



COUNTER-TERRORISM COMPACT RETREAT
“Strengthening Partnerships Between Regional Organizations and the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact through policy interventions and capacity building”

Date: Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Format: in-person (with virtual component)

Concept Note

This Concept Note outlines the objectives, structure, and logistics for the inaugural Counter-Terrorism Compact Retreat, focused on strengthening partnerships with regional organizations to enhance coordinated policy and capacity-building efforts.

I. Background

Established in 2018, the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact** (Counter-Terrorism Compact) serves as the primary institutional vehicle for fostering coordination and coherence of the United Nations’ counter-terrorism efforts. With its current 46 member and observer entities, the Counter-Terrorism Compact is the largest inter-agency coordination framework within the United Nations system. Bringing together the wealth of knowledge and expertise from UN and non-UN entities through eight thematic working groups, the Counter-Terrorism Compact plays a crucial role in the design and delivery of policy and capacity-building assistance that support Member States, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Counter-Terrorism Compact further facilitates cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the Strategy at local, regional, and international levels, while pooling system-wide resources and capacities for joint efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE).

The importance of regional coordination and partnerships in addressing the evolving terrorist threat has increasingly been highlighted by Member States through the eighth GCTS review resolution and the *Pact for the Future* and echoed through several Counter-Terrorism Compact’s framework documents such as the Joint Programme of Work.

Decisions of the Seventh Compact Coordination Committee on enhancing regional coordination (December 2021):

At the seventh Compact Coordination Committee meeting, the Options Paper on enhancing regional coordination was adopted, including **seven practical options** to enhance regional coordination. These include: using country-specific recommendations; addressing regional thematic issues; involving field staff particularly Resident Coordinators; and engaging civil society, including academia and the private sector. Notably, one recommendation focuses on strengthening engagements with Member States and regional organizations through regular briefings, including continued collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

Counter-Terrorism Compact entities continue to enhance coordination with international and regional organizations to advance a practical, comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. This includes (i) inviting regional organizations, such as the African Union, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to brief the Coordination Committee and working groups; (ii) collaborating with regional organizations like the African Union,

the Council of Europe (COE), the European Union (EU), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Organization of American States Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (OAS/CICTE), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to co-organize side events during the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week; (iii) strengthening partnership with the GCTF, including through annual consultations, active participation in its high-level meetings, and through dedicated side events such as the one organized on the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa on the margins of GCTF’s 23rd Coordinating Committee meeting in February 2024.

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

In the **eighth GCTS review resolution** ([A/RES/77/298](#)), adopted in June 2023, Member States recognized the important role of the United Nations in delivering integrated and coordinated assistance at the field level, and the role of the partnerships of regional and sub-regional organizations with the United Nations in combating terrorism. The resolution also reinforces the Counter-Terrorism Compact’s centrality in the UN counter-terrorism architecture, encouraging Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to cooperate closely with regional and sub-regional organizations in their efforts to combat terrorism, in line with international law, including ensuring inclusive participation, notably of women in efforts to CT/PCVE.

Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026 (January 2024)

On 24 January 2024, at its tenth meeting, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee (Coordination Committee) adopted its **2024-2026 Joint Programme of Work**, outlining five strategic priorities aligned with the eighth GCTS review: (1) Strengthen UN Counter-Terrorism coordination; (2) Enhance Member States engagement; (3) **Advance partnerships with regional entities, civil society, academia and the private sector**; (4) Improve joint planning and resource mobilization; and (5) Integrate gender, human rights and the rule of law into CT/PCVE efforts. The Strategic Priorities on regional coordination emphasize strengthening partnerships with international, regional, and sub-regional organizations to implement the Strategy at the national, regional, and global levels. They include capacity-building assistance, support for addressing terrorist threats, thematic and geographic discussions, field engagement and ensuring effective coordination.

The Pact for the Future (September 2024)

On 22 September 2024, at the **Summit of the Future**, Member States adopted the **Pact for the Future** ([A/RES/79/1](#)), which includes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations as annexes. Action 23 (c) of the Pact of the Future reaffirms the need to “**Enhance coordination of the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations** to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with international law, while considering revitalizing efforts towards the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.”

Decisions Document adopted by Principals on Strengthening Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts and Supporting Member States (February 2025)

In February 2025, the Coordination Committee adopted a [Decisions Document](#) at its eleventh meeting, outlining ten priority areas. **Decision 4** on fostering deeper collaboration and coordination, reaffirmed the Coordination Committee’s commitment to engage with Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, UN Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, and non-governmental stakeholders. It also emphasized building on existing frameworks such as the 2021 **Options Paper on Enhancing Regional Coordination** and past Coordination Committee meeting outcomes, to ensure a coordinated, human rights-based, and responsive approach to terrorism. In **Decision 7**, the Coordination

Committee requested the Counter-Terrorism Compact to enhance cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations to prevent and combat terrorism in compliance with international law, including through joint initiatives under the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa, encouraging Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups chairs, co-chairs and vice-chairs to consider, as relevant and appropriate, to continue to invite representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations to their regular or in-focus sessions.

II. Retreat Objectives and Outcomes

Against this background, the **Counter-Terrorism Compact Retreat** will be held on **25 June 2025 in New York** in-person (with some speakers joining virtually) under the theme **“Strengthening Partnerships between Regional Organizations and the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact through policy interventions and capacity building.”**

The retreat will serve as a vital platform for enhancing CT coordination, capacity building, and sustainable collaboration by fostering stronger partnerships and aligning efforts with regional priorities. The insights and recommendations will contribute to more effective, locally driven solutions in combating terrorism and violent extremism. The retreat also presents a timely opportunity to develop an action plan on engagement with regional organizations.

III. Retreat Structure and Sessions

The Retreat will feature a **high-level opening segment** with key representatives of regional organizations and Member States, followed by two thematic sessions. The **first thematic session** will focus on ***Understanding capacity building challenges at the regional level with focus on West Africa, East Africa, Gulf Cooperation region and Central Asia***. The **second thematic session** will be centered on ***UN coordination priorities while engaging regional organizations, highlighting the role of Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups***.

The **first session** of the retreat will focus on identifying and addressing the capacity-building needs of regional organizations and Member States across West Africa, East Africa, the Gulf Cooperation region, and Central Asia. Through a region-specific lens, the discussion will unpack key challenges, explore opportunities for customized technical assistance, and examine how the Counter-Terrorism Compact can deepen collaboration with local stakeholders. Participants will share experiences, spotlight good practices, and develop concrete, actionable recommendations. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that programming is both context-sensitive and rooted in regional ownership, with a strong commitment to human rights.

The session will:

- Assess distinct CT/PCVE challenges and capacity gaps faced by regional and sub-regional organizations.
- Highlight successful capacity-building models and explore replicable strategies.
- Promote co-programming approaches that prioritize local engagement and the inclusion of civil society actors.
- Explore cooperation and coordination with regional organizations through monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of joint interventions and share M&E frameworks and good practices.
- Discuss pathways to empower regional leadership and institutionalize sustainable, UN-supported CT/PCVE frameworks.

Building on the foundation of regional capacity and ownership, the **second session** will focus on enhancing coordination between Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and regional and sub-regional organizations. The focus will be on exploring opportunities to advance implementation of Action 23(c) of the Pact for the Future, aligning efforts with broader UN strategies while avoiding duplication and ensuring efficient use of resources. Key priorities will include:

- Institutionalizing collaboration through joint planning, shared data systems, and periodic strategic reviews.
- Systematically involving regional partners in consultations, programme co-design, and implementation processes.
- Strengthening transparency and real-time initiative mapping to identify overlaps and fill critical gaps.
- Establishing regional focal points and hosting rotating coordination meetings to boost field-level synergy.

A summary report of the retreat will be prepared highlighting key discussions and outcomes to guide follow-up actions and strengthen strategic collaboration.

IV. Logistical Details

Format

- **In-person with virtual speakers/participants:** The retreat will combine both in-person and virtual elements to ensure wide participation and engagement.
- **Venue:** Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters, New York
- **Virtual Platform:** WebEx (for remote participation)

Participant Details:

- **Compact entities:** Representatives of Compact entities plus two additional delegates from each Counter-Terrorism Compact entity are invited to participate in-person or virtually.
- **Guest Speakers:** Selected Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society representatives will be invited to participate as guest speakers for specific sessions.

Registration

- Registration will be available through a [registration form](#). Further details and the registration link will be shared via email.
- Deadline for registration is Friday, 20 June 2025.

Communication:

- A press release, and social media posts will be issued following the event. These will be shared through the Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Platform and UNOCT website.

Contact Information:

For further inquiries and specific logistical questions, kindly contact:

- Email: GlobalCompact-committee@un.org
- Updated logistical details will be shared closer to the event.