



**“Launch of UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform”
on the margins of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

1 October 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
(EDT/New York time)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Terrorist threats have evolved significantly and become increasingly complex and volatile, especially with the impacts from the ongoing global pandemic. It is necessary now more than ever that local, national, regional and international organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector are connected to provide a ‘whole-of-society’ response to a rapidly growing global threat. UNOCT has vowed to boost and redouble its efforts in providing support to Member States, particularly in the delivery of capacity-building, to ensure that stakeholders around the world are given the adequate tools to effectively prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. UNOCT’s innovative “Connect & Learn Platform” aims at becoming an advanced and interoperable learning tool whose impact is twofold.

First, it provides an eLearning Platform to learn aimed at instilling knowledge through up-to-date modules, tools and training courses to support online capacity-building delivery and complement UNOCT in-person training activities, enhancing the reach of UNOCT efforts to support Member States. Courses address a myriad of thematic areas, including preventing violent extremism, countering terrorist travel, and protection of vulnerable targets. The platform includes both open and closed courses that can be instructor-led or self-paced.

Second, it will host thematic Communities of Practice to connect and share information, good practices and lessons learned. Virtual meetings and discussion groups will also be facilitated through the communities, which will enable counter-terrorism practitioners and experts from Member States, civil society, academia, and the private sector, to communicate directly, integrating UNOCT’s virtual hubs and bringing the Office’s knowledge-sharing and capacity-building resources into a single online system, both of which are critical for the implementation of UNOCT programmatic activities on the ground and to carry out UNOCT’s mandate at large. In this regard, the Platform provides extensive resources for practitioners and relevant stakeholders, including, among others, of the Global Sports Programme, generously funded by the Republic of Korea.

The platform will integrate Member States, civil society organizations, academic institutions, think tanks and security actors in communities of practice, and host events for discussions of trends and emerging issues, trainings, a library of resources, and a database of experts.

The newly developed “UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform” offers an opportunity to support Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions as well as pertinent Security Council resolutions. UNOCT’s first-ever “Connect & Learn Platform” is an innovative means to consolidate the Office’s expertise, advocacy and programmatic activities in human rights compliant and gender responsive manner into a cost-effective, far-reaching and easily accessible online portal. In this regard, the support and contributions of Member States to promote and enhance this unique tool is needed to yield tangible and significant impact.

“UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform” will provide a means to develop innovative and accessible capacity-building initiatives, offering a wealth of training tools to ensure continuous support to Member States, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This service will reach a larger number of beneficiaries given its mobile application and availability in multiple languages.

2. Main objectives

- To raise awareness of UNOCT’s first ever “Connect & Learn Platform”, which will offer:
 - an innovative, cost-effective, accessible resource through which relevant stakeholders can access UNOCT programmatic training activities;
 - a platform for diverse stakeholders to participate in whole-of-society forums dedicated to the sharing of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned; and
 - a mechanism for UNOCT to promote and disseminate the Office’s innovative, human rights compliant and gender responsive work on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.
- To create synergies that build and strengthen networks and partnerships between UNOCT programmes, Member States, local, national, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, think tanks and other relevant actors, institutions and practitioners.

3. Expected outcomes

- Relevant stakeholders informed about the “Connect & Learn Platform”’s ability to support global efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.
- Awareness raised on the importance of enhanced cooperation at the local, national, regional, international, and multisectoral levels.
- Engaging new interest in programmatic work to further expand the Platform resource base and enhance its innovation and resources.

4. Participants

- **Speakers:** Representative from the Republic of Korea, UNOCT programme managers, and experts from Member States, local communities, the private sector, civil society organizations, and academia.



- **Audience:** All relevant actors, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, will be invited to participate and pose questions to speakers via chat messages.

5. Methodology

The launch event will last 90 minutes. It will be led by a moderator who will guide the interactive discussions and communicate the questions raised by the audience through emails sent prior to the event as well as through a live chat function.

6. Venue and Date

The launch will be conducted online via Webex within the margins of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 1 October 2021 from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. EDT (New York time). A link to the virtual launch will be sent to participants who have submitted their registration form.

7. Focal point

Ms. Laila Ezzarqui, Chief of External Partnerships Section (EPS), Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (ezzarqui@un.org).