



**UN GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO COUNTER TERRORIST THREATS  
AGAINST VULNERABLE TARGETS**

**LAUNCH EVENT OF THE PROJECT ON PROTECTING VULNERABLE TARGETS BY USING  
BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS TO STRENGTHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES**

**Concept Note**

**Madrid, Spain, 10 November 2022**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain  
4 pm to 7 pm Madrid time // 10 am to 1 pm NY time

**1 - Introduction**

UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/291—the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by consensus on 30 June 2021—in its preambular paragraph (PP) 2 expresses “concern over terrorist attacks against vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places (“soft” targets), and, in operative paragraph (OP) 71, “calls upon Member States to strengthen efforts to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, including religious sites, educational institutions, tourist sites, urban centres, cultural and sport events, transport hubs, rallies, processions and convoys, as well as to enhance their resilience to terrorist attacks.”

To this end, the General Assembly asks the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, including UNOCT, to support Member States efforts, and calls “upon Member States to establish or strengthen national, regional and international partnerships with stakeholders, both public and private, as appropriate, to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks” (A/RES/75/291, OP 73).

In this context, behavioural insights can provide an important tool to law enforcement responsible for the protection of vulnerable targets for them to be more effective in their work. As it has been demonstrated in significant inquiries of terrorist attacks against major events, a number of preventive measures could have been taken prior to this terrorist act if certain suspicious behaviours of the terrorists that committed the crime would have been flagged and addressed in a timely manner by relevant security actors.

From a preventive approach, law enforcement officials in charge of the protection of vulnerable targets, and in particular major events, should be the primary beneficiaries of the insights that applied behavioural science brings. Law enforcement responds to permanently changing societies, where threats to security must be addressed with innovative, although solid, knowledge and capacity.

**2 – Background on the joint project**

This pilot project is jointly implemented by the Madrid, Doha BI hub and Rabat Programme Offices under the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of Member States, upon request, to prevent, protect, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks against their vulnerable targets.

The project aims to: (i) build the capacities of law enforcement and security officials of requesting Member States to make use of the innovative approaches offered by behavioural science to strengthen prevention and



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crisis management in “soft targets” contexts such as sports and recreational venues, while complying with human rights and integrating gender concerns; (ii) have beneficiaries recognize behavioural insights as an important tool in analyzing, designing and implementing solutions for the protection of vulnerable targets; and (iii) contribute to the development of cooperative approaches involving both international cooperation and public-private partnerships to strengthen Member States’ efforts to protect vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks in a way that is human rights compliant and gender responsive.

The beneficiaries of the project will be three African countries, in line with Member States’ calls during the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to increase counter-terrorism/PCVE assistance to Africa.

### **3 – Launch event**

**The launch event will be organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.**

It will take place in Madrid, on **10 November 2022** (4 pm to 7 pm Madrid time // 10 am to 1 pm NY time).  
Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain (Plaza del Marqués de Salamanca, 8). The event will include:

1. Opening ceremony: (30 mins)
  - UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Voronkov (online)
  - Qatar representative (TBC)
  - Spain representative (TBC)
2. Presentation of the project: (40 mins)
  - Heads of UNOCT Programme Offices in Madrid, Doha BI Hub and Rabat
  - AU/CAERT on the importance of vulnerable targets protection in Africa
3. Coffee break (15 mins)
4. Roundtable: (60 mins)
  - Expert from the UK (TBC)
  - Expert from the USA (TBC)
  - Expert from Spain (TBC)
  - Behavioral insights expert (TBC)
5. Q&A (30 mins)

Format: hybrid (in-person and online)

Audience:

- UN Member States
- Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection
- International and Regional Organizations
- Civil Society Organizations
- Academia
- Private sector
- Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Compact entities