One workshop and six side events will take place on 9 May, the day before the launch of the High-Level Conference. The events will take place in a hybrid format, involving both in-person and virtual participation.

These events will provide a space to inform, raise awareness, foster understanding, stimulate debate and dialogue, gain political support and influence, and establish networks. Side events offer a platform for rich discussion to generate innovative and fruitful recommendations regarding some of the most acute counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism (CT/PCVE) challenges. The outcomes of these events are expected to enrich the main conference’s plenary discussions, to help accelerate global momentum and deepen international commitment to implementing the United Nation’s Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In advance of the Conference, the Kingdom of Spain and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism will host a workshop on Enhancing Civil Society Leadership and Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism. Outcomes and recommendations from this workshop will be captured in a dedicated CSO Outcome Document that will be attached to the main conference Outcome Document, to ensure that CSO’s valuable voices are represented.

The six side events will each last for 90 minutes, and are co-organized by UNOCT, a Member State sponsor and a Civil Society Organization. The involvement of more partners, including other UN entities, NGOs, academia, think tanks, and the private sector, has also been encouraged for the additional knowledge and insights each group offers. The key points from the side event discussions will be captured in a summary document. The side event topics are related to the main conference theme and have been proposed by UNOCT on areas relevant to the Office’s programmatic activities. The side event topics are as follows:

1. National Human Rights-Based Counter-Terrorism Responses (1:00pm–2:30pm CEST)
2. Launch of the e-learning on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia (1:00pm–2:30pm CEST)
3. Engaging Parliamentarians with Civil Society Organizations in Enhancing Legislation and Oversight Functions on Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism (1:00pm–2:30pm CEST)
4. Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Syria and Iraq (3:00pm–4:30pm CEST)
5. Fostering Resiliency through a Behavioural Insights Approach (3:00pm–4:30pm CEST)
6. Strengthening Partnerships for Human Rights Compliant and Gender Responsive Counter-Terrorism Efforts (5:00pm–6:30pm CEST)

The journal of side events contains the full schedule and relevant details, and information about how to register to attend in-person and online.