# **February in Review** 2022



# Leadership



Da'esh's regional affiliates beyond Syria and Iraq continued to expand at an unsettling scale and pace, partly enabled by the proliferation of conventional arms and weapons, especially in fragile conflict settings.



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**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov** Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism



**USG Voronkov** briefed the Security Council on the 14th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Da'esh and UN efforts to support Member States in countering the threat. The report was prepared jointly by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, CTED, and UNOCT, with inputs from relevant UN entities. (9 Feb)

**UNOCT** held the first of its <u>civil society roundtable series</u> which is a unique platform for strategic and systematic engagement between CSOs and UNOCT Senior-level officials. At the event, DUSG Gregorian provided an overview of UNOCT priorities and upcoming activities, focusing on the upcoming International High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society, and Counter-Terrorism to be held from 10 – 11 May in Malaga, Spain. A diverse group of CSOs shared critical insights and feedback related to their work, providing a snapshot of challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for enhanced collaboration with UNOCT. (28 Feb)

# Highlights

- UNOCT and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) signed an Arrangement on Cooperation (AoC) to further strengthen cooperation and advance their joint initiatives to counter terrorism. Within the framework of the cooperative agreement, UNOCT and ICAO agreed to cooperate on joint capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening Member States' capacities to further enhance the security of civil aviation and critical national infrastructure. (11 Feb)
- The UN Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks was launched through a high-level online event, which gathered senior officials and experts from Member
- States, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia, among other stakeholders. This Global Network is hosted on the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform and seeks to foster synergies between experts from across the world and exchange good practices and information on the protection of vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and 'soft targets'. (15 Feb)
- UNOCT received generous contributions in February from the European Union (\$394,368) to support the Global on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) programme in Central Asia and from Morocco (\$135,000) to support the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat.



#### **UNOCT Office Structure**

www.un.org/counterterrorism/office-structure









The Office provides its capacity-building support to Member States through the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB). UNCCT was established by an initial contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund in 2011. UNCCT has an Advisory Board composed of 21 Member States plus the European Union (EU) as a Guest Member. SPIB was established following a contribution by the State of Qatar as part of the Contribution Agreement between UNOCT and the State of Qatar signed in 2018.

To enhance coordination and coherence, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is a coordination framework bringing together 43 entities, was launched by the UN Secretary-General in December 2018. The Compact operates thanks to a contribution of the State of Oatar. It operates through its Coordination Committee and 8 thematic Inter-Agency Working Groups, which were revitalized in April 2019, providing an "All-of-UN approach" to the system's work on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism as conducive to terrorism.



### **UNOCT Mandate**

Established through GA resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017, the Office has five functions:

- **Provide leadership** on the GA counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the UN system
- **Enhance coordination and coherence** across the 38 Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy
- > Strengthen delivery of UN counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States
- Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts.
- Ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the UN system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy

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## Capacity Building

#### **UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

UNCCT, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNODC, virtually launched the Model Legislative Provisions to support and protect the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. The Model Legislative Provisions will serve as a model for the review of existing national laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism, and towards the development of national legislation where applicable. The Provisions will systematize and promote the

exchange of information between Member States regarding good practices aimed at supporting and protecting victims of terrorism. (4 Feb)



UNCCT, INTERPOL and the European Commission concluded the virtual kick-off meeting for CT TECH initiative, a joint UNOCT/UNCCT and INTERPOL initiative, funded by the EU and implemented under the overall scope of the UNCCT/UNOC Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies. It aims to strengthen capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities to counter the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes as well as to support the leveraging of new technologies in the fight against terrorism. (10 Feb)

### **Special Projects & Innovation Branch (SPIB)**

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter **Terrorism**, a Programme Office of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in Doha, concluded a virtual workshop on the theme of <u>Using Behavioural Insights</u> to Address the Intersection of Internet, Mental Health, and Radicalization to Violent Extremism in Europe. Featuring presentations by and joint discussion session with practitioners and



experts on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and radicalization, the workshop consolidated knowledge about the combined role of mental health and the internet

in the contemporary radicalization process and identified areas that require further investigation. (28 Feb)

UNOCT successfully completed the pilot phase of its **Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation** Security ("TAM Programme") with Botswana. This first cooperation under the programme, which was launched

in September 2021, enabled Botswana to successfully develop, test and begin to operationalize a new interagency coordination framework to identify, assess, and manage terrorist threats against critical civil aviation infrastructure. (24 Feb)



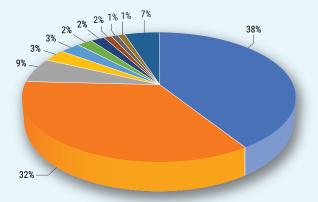
The Global Fusion Cells Programme continued with training delivery to its beneficiaries, consisting of fusion centre, counter-terrorism, law enforcement, and intelligence officials, from Botswana, Ghana, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and Uganda. The programme delivered two rounds of its four-day training course, "Ethical Decision-Making", from 17-20 January and 31 January-3 February 2022. The programme's third training course, "Effective Intelligence Writing", was delivered on 14 February 2022. Two rounds of the programme's fourth training course, "Briefing and Debriefing", were held from 15 and 18 February 2022.



## **Top Contributors to UNOCT**

UNOCT cumulative pledges since inception of the Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and from other funds to date, amount to \$287.4 million, out of which \$232.4 million has been received from 35 donors. Overall, the top donors to date are:





- Allocation from the UN Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the EOSG
- \*\* In addition, in-kind contribution provided by the Netherlands (valued at USD 11.5 million in 2018) and Hungary (USD 534k in 2021).



#### Pillar I

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

#### Pillar II Preventing and combating terrorism

Pillar III Building States' capacity and strengthening the role of the UN

## **Pillar IV**

Ensuring human rights and the rule of law



