

**Mr. Rafi Shah, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management, and  
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**Multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation: the United Nations  
Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact -- Global  
Counterterrorism Forum partnership**

**30 June 2021, 8:00-9:30 am**

**Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today's event puts the spotlight on the concrete progress we have made in the last couple of years to strengthen practical cooperation between the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the GCTF.

The GCTF and its inspired institutions are key partners of the UN system in supporting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

As partners, we work together to strengthen the international response to terrorism by coordinating our activities, developing and sharing tools, good practices and lessons learned.

The UN system is keen to take this partnership even further, in support of coordinated and prioritized capacity-building facilitation to Member States.

Today's event also provides us with an opportunity to review the key aspects of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination platform work.

At UNOCT, we focus on providing need-based coordination tools and services to our main clients namely Member States and UN Global CT Compact entities. These needs could be divided in four main cluster:

**First**, awareness raising and visibility of what is happening on the international CT horizon – the Compact Coordination platform caters for this need through periodic meetings, updates, reports and joint event matrices.

**Second**, practical coordination and sharing of information among UN entities on counter-terrorism gaps as well as facilitation and provision of capacity building assistance— the eight thematic working groups and the Compact portal which hosts CTED assessments among other valuable resources serve this purpose.

**Third**, joint resource mobilization which is covered by the Compact Resource Mobilization Working Group led by UNOCT, CTED and UNODC.

**And finally**, coordination between Member States and UN entities which is becoming more robust with the opening up of the Compact Coordination Platform to Member States. This fourth cluster of activities will get more attention going forward.

Over the past year, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups have stepped up their efforts to support Member States, including by inviting Member States affected by terrorism to brief UN entities on counter-terrorism measures in their countries; inviting UN staff working at the country or regional level to share their insights; and organizing discussions with existing and prospective donors.

However, a lot more could be done to further strengthen our collaboration efforts. Here are a few select examples.

**First**, we are enhancing practical interaction between Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Compact with a view to better understanding and responding to evolving threats.

This year we arranged several interactive discussions and briefings during the review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the evolving threat of terrorism led by USG Voronkov, ASG and Executive Director CTED Ms. Coninx, Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Africa, Director and Deputy to USG UNOCT Mr. Gregorian, Coordinator of AQ and ISIL Monitoring Team Mr. Fitton Brown and representatives of many think tanks and civil society partners.

In the broader coordination context, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies is a good example of how we can multiply our impact by working together and understanding the needs and priorities of Member States.

Last year, this Working Group, jointly led by CTED and UNOCT, held a series of meetings to take stock of engagement with Member States and sub-regions that requested United Nations support to develop their counter-terrorism strategies and foster information exchange.

**Second**, we are strengthening coordination and collaboration between the UN Headquarters and the field.

During our 5<sup>th</sup> UN-GCTF coordination meeting in September last year, we committed to enhance the field-orientation of our joint activities.

This coordination track is important for achieving optimal impact of our efforts in the field, including through engagement with Member States, representatives of international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector, and academia.

The Compact Working Groups on PCVE, Travel, CFT, Emerging Threats, Human Rights and Gender are implementing a number of practical activities to collaborate closely with our field partners.

And **third**, the discussions during this High Level Conference and side events of the CT Week also emphasize that we need to enhance our collaboration with Member States and regional partners by taking advantage of the various digital tools at our disposal.

The UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform serve this objective as a digital system-wide tool, provides one-window entry into the UN system and helps save time and promotes cost efficiencies. It also continues to facilitate business continuity and online engagement between UN entities and Member States.

The Platform demonstrates our focus on providing modern and need-based coordination tools and services to our clients.

The online dashboard developed by the Compact Resource Mobilization Working Group for our new Multi-Year Appeal is another good example of using digital tools to promote collaboration.

In this regard, UNOCT is also working to build a dedicated online platform for inclusive engagement with civil society partners.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2021 is a year of milestones for the fight against terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations.

And it is a milestone for our partners from the GCTF, which will soon mark its tenth anniversary.

The partnership between the United Nations and the GCTF is at the heart of the UN multilateral response to terrorism and we look forward to taking this collaboration forward, especially following the update of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that the General Assembly will adopt this afternoon.

**I thank you for your attention.**