of Digital Spaces" series. Additionally, EPS will contribute to discussions on AI, the metaverse, and other emerging technologies, remaining at the forefront of digital policy development. EPS will continue leading the AU-UN Technical Working Group in 2024, focusing on assessing progress through the UNOCT-AU MoU and identifying strategic priorities for UNOCT programming in Africa. This includes organizing a regional conference

on Border Security Management. This initiative aims to address and enhance border security, an area identified as a high priority for ensuring regional safety and counter-terrorism effectiveness. Additionally, the next AU-UN meeting chaired by the AU and scheduled for March 2024, will focus on practicable deliverables of interest for African Member States across two other thematic areas: Counter-Terrorist Financing and cybersecurity, particularly targeting the online radicalization of youth, underscoring their importance for the security and stability of African nations.

EPS is committed to further developing the Connect and Learn platform in 2024, introducing multilingual support, interactive workshops, an improved user interface, expanded resource repository, and integration of emerging technologies like AI. Finally, EPS plans to enhance its research and academic resources in 2024, including by launching a Guest Lecture Series for UNOCT staff, expanding the Academia Database, and actively engaging female scholars from underrepresented countries to enrich academic partnerships and incorporate diverse perspectives in counter-terrorism and violent extremism strategies.

4

TECHNICAL AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ASSISTANCE

4.1

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON THE SECURITY OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS AND PROMOTION OF SPORT AND ITS VALUES AS A TOOL TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



UNOCT, through its Programme Office in Madrid, leads the multi-year Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values (“Global Sports Programme”) in partnership with United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), and in close consultation with CTED, following a one-UN approach. The Programme is funded by the State of Qatar, the Republic of Korea

and the UN Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF)/China.

The **main purpose and objectives** of the Global Sports Programme are to raise awareness of terrorist threats to vulnerable targets at major sporting events; protect sporting events as a common good of humanity; promote sport and its values to bolster resilience against violent extremism, particularly among youth; and support Member States in integrating sport values into their policies for PVE.



Since its launch in 2019, the State of Qatar’s continuous support has allowed the Global Sports Programme to adapt to evolving challenges, ensuring sustainability and flexibility of its operations, and make significant strides in addressing terrorism threats in the context of major sporting events and in the use of sport for PVE, with a particular focus on Africa and Asia.



The global media campaign “**#MoreThanAGame**,” developed in partnership with the Generation Amazing Foundation and launched in November 2022 in Doha, alongside the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, showcased the power of sport to make real, positive change. Headlined by professional footballer Nadia Nadim, the campaign produced media products to disseminate her inspiring story and those of Masareka and Kelsey, two beneficiaries of the Programme’s grant scheme to support civil society organizations. The campaign’s video content was watched 657,000 times on @UN_OCT’s Twitter/X and generated 39 million impressions globally on social media.

Since then, the campaign has served as a public platform for the success of the Programme’s CSO grant scheme, which reached across four continents to support the implementation of community-level sports values-based PVE projects, specifically focusing on youth-led and women’s organizations. The ten CSOs grantees implemented 100 training courses for over 7,000 beneficiaries and more than 300 additional activities involving over 9,500 participants.

The **Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events**, developed in partnership with the international community of experts and available in all six UN languages, informed capacity-building programmes and sensitized **130 Member States** who designated national focal points for policy and practical engagement, which are part of a broader community of **1,600 experts representing**

sports federations, civil society, academia, and private entities.



Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Global Sports Programme delivered expert training in areas such as security planning; crowd control and venue management; risk assessment and mitigation to enhance the capabilities of the following Member States planning to host major sporting events:

1. **Chile:** 2023 Pan American and Parapan American Games
2. **Côte d'Ivoire:** 2024 Total Energies Africa Cup of Nations of Football
3. **Ghana:** 2024 13th African Games
4. **Mexico:** Co-host of the 2026 FIFA World Cup



The Programme also hosted online expert meetings to facilitate knowledge sharing among its community of specialists. These meetings covered crucial topics related to gender mainstreaming in sport, PCVE through sport, and the intersection of emerging technologies and major sporting events. By empowering Member States with essential knowledge and expertise, the Global Sports Programme was vital in promoting safety, security, and integrity at major sporting events worldwide. Finally, the Programme finalized two e-learning courses on the use of sport for PVE and the security of major sporting events on UNOCT's "Connect & Learn" platform.

In collaboration with the State of Qatar, the Programme hosted a side event on 23 June during the Third Counter-Terrorism Week under the theme "The Role of Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport." The event culminated in policy recommendations derived from youth perspectives and commitments from regional partners like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the AU. These recommendations stemmed from global youth consultations and addressed key areas such as defining PVE through

sport; innovating PVE-through-Sport strategies; assessing effectiveness and impact; including youth in PVE-through-Sport policymaking; basing policies on evidence and understanding the limitations of PVE-through-Sport.

On 13 February, the Programme marked the International Day for Prevention of Violent Extremism with an online roundtable on the transformative power of sport. Experts explored how sports can provide a platform for overcoming personal challenges; empower women, youth, and children; promote the values of teamwork, respect, and fair play; enhance resilience against violent extremism during major sporting events and inform policies that leverage sport for PVE and utilize athletes as role models.

Speakers of the online roundtable to commemorate International Day for the PVE. February 2023



During the year, the Programme forged and strengthened several key partnerships to enhance its reach and impact. It maintained a close working relationship with the Council of Europe in promoting the Safety and Security at Sports Events. Moreover, its collaboration with ASEAN facilitated the operationalization of its MoU with FIFA. The Programme conducted two missions with FIFA to observe security operations during the U-17 Asian World Cup in Indonesia and the Club World Cup in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the Programme engaged with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) on pertinent security matters.

Furthermore, the Programme's partnership with the African Union Sports Council led to a Youth Forum on "The Role of Young People in the 13th African Games." This forum generated recommendations for meaningful youth engagement in future major sporting events in the region. Participants from African Member States showcased their initiatives and discussed the development of awareness-raising campaigns leveraging the power of sport to counter radicalization and violent behaviour.



Participants of the Youth Forum on 'The Role of Young People in the 13th African Games, Accra Ghana, November 2023. Photo/UNAOC



Human rights and gender mainstreaming

In 2023, UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section collaborated with the Counter-Terrorism Global Compact's Working Group on PCVE to develop an Annex to the Guide for Policymakers in the Use of Sport for

PVE, focusing on gender mainstreaming. This Annex, scheduled to be published in the first quarter of 2024, is designed to equip the global community and sport-for-PVE practitioners with practical strategies, case studies, and best practices for integrating gender mainstreaming into PVE efforts through sport.



Priorities for 2024

The Programme will amplify its impact in 2024 through strategic initiatives focused on expanding the Programme's reach to encompass additional Member States in need of tailored sports-for-PVE interventions; collaborating closely with Arab Member States to enhance security measures for forthcoming major sporting events in the region, ensuring a safe and secure environment for athletes and attendees; integrating gender equality considerations into sports-for-PVE initiatives, fostering inclusive participation and empowering women and girls; providing

assistance to secure major sporting events in Africa and Asia.

To augment its reach, the Programme will launch a pan-African media campaign highlighting the transformative power of sport for PVE, which will complement the broader UNOCT global campaign promoting sport and its values. The Programme will also optimize the use of technology to extend the reach of its initiatives, including developing online training modules and organizing virtual conferences, ensuring accessibility for participants from diverse locations.

4.2

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON COUNTERING TERRORIST THREATS AGAINST VULNERABLE TARGETS

The United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, launched in 2021, is implemented in partnership with CTED, UNAOC, UNICRI, and INTERPOL. During the three years of implementation (2021-2023), the Programme has increased its funding partners from one to five, including the State of Qatar, France, the Russian Federation, Spain, and the United States of America.

The main purpose and objectives of the multi-year Global Programme are to support Member

States in strengthening their capacity to prevent, protect, mitigate, investigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks against vulnerable targets; protect critical infrastructure and public places ("soft targets"), and implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017), 2396 (2017), 2617 (2021), inter alia, and the CTC Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their 2018 Addendum (principles 50 and 51). It also responds to CTED expert recommendations and other policy documents.



First Steering Committee Meeting of the Programme at the Principal-Level, hybrid, 5 December 2023

During the three years of implementation (2021-2023), the Global Programme engaged over 2,655 participants from around the world in 70 activities. To facilitate Member States' access to **technical guides and tools**, the Programme developed five modules on "soft targets" protection in multiple languages (launched September 2022) and a revised edition of the "Compendium of Good Practices on Critical Infrastructure Protection" (launched June 2023).



The Programme has provided **tailored technical assistance** to develop national action plans or roadmaps and operationalize recommendations in five Member States: Indonesia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Togo, and Tunisia.

To support Member States' efforts to address new and emerging threats to vulnerable targets, UNOCT has developed several initiatives to safeguard religious sites, protect tourism and cultural sites, and protect educational institutions.

Progress in 2023

With support from the State of Qatar, UNOCT released the updated **"Compendium of Good Practices on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure."** The launch event was held on June 5, 2023, at UNOCT's Programme Office in Madrid, led by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Qatar's Ambassador to Spain, H.E. Abdulla bin Ibrahim Abdulrahman Sultan Al Hamar. The Compendium was created collaboratively by UNOCT, CTED, and INTERPOL, with assistance from the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection.



During the year, the State of Qatar's support enabled the provision of comprehensive national action plans to Kenya and Tajikistan, addressing vulnerable target protection. UNOCT also developed a Training Curriculum on Vulnerable Targets Protection for Trainers, available in English and French. The Programme partners will tailor this curriculum to each beneficiary country to enhance national capabilities among key stakeholders.

UNOCT-OSCE Workshop on Critical Infrastructure and “Soft Targets” Protection, 4-6 July 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Below, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan, Ms. Parvathy Ramaswami. Photo/UNOCT



To strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration and connect practitioners from all over the world, the Global Network of Experts to Protect Vulnerable Targets expanded its membership to 200 experts and 70 Member States in 2023. The Programme has hosted eight Expert Briefings on the protection of critical infrastructure and public places, covering topics like law enforcement coordination, risk management, public-private partnerships in cybersecurity, and protecting public spaces from vehicle attacks.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

In collaboration with UNOCT’s Human Rights and Gender Section and PKMCB within UNOCT, the Global Programme conducted a three-day training course on human rights and humanitarian law in vulnerable sites protection. This groundbreaking online training gathered 40 experts globally from 11-13 December.

The sessions focused on international human rights frameworks, Member State obligations, and potential human rights implications of protective measures against terrorist attacks. This training complemented an expert briefing organized by UNOCT in April 2023 as part of the Global Expert Network activities.



Priorities for 2024

The Programme will continue supporting Member States in preventing, protecting, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure and soft targets, drawing on the progress already made with the support of the State of Qatar.

Planned activities include consolidating international best practices in online libraries and developing new tools, such as a Technical Guide on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure. The Programme also intends to strengthen partnerships with international and regional organizations and create additional networking opportunities for the Global Network of Experts through virtual briefings and in-person regional and international events (funding permitting).

To address specific priority needs identified by Member States, the Programme will explore partnerships to deliver initiatives on:

1. Safeguarding religious sites and communities
2. Protecting tourist and cultural sites
3. Protecting educational institutions

To further improve its national capacity-building efforts, the Programme will explore new training formats with national and regional institutions and develop context-specific training curricula and tools.

4.3

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON COUNTER-TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS

The five-year UNOCT Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme was launched in January 2021 and is delivered through UNOCT's Programme Offices in Rabat and Nairobi. The Programme is need-driven and focuses on enhancing Member States' capacities to train counter-terrorism and law enforcement staff at national and regional levels, improving the core abilities of national law enforcement investigators and delivery skills of national trainers. Experts at national policing entities are expected to deliver trainings through the design, management, delivery, and evaluation of counter-terrorism investigative trainings.

The main objectives and purpose of the Programme are to enhance the capacities of selected Member States to train counter-terrorism and law enforcement staff at the national and regional levels and contribute to the implementation of the 8th review of the GCTS and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It also builds on the good practices identified in the GCTF initiatives (Algiers Memorandum) and the Accra initiative.

The Programme has so far provided support to 19 African Member States. Another 8 Member States have expressed an interest in becoming

The UNOCT's Rabat Program Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa held the first graduation ceremony of STOCTI at Al Akhawayn University (AUI) in Ifrane, Morocco, 10 March 2023. Photo/UNOCT



Furthermore, the Programme showcased a side event during the CT Week on 19 June 2023 in New York entitled “A new way of doing training in Africa: The successful example of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa based in Rabat,” highlighting the innovative approaches employed by the Programme.

beneficiaries. The Programme seeks to support all requesting Member States to enhance their investigative capabilities. To that end, it has developed partnerships with a large network of national policing agencies and gained access to many specialists training facilities.

The Programme is supported by the State of Qatar, with additional support from Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, the Kingdom of Morocco, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF)/China.

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Programme made significant progress in enhancing counter-terrorism investigations efforts through training initiatives, knowledge exchange, and collaboration with various stakeholders. It successfully delivered six training events, totaling 95 days (approximately three months) of training, benefiting 125 participants.

One of the critical regions to benefit from the Programme was West Africa, particularly the Sahel region. In collaboration with the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa based in Rabat, the Programme delivered specialized training on counter-terrorism investigations at three different levels: Foundational (23 May-10 June 2023), Intermediate (5-23 September 2023), and Advanced (21 November – 9 December 2023).



H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, welcomed the achievements of the Rabat Programme Office in his video statement at the CT Week side event held on June 19, 2023, at UNHQ. Photo/UNOCT.

The Programme in collaboration with the Programme Office in Rabat, held two graduation ceremonies of the **Specialized Training Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI)** that took place at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane in 2023. **STOCTI**



is an accredited curriculum, which is the only programme in the UN system that is accredited as an executive master's degree, giving the trainees a new path for career development.

The Programme's sub-project on countering kidnapping for ransom organized an expert working group for 62 experts from 22 African Member States, seven national policing agencies, and 11 international organizations. The event served as a platform for sharing best practices and establishing a point of contact



list for regional, national, and international entities involved in countering kidnappings for ransom.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

Given the traditionally male-dominated nature of Africa's law enforcement communities, security sector-wide initiatives towards integrating human rights and a gender perspective have generally taken longer to permeate these domains. Efforts to address gender imbalances are relatively new and dependent on multiple factors. Women are underrepresented in leadership and operational roles. In response to these challenges, in 2023, the Global Counter Terrorism Investigations Programme delivered six training rounds and 13 weeks of training to 190 people, of whom 19 were female (10%). All participants received mandatory Human rights and gender awareness training, delivered in English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese.



190 people trained,
10% were female

Priorities for 2024

The Programme plans to increase the number of Member States, with a particular focus on Africa and the Middle East, that benefit from STOCTI course; establish and operationalize an investigative interviewing laboratory in Rabat, Morocco, to include six weeks of modular training per beneficiary; deliver training on managing and leading kidnapping investigations and hostage negotiations; develop curricula to respond to Member States' needs on critical incident response, command mechanisms, and the management and use of informants, and conduct a mid-term evaluation as part of a formal monitoring and evaluation process.



The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Programme) was established in 2021 to support Member States in addressing the threat posed by drones, UAS, and other AROS through innovative capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States. It supports the implementation of the GCTS and Security Council resolutions 2309 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2370 (2017) and 2396 (2017.) Furthermore, it contributes to Member States' application of the GCTF 2019 Berlin Memorandum on Good Practices for Countering Terrorist Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems and its 2023 operationalization initiative and furthers United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 16.¹⁹

The main objectives of the Programme are to raise awareness on and promote the exchange of good practices and guidance related to AROS, enhance the capacity of Member States to counter terrorist threats related to AROS, and enhance the capacity of Member States to use AROS for non-lethal / non-kinetic purposes in order to enhance the preparedness of Member States to mitigate AROS-related threats, including UAS.

The AROS Programme is led by the UNOCT and is jointly implemented with the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), which leads the Programme's efforts on digital forensics. The programme is also implemented in close

cooperation with the ICAO, CTED, the UN Global Service Centre (UNGSC) under the UN Department of Operational Support (UNDOS), DPO and Conflict Armament Research. In addition, the Programme has fostered substantial engagements with over 50 actors spanning the public and private sectors, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations. The Programme is currently working in partnership with UNOCT's Programme on Border Security and Management to support Senegal. The Programme is supported by the State of Qatar, alongside contributions from Germany, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



¹⁹ For Sustainable Development Goal 9, see: sdgs.un.org/goals/goal9; For Sustainable Development Goal 16, see: sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16

Since its launch in 2021, the Programme has delivered support to Member States through six mutually reinforcing workstreams:

1. Gathering experts and policy-makers to raise awareness of the benefits and threats associated with AROS.
2. Fostering partnerships between Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society.
3. Offering certified training courses for operators, analysts, and investigators.
4. Developing training products and guidance, including curricula, model Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and guidance.
5. Producing and sharing analytical and research products to help guide the global conversation on AROS.
6. Providing equipment to support national capabilities to use and / or counter AROS

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the AROS Programme, in partnership with UNGSC Centre and Togo's *Centre d'Entrainement aux Operations de Maintien de la Paix*, furthered its capacity-building efforts through the deliverance of a two-week Micro-UAS Operator Training Course to 13 security officials from Togo's police and gendarmerie. The two-week course provided trainees with a comprehensive theoretical and operational formation on the use and operation of UAS to support efforts to prevent and counter terrorism-related activities, including international legislation, meteorology, night operations, overwatch, safety and security, and other essential training elements.

Since its launch, the AROS Programme has delivered its critical capacity-building **Micro-UAS Operator Training Courses** to over 50 security officials from four Member states (Mozambique, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, and Togo).



The transfer of knowledge through the Micro-UAS Operator Training Course, coupled with UNOCT's commitment to sustainability through subsequent Train-the-Trainer courses, ensures that new and emerging technologies are not used as lethal weapons by terrorists to plan, coordinate, and launch a vast range of deadly and potentially disruptive attacks against civilians, soft targets, and critical infrastructure.

Additionally, the AROS Programme participated in the 2023 ICAO Security Week, delivering an awareness-raising presentation on the links between civil aviation, aviation security, and counter-terrorism concerning autonomous and remotely operated systems.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

In 2023, the AROS Programme successfully implemented its Gender Workplan, developed in close coordination with UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section to promote gender mainstreaming despite the underrepresentation of women in security roles across beneficiary states. The AROS Programme promoted the nomination of women to participate in its Micro-UAS Operator Training Course held in Togo and was pleased to include women

speakers from UN entities and academia during Office-led awareness-raising events and technical consultations. Additionally, the AROS Programme's Micro-UAS Operator Training Course and subsequent courses to be offered in 2024, will all include mandatory modules on human rights training. In 2024, the AROS Programme is updating its programme framework to include a comprehensive review of human rights and gender mainstreaming components.

Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the AROS Programme plans to develop two additional courses available upon request, namely:

1. A plug-and-play counter-UAS training curriculum to provide a basic technical-level understanding of UAS threats to requesting Member States, which the Programme is

finalizing in partnership with UNGSC and collaboration with EU-funded initiatives.

2. A training course on the use of UAS and other AROS to identify and detect explosives, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) materials.

The AROS Programme will also continue to deliver the Micro-UAS Operator Training Course to requesting Member States and expand its beneficiaries to include Senegal. AROS will also launch trainings for Malaysia and continue to deliver critical capacity-building assistance to Togo. The Programme will offer four training courses to each beneficiary, comprising a Micro-UAS Operator Training Course, Digital Forensics Course, Imagery Course, and Train-the-Trainer Course. In 2024, the Programme plans to deliver its courses to a total of 75 participants over 70 days of training.

4.5

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON NATIONAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION MECHANISMS (FUSION CELLS)



The five-year Global Fusion Cells Programme was launched in January 2020 to strengthen Member States' national interagency coordination mechanisms or Fusion Centres by enhancing analytical capabilities and improving decision-making of analysts, as well as planning, and operational activity to counter-terrorism and organized crime. These centers pool and analyze information, enable informed decision-making, and help prevent attacks.

They contribute to enhancing preparedness and promoting intelligence-led activity. Fusion centres can also help lead investigations to gather the best evidence, increase the likelihood of successful prosecution, and contribute to a more effective response to and recovery from a terrorist attack.

The Programme is funded by the State of Qatar, Portugal, the Russian Federation and UNPDF/

China. It is implemented through the UNOCT Programme and Training Office in Rabat, in partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco and in cooperation with CTED, the United Nations Police (UNPOL), the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CAERT), and the INTERPOL.

Since its launch in 2020, the Programme has trained over 1,400 participants and provided capacity-building assistance to Member States through its extensive network of experts and unique access to Heads of National Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism Agencies through the Marrakesh Platform. The annual **Marrakesh Platform gathers 38 Heads of Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism Agencies from Africa** to discuss terrorist threats, challenges, and lessons learned and to agree on national capacity-building initiatives.

Progress in 2023

The Global Fusion Cells Programme expanded from seven beneficiaries in 2020-2022 to 23 beneficiaries in 2023-2024. The current beneficiary countries are:



1. Angola	12. Guinea
2. Benin	13. Guinea-Bissau
3. Burkina Faso	14. Liberia
4. Cape Verde	15. Libya
5. Chad	16. Mali
6. Côte d'Ivoire	17. Mauritania
7. Democratic Republic of Congo	18. Mozambique
	19. Niger
8. Equatorial Guinea	20. Nigeria
9. Gabon	21. Senegal
10. Gambia	22. Sierra Leone
11. Ghana	23. Togo





H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, visited the UNOCT Rabat Programme Office where he was briefed on its capacity-building approach and CTI & Fusion Cells flagship programme. November 2023. Photo/UNOCT

In 2023, the Programme began training for the new beneficiary countries, which were attended by **236 participants in ten training events** held in Rabat, which included Introduction to Fusion Cells; Ethical Decision-Making; Briefing and Debriefing; Open-Source Investigations; Analyst Course; Threat Assessment Course. All Programme training promotes the intrinsic value of protecting and upholding human rights and raises awareness of gender considerations in counter-terrorism efforts. Prior to technical training being delivered, the Programme



Priorities for 2024

The Programme will continue delivering training assistance to its beneficiary Member States, with 13 training rounds already scheduled for 2024, including the joint delivery of a “Training of Trainers” course and UNPOL. In the second part of the year, the Programme will focus heavily on national technical consultations with Member States, which will result in the

delivery of National Action Plans or Roadmaps to relevant institutions. The Programme intends to continue hosting study visits for its beneficiaries, featuring experts from some of the world’s leading national fusion or counter-terrorism centres, in both in-person and hybrid formats. The Programme aims to start working with ten new African Member States in 2024.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

Given the traditionally male-dominated nature of Africa’s intelligence communities, security sector-wide initiatives towards integrating human rights and a gender perspective have generally taken longer to permeate these domains. Efforts to address gender imbalances are relatively new and dependent on multiple factors. Women are underrepresented in leadership and operational roles. In response to these challenges, in 2023, UNOCT’s Global Fusion Cells Programme delivered ten

training rounds and 10 weeks (about 2 and a half months) of training to 236 people, of whom 59 were female (25%). All participants received mandatory Human rights and gender awareness training, delivered in English, French, Arabic, and Portuguese.

236 people trained,
25% were female



The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme ("CT Travel") is supported by the State of Qatar with additional support from Australia, Germany, Hungary, the Republic of India, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union (EU), Japan, Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

CT Travel, under the leadership of UNOCT, aims to enhance the capacities of Member States in preventing, identifying, investigating, and prosecuting suspected terrorists or individuals involved in other serious crimes. By leveraging travel information, including advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data, the Programme seeks to optimize the use of international databases and facilitate information sharing.

The Programme supports the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019), and relevant international standards and recommended practices, including international human rights norms and standards. The Programme has global coverage and seeks to support all requesting Member States to enhance their detection capabilities. UNOCT implements the Programme in partnership with CTED, UNODC, ICAO, the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), INTERPOL, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Since its launch in 2019, **70 Member States have officially joined the CT Travel Programme**, including the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Security (CARICOM IMPACS) on behalf of its 15 Member States. In the last five years, the Programme has played a critical role in assisting its beneficiaries in establishing and operationalizing Passenger Information Units (PIUs) to screen and process API and PNR data transmitted by the transport sector via the **United Nations' goTravel software system**. It has also provided customized



support for the development or improvement of domestic legislation and regulations that adhere to human rights principles, incorporate data protection safeguards, and align with the Programme's standards. By strengthening Member States' capacities in countering terrorist travel, it has contributed to global security and law enforcement efforts while safeguarding human rights and respecting data privacy.

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Programme continued to attract interest from Member States.

9 new beneficiaries

joined the Programme in 2023:

Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Lesotho, Samoa, and Timor Leste.

With the support of the Programme, four PIUs were inaugurated in Azerbaijan, Botswana, Mongolia, and Norway. In addition, **two Member States, Botswana, and Norway, are live with the goTravel software solution** and now have the operational and technical capabilities



to collect and analyze passenger data. The Programme enabled the pre-production of the software and deployment in a testing environment for ten beneficiaries: Azerbaijan, Cote d'Ivoire, Georgia, Luxembourg, Moldova, Namibia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, and CARICOM on behalf of its 15 Member States; and provided technical support and expertise to deploy and install the UN goTravel software solution.

CT Travel conducted nine national consultations on API and PNR for Algeria, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Malawi, Mauritius, Pakistan, Paraguay, and Samoa, bringing the total number of consultations conducted since the start of the Programme to 37 and leading to the development of 37 roadmaps for API and PNR systems implementation.

Within the comprehensive yet tailored **capacity-building support and technical assistance** provided under the Programme's four key pillars, CT Travel provided legislative

assistance to the growing number of beneficiaries to help establish a legal framework to regulate the collection, transmission, use, retention, and sharing of passenger data while furthering compliance with internationally recognized standards including and international human rights law principles.

In 2023, the Programme conducted **legislative reviews** of 11 pieces of legislation from Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Fiji, Moldova, Mongolia, Niger, Nigeria, Samoa and Togo.

In 2023, CT Travel continued to provide operational support to Member States to establish PIUs. It delivered training on the use of an intelligence-led, risk-based approach to conduct risk assessments and implement appropriate targeting measures to identify, detect, and intercept terrorists and other serious criminals based on the systematic collection, analysis, use, and sharing of passenger data.

The Programme developed a **new training module on gender considerations, a new course on privacy and data protection, and a simulation exercise** to explore the



UN CT Travel interactive training on API and PNR systems in Azerbaijan, Baku, 23 May 2022. Photo/ Azerbaijan Republic State Customs Committee

understanding, experience, and decision-making of the staff members of the PIU in respect of the unit, and individual staff members, engagement with competent national authorities. **CT Travel facilitated:**



Namely Algeria, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Iraq, Luxembourg, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines and Switzerland.

The global reach of the Programme, combined with the required commitment of beneficiaries to formalize cooperation via the signing of a MoU and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), ensures that CT Travel provides long-term, sustainable support towards enhancing beneficiaries' detection capacities. In 2023, CT Travel concluded six MoUs with Belgium, Djibouti, Hungary, Luxembourg, Namibia, and Nigeria. The Programme also concluded two MoAs with Luxembourg and Switzerland.

To further support its regional cooperation efforts and sustainability, CT Travel launched and supported the establishment of a **new regional Informal Working Group on API and PNR** for South East Asia, in addition to the three Informal Working Groups already established for Eastern Europe, Western and Southern Africa and the International User Community on goTravel which is an initiative for Member States that have signed MoAs for the licensing of goTravel, to provide an overview of the status of goTravel in the participating countries, and prioritize requests for goTravel software future development.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony with Hungary, New York, UNHQ, 13 June 2023. Photo/UNOCT



UNOCT CT Travel launch event of the Southeast Asia regional IWG, Manila, Philippines. 7 December 2023. Photo/UNOCT

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

In 2023, the Programme strengthened its efforts to mainstream human rights in programme implementation by adopting a five-step process to ensure human rights considerations are incorporated from initial engagement with a beneficiary country to different stages of assistance. In compliance with United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), the Programme is committed to ensuring that no technical assistance is provided to a Member State where there are substantial grounds indicating a risk of human rights violations. Following national consultations, an implementation roadmap is developed for the beneficiary Member State, providing a step-by-step guide for the needed actions to implement an API and PNR system that is fully compliant with international standards, including in relation to the rule of law and human rights. When the Programme transmits a roadmap to a beneficiary Member State, written confirmation of its commitment to implement the recommendations, formulated in line with human rights standards, is required and included in an MoU jointly signed by

UNOCT and the beneficiary. In addition, human rights safeguards, primarily focused on the right to privacy and the protection of personal data, are integrated in the provision of legal advice and legislative assistance. These are incorporated into the 'recommended legal provisions on the collection, processing, use, transfer, retention and protection of API and PNR data' developed by UNODC to support Member States' efforts to regulate API and PNR in accordance with international standards and human rights. The checks and balances embedded within the national roadmaps, normative frameworks, institution-building support, and capacity-building training activities, and the phased approach towards implementation all work to ensure that human rights safeguards are in place before the Programme's software solution goTravel may be transferred to beneficiary Member States. In addition, the goTravel solution offers technical safeguards compliant with human rights, privacy, and data protection principles. These functionalities are configured and customized jointly by the CT Travel team and the local

technical task force of IT experts in line with national legal provisions and international requirements on privacy and data protection. Throughout the year, the Programme continued close dialogue and engagement with human rights entities, including national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. It also brought onboard experts to support the further development of the Programme's human rights framework in line with the United

Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, the preparation of a guide for beneficiaries to perform Human Rights and Privacy Impact Assessment, and the elaboration of a longer-term post-deployment monitoring strategy.



Priorities for 2024

In the year ahead, CT Travel will be marking a significant milestone, namely the **5th year anniversary of the Programme's launch**. UNOCT and Programme partners will plan to mark the date (7 May) as well continue with a campaign of activities and events throughout the rest of the year to celebrate the successful 'One-UN' model and generate visibility of the Programme's impact and achievements. UNOCT will ensure due recognition and visibility is provided to the State of Qatar for their foundational support to this flagship initiative, alongside with the other co-funders.

The Programme will also continue to provide comprehensive, yet tailored support to the 70 Member States that have formally requested assistance. Complementing and bolstering this support will also include establishing a growing number of mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with Member States to leverage advanced expertise in key areas

including technology and innovation, systems interoperability, training, data analytics, privacy and data protection, and maritime security. This support will enable additional beneficiary Member States to establish and launch their Passenger Information Units as well as go Live in collecting and analyzing passenger data for counter-terrorism purposes.

In addition to the delivery of national-level support, the Programme will continue to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination and the sharing of best practices through its existing network of regional Informal Working Groups. With the support of regional organizations and strategic partners, the Programme aims to launch two additional regional Informal Working Groups for Member States in the Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

4.7

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON THREAT ASSESSMENT MODELS FOR AVIATION SECURITY

The United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security ("TAM Programme"), launched in 2021, works with Member States to establish a national interagency operational framework which effectively links the current threat picture to aviation security decisions and response

measures. Led by UNOCT, in partnership with ICAO, the TAM Programme has incorporated an "All-of-UN" approach with additional expertise from CTED, INTERPOL, and UNODC. The Programme receives generous support from the State of Qatar, the United States of America and Hungary.



TAM Programme's Regional Workshop for West Africa, Dakar, Senegal. 3-5 October 2023. Photo/UNOCT

The TAM Programme provides Member States with a customized and practical suite of tools to strengthen national capacity to identify, record and assess threat inputs to inform the timely implementation of measures that prevent aviation terrorism, in line with international obligations including UN Security Council resolution 2309 (2016) and applicable ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. With the Programme's support, Member States can strengthen interagency cooperation via an intelligence-based approach that anticipates and mitigates risks to civil aviation security.

Since its inception, the TAM Programme has supported five Member States in Africa and Southeast Asia: **Botswana, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, and Viet Nam**; each have since established new or reinforced current national interagency infrastructure and frameworks to support information exchanges on threats to civil aviation, as well as adopted a forward-leaning intelligence-based approach to terrorist threat assessments.

Progress in 2023

The TAM Programme, in collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research

on Terrorism, organized a regional workshop on 3-5 October 2023 for national government personnel responsible for aviation security and counter-terrorism from eight Member States in West Africa, namely Benin, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The regional workshop included foundational materials on interagency cooperation and hosted interactive discussions on current practices for applying threat assessments to aviation security risk management practices. Participants also exchanged views on the regional threat landscape, including emerging terrorist threats within West Africa and the Sahel, discussed how national efforts to secure civil aviation contributes to a more robust security posture on a continental scale, and worked collaboratively to establish a common understanding on how national threat information informs aviation security risk management.

The TAM Programme also co-hosted two working sessions with the NATO/EUROCONTROL Air Traffic Management Security Coordinating Group on 15-16 March and 24 November 2023, in Brussels to consolidate national practices to identify, assess, produce, and communicate real-world threat and risk practices for civil aviation used



by nations and organizations around the world. The workshop convened practitioners from across the aviation ecosystem and resulted in an initial set of templates, methodologies, and practices to support the prevention of aviation threats.

In July 2023, the **Philippines** became the second Member State to complete the

TAM Programme (after Botswana in 2022) with the completion of its new national coordination framework for aviation security threat assessments. In September 2023, the Kingdom of Morocco completed a joint case study showcasing the Government's approach to national coordination on threats to civil aviation, which has since been promoted as a best practice with other beneficiaries. The following month, Nigeria finished all remaining activities, including a newly-drafted SOP, which will be used to institutionalize interagency cooperation to address threats to aviation. In December 2023, Viet Nam became the fifth and final Member State to complete the TAM Programme.

In December 2023, the TAM Programme also completed the development of its in-house suite of training and technical assistance materials ("TAM Toolbox"). This enabled the TAM Programme to standardize its current suite of training content for Member States to operationalize national interagency cooperation, which now include three e-learning training modules, that can be remotely delivered to future beneficiaries and integrated with other UNOCT programming, as appropriate. The modules will enhance understanding,



UNOCT-NEASCOG Workshop: National Intelligence-Based Approaches for Aviation Security, 5-16 March 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. Photo/UNOCT



TAM Programme Final Training and Technical Assistance Session with Viet Nam, Viet Nam, 11-15 December 2023. Photo/UNOCT

improve information retention, and provide a comprehensive learning experience, catering to diverse learning needs and styles. A table-top exercise package was also developed, with pre- and post-workshop guidelines, a facilitator's guide, and re-structured and re-designed threat-assessment training content. The TAM Programme has adapted its materials and expertise to support CT Travel Programme beneficiary Member States, which has allowed it provide support to a wider range of stakeholders with similar challenges.

Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the TAM Programme will complete remaining activities under the first phase and establish full interoperability with the CT Travel Programme. It will be integrated as the TAM Project under the CT Travel Programme to respond to an increased number of requests (and demonstrated need) from other Member States, including CT Travel beneficiaries, for access to – and support with – establishing a strong threat assessment capacity, which is vital to the counter-terrorism domain.

4.8

GLOBAL VICTIMS OF TERRORISM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The victims of terrorism agenda is a key priority embedded in all UNOCT CT/PCVE efforts and human rights in line with United Nations principles and commitments. The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme ("VoT Programme") remains dedicated to fostering solidarity with victims of terrorism, raise awareness of their rights and needs, and strengthening the capacity of Member States and civil society organizations to champion and promote these rights and needs effectively.



The Programme also advocates for stronger mechanisms to provide tangible support and access to resources for victims and survivors, to raise their voices, and to harness their role in the larger peacebuilding agenda. The VoT Programme facilitates policy and coordination efforts and the exchange of best practices among Member States, United Nations entities, and civil society on victims of terrorism issues. It is funded by the State of Qatar, Germany, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain, and the United States of America.

Progress in 2023

The VoT Programme has continued its efforts to promote the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, building on the programmatic priorities emerging from the outcomes of the Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism, with the participation of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2022.

The VoT Programme has four complementary priority areas, which are underpinned by its commitment to human rights and gender mainstreaming:

1. Solidarity, outreach and advocacy

To stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism and promote their rights among Member States, UN entities, and civil society through outreach and advocacy activities

2. Policy and coordination

To promote and establish policies, good practices, and efforts of Member States, UN entities, and civil society on victims of terrorism issues

3. Technical assistance and capacity-building

To enhance knowledge, understanding and capacities of Member States, UN entities, and civil society to uphold the rights and support the needs of victims of terrorism

4. Communication and visibility

To enhance the capacity of victims of terrorism to develop and communicate their key messages through multimedia training and products, including on preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism

On 19 June 2023, the VoT Programme, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, unveiled the **first United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree** through a high-level ceremony held on the margins of the 2023 CT Week. The ceremony was possible due to the vital support of the State of Qatar. The Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, provided opening remarks in which she highlighted Qatar's role as a key partner of the VoT Programme and a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism.

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM SOLIDARITY TREE

DEDICATION CEREMONY
United Nations Headquarters, New York
19 JUNE, 2023 4.20 P.M.





"The State of Qatar stands in solidarity with victims and survivors of terrorism around the world and has the honour to join this collective gesture of international commitment towards a more peaceful future."

H.E. Ambassador Sheikha
Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani

The ceremony convened more than 70 representatives of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, as well as victims and survivors of terrorism, who acknowledged the significance of the tree as a permanent symbol of remembrance and solidarity to victims of terrorism. At the close of the ceremony, each head of delegation laid a white rose at the foot of the tree in a gesture of peace, unity, and remembrance.

In October 2023, in order to advance its capacity-building initiatives, the VoT Programme conducted a scoping mission to the Philippines as part of its work to launch the **Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) to Support the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism**. The MLP pilot project seeks to assist two Member States with the

development of national comprehensive action plans designed to support victims of terrorism in line with international best practices. **The Philippines** was selected as the first beneficiary country to implement the project. While a scoping mission was not originally planned as part of the project activities, the initiative emerged as a critical component to ensure the successful and sustainable implementation of the project. Thanks to the State of Qatar's financial contribution, the VoT Programme was able to undertake the scoping activity, which enabled in-depth consultations with government officials and other key stakeholders in the Philippines, including civil society and victims of terrorism, to develop targeted recommendations and action plans to strengthen national authorities' victim support mechanisms and to strategically lead on the preparations for the launch of the workshop in January 2024.

To spotlight the voices of victims and survivors of terrorism, the VoT Programme continued its visibility and communications campaign





through the itinerant exhibition **"Memories"** across Spain throughout 2023: launched in Vitoria by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and the Minister of Interior of Spain H.E. Mr. Fernando Grande-Marlaska (7 June) and exhibited in Valladolid (19 September) and Pamplona (6 November). The exhibition showcases the human stories that lie at the heart of each experience of a victim and survivor of terrorism and highlights the lasting impact of a terrorist attack on survivors. The **"Memories" campaign** brought together national and regional authorities, victims of terrorism, and civil society across Spain to reflect on the importance of memorialization and the power of victims' testimonies. These installations, made possible with the support of the State of Qatar, have been pivotal in building collaboration with Spain in their common efforts to address the needs and rights of victims and survivors of terrorism.

Through its advocacy workstream, in October 2023, the VoT Programme participated in the **Eradicate Hate Summit**, held annually in Pittsburgh, United States of America, through a keynote panel intervention and in-person participation in two Working Group sessions focused on the importance of listening to the voices of victims and survivors. The VoT Programme remains a member of those Working Groups as they continue to work to promote peaceful voices calling for harmonious societies.



During a high-level event to commemorate **the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August**, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov launched the Legacy Project on Instagram. The Legacy gallery on Instagram consists of an innovative gallery of testimonies of victims and survivors of terrorism that shows the legacy they wish to leave, and the objects that have helped them recover after being impacted by terrorism. This project seeks to inspire others to pay tribute to those whose lives have been



lost or forever transformed by terrorism, and to reach new generations to transform their understanding of the impact of terrorism on people. The interactive documentary gallery, through film, photography, and carefully crafted captions, features 17 victims and survivors of terrorism. The Legacy Project aims to reach new audiences across the world, providing a space for reflection, inspiration, and learning, with the option to share on their feeds to spread the legacy of victims of terrorism.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

The VoT Programme rigorously integrates gender mainstreaming across all activities in line with the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy. This includes incorporating gender-sensitive language and considerations in project documents and activities and addressing context-specific gender considerations; ensuring an inclusive approach to consultations during workshops and conferences; promoting gender parity in consultations, including

emphasizing the inclusion of women-led civil society organizations and gender experts; connecting and collaborating with gender experts specialized on victims of terrorism issues and promoting inclusive and gender-sensitive methodologies of research, and data collection.

The VoT Programme adopts a rights-based, trauma-informed, and victim-centric approach to ensure that victims are engaged in a manner consistent with safeguarding their dignity and rights, in line with international norms and principles. The VoT Programme employs due diligence mechanisms and a 'Do-No-Harm' approach in engagement with victims of terrorism, including training all staff in victim sensitization issues, and a support process that includes welfare checks, preparation and follow-ups after participation, to ensure victims' engagement in any UNOCT activity is grounded in informed consent.

A comprehensive risk management matrix to navigate potential risks, corresponding mitigation measures and the identification of the risk owner was developed by the VoT Programme. The matrix addresses risks across seven areas – including strategic, governance, operations, financial, compliance, human rights, and gender mainstreaming. The matrix is periodically updated. Specific risks identified include the lack of institutional capacity or political will among Member States to implement national initiatives. Mitigation measures led by the VoT Programme include sustained outreach with Member States, robust stakeholder engagement, and development of awareness-raising materials to highlight the importance of comprehensive support to victims of terrorism.

The VoT Programme adopts a dynamic monitoring and evaluation methodology that integrates lessons learned in real-time and these insights and evaluations shape future programming. Each project operates in alignment with the overarching VoT Programme logical framework. Evaluations conducted at project closure will inform the assessment and evaluation of the VoT Programme at the end of its lifecycle.

THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (“the Global Programme on PCVE”) builds the capacity of Member States, to become more resilient to violent extremism thereby reducing the threat of terrorism globally in accordance with the GCTS, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, international standards and recommended practices, including international human rights norms and standards. Its beneficiaries and partners include government officials, representatives of regional organizations, civil society actors, private sector actors and other UN entities. The Global Programme on PCVE is funded by the State of Qatar, alongside contributions from Australia, EU, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, and UNPDF/China.

The Global Programme on PCVE delivers globally informed and locally tailored capacity building and policy assistance, across four key portfolios:

1. **Assistance:** Supporting government officials and regional organizations to develop, implement and evaluate PCVE policies, plans, and strategies.
2. **Youth Engagement:** Empowering young people to contribute to PCVE efforts in their local communities.
3. **Online Radicalization and Strategic Communications:** Supporting government officials, regional organizations and civil society to counter hateful and violent narratives.
4. **New Frontiers:** Generating insights and dialogue around emerging areas of PCVE policy and practice, including video games, AI, climate change, mental health and psychosocial support and migration.

Since its establishment, the Programme has engaged over:



and collaborated with over 60 Member States

In addition, the Programme has produced a range of capacity building tools and resources, such as: a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Toolkit for PCVE National Action Plans and Regional Action Plans, Action Research on Violent Extremism and Gaming, a Crisis Communications Toolkit, a Crisis Simulation module, a ‘Virus of Hate’ Video Game, as well as Action Research on the Radicalization of Migrant Workers in Southeast Asia.

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Global Programme on PCVE significantly advanced its progress under Youth Engagement and Policy Assistance portfolios. Through its **Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)**, it seeks to increase the peacebuilding potential of young people and their resilience against violent extremism by increasing their awareness of violent extremism trends and vulnerabilities, their cognitive complexity, and by empowering them to rise as leaders within their communities. YEEP works to actively implement the vision and objectives of the United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy. It contributes by empowering youth from selected Member States to achieve their full potential as individuals, and in the CT/PCVE space by recognizing the value and contributions of youth as agents of change.

This is done through capacity building, provision of opportunities, building networks and enabling them to become leaders towards their peers, their communities, their Member States and the wider region.

UNOCT/UNCCT has developed its evidence-based 'Peer 2 Peer (P2P) Model' for engaging and empowering youth in PCVE. The Model is a signature product developed during the pilot phase of the YEEP in Australia, Sudan, and Sweden in 2020 and 2021. In total, **YEEP has trained 98 young leaders and engaged more than 1,000 young people through its various outreach activities.**

The P2P Model involves training youth cohorts on the topics of dialogue, facilitation, difficult conversations, leadership, and peer mentorship. UNOCT Youth Specialists mentor these youth cohorts over the space of several months through online courses and one-on-one coaching sessions and then guide them in the facilitation of their peer-engagement sessions, which brings together additional youth cohorts from their communities in a "participatory action research" modality.

The P2P Model was co-designed by the young participants, and peer-reviewed by a youth reference group, with the support of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security.



Evaluations have been conducted on previous iterations of YEEP and feedback gathered on participants' experiences of the Programme shows strong results. Young leaders reported an improvement in their capacity to engage with their peers on sensitive topics such as PCVE and to formulate and communicate policy recommendations to key decision-makers. When asked to reflect on the policy dialogue itself, 100% of young leaders agreed they were able to share their recommendations and 87% agreed they felt listened to by the policymakers who were present. As noted by one Young Leader:

"This program has been transformative in more ways than one. I've learned skills that I never would have picked up otherwise and it has opened doors to opportunities that I didn't even know existed."



While the programme's core focus remains on peacebuilding and PCVE, UNOCT's YEEP can be delivered flexibly according to a range of contexts and needs. It is a hybrid model providing both virtual and in-person capacity building.

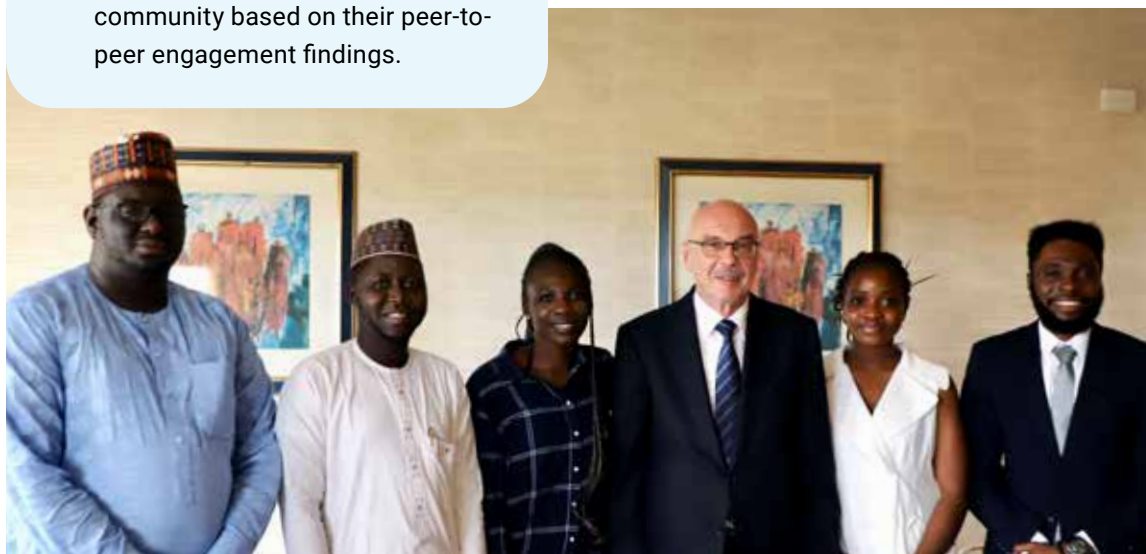
In August 2023, the Global Programme on PCVE launched **YEEP in Africa (YEEP Africa)**, with **Nigeria** as the first of three countries of support. The YEEP Nigeria young leaders were working with directly impacted communities including where Boko Haram has actively targeted for its recruitment and radicalization. The 23 young leaders completed:

1. **A five-week** online training,
2. **In-person training workshop** held in Abuja,
3. **Peer-to-peer engagement** where they reached over 350 of their peers to discuss youth and PCVE
4. **Online training** to analyze the views collected from their respective communities.
5. **Participated in a National Policy Dialogue** that was jointly convened by UNOCT and the Nigerian Office of the Security Advisor, where the young leaders pitched 8 recommendations to Government, CSOs and the international community based on their peer-to-peer engagement findings.



This national policy dialogue represented milestone progress with regards to leveraging on strategic partnership through the signing of an MOU between UNOCT and the Nigerian Office of the Security Advisor and securing the highest level of political buy-in for the implementation of YEEP Nigeria. A key outcome of this policy dialogue was the mapping of opportunities for stakeholders to further engage with YEEP Nigeria cohort, including through embedding them as members of the national steering committee on PCVE hosted by the Nigerian Office of the Security Advisor. As next steps, UNOCT will provide support to YEEP Nigeria cohort to take on a leadership role with following up on the 18 opportunities mapped out for further engagement.

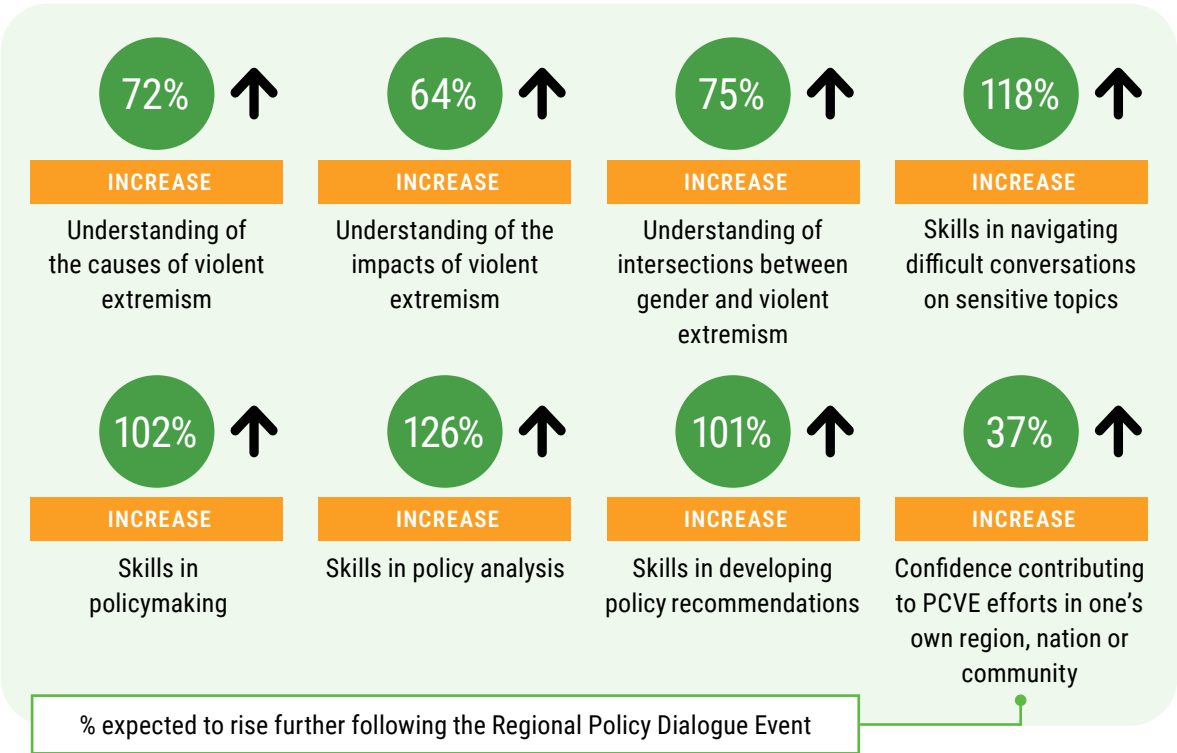
The Global Programme on PCVE conducted an evaluation pre-survey at the beginning of YEEP in Nigeria in August 2023, and a post



USG Voronkov met with a group of young leaders from Nigeria currently engaged in the YEEP Africa on 30 August 2023, Abuja. Photo/UNOCT

survey at the end of the Policy Dialogue Event in January 2024. Analysis of the surveys shows that programme activities in Nigeria have resulted in improvements in participants’

understanding of key PCVE concepts, as well as skills for PCVE peer engagement and policy development. Highlights include, on average, across all participants surveyed:



Establishing a UNOCT Youth Leader Network for PCVE

In December 2023, the Global Programmed on PCVE conducted its first scoping meeting of the **Youth Alumni Network** and first youth-co-design session to continue engagements with a total of 137 youth alumnus of the YEEP in Australia, Sudan, Sweden, and South and Southeast Asia. Engaging with the youth alumni is an integral part of the work of the Global Programme on PCVE, focusing on creating a platform for youth to engage with other youth alumni members and UNOCT on issues related to PCVE, as well as supporting the young leaders to integrate youth perspectives into global counter-terrorism strategic issues. In 2023, the Global Programme on PCVE brought several of the alumnus to high-level events

Participants at the Civil Society Roundtable on 7 December 2023. Photo/UNOCT



and conferences, including the CT Week in June, the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September and the UNOCT convened Civil Society Roundtable on 7 December, on ‘Digital Safety for Youth: Preventing Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Africa’.

Policy Assistance for PCVE

The Global Programme on PCVE successfully launched a **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit** in March 2023 in response

to challenges identified with measuring the impact of PCVE initiatives. It is designed to support beneficiaries involved in the development and/or implementation of action plans to PCVE, in line with the Plan of Actions to Prevent Violent Extremism. It supports the measurement and reporting of the results of

PCVE action plans, identification of strengths and opportunities for improvement, and providing regular PCVE action plans updates. The toolkit was piloted at the regional forum on "Monitoring and Evaluation of National Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia", in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, in May 2023, with participants from five Central Asian States, namely: the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.



Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the Global Programme on PCVE will continue to support Member States and other beneficiaries through implementation of its YEEP in Africa, working with young leaders from some of the most high-risk communities in Africa including Somalia, where a call for application has already been sent out for the selection of young leaders. YEEP Somalia will be delivered in partnership with local partners like the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and Management Institute for National Development (a local CSO). This project has also partnered with the Government of Somalia (TUBSAN), in order to benefit from strong support with regards to ensuring the safety and security of selected participants, as well as support with ensuring diverse ethnic representation from across the six regions. On completion of YEEP in the three respective countries in Africa, a regional policy dialogue will be convened which will bring together all YEEP Africa participants to promote dialogue and exchange of experiences and lessons learned, with a focus on innovative, youth-designed cross-continental approaches to PCVE in Africa. The Global Programme on PCVE will continue to amplify youth's voices at high-level events and further launch the Youth Alumni network with the convening of a youth co-design session on the framework of the youth network.

On Policy Assistance, the Programme will focus on providing direct support to governments in measuring their outcomes on PCVE. The first country of support is Kenya through building the capacity of the Kenyan National Counter Terrorism Center on a comprehensive review of their national PCVE strategy, using UNOCT's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit. This will also include direct technical assistance in the development of their new, five-year M&E framework as part of the new national strategy.

5 INTERNATIONAL HUB ON BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM

UNOCT's Behavioural Insights Hub (BI Hub) in Doha is dedicated to providing technical assistance to Member States, civil society and other partners in their CT/PCVE efforts through the application of Behavioral Science. The BI Hub identifies and promotes knowledge about intricate layers of human behavior, recognizing its role in the complex and dynamic nature of the radicalization process; and the integration of understanding of the underlying behavioural patterns and cognitive processes in the design of targeted, evidence-based programme initiatives and capacity building support.

The BI Hub seeks to translate cutting-edge research in Behavioral Science into actionable policy recommendations and practical interventions. This involves bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application in the realm of counter-terrorism. The BI Hub is dedicated to creating a meaningful impact by continuously engaging in innovative research methodologies and fostering collaborative partnerships. It focuses on developing a deep understanding of the motivations, decision-making processes, and behaviors of terrorists, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies.

Functionally, the BI Hub operates on a global scale, applying its Behavioral Science methodologies and interventions to address the diverse and complex nature of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. By engaging with communities, organizations, and stakeholders from different cultural, social, and political backgrounds, the BI Hub ensures a comprehensive and inclusive approach to counter-terrorism. This broad geographical focus underscores the Hub's commitment to making a significant impact across various regions, contributing to the creation of safer and more secure global communities.

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the BI Hub completed its first phase of operationalization, which began in 2020, marked by a series of impactful initiatives, established collaborations and products to advance the knowledge and skills of programme beneficiaries in applying Behavioural Science in CT/PCVE. This period was characterized by significant progress in various domains, reflecting the Hub's commitment and technical capacity to develop and implement innovative and evidence-based strategies.



“Behavioural science is a critical tool for the UN to progress on its mandate. It can contribute to combating poverty, improving public health and safety, promoting gender equality, strengthening peacebuilding and all the SDGs.

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General



During this time, [two podcast seasons](#) were produced that unpack critical topics related to the trajectory of radicalization and extremism, resilience factors to extremist narratives and the value of sports in preventing the spread of extremist behaviour. Additionally, the BI Hub developed a Guidance Note on **“Developing a Behavioural Insights Approach to Fostering Resilience in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism”** to be published in early 2024. This document offers an 8-step methodology that practitioners can use to identify and mitigate extremist threats and design interventions focusing on fostering resilience through the BI approach.



The BI Hub made a presentation on best practices and academic research in identifying hostile intent through behavioural observation and investigative interviewing at the Behavioural Analysis Conference in Prague that took place between 28 and 30 March. This event, that gathered around 300 participants from around the world, underscored the Hub’s technical expertise and position in the field of BI and

security measures and provided opportunities for networking and partnership.

On 8 March, during the UN Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Conference in Doha, the UNOCT BI Hub, in partnership with the Embassy of Rwanda to Qatar and Qatar Charity, hosted a side event focused on using behavioral-based approaches to counter radicalization in LDCs, with Rwanda as a case study. Attended by nearly 70 participants both in person and online, the event provided valuable insights into the application of BI in PCVE, highlighting the importance of such approaches in building resilience against radicalization in LDCs.



On 18 March, tackling the rise of Islamophobia, the BI Hub coordinated an event on the potential use of Behavioural Science in designing information campaigns to increase understanding and acceptance of those discriminated against due to religion or beliefs. This initiative, attended by 120 participants, focused on addressing hate crimes against Muslims, demonstrating the Hub’s role in promoting inclusion and combatting discrimination.



Commemorating the first International Day To Combat Islamophobia, BI Hub in Doha participated in an event organized by Qatar Charity on 15 March 2023. Photo/UNOCT



Photo/UNOCT

In partnership with IOM and the U.S. State Department of Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau, the BI Hub launched the **Mindfulness-Based Initiative for Building Resilience against Radicalization (MBI)** with the aim of exploring and experimenting with innovative approaches to prevent radicalization and foster pro-social and benevolent responses to the conditions and grievances that spur it. In this context, a three-day training was delivered for community service providers in Doha, which focused on introducing mindfulness as a tool for building resilience, by empowering people to not only confront radicalization, but to also constructively respond to factors that contribute to it, such as trauma, emotional self-regulation or lack of social skills. The training was conducted on the premises of the newly opened UN House and gathered about 30 beneficiaries. A dedicated workbook used as a six-module programme, outlines often

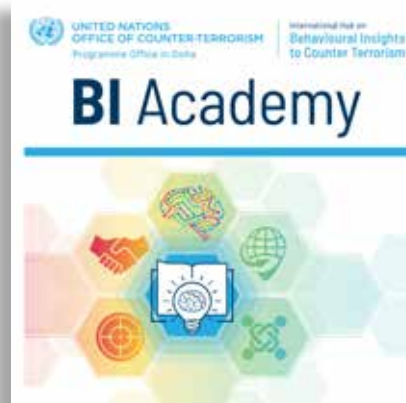
overlooked and under-researched factors facilitating radicalization, and illustrates how mindfulness practices can empower individuals to develop greater self-awareness, emotional regulation and empathy, thereby developing a means of withstanding the divisive rhetoric propagated by those who wish to stir divisions and perpetrate violence. This is a pioneering endeavor and given the sheer weight of empirical evidence reinforcing it, one that holds immense promise going forward.

During the 2023 Behavioural Science Week, jointly with the UN Innovation Network, the BI Hub co-organized the virtual side event on 12-16 June entitled “Neuroscience of Peace and Conflict” that discussed the role of sacred values and social exclusion in radicalization. This event was webcasted globally, attracted 375 participants and featured expert presentations on radicalization and reintegration strategies.

A key achievement during the reporting period was the inauguration of the **Behavioural Insights Academy** in Doha, in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University, which took place between 8 and 13 May. This flagship initiative offers capacity-building in BI tailored for the international community of practice in PCVE. The BI Academy in its first edition gathered 45 practitioners from over 20 Member States and provided them with theoretical knowledge and practical skills in Behavioural Science.



Photo/UNOCT



Opening Ceremony of the Behavioural Insights Academy at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, in May 2023: HE Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Mohammed Al-Horr; Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Director of UNOCT-PKMCB; and Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, Chief of UNOCT-BI Hub

On 16 November, the BI Hub participated in the Third International Conference on Countering Violent Extremism in the Headquarters of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Morocco, which focused on the role of knowledge in addressing the new challenges of PCVE. The Hub's presentation at the event highlighted the behavioural and psychological aspects of recruitment and deradicalization, and UNOCT's approach in leveraging psychological insights for preventing and countering the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

On 28 November, the BI Hub hosted in Doha a roundtable discussion on "Enhancing Community Resilience Worldwide through Integrating Behavioural Insights in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism." This event brought together 20 leading experts in Behavioural Science and PCVE, focusing on leveraging BI to fortify community resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Moreover, the BI Hub organized a session titled **"Breaking Barriers with Behavioural Science: Building Resilient Communities and Promoting Social Inclusion"** at the Doha Forum on 10-11 December. This panel discussion, attended by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, as well as representatives from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and GCERF, explored new innovative approaches to PCVE by employing Behavioural Science, in tandem with data and digital technologies, highlighting the potential for inclusive dialogue and collaboration.

In 2023, the BI Hub commissioned an **independent mid-term evaluation of its 2021-2023 Programme**. The final report is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2024. The evaluation process involved substantive interviews and focus group discussions with around 40 interviewees, including beneficiaries who attended capacity-building events and national counterparts who requested technical assistance from the BI Hub, as well as relevant



"Breaking Barriers with Behavioural Science" at the Doha Forum, 10 December 2023. Photo/UNOCT

UNOCT sections to ensure all necessary perspectives are included. The evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations will inform the formulation of BI Hub's vision, strategy, and key programme activities for 2024 and beyond.

Human Rights and Gender mainstreaming

The activities and initiatives undertaken in 2023 demonstrate the BI Hub's dedication to using Behavioural Science to understand and counteract terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Hub's focus on gender and human rights ensures that its strategies are inclusive, gender-responsive and respect fundamental freedoms. The BI Hub's efforts have paved the way for future cooperation and new partnerships, enhancing its global impact in the fight against terrorism. In 2023, the BI Hub focused on gender and human rights by launching initiatives like the Behavioral Insights Academy for PCVE training, the first BI Hub Gender Workplan, and the BI Expert Database with human rights and gender expertise. It aimed to mainstream human rights and gender in its partnership strategy, support related work plans, and produce human rights and gender-sensitive content through its podcast series. The BI Hub is on track with its gender-related goals, reflecting a commitment to human rights compliance and gender equality and empowerment in its activities and programmatic framework, aligning with the UN's broader objectives on these critical issues.

Priorities for 2024

Building on the foundations laid in its initial phase concluded in 2023, the BI Hub is set to embark on a transformative journey for the period of 2024-2026. The Hub is leveraging lessons learned from its initial phase to transform its programme approach and key initiatives into three focused clusters: enhancing Behavioural Science for the security

sector, fostering community-based resilience, and knowledge development and sharing. This transformation involves consolidating expertise, prioritizing key areas, and efficiently allocating resources.

These initiatives include:

- **Establishment of the Working Group on Behavioral Science within the Counter-Terrorism Compact.** The Hub is engaging in preliminary consultations and reaching out to potential co-chairs to build a strong foundation for the proposed working group. This effort is critical for securing broad support from the outset, demonstrating the working group's relevance, and ensuring its success in enhancing counter-terrorism strategies through innovative, evidence-based approaches rooted in Behavioural Science.
- **Comprehensive Behavioural Security Framework (CBSF).** CBSF will integrate Behavioural Science with data analysis and AI technologies to offer Member States practical tools. Its predictive analytics toolkit, *golnsight*, will enable precise threat anticipation and behaviourally informed interventions. Customized risk assessments will inform evidence-based policies, while expert-driven design systems facilitate swift threat detection. CBSF aims to provide comprehensive training modules and continuous monitoring for adaptive responses and secure international collaboration.
- **Doha Memorandum on Good Practices in Behavioural Security.** It will compile actionable best practices in behavioural security for practical implementation, serving as a knowledge repository with proven case studies and innovative approaches. It aims to capture diverse perspectives through international collaboration, emphasizing ethical guidelines and policy recommendations, fostering standardization efforts, and potentially paving the way for UN adoption.

- **2024 Edition of the BI Academy and Mentorship Programme.** Building on the foundation of its inaugural programme, the BI Academy will introduce new modules like Behavioural Science for Preventive Diplomacy and Behavioural Analysis. The mentorship programme, supported by GCERF, will continue to offer guidance and assistance, fostering a global community of practitioners in preventive diplomacy and behavioural analysis.
- **Building UNOCT internal capacity in behavioural science in line with the UN 2.0 Common Agenda Quintet of Change.** This priority resonates and compliments the proposed establishment of a Behavioral Science (BeSci) Working Group within the Counter-Terrorism Compact. It aims to enhance the Organization's internal capacity for applying BI in programming, policies and administration. It includes implementing UNOCT-selected pilot programmes in partnership with the BI Hub and foresees the creation of an internal network of BeSci focal points within UN Compact Entities Network. The goal is to routinely integrate BeSci into UNOCT programmes and projects over the next 2-3 years, with significant contributions from the BI Hub in programme evaluation.
- **Podcast Series.** The BI Hub will continue producing its podcast series, delving into Behavioural Science, security, and counterterrorism strategies, providing a platform for in-depth discussions.
- **Annual BI Forum in Doha.** This forum aims to provide a platform for exchanging knowledge and best practices on the role of behavioural science in preventing terrorism and violent extremism, engaging experts and practitioners worldwide.
- **Global research initiative.** This initiative will conduct comparative studies across multiple countries to provide nuanced insights into peace interventions, societal behaviors, and conflict resolution. The aim is to offer evidence-based policy recommendations to governments and non-governmental organizations, with findings disseminated through conferences, publications, and workshops.

The Behavioural Insights Academy (BI Academy) was officially launched during the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations Headquarters, 19 June 2023. Photo/Paulo Filgueiras



6

UNOCT PROGRAMME OFFICE ON PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM

The UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism was established with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar in November 2020, and officially launched in June 2021. The Programme Office is a unique structure in the UN system that serves as a global hub to support parliamentarians worldwide in their CT/PCVE efforts through innovation and by leveraging partnerships with parliamentary assemblies, entities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, regional and international organizations, academia, and civil society.

The Programme Office in partnership with international and regional parliamentary assemblies, and in collaboration with other UN entities and international organizations, is implementing the Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism. Through the Global Programme, the Office promotes a balanced implementation of the GCTS and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Progress in 2023

In 2023, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement successfully organized a series of high-level parliamentary events and activities as well as continued to advance with the implementation of important initiatives and the development of legal tools to support the work of parliamentarians worldwide.

In January 2023, in cooperation with the National Assembly of the Togolese Republic, the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the



Interparliamentary Committee of the Group of Five for the Sahel (CIP G5 Sahel), and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, it organized the **“High-Level Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Conference on Youth Engagement”**, which was





held in Lomé, Togolese Republic on 19 January 2023. Over 200 parliamentarians from National Parliaments of the African Member States and delegates of regional parliamentary assemblies participated, as well as representatives of United Nations entities, civil society, academia, and diplomatic corps located in Togo. The Conference allowed participants to discuss ways for enhancement of youth engagement in policymaking and legislative processes on CT/PVE and deliberate on the key role that the youth should play in preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, in cooperation with the National Assembly of the Togolese Republic, APU, CIP G5 Sahel, and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, organized the **“First Meeting of the Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Working Group for Africa”**, which was held in Lomé, on 20 January 2023. The Meeting was attended by more than 200 participants, including parliamentarians and representatives of parliamentary assemblies, United Nations entities, civil society, academia, and diplomatic corps located in Togo. The participants identified the challenges faced by Member States in the region, exchanged their plans year, and discussed the necessary follow-up actions to be undertaken. The Second Meeting of the Working Group, which is planned to be held in the third quarter of 2024, will be devoted to the development of regulations and constituent documents of the working group, preparation of general workplan for the coming years and the appointment of national focal points from each of the participating National Parliaments of the region.



Top: Panel of the “First Meeting of the Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Working Group for Africa”, which was held in Lomé, Togolese Republic on 20 January 2023. From left to right: H.E. Mr. Saad bin Ahmed Al-Mesned, Shura State of Qatar; H.E. Ms. Mabel Memor Chinomona, President of the APU / President of Senate, Parliament of Zimbabwe; H.E. Ms Yawa Djigbodi Tsegan, President of the National Assembly of Togo; Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director of UNOCT-UNCCT; H.E. Mr. Seyni Oumarou, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger.

Right: Keynote address by H.E. Mr Saad bin Ahmed Al-Mesned, Shura State of Qatar during the High-Level Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Conference on Youth Engagement” on 19 January 2023. Photo/UNOCT



Keynote addresses at the opening of the Third Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies, 30 January 2023, Doha, State of Qatar, by (left to right): H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Abdulla Al-Ghanim, Speaker, Shura Council of the State of Qatar; H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; H.E. Ms. Mabel Memory Chinomona, President of the APU / President of Senate, Parliament of Zimbabwe; Hon. Reinhold Lopatka, Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Presidency of the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies. Photo/UNOCT



On 30 January 2023, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA) – the current Chair of the Presidency of the Coordination Mechanism – held the **“Third Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies”**, in Doha, State of Qatar. The hybrid meeting gathered 60 in-person and 10 virtual participants from 14 parliamentary assemblies from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Central and South Asia. The Meeting concluded with the agreement on the revised Terms of Reference for the Coordination Mechanism, as well as with an exchange on the priority thematic areas, geographical focus, and main activities for 2023.

This was followed by the **“First Parliamentary Policy Dialogue”**, that was held on 31 January 2023, in Doha, State of Qatar. The event was organized by the Programme Office on

Parliamentary Engagement with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in cooperation with the OSCE PA. Since parliamentary dialogues were conceived



as thematic parliamentary events, the First Dialogue was dedicated to the issues of Border Security and Cross Border Cooperation in the Context of Counter-Terrorism. The event was carried out in a hybrid format and included 60 in-person and 10 virtual participants from 14 parliamentary assemblies, delegates of national parliaments, subject-matter experts, UN agencies, and other international organizations from across the world. The Dialogue concluded with a constructive discussion on key issues and challenges in border security and development of a set of important recommendations on the role that parliamentary assemblies, national parliaments and parliamentarians can play in facilitating cross-border cooperation in the context of counter-terrorism.

On 4 October 2023, the Programme Office carried out the **"Fourth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies"**, which took place in Vienna, Republic of Austria. The Meeting was organized with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and in collaboration with the OSCE PA and the Austrian Parliament. The hybrid Meeting gathered 70 in-person and 10 virtual participants from 17 parliamentary assemblies from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, as well as Central and South Asia. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, representatives from the Austrian Parliament and the Ministry



of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria. The event culminated with an exchange on the implemented activities and priority areas for 2023-2024, and the re-election of Honourable Reinhold Lopatka (OSCE PA) for a new term (one year) of Chairmanship of the Presidency of the Coordination Mechanism.

On 5 October 2023, the Programme Office with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in cooperation with the OSCE PA organized the **"Second Parliamentary Policy Dialogue"**, held in Vienna, Republic of Austria. This time, the Dialogue was dedicated to the issue of the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism. The Meeting was held in hybrid format and gathered 70 in-person and 10 virtual participants from 17 parliamentary assemblies from different parts of the world. The Meeting was also attended by the delegation of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, delegates from national parliaments,



Panel of the Second Parliamentary Policy Dialogue, 5 October 2023, Vienna, Austrian Republic (from left to right): H.E. Mr. Ali Almarri, Member of the Shura Council and Chairman of the Council's Internal and External Affairs Committee Ali bin Fetais Al Marri; Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director of UNOCT-UNCCT; H.E. Ambassador Mr. Gregor Kössler, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria. Photo/UNOCT

as well as representatives from the Austrian Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria. The event wrapped up with a constructive discussion on the role of youth in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the development of recommendations for national parliaments to consider when developing legislation and policies on PVE.

Throughout 2023, the Programme Office took part in relevant **regional and international parliamentary events**, including the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) 147th General Assembly and the Second Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism (Luanda, Angola, 23-27 October 2023), and the 45th Conference of Speakers of the African Parliamentary Union (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 14-15 December 2023). The Programme Office also participated in the 17th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean that was held on 2-3 March 2023, in Marrakech, Morocco. Participation in the mentioned activities allowed the Programme Office to continue building important partnerships, raise awareness of the critical work of the UNOCT Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in PCVE among key international parliamentary associations, and reach preliminary agreements on joint parliamentary initiatives and activities.

Taking advantage of the numerous important international events that are regularly taking place in the State of Qatar, in 2023, the Programme Office actively participated in various high-level conferences, promoting, and raising awareness about the UNOCT work on CT/PVE, including the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (5-9 March 2023) and the Doha Forum (10-11 December 2023).

The placement of the Programme Office on Parliament Engagement in the new UN House, which was opened in Doha in March 2023, made it possible for the Programme Office to host working meetings, hold events and receive different delegations in the convenient office premises.

The Programme Office has been also actively working towards the completion of several legal tools to support parliamentarians. Thus, in 2024, the Programme Office is planning to launch the **"Parliamentary Handbook on Promoting the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)"** and **"Parliamentary Guide for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy"**. The development of the tools has been closely coordinated with CTED, UNODC, and other partners and parliamentary assemblies - members of the Coordination Mechanism.



The Programme Office maintained its close collaboration with the UNOCT Victims of Terrorism Unit on several important initiatives dedicated to supporting and protecting victims of terrorism. This includes the Round-Table discussion "Enhancing Member States' Capacity to **Support the Needs and Rights of Victims of Terrorism through the Model Legislative Provisions** and the Development of National Comprehensive Assistance Plans", which took place in a hybrid format on 14 March 2023. Besides the essential social aspects related to the protection of victims of terrorism, the event allowed the involvement of parliamentarians in the discussion about the role they can play in supporting and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism.

To enhance its efforts at the national level, in 2023, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement successfully collaborated with the UNOCT Victims of Terrorism Unit and the



UNOCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit. In cooperation with the Victims of Terrorism Unit, the Programme Office engaged with the Philippines on the preparation for the implementation of the **Model Legal Provisions on the Protection of Victims of Terrorism** (MLPs), and particularly fostering the engagement of the National Parliament of the Philippines on this critical issue. And with the UNOCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit, the Parliamentary Programme Office efficiently collaborated on the National Advocacy Event with the National Assembly of Togo on **Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)**, which took place

in Lomé on 14 June 2023. The event provided a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views on the threat of nuclear terrorism and legislative assistance available to support adherence to the Convention and its practical implementation.



Photo/UNOCT

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is one of the key priorities and integral parts of the Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement. The Programme Office in coordination with the UNOCT Gender Unit, developed a multi-year “Global Initiative on Engaging Women Parliamentarians in Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Efforts”. The initiative sets out the following goals: (i) support and promote leadership, full and equal participation of women parliamentarians in the development, implementation, and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies, and strategies; (ii) support mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the development, implementation, and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies, and strategies. The initiative was first presented at the Gender mainstreaming session during the Third Coordination Meeting, held in Doha on 30 January 2023. The participating parliamentary assemblies fully supported the initiative and agreed to provide all-kind support for its implementation. The first event under this initiative, the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, is planned to take place in Q2 of 2024, in Doha. It will focus on the role of women parliamentarians in the development, implementation and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies and strategies. The Conference is expected to conclude with

the launch of the CT/PVE Network of Women Parliamentarians.

Another central objective of the Parliamentary Engagement Programme involves advancing the awareness and application of international human rights norms and standards. This commitment is seamlessly woven into every phase of the programme cycle. The majority of programme initiatives are dedicated to exploring and addressing critical human rights issues within counter-terrorism strategies, policies, and legislation. The Programme is equally dedicated to ensuring thorough coverage of human rights considerations in its research, capacity-building, and outreach endeavors. It is designed to fully incorporate international human rights norms and standards throughout the planning and execution of programme outputs and activities. This extends to the development of best practices and informational materials. Particular emphasis is placed on mechanisms and actions to aid parliamentarians in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities. This is deemed essential in the pursuit of promoting and enforcing respect for human rights. The Programme accomplishes this objective by advocating for the incorporation of international human rights norms and standards into the initiatives of national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies.

Priorities for 2024

The Programme Office will continue the implementation of the Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in line with the workplan, which was agreed with the key programme partners. Additionally, in 2024, the Programme Office will seek to further enhance the focus on the provision of technical assistance and expert support to national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies on the development, enactment, implementation, and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies, and national strategies. This work will be further intensified through the implementation of the global thematic and regional initiatives, such as youth and women parliamentarians' initiatives, global initiatives on parliamentary engagement with civil society in CT/PVE, as well as critical parliamentary initiatives in the African continent, including in the Sahel region.

In 2024, the Programme Office will also continue fostering and promoting coordination and collaboration among national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies via the effective platforms that have been established in the previous years, including the Coordination Mechanism, Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Working Group for Africa and the Global Parliamentary Network. These efforts will be primarily supported and accelerated by the launch of the relevant legal tools.

To formalize and further enhance its current and new partnerships and collaborations, in 2024, the Programme Office will sign MoUs with at least five international and regional parliamentary assemblies, including some of the world's largest parliamentary assemblies, such as the African Parliamentary Union, Latin American and Caribbean Parliament and the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States.

The Programme in Numbers

In 2023, through its events and activities, the Programme Office engaged with:



7 GENDER



UNOCT recognises how acts of terrorism and the strategies used to counter them may impact women, girls, men and boys differently. Similarly, women and men may have various roles within terrorist groups as supporters, facilitators, or perpetrators. In line with the GCTS and its seventh and eight reviews, UNOCT strives to promote gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches to CT/PCVE through its programmes and projects from their design to implementation and evaluation. Building on this understanding, **UNOCT adopted a high-level result on gender within its larger Strategic Plan and Result Framework for 2022-2025:** “To promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts.” In this regard, UNOCT sets gender as one of its institutional priorities.

Since 2019, UNOCT has taken important steps to mainstream gender across all programmes, policies, and activities through its Gender Unit (GU), supported by a dedicated Gender Advisor and team. As of January 2022, the GU is seated within the newly established **Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS)** that is primarily responsible for the provision of technical assistance, oversight and quality assurance across UNOCT policy, coordination, and programmatic functions. More specifically,

the GU seeks to mainstream gender through a variety of initiatives, including but not limited to incorporating gender analyses into the development and delivery of programmes and projects, including gender mainstreaming within respective results frameworks, as well as ensuring the good implementation of gender markers. As part of UNOCT’s commitment to strengthen the mainstreaming of human rights and gender across its programmatic functions and following the adoption of the PRB Policy in late 2022, in 2023 the head of the Human Rights and Gender Section became an ex officio member of the PRB and the Section (including Gender Unit) consistently reviewed all programmatic documents presented to the PRB to strengthen human rights and gender mainstreaming. Additionally, the GU





provides support to various Member States to strengthen their capacities in the design and implementation of gender-responsive CT/PCVE programmes and policies.

UNOCT's approach to gender mainstreaming is informed by its **Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan**. Adopted in early 2022, the Policy and Action Plan aims to ensure that its programmes and policies, as well as other modes of work, account for the differential impact of both terrorism and CT/PCVE measures on the human rights and needs of women, men, girls and boys. In this way, the Policy and Action Plan establishes a framework for UNOCT's larger mandate on gender equality, ensuring that CT/PCVE initiatives are well-informed, gender-sensitive, context and human rights based, and do not reinforce inequalities or jeopardise the gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The Policy and Action Plan is based on UN system-wide requirements for gender equality, international gender equality and human rights standards, as well as an internal capacity assessment conducted by the GU in 2021. The internal assessment consisted of all UNOCT programme and project documents, drawing from good practices and missed opportunities in gender mainstreaming, in addition to office-wide consultations with senior management and focus group discussions with technical-level staff. The combination of these elements allowed the identification of capacity gaps across the Office's functions.

The Action Plan details the required actions for each of the priority areas and is meant to be completed in 2024. Within this framework, the GU has strived to provide high-quality and timely technical assistance to all programmes and units across UNOCT's functions. In 2023, the GU reviewed at least:

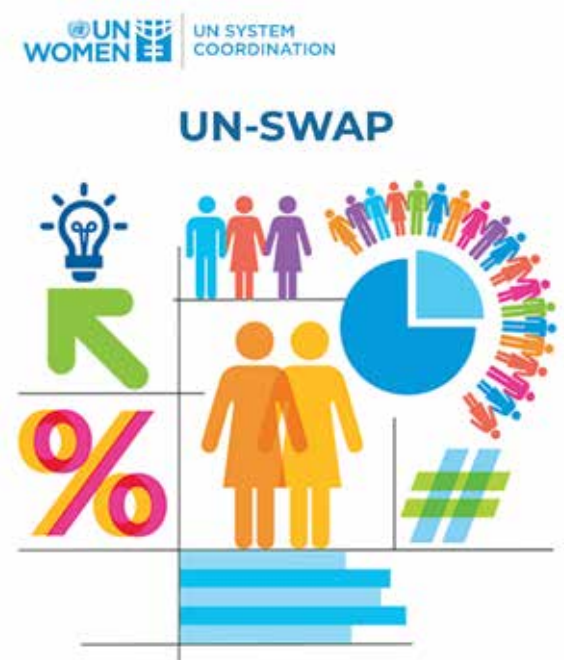
- **82 programmatic documents**
- **4 evaluation reports**
- **31 capacity-building documents** (e.g., training modules, knowledge products, etc.)
- **34 statements and talking-points** by UNOCT senior leadership
- **15 institutional documents** (e.g., policies, office-wide reports, etc.)
- **6 external documents** (e.g., reports to the Secretary-General)

The GU also launched a revised Gender Marker system, allowing UNOCT to better track the extent of gender mainstreaming within each programme / project by establishing thresholds for mainstreaming gender across programmes / projects, outcomes / outputs, and activities, as well as benchmarks for financial allocations. The GU also contributed significantly to UNOCT's Evaluation Handbook, guiding the implementation of UNOCT's Evaluation Policy. These combined efforts demonstrate significant impact as the GU has successfully contributed to the integration of gender-responsive approaches across UNOCT.

The GU revamped the **UNOCT Gender Task Force**, bringing together 25 representatives from all sections and units across UNOCT to support gender mainstreaming across the Office's functions. This is done through regular meetings for coordination and substantive discussions regarding gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE, as well as sharing of information on progress in the implementation of the policy and in the specific programming, policy and coordination functions across UNOCT. For example, the Gender Task Force initiated its **Counter-Terrorism Brown Bag series** in April 2023 to strengthen UNOCT's internal capacity on the gender and CT/PCVE nexus, while also raising awareness on the challenges, good practices, and entry points for the mainstreaming of gender in CT/PCVE coordination, policies and programming. Five sessions were held in 2023 inviting leading external experts from research and academia, with more than 50 UNOCT staff in attendance in each session.

The GU has made significant progress in fulfilling UNOCT's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is demonstrated through the results achieved by the Office in implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0). Led by UN Women, UN-SWAP 2.0 is a UN system-wide accountability framework to measure, monitor, and drive progress towards a

common set of standards for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2022 UNOCT exceeded requirements in 4 of the 17 performance indicators and met requirements in 11 others. Hence, UNOCT ratings compared with the larger UN Secretariat and the UN system at large, demonstrates an 89 percent share of ratings meeting or exceeding requirements in comparison to 71 percent in the UN Secretariat and 67 percent in the UN system. Such achievements build on the GU's efforts since 2019 through its technical assistance, oversight and quality assurance, in addition to its individual programmes.



Priorities for 2024

In the upcoming year, the GU will conduct a **review and update the Gender Mainstreaming Policy and its Action Plan**. The review will identify areas for improvement within the context of the Policy and Action Plan, as well as ways to step up efforts for gender mainstreaming. This exercise will be conducted through an institutional gender needs assessment. The GU will also launch the Global Gender Programme, which will consolidate its initiatives into one overarching framework and expand its portfolio of direct support to Member States on gender

mainstreaming efforts in CT/PCVE, as well as enhance cooperation with CSOs, particularly those women-led.



8

HUMAN RIGHTS



The GCTS has established that respect for the rule of law and human rights form the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. In the eighth review of the GCTS, the General Assembly reaffirmed that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures and an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort. They are the cornerstones of effective and sustainable counter-terrorism responses. As highlighted in the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, UNOCT is committed to placing human rights at the center of its mandate and its implementation, in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and guided by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

Since 2019, UNOCT has taken essential steps to fulfill this commitment, including the adoption of the **Global Human Rights Programme in 2021**, as well as the establishment of a dedicated Human Rights and Gender Section, as noted by the General Assembly in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy eighth review resolution. The Human Rights Unit, placed within HRGS, supports the meaningful incorporation of human rights considerations into UNOCT's activities, through technical assistance, quality assurance and oversight across UNOCT's policy, coordination and programmatic functions.

In 2023, the Human Rights Unit supported a growing number of programmes and projects. The Unit has supported the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets in incorporating human rights considerations in multiple capacity-building events conducted by the Global Programme. In December 2023, it co-organized, together with the Global Programme and PKMCB, a 3-day training on human rights and international humanitarian law considerations related to the protection of vulnerable sites against terrorist attacks, building on an expert briefing on these issues held in April 2023 under the series for the United Nations Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection. The Human Rights Unit has also worked closely with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme to develop and to further strengthen the comprehensive human rights strategy for the Programme, including by supporting the human rights risk and opportunity analysis conducted with the aim of informing efforts



to incorporate human rights more effectively in Programme activities. The Human Rights Unit continued its collaboration with the Global Sports Programme towards incorporating human rights considerations in training modules on addressing terrorism threats in the context of Major Sporting Events as well as in the use of sport for the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Cooperation with UNOCT's Bi Hub also continued over the course of the year, with a particular focus on establishing benchmarks for incorporating human rights in the Hub's activities, to be embedded in the design of its second phase and in identifying lessons learned in this respect in the context of an independent mid-term evaluation. The Human Rights Unit also provided support to the Global Fusion Cells Program, in view of mainstreaming human rights and implementing human rights due diligence requirements in the provision of support to two Member States.

The Human Rights Unit continued to develop a UNOCT-wide Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy and an SOP to strengthen implementation of the UN-wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in the context of UNOCT's support to non-United Nations security forces. The Human Rights Unit has played an active role in further cooperation and coordination on human rights within the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, in particular its Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and the Rule of law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism, vice-chaired by UNOCT and chaired by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

In 2023, the Human Rights Unit contributed its human rights expertise to UNOCT's role as substantive secretariat for the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as to UNOCT's high-level policy and strategic engagements with Member States and other relevant stakeholders. The Human Rights Unit is involved in key interagency processes related to human rights, including in support of the Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights and the United Nations HRDDP Review Group.

In order to enhance national capacities to prevent and address violent extremism conducive to terrorism and terrorism in compliance with human rights, the Human Rights Unit delivered tailored technical assistance to Member States. In 2023, the Human Rights Unit launched a dedicated technical assistance project in Iraq to strengthen the incorporation of human rights considerations by Iraqi law enforcement and intelligence agencies working on counter-terrorism. The Human Rights Unit continued its engagement with the Government of the Philippines and national partners, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines, OHCHR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) to strengthen the institutional capacity within the security sector and among judicial actors in adopting a human rights-based approach to counter terrorism in the context of the UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines.

Priorities for 2024

In 2024, the finalization of UNOCT's Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy and a SOP on the implementation of the UN-wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations security forces are key objectives to further support and amplify ongoing efforts towards ensuring human rights mainstreaming in UNOCT policies, programmes and projects. The Human Rights Unit will continue to engage across UNOCT's mandated policy, programmatic and coordination functions with a view of UNOCT meeting its commitment to promote respect for human rights and assist Member States in upholding human rights in their counter-terrorism efforts. The Human Rights Unit will continue to provide focused, impactful technical assistance aimed at improving the capacity of Member States to incorporate human rights considerations in preventing and responding to terrorism and violent extremism. These elements are closely interlinked with achieving greater respect for human rights in the counter-terrorism context and pivotal to advancing the implementation of Pillar IV of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

9

RISKS AND CHALLENGES



In 2023, UNOCT achieved a significant milestone in developing an entity-level risk assessment and risk mitigation measures and implementing a system of continuous risk monitoring in accordance with the Secretariat-wide enterprise risk management methodology. Following the adoption of the **UNOCT Risk Register** in May 2023, the migration of the Risk Register into the Umoja ERM has been completed including the assignment of associated risk owners and process controls to assist with implementation across the Office.



The implementation of the UNOCT Risk Register is overseen by the Chief of Office of the Under-Secretary-General with the support of the Programme Management Unit (PMU).

PMU ensures the monitoring of risks under the direction of the UNOCT Risk Coordinator and the UNOCT Senior Management and Leadership Teams. The PMU also reports on the progress of the implementation of risk treatment plans to the USG through the Senior Management Team, while the Senior Leadership Team governance mechanism is used to ensure continuous reporting of risks, in line with the ERM framework.

In addition to strengthened Office-wide risk management, in 2023 UNOCT continued to take steps to ensure project/programme managers conduct comprehensive project risk assessments and develop adequate risk mitigation measures to ensure that foreseeable key risks are duly considered and mitigated in programming.

UNOCT's PRB serves as an internal control, governance and oversight body to ensure efficient and effective management of programmes and projects. The PRB continues to review all programmes/projects submitted for initiation, revision, update, or closure, including associated risks and risk responses. UNOCT is finalizing an updated SOP on Programme/Project Management, which requires programme/project managers to conduct programme/project risk assessments, including by defining key risks that may affect implementation and the achievement of planned results, identifying the likelihood, impact and level of risks, and providing risk mitigation measures. The SOP is expected to be issued in 2024.

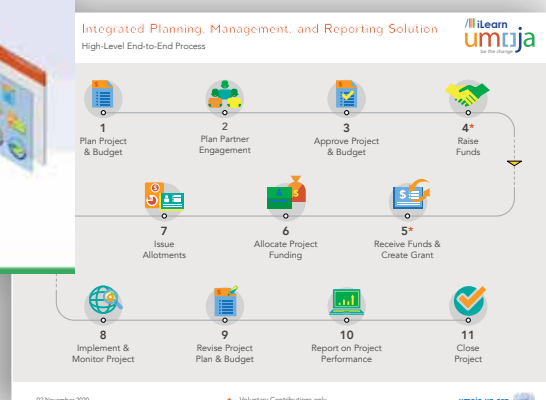
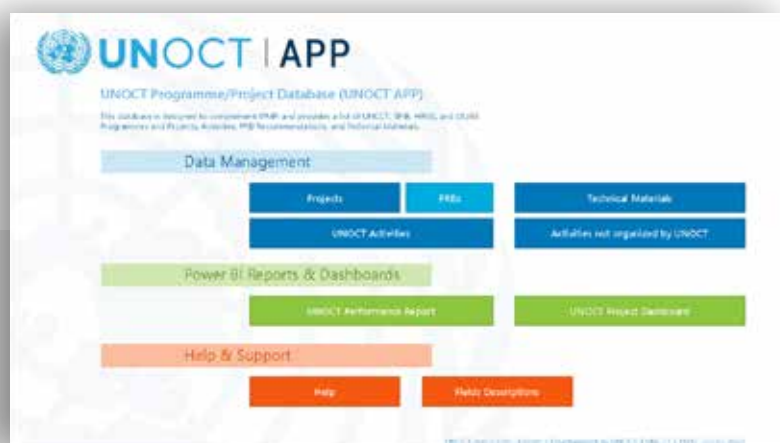
Per the new SOP on programme/project management, the PMU will review all programme/project submissions to the PRB

to ensure alignment with internal guidance and IPMR requirements, including from the perspective of the programme/project risk management approach and will provide technical advice to programme/project managers on compliance with internal risk management procedures. This will contribute to an enhanced internal system for ensuring programme/project risk assessments are conducted and adequate risk mitigation measures are in place and foreseeable key risks are duly planned, monitored and mitigated.

The internal information management tool, the **OCT App**, developed and managed by PMU, routinely collects, on a monthly basis,

information on the impact of risks on activities delivered, for every activity that is reported in the App. The responses from project management teams have ranged from “No Impact” to a brief explanation of the risk and mitigation measures in some cases.

Finally, UNOCT has made good progress towards transitioning to the UN wide **Integrated Planning Management and Reporting (IPMR)** solution. That is an ongoing process and will continue in 2024. IPMR monitoring module will further contribute to regular monitoring of project/programme risks and provision of adequate risk mitigation measures.



10

COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

Ensuring and enhancing visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts remained a priority for UNOCT as one of its core mandated functions. In 2023, the Office continued to implement its **communications strategy** to raise the visibility of the central role of UNOCT within the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and the important contribution of the State of Qatar to UNOCT's work across its policy, coordination and capacity-building functions.

The Office's communications work – supported by a dedicated team in the Communications Unit located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG) – involved the development and dissemination of communication products through diverse platforms. These efforts contributed to amplifying UNOCT's role and mandate, increasing awareness of its priorities, programmes and activities, expanding the Office's outreach to the global counter-terrorism community, and building its professional networks.

As part of the communication strategy, **tailored communications plans and branded products** were developed, in close collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, other United Nations entities, an implementing/organizing partners to promote programmes, projects, and activities, showcasing impact, innovation and partnerships.

The Office continued to promote its activities through online and digital communications as well as in person with increased media presence. For example, a number of events during the CT Week, took place virtually or in hybrid format and were live-streamed on UNWebTV.

The landmark visibility event in 2023 was the [Counter-Terrorism Week](#) and its 40 side events, which took place in June 2023. It provided an important platform to promote the activities of UNOCT through the use of audio-visual products and the dissemination of promotional and communication products, and provide due recognition to the support provided by the State of Qatar and other partners.



Photo/UNOCT

In 2023, UNOCT marked four International Days, which provided the opportunity to raise awareness on UNOCT's work. These included:

- **The first International Day on the Prevention Violent Extremism and When Conducive to Terrorism** ([12 February](#))
- **International Women's Day** ([8 March](#))
- **International Youth Day** ([12 August](#))
- **International Day of Victims of Terrorism** ([21 August](#))

In addition, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and UNOCT senior officials continued to promote the activities of the Office in statements delivered at major events, acknowledging the support of the State of Qatar. In order to reach out to wider audiences and ensure representation in key events, UNOCT senior managers stepped up their digital diplomacy and recorded a number of video messages. The [statements](#) were systematically posted on UNOCT's website to maximize their reach and impact.

Audio-visual materials

In 2023, the Office used audio-visual products to promote the activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner. **37 videos were produced or updated in 2023**, including 24 videos for the Victims of Terrorism Memories Campaign, three additional videos on the Victims of Terrorism Programme including the Model Legislative Provisions, the Legacy Project and the International VOT Day. Videos were also produced for the BI Academy and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Doha as well as the International Women's day.

UNOCT also prepared a video to wrap up 2023 entitled "[UNOCT 2023: year in review](#)", which summarizes key achievements and acknowledges funding partners contributions including the support provided by the State of Qatar. The video was presented by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov during the

Ambassadorial-level UNOCT Quarterly Briefing to Member States held on 5 March 2024 and posted on the UNOCT website and YouTube Channel. The video will be featured at events and the high-level conferences to be held in 2024, in addition to video loops featuring UNOCT global programmes.



37 videos
were produced or
updated in 2023



Campaign & Podcast

In 2023, the Office continued to promote the **Victims of Terrorism “Memories” campaign**, which shares the stories of 22 victims of terrorism through films and a photographic exhibition. The exhibition was shown in the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York from the CT Week to the Victims of Terrorism International Day and in three locations in Spain namely Madrid, Valladolid and Vitoria. The campaign garnered more than 14,000 views on UNWEBTV and YouTube and generated 41 million X/Twitter impressions on 21 August alone.



14,000 views on UN Web TV and Youtube



41 million impressions generated on 21 August 2023 alone

In 2023, the BI Hub continued to develop and promote the **“Going to Extremes” podcast series**, which feature leading experts from around the world specializing in the fields of Behavioural Science and counter-terrorism, who share their experiences, insights and expertise and discuss approaches and solutions to prevent and counter violent

extremism conducive to terrorism. The podcast series consists of a number of seasons each dedicated to a specific topic, with the first season focusing on the trajectory to radicalization.

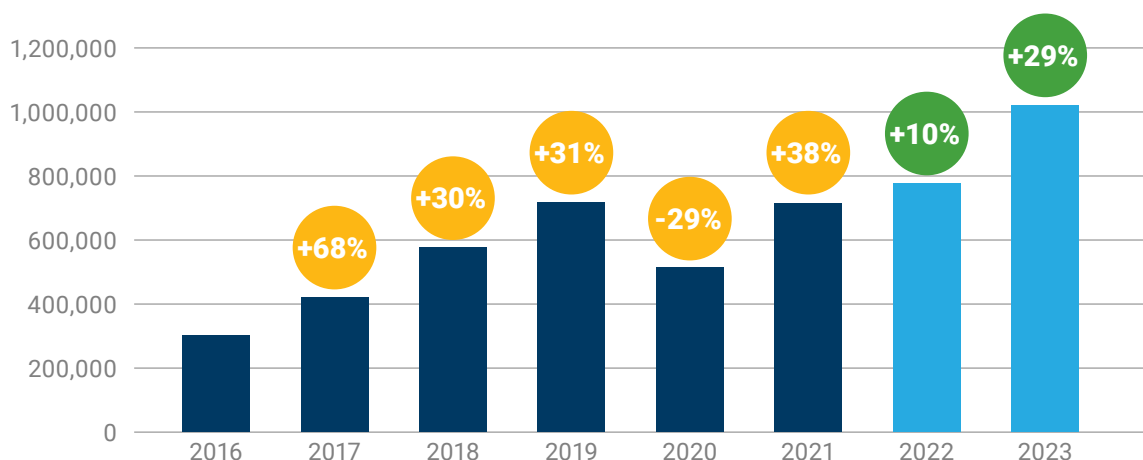
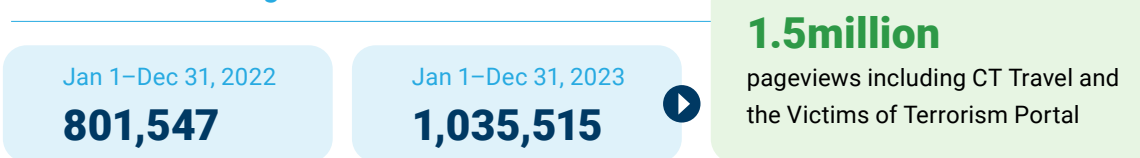


Website

UNOCT increased its **website content and revamped the webpages** for a number of programmes and platforms, including the [Member States Briefings](#), the [PCVE](#), [CTTech](#) and [VoT](#) Programmes, among others. Featuring the activities of the Office, several [web stories](#) (80) were posted on the UNOCT website and promoted on social media.

Demonstrating the relevance of the content and stories presented, the traffic and viewers increased by 29%. In total, the UNOCT website recorded over 1,035,515 pageviews in 2023 compared to 801,547 pageviews in 2022. The number of views on all UNOCT websites, including CT Travel and the Victims of Terrorism Portal reached 1.5 million views.

UNOCT Website Pageviews 2023 vs 2022



In 2023, UNOCT posted 50 [press releases](#) on its website compared to 51 in 2022. Of the total press releases issued and circulated to the media, **80% (40)** were dedicated to presenting programmatic events and key initiatives funded by the State of Qatar. These included, among others, press releases on signing ceremonies held within the framework of the CT Travel Programme, sports and victims' programmes, the CT week and other key events, the Counter-Terrorism Compact, the Fifth High-Level Qatar-UNOCT Strategic Dialogue, and UNOCT's participation in the Doha Forum.



UNOCT Social Media




In 2023, **the creation of two new channels**, namely on [Instagram](#) (700 followers in 2023) and [LinkedIn](#) (1,300 followers), expanded the Office presence and outreach to different audiences on social media.

The Office boosted its support to its [X/Twitter](#) account (@UN_OCT), which **increased its number of followers by 17%** in 2022 (from 19,535 followers by the end of 2022 to 22,950



compared to 2022 probably due to an overall reduction in traffic following to rebranding of Twitter to X.

 @UN_OCT	2021	2021	2022	2023	+ / -
Impressions	189 million	287 million	326 million	256 million	-2%
Contributors	6,000	8,000	9,400	10,000	+18%
# of followers	9,500	14,200	19,600	22,950	+17%

In 2023, UNOCT issued **86 reports**, a decrease compared to 2022 during which 110 reports were issued. These include a publication on AROS, Sports and Vulnerable Targets Programmes as well as seven knowledge products developed by the CT Tech Programme and information flyers on the BI Academy and GoFintel.

In addition, UNOCT updated a **four-page brochure with a list of UNOCT global programmes** that provides information on objectives, achievements, partners, donors, and focal points of these programmes.

UNOCT actively disseminated the brochures on the Global Coordination Compact and the



Global Programmes as promotional materials in meetings and events with Member States. The UNOCT monthly and annual newsletters continued to promote the achievements of UNOCT across its policy, coordination, capacity-building, and resource mobilization functions, highlighting programmes and projects funded by the State of Qatar. These newsletters include a section to highlight the top 10 donors contributing to UNOCT to further recognize the State of Qatar and key partners.

In addition, the Counter-Terrorism **Compact bi-monthly and annual newsletters** continued to serve as useful communication product to promote the United Nations' counter-terrorism

efforts and UNOCT's coordination role. These newsletters provide updates on the Counter-Terrorism Compact's high-level events and visits, engagement with Member States, key issues raised by heads of Compact entities, the UN Counter-Terrorism Compact Platform, guidance, research and analysis conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups, and joint initiatives and capacity-building, in addition to information on the Counter-Terrorism Compact's membership and structure. These newsletters are disseminated to the Permanent Missions and Observers to the United Nations in New York and posted on the UNOCT website and on the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform.

UNOCT also continued to prepare **quarterly updates (both in English and Arabic languages)** reporting on the implementation of programmes and activities funded by the State of Qatar, which are transmitted to the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations. The updates provide an overview of progress and results to ensure transparency on the utilization of the financial contribution from the State of Qatar.



Priorities for 2024

In 2024, UNOCT will continue to promote the programmes and activities supported by the State of Qatar through the development of tailored communications plans, communications tools, and media campaigns, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, Counter-Terrorism Compact

entities, and other counter-terrorism partners, including the State of Qatar. The Office will update its communications and visibility strategy to include all initiatives planned with the State of Qatar to ensure they receive the highest level of visibility.

11

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND OVERSIGHT

Progress in 2023

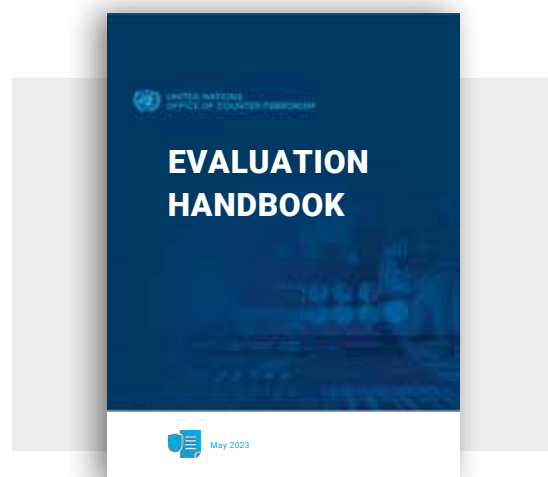
In 2023, UNOCT delivered on its core policy, coordination and capacity-building functions with continued focus on impact through a strengthened results-based management system consisting of:

1. PRB that functions as a governance and oversight mechanism for programmes and projects;
2. UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework that provides the strategic direction and monitoring framework for the period 2022-2025; and
3. UNOCT internal guidance (i.e., strategies, policies, SOP, and guidelines). UNOCT governance mechanisms, which include the Senior Leadership Team (consisting of D-level managers) and the Senior Management Team (consisting of P-5 level managers), met regularly over the course of the year to support the executive decision-making process through the provision of consultative guidance, critical insights, and informed advice to the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

UNOCT continued to enhance its programmatic operations through the **development of a new, consolidated SOP on Programme/Project Management**, aligned with UN rules and regulations, system-wide policies, and standards, including Umoja's Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Reporting solution, as well as UNOCT internal guidance and established business processes. This SOP provides key concepts, definitions, standards, and processes for a results-based programme

management in the Office as well as templates to be used for submissions to the PRB as related to programme/project development, update, revision, and closure. Adherence to the SOP, upon its issuance in the first quarter of 2024, will ensure coherence in programme/project management across the office and further promote accountability with beneficiary Member States and funding partners on the technical assistance delivered and the resources utilized for programme/project implementation.

In 2023, UNOCT, through its Evaluation and Compliance Unit (ECU) located in OUSG, **launched the [UNOCT Evaluation Handbook](#)**, which provides practical guidance and templates for the planning, conduct, management, reporting and follow-up of evaluations in the Office, in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, with a view to operationalize the UNOCT Evaluation Policy issued in 2021. The Handbook, published on the UNOCT website, guides UNOCT staff particularly programme/project managers with responsibility for managing evaluations, while providing an important resource for independent evaluators to gain an understanding of the



guiding principles, standards, and processes for evaluations within the UNOCT context. During the reporting year, the Office also commenced the process to review and update its Evaluation Policy to ensure conformity with the Evaluation Handbook and compliance with the Administrative Instruction on Evaluation in the United Nations Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3). The revised policy will be issued in the second quarter of 2024.

In line with the solidified internal evaluation guidance framework, UNOCT prepared its first comprehensive **annual rolling Evaluation Plan for the period 2023-2024** which was approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov upon recommendation of the PRB. In line with the Evaluation Plan, UNOCT continued to undertake independent evaluations of programmes and projects to assess the achievement of programme/project results, support informed decision-making in programme/project implementation, identify and use lessons learned to strengthen design and delivery of capacity-building support, and improve organizational learning through evidence-based knowledge. Accordingly, UNOCT initiated and advanced the implementation of four evaluations, out of eight programmatic evaluations in the Evaluation Plan. These include:

1. **The mid-term evaluation** of the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons;
2. **The mid-term evaluation** of the Global Programme on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism;
3. **The final evaluation** of the Global Programme on Border Security and Management; and
4. **The final evaluation** of the project 'Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons' jointly managed by UNOCT and UNODC.

The results from these evaluations will be utilized to draw lessons from programmatic implementation and inform the design of the next phase of programmes as relevant.

A significant achievement in 2023 was the **finalization of the independent mid-term joint evaluation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme**, managed jointly by UNOCT and UNODC. The evaluation, published

on the UNOCT website, identified CT Travel as an excellent example of the 'One-UN' approach and confirmed that the Programme is fully relevant at the strategic level of the UN



and delivers well in meeting the technical and structural requirements for coherent cooperation and collaboration between its implementing partners (UNOCT, UNODC, CTED, OICT, ICAO, INTERPOL). The evaluation provided six recommendations to support further improvements to programme implementation that were accepted by the Programme Management Team in its management response to the evaluation. In response to the results of the evaluation, for instance the recommendation to improve the understanding and practices regarding integrating a gender perspective, CT Travel developed a dedicated scenario-based training module for national counterparts on gender considerations in handling API/PNR data and systems. To address the evaluation recommendation to improve funding partner engagement, the Programme convened a dedicated meeting with all donors during the to discuss programme and donor priorities as well as funding needs and streamline reporting requirements.

As part of monitoring and oversight of internal governance processes to ensure strengthened accountability, UNOCT continued to review its existing delegations of authority to assess

the Office's effectiveness in carrying out sub delegated authorities and whether authorities were exercised at appropriate levels including in view of the changes since the initial issuance of sub delegations in 2019 by the UN Secretary-General. In addition, an internal assessment of UNOCT's delegation of authority, recruitment, and performance management structures and processes was undertaken by the Human Resources Services Division (HRSD) in the Office of Support Operations (OSO), the Department of Operational Support (DOS). The DOS review, once completed in 2024, will result in a report with key findings and recommendations for consideration by UNOCT senior leadership, which may propose changes to existing delegations as relevant.

Separately, UNOCT monitored and reported on progress towards the implementation of recommendations of the audit of the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2022. This included the work undertaken on the completion of funding partner profiles accessible through the newly created Resource Mobilization Application and the development of individual resource mobilization action plans for global programmes, regional projects and substantive organizational units as well as the consolidated UNOCT Resource Mobilization Action Plan; the completion of the UNOCT Risk Register (issued in May 2023) and actions to ensure entity and project-level risk assessment

and monitoring; strengthening engagement with funding partners to explore the possibility of annual aggregated reporting on UNOCT activities to improve operational efficiency; and efforts to implement the recommendations of external evaluations.

In 2023, UNOCT continued to coordinate and strengthen the United Nations system-wide evaluation work, as chair of the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (RMME WG) of the Counter-Terrorism Compact. Through its Sub-Group on Evaluation, the RMME WG continued to advance the implementation of the recommendations from the first UN system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluation and oversight results under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy commissioned in 2021 with seed funding from the State of Qatar. In this regard, in response to the meta-synthesis recommendation to strengthen evaluation knowledge and capacities of internal and external stakeholders, the Working Group, together with the European Union (EU), developed the [Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism \(CT/PCVE\)](#), which was launched at a side event co-organized by the RMME WG, the EU and the State of Qatar during the Third Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023 and promoted through online platforms and various fora. In addition, the Working Group, through its Sub-Group on Evaluation, launched



CT Week side event "Launch of the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism" was held on 20 June 2023, New York, UNHQ: Photo/ Paulo Filgueiras





a Community of Practice on Monitoring and Evaluation for CT/PCVE, hosted on the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform, in response to the meta-synthesis recommendation to establish a knowledge platform for sharing knowledge and disseminating good practices and lessons learned in CT/PCVE. The Sub-Group also initiated the conceptualization and outreach with the research sector for the implementation of the meta-synthesis recommendation on grounded research to leverage and advance research for evidence-informed design and implementation of CT/PCVE policies and programmes.

During the reporting year, UNOCT's evaluation function also **supported the consultative process of the eighth review of the GCTS** as related to assessing the impact of the implementation of the Strategy by UN entities through the preparation of background papers and provision of M&E expertise during informal consultations. The General Assembly, through the eighth review resolution (A/77/298), has requested the Secretary-General to assess the impact, based on a result framework, of activities carried out by UN entities with respect to the implementation of the Strategy. In this regard, the RMME WG, through its Sub-Group on Evaluation, prepared an initial concept/funding proposal as basis for the development of a detailed Terms of Reference to guide the implementation of the mandate for the period 2024-2026.

Priorities for 2024

In 2024, UNOCT, with technical support from ECU, will finalize independent evaluations that are underway and initiate new evaluations in line with its Evaluation Plan, as part of continuous

efforts to assess the results and impact of the technical assistance and capacity-building support provided to Member States. Evaluations completed will be operationalized through the preparation of management responses with concrete follow-up actions to implement evaluation recommendations. A call for evaluation proposals will be conducted in 2024 to include new programmatic evaluations into the 2024-2025 Evaluation Plan.

In the year ahead, UNOCT will finalize its review of internal delegation of authority processes based on the findings of the assessments undertaken, with a view to update and revise its internal delegation of authority framework in accordance with ST/SGB/2019/2. Sensitization sessions will be undertaken with UNOCT managers to ensure accountability in the conduct of delegated authorities. In addition, UNOCT will continue to monitor and report on the effectiveness of its internal controls across functional areas to ensure institutional performance aligned with Secretariat standards and strengthen risk management and mitigation.

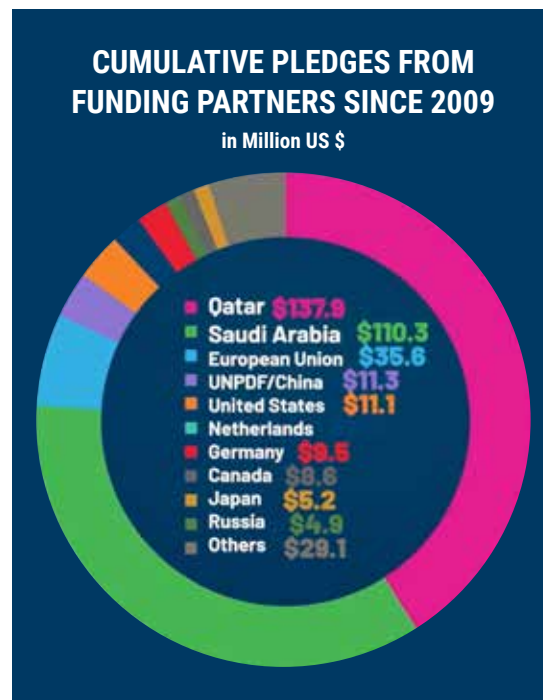
In addition, UNOCT, in its capacity as chair of the RMME WG, will work closely with its Counter-Terrorism Compact partners towards the implementation of the General Assembly mandate under Operative Paragraph 96 of the eighth review resolution. This work will involve the development of a UN system-wide unified results framework, based on which an evaluative exercise can be conducted to assess the impact of activities carried out by UN entities towards the implementation of the GCTS. The RMME WG and its Sub-Group on Evaluation will provide significant in-kind contribution for this effort in terms of staff time, technical expertise, and overall management of the process.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Since the creation of the **United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism** in 2009 until 31 December 2023, UNOCT had secured \$373,343,652 in cumulative contributions from 41 funding partners. Of significance, the State of Qatar has been the largest contributor to the Trust Fund since 2022, with a total contribution of \$137.8 million, representing 37% of the cumulative funds secured in the Trust Fund. This includes two new contributions generously provided in 2023, which complement the on-going support provided through the three main contribution agreements (see table below).

The support provided by the State of Qatar is exemplary due to its flexibility, which allows UNOCT to allocate funds where they are most needed, in line with the strategic priorities outlined by the State of Qatar.



Contributions of the State of Qatar to UNOCT

Year of Pleges	Purpose of Agreement	Signature date	Period covered	Amount	Amount received as of 31 December 2023
2023	Contribution to support the organization of the African Summit on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa" due to take place in Abuja, Nigeria	11 December 2023	2023-2024	\$50,000	\$0
2023	Contribution to support the Second Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance	24 August 2023	2023-2024	\$43,325	\$43,325

Year of Pledges	Purpose of Agreement	Signature date	Period covered	Amount	Amount received as of 31 December 2023
2022 and 2018	Support UNOCT core staffing and operational costs, as well as capacity-building programming. Main priorities: (1) the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; (2) programmes in the areas of using Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/ PNR) data; (3) prevention and countering of violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism; and (4) supporting victims of terrorism.	25 March 2022 (\$45m) and 16 December 2018 (\$75m)	Five years (2019-2023)	\$120 million	\$75 million
2020	Establishment and operations of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha	8 September 2020	Three years (2020-2023)	\$5 million	\$5 million
2020	Contribution agreement with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar for the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism	25 November 2020	Five years (2020-2024)	\$12.5 million	\$5 million
2019	Joint Belarus/UNOCT High-level Conference "Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies" on 3-4 September, Minsk, Belarus	5 August 2019	2019	\$20,000	\$20,000
2017	Contribution for UNCCT aimed at strengthening the implementation of the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy	17 November 2016	Open	\$250,000	\$250,000

In December 2023, the United Nations General Assembly approved a second increase in the Secretary-General's programme budget for UNOCT, which included the conversion of 24 extra-budgetary posts to United Nations Regular Budget for the year 2024, complemented with the conversion of 25

extra-budgetary post in 2023. While this is a very positive development, in financial terms it represents only 9% of UNOCT's annual budget, and the remainder 91% continues to rely on extrabudgetary contributions for the fulfillment of its mandated activities.

UNOCT continued to be guided by its Resource Mobilization Strategy to secure adequate, diversified, flexible and predictable funding. UNOCT redoubled efforts to diversify its funding partners base to increase sustainability of funding, yielding positive results with five new funding partners joining the ranks, namely: Oman, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and UNODC for a joint project funded by the EU.

During the 2023 CT Week, the Counter-Terrorism Compact in partnership with the State of Qatar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia, launched the **United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa**. This UN-wide initiative marks a new way in which the United Nations system is working together, not only in terms of raising critical funding, but more importantly, in fostering collaboration

to address complex and emerging threats strategically, comprehensively and jointly.

In 2023, **UNOCT programmed a total budget amounting to \$17.8 million** (compared to \$27.8 million in 2022) and spent \$15.7 million. As per standard practice, leadership, strategic planning, managerial capacity as well as oversight, evaluation and administration support for the Office funded with the Qatari contribution have been apportioned among the five priority areas presented in the table below.

The utilization rate in 2023 averaged 88% of the total budget, compared to 90% in 2022. UNOCT prioritized the use of earmarked contributions to ensure the most efficient and impactful use of the unearmarked contribution from the State of Qatar.



Launch of the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa on the margins of the Third Counter-Terrorism Week, 22 June 2023. New York, UNHQ. Photo/ Paulo Filgueiras



Programmatic Area	2023 Budget (US\$)	2023 Expenditures (US\$)*	Budget Utilization rate
PRIORITY 1: Strengthen coordination, coherence and common action	\$7,198,931	\$7,122,535	99%
PRIORITY 2: Special projects and innovation	\$1,836,699	\$1,434,636	78%
PRIORITY 3: Preventing and countering violent extremism	\$1,006,300	\$894,108	89%
PRIORITY 4: Countering terrorist travel	\$3,579,076	\$2,734,879	76%
PRIORITY 5: Victims of Terrorism	\$296,268	\$41,526	14%
BI Insights Hub in Doha	\$1,581,177	\$1,520,250	84%
Parliamentary Programme Office in Doha	\$2,293,248	\$1,936,221	84%
Total	17,791,698	15,684,155	88%

* At the time of the publication of this report, the closure of the 2023 financial year is still ongoing and hence the figures provided are subject to variations.

The interim statements of income and expenditures for the period ending on 31 December 2023 for the three contributions provided by the State of Qatar are submitted with this report. UNOCT would appreciate an earlier disbursement of the 2024 annual tranche to enable smooth operations of the Office,

which would be in line with the Contribution Agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and UNOCT (section B.V.) that indicates the annual contributions of \$15 million will be transferred in the month of January each year.

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CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Through the strong political, financial and technical support from and strategic partnership with the State of Qatar, UNOCT continued to deliver on its mandated functions, working in close collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and other external partners, to support Member States and other counter-terrorism actors in the comprehensive, effective and balanced implementation of the GCTS and its review resolutions, as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

The State of Qatar's contribution was utilized following the operational guidelines outlined in the multi-year contribution agreement, which was signed between the State of Qatar and UNOCT on 16 December 2018. This Agreement

was aimed at supporting strategic initiatives to combat the scourge of terrorism. This contribution not only facilitated significant outcomes across the four key strategic initiatives outlined in the agreement—promoting a “whole of UN” to counter-terrorism via the Counter-Terrorism Compact, implementation of the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, preventing and countering violent extremism, and supporting victims of terrorism—but also extended its support to several of UNOCT's flagship global programmes.

As detailed in the report, in 2023, UNOCT delivered on its policy leadership and coordination mandate, through the preparation of the Secretary-General's reports on counter-terrorism, participation in United Nations



Photo/Federation of Arab News Agencies

system-wide policy processes such as the development of the New Agenda for Peace, the organization and delivery of high-level international and regional conferences, periodic briefings to Member States and the Security Council CTC on the threat landscape and the United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts, as well as bilateral and multilateral engagements with Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, think tanks and other counter-terrorism actors.

Furthermore, in 2023, UNOCT, in collaboration with its partners, successfully organized several landmark events around the world. These events fostered multilateral cooperation and strengthened commitment against terrorism, promoted multilateral cooperation and strengthened commitment against terrorism, facilitated the establishment and growth of partnerships and professional networks, heightened awareness of emerging threats and trends, promoted the exchange of expertise, best practices, and lessons learned, and identified initiatives for an enhanced response to the terrorist threat.

These included the Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies in New York; and the High-Level Parliamentary Conference on Youth Engagement in Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism in Africa in Lomé, Togo.

UNOCT continued to lead the coordination of the United Nations system's counter-terrorism efforts through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which reached 46 UN and non-UN members, serving as the largest coordination framework across the Organization. Its Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform facilitated the digital interaction and information exchange between over 1,050 focal points of 46 Compact entities, 137 Member States, and 14 regional organizations.

In 2023, UNOCT continued its results-oriented programmatic delivery through the effective implementation of several global programmes funded by the State of Qatar, both at Headquarters and through its programme offices in the field, in the areas of countering terrorist travel, aviation security, protection of vulnerable targets, AROS, national inter-agency coordination mechanism or fusion cells, counter-terrorism investigations, security of major sporting events and promotion of sports as a tool to prevent violent extremism, victims of terrorism, behavioural insights, and parliamentary engagement. Thanks to the indispensable support of the State of Qatar, **UNOCT implemented 40 technical and capacity-building assistance programmes and projects during the reporting period, benefiting 177 Member States and nearly 15,000 individuals through 230 capacity-building activities.** Despite resource limitations and in response to overwhelming demand from Member States, UNOCT significantly expanded the geographic reach of its programmes in 2023.

These programmes effectively supported Member States capacities in preventing and countering terrorism through the provision of specialized technical assistance, advocacy and outreach, production of policy guidance and knowledge products, delivery of trainings and workshops, conducting training sessions and workshops, and arranging numerous high-level thematic events that involved a wide range of counter-terrorism actors.

2023 also marked a significant year for new and strengthened partnerships with a diverse range of counter-terrorism partners, including international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector entities, academic and research institutions, and think tanks. These partnerships were cemented through the establishment of various cooperation frameworks and agreements. This expansion in networks and collaborations bolstered UNOCT's efforts in capacity-building and coordination. It also underscored the importance of a comprehensive and participatory approach to combating terrorism, involving multiple stakeholders.

The Office continued virtual and hybrid modalities to ensure broader participation and offset costs, while holding in-person meetings and events as required. It also strengthened its digital capabilities and tools for broader outreach and impact of assistance. **The UNOCT Connect & Learn platform expanded to include 65 online training courses and 23 communities of practice, attracting 4,173 new users from 49 additional Member States. By the end of the year, it had a global user community of 6,190 individuals from 193 nationalities**, including professionals from diverse sectors.

In 2024, UNOCT will focus on supporting counter-terrorism efforts in Africa, among other geographic and thematic priorities. Furthermore, UNOCT will work closely with the State of Qatar on the organization of the Sixth High-Level Strategic Dialogue. UNOCT is actively preparing for the Summit of the Future in September 2024, aiming for a meaningful and impactful outcome through the adoption of a transformative, robust, and actionable “Pact for the Future” to address critical global challenges and promote sustainable peace. Another priority event for UNOCT in 2024 will be the organization of the next Dushanbe Process Conference, together with Tajikistan and Kuwait. Furthermore, UNOCT is planning a high-level regional conference jointly with CARICOM in Trinidad-and-Tobago, to be held in the fall of 2024.

To effectively prepare for the ninth review of the GCTS now planned for 2026, UNOCT is proactively developing a comprehensive Plan of Action to operationalize and effectively implement the recommendations from the eighth review of the Strategy at the working level. This initiative is designed to ensure continuous attention to the implementation of the Strategy between reviews and support Member States in collaboration with relevant UN entities, particularly through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

As the secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and chair of its Coordination Committee, UNOCT will focus the Compact’s work to:

- i. enhance coordination and coherence of UN counter-terrorism efforts in supporting Member States through a strengthened common-action approach;
- ii. strengthen engagement with Member States, aligned with the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and national priorities ;
- iii. advance partnerships between the Counter-Terrorism Compact, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, academia, and the private sector, including through field engagement, capacity-building, coordination, and support to victims of terrorism; and iv) consolidate joint planning and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts.

In terms of programmatic activities, the Global Sports Programme will continue to amplify its influence in 2024 through strategic initiatives, including launching a pan-African media campaign highlighting the transformative power of sport for PVE, which will complement the broader UNOCT global campaign promoting sport and its values, optimizing the use of technology to extend its reach by developing online training modules and organizing virtual conferences. The Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection will consolidate international best practices in online libraries and develop new tools, such as a Technical Guide on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure, and create additional networking opportunities for the Global Network of Experts through virtual briefings and in-person regional and international events. The Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations will continue to increase the number of Member States that benefit from its STOCTI training; establish and operationalize an investigative interviewing laboratory in Rabat, Morocco, and deliver training on managing and leading kidnapping investigations and hostage negotiations; as well as develop curricula to respond to Member States’ needs on critical incident

response. The AROS Programme will continue to deliver the Micro-UAS Operator Training Course to requesting Member States and offer four comprehensive training courses to each beneficiary, and Train-the-Trainer to multiply impact. In addition, the Global Fusion Cells Programme will continue delivering training assistance to its beneficiary Member States, with 13 training rounds already scheduled for 2024 and also focus on national technical consultations with Member States, which will result in the delivery of National Action Plans or Roadmaps to relevant institutions.

The UN CT Travel Programme will be marking a significant milestone in 2024, namely the 5th year anniversary of its launch. UNOCT and Programme partners plan to commemorate the date (7 May), as well as continue with a campaign of activities and events throughout the rest of the year to celebrate the successful 'One-UN' model and generate visibility of the Programme's impact and achievements. The CT Travel Programme will continue to provide comprehensive, yet tailored support to its 70 beneficiary Member States that have formally requested assistance. On the other hand, the Global TAM Programme will establish full interoperability with the UN CT Travel Programme, which will transition to the TAM Project under the CT Travel Programme in order to respond to an increased number of requests from Member States, including CT Travel beneficiaries, for access to – and support with – establishing a strong threat assessment capacity, which is vital to the counter-terrorism domain.

The VoT Programme will continue to assist Member States and victims of terrorism, victims' associations, and other partners through the implementation of the MLP pilot project in Asia and Africa, commemoration of the seventh International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, and the launch of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VOTAN). In 2024, it will be co-organizing the International Conference of Victims of Terrorism in Spain, and also initiated

preparations for the launch of the "Memories" campaign in Doha in 2024. The Global Programme on PCVE will continue to support Member States and other beneficiaries through implementation of its Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme in Africa and amplify youth's voices at high-level events and further launch the Youth Alumni network with the convening of a youth co-design session on the framework of the youth network.

In terms of implementation through UNOCT's Programme Offices in Doha, the BI Hub plans to establish a Working Group on Behavioral Science for CT within the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee, launch the 2024 Edition of BI Academy and Mentorship Programme, build UNOCT internal capacity in Behavioural Science in line with the UN 2.0 Common Agenda Quintet of Change, and continue its podcast series.

On its part, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement will seek to further enhance the focus on its provision of technical assistance and expert support to national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies on the development, enactment, implementation, and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies, and national strategies.

In terms of monitoring, evaluation and oversight, UNOCT will finalize independent evaluations that are underway and initiate new evaluations in line with its Evaluation Plan, as part of continuous efforts to assess the results and impact of the technical assistance and capacity-building support provided to Member States. In the year ahead, UNOCT will finalize its review of internal delegation of authority processes, and sensitization sessions will be undertaken with its managers to ensure accountability in the conduct of delegated authorities. In addition, UNOCT will continue to monitor and report on the effectiveness of its internal controls across functional areas to ensure institutional performance aligned with Secretariat standards and strengthen risk management and mitigation. The Office will continue to enhance the number

of strategic partners to avoid any funding gaps and sustain its full-scale programmatic delivery to meet the growing demand for assistance by Member States. The Office will also continue to deepen and expand its partner base by actively engaging with civil society, the private sector, and the academia through consultations and several joint initiatives, while further developing the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform through the launch of new courses. Further to the General Assembly's approval of conversion of 25 UNOCT extra-budgetary posts to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2023, the General Assembly approved in December 2023 additional 24 extrabudgetary posts to be

converted into regular budget posts in 2024, which contributes to ensuring sustained funding for core non-programme functions.

In 2023, as highlighted in this report, UNOCT accomplished substantial results across all pillars of its mandate, thanks to the strong financial, political, and technical support of the State of Qatar. The Office will continue to count on the contribution from the State of Qatar, as its key partner. Additionally, the support from other funding partners will be instrumental in effectively fulfilling UNOCT's mandate to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.



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