UNCCT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | CHAIR | DIRECTOR CTITF / UNCCT

Advisory Board discusses UNCCT work

The Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) met on 14 September 2016 to discuss the Centre's work and strategic topics pertaining to UNCCT's achievements.

The Chairman, H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia opened the 13th meeting of the Board by noting the important adoption of the Fifth Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/70/291). He also welcomed new funds and pledges that were made to the Centre by various Member States and the European Union.

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Executive Director of the UNCCT, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, briefed the Advisory Board on how the Review Resolution impacted the work of the Centre and noted that "*In fact, some of the challenges identified in the Resolution are already being addressed by the Centre, as they have been foreseen by the UNCCT's Five Year Plan*."

In his address, Mr. Feltman gave an overview of the UNCCT's work during the first nine months of the Centre's 5-Year Programme (2016-2020). He highlighted that the priority focus remains on countries and regions where the threat of terrorism is particularly acute, where the Centre can make a difference, and where needs require quick action.

The Director of CTITF-UNCCT, Dr. Khan also briefed the Advisory Board on the Centre's comprehensive capacity-building activities according to each pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He provided updates on efforts related to preventing violent extremism, Advanced Passenger Information (API), complying with international human rights standards while countering terrorism, and the Integrated Assistance on Counter-Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative.

One theme that resonated during the meeting was the importance of diversifying UNCCT's donor base to ensure the sustainability of the Centre. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi, Mr. Feltman, Mr. Khan, and other Board Members emphasized this point during their statements.

In 2016, the UNCCT also held two expert-level meetings of the Advisory Board to discuss the Centre's work in more detail. The Centre updated experts on projects related to border security and countering the financing of terrorism. Updates on the development of the UNCCT's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the 5-Year Programme were also provided during both meetings.

The UNCCT benefits from the advice of an Advisory Board consisting of 21 Member States and the European Union as a guest member.

For more information: www.un.org/uncct

G5 Sahel: I-ACT Missions to Mauritania and Mali

From 31 August to 9 September 2016, CTITF-UNCCT deployed two back-to-back missions to Mauritania and Mali to promote the implementation of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative.

Senior officials from the G5 Sahel Member States met in Nouakchott to discuss the development of a preliminary I-ACT regional framework for the G5 Sahel.

The mission in Mauritania took place from 31 August to 1 September 2016, responding to a request by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 2195 (2014) and S/PRST/2015/24 and guided by the results of the Fifth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

> **What is the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)?**
>
> I-ACT is a tool designed to ensure an integrated, strategic and system-wide approach to capacity building for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a requesting country or region.

The consultations provided a platform for sharing regional experiences in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, and explored potential cooperation between the UN system, the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat and the G5 Sahel Member States. The Consultations also helped to identify regional common needs in the field of countering terrorism and preventing of violent extremism. Drawing on the outcomes of the consultations, UNCCT is elaborating an I-ACT regional framework of UN projects and programmes, including G5 Sahel Programmes.

In Mali, the I-ACT mission (5-9 September) followed up on the implementation of technical assistance projects that are already ongoing under the I-ACT framework for Mali and discussed priority activities under a potential next phase.

CTITF-UNCCT, working closely with CTED, UNDP and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), is supporting the Malian Government to develop a comprehensive national strategy on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and while ensuring Mali's compliance with international standards.

CTITF-UNCCT will also continue the implementation of the quick and medium term projects previously agreed with the Malian Government to strengthen the judiciary system, counter suicide bombing and ensure human rights compliance of civilian counter-terrorism activities.

"Militant movements seen in northern Mali and north-eastern Nigeria threaten to destabilize West Africa, the Sahel region and the Lake Chad Basin area. Across the Sahel, 4.5 million people are displaced, and six million are in need of emergency food assistance. Boko Haram continues to change tactics, having twice overrun the city of Bosso in Niger in June and struck further afield in West Africa, in Burkina Faso on 15 January and in Côte d'Ivoire on 13 March 2016. UNOWAS organized a regional conference on the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UNOWAS - Security Council Briefing, 11July 2016.

#STOPTERRORFINANCE

International Good Practices on Addressing and Preventing Kidnapping for Ransom

Hostage taking and kidnapping have been used by terrorist groups not only as a traditional tactic aimed at achieving media attention and propaganda benefits, but also increasingly as a means of fundraising through ransoms. For instance, the Abu Sayyaf Group in the Philippines has collected over USD 7.5 million through ransoms in the first half of 2016 alone. At the same time, resolving terrorist kidnapping for ransom incidents and the safe recovery of hostages has become an increasingly difficult endeavour due to prolonged incident durations, growing complexity of the kidnappers' motivations, rising sophistication of their *modus operandi*, greater tendency of terrorist groups to hold hostages in inaccessible strongholds, and their increasingly ambitious demands.

The UNCCT has responded to the rising threat through its Project on International Best Practices on Addressing Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR), with the objective of increasing the capacity of States and NGOs in North, East and West Africa to achieve the safe return of hostages, while at the same time denying terrorists the benefits of ransom payments and political concessions.

In the second half of 2016, UNCCT has delivered capacity building workshops for Government policymakers and KFR operators from West African states in Accra, Ghana (November 16-17, 2016), and for East and West African NGOs in Nairobi, Kenya (7-8 September, 2016) and Dakar, Senegal (14-15 December 2016). The workshops covered topics such as the stages of a kidnapping, terrorist KFR trends and dynamics, the ethical and legal dilemmas involved in the process of hostage recovery, the management of communication with hostage takers, the importance of family liaison and media management, as well as post-incident hostage reintegration.

The participants also heard from a former hostage, and had the opportunity to put the newly acquired skills and tools into practice in a table top exercise, during which they worked in teams to respond to a simulated KFR incident. Three additional workshops for governments and NGOs will take place in North Africa in 2017.

Joint Special Meeting on Terrorist Financing: The Risks and Way Forward

A growing number of Member States are assessing specific terrorist financing risks and the vulnerability of their financial and economic sectors to terrorist financing. While terrorist entities and individuals are still relying on traditional forms of terrorist financing such as cash or money remitters, these groups are also utilizing the Internet and other forms of information and communication technologies to access, raise, and move funds.

These were some of the key themes raised in a joint special meeting of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, together with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), organized at the United Nations on 12 and 13 December 2016. Several tools already exist to counter terrorist financing, such as asset freezing requirements or information sharing mechanisms.

The main challenge consists of implementing these tools effectively. The joint special meeting – held under the mandate of Security Council resolution 2253 (2015) on efforts to suppress terrorist financing, which expanded the sanctions framework to include ISIL (Da'esh) – provided an important forum for Member States and other actors to share practices and lessons learned that can guide the way forward.

Security Council unanimously adopts resolution on international judicial cooperation in countering terrorism

The transnational nature of terrorism requires a coordinated response from all States and actors of the international community. Cooperation in judicial matters is an indispensable requirement in order to overcome challenges pertaining to the investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts, particularly when the various elements of a case are spread beyond the jurisdictions of several States. These were some of the conclusions of the 12 December 2016 high-level open briefing of the Security Council on international judicial cooperation in countering terrorism.

Resolution 2322 (2016), unanimously adopted by the Council under the presidency of Spain, reinforces mechanisms for mutual legal assistance, and includes references to new information and communication technologies (ICT) including the Internet, to facilitate the process of gathering and sharing of evidence with judicial authorities.

The resolution also has a special focus on cooperation in terms of obtaining and preserving e-evidence, and reinforcing a network of so-called Central Authorities.

In addition, the resolution seeks to strengthen police-to-police cooperation in several areas, including through the reinforcement of the INTERPOL 24/7 communication network, as well as the development of regional networks of focal points such as the one approved by the Council of Europe, which has been operative since late November 2016.

This resolution is significant for the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate (CTED) in their work to promote international cooperation at all levels, including by investigators, prosecutors, and judges, in order to prevent, investigate, and prosecute terrorist acts.

"Our policies and methods must reach beyond the parameters of traditional security by taking a larger perspective, based on international cooperation not only between Member States but also with specialized and regional organizations, as well as on partnerships with civil society, academia, and the private sector,"

Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director of CTED

More at www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12620.doc.htm

UNODC and EU Strengthen Partnership to Support Nigeria

In May 2016, in partnership with the European Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a follow-up project focused on supporting Nigeria to bring terrorists to justice and to prevent terrorism acts, through human rights-compliant criminal justice measures against terrorism. The project is funded through a 4.5 million euro contribution by the European Union. UNODC is partnering with the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to implement the project.

Final Review of the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Draft Law

Within the framework of the Programme on Strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in Iraq, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) held a workshop to carry out the final review of Iraq's counter-terrorism draft law at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna from 12-14 October 2016. The workshop comprised extensive discussions on the various changes to be considered, along with in-depth analysis of the draft law and an exchange of best practices and the recommendations to be reflected in the final version of the draft law. In addition, and in cooperation with the expertise from CTED, these additional recommendations were drafted by UNODC/TPB's experts and shared with the Iraqi Government to guide them in refining the final version prior to submitting it to the Parliament for endorsement.

Strengthening criminal justice responses to the phenomenon of terrorists benefiting from links with transnational organized crime

The past several years have been marked by an unprecedented growth of the terrorist threat which has been exacerbated by the increased links between terrorist groups and criminal networks.

These synergies are particularly strong in the most fragile regions and countries of the world and they contribute to fostering conflicts, preventing their resolution and hampering efforts of the international community to promote the rule of law, peace and security.

This specific threat has raised major concerns by the international community and has been addressed in several United Nations resolutions, including the fifth review of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy resolution (A/RES/70/291) and Security Resolution 2195 (2014) on terrorists benefiting from links with transnational organized crime.

As part of CTITF, UNODC has been mandated to support requesting Member States in the implementation of capacity-building programmes to address such links.

In this context, UNODC organized, together with the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, a high- level event on the margins of the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations against Transnational Organized Crime, on *Strengthening criminal justice responses to the phenomenon of terrorists benefiting from links with transnational organized crime.*

The event took place on 17 October at the Vienna International Center in the presence of Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director; H.E. Michèle Ramis, Ambassador at Large on Transnational Criminal Threats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France; Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director at the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate; H.E. Mr. Al-Khairalla, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations in Vienna, representing Mr. Maher Najm Abdulhussein Al-Taie, Deputy Minister for Interior of Iraq, and Judge Joseph Samaha, President, Court de Cassation of Lebanon.

More than 100 people from Member States, regional organizations and civil society entities also attended the event.

> *"We must also further strengthen capabilities and networks, particularly in vulnerable regions where terrorists and criminals seek to exploit gaps in criminal justice responses".*
>
> *Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director UNODC*

The meeting concluded that links between terrorism and transnational organized crime are well established. Real case studies of such links and factual information were provided by the panelists.

The panel also highlighted the importance of effective criminal justice responses to this phenomenon, including in the area of international cooperation. It was recognized that there is an urgent need to focus on strengthening and supporting capacity building programmes in this area, including those carried out by UNODC.
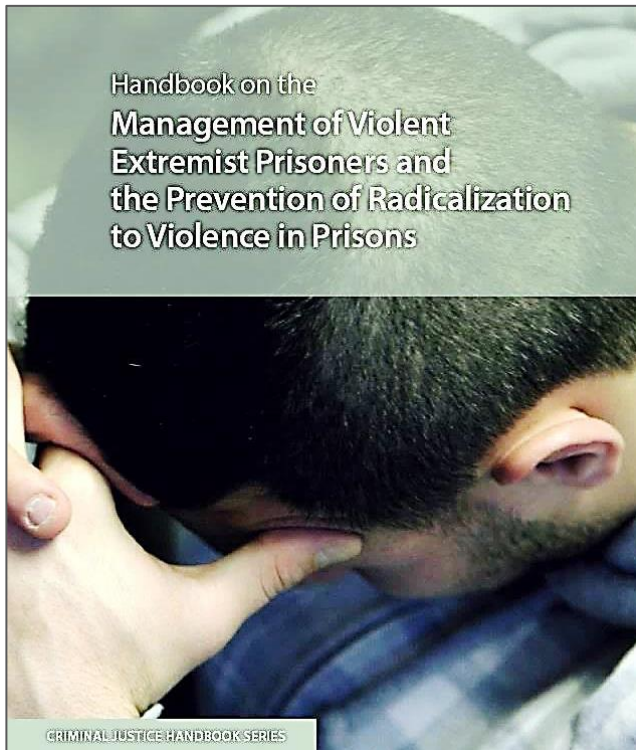
For more information and the full statement of Mr. Fedotov visit: UNODC and Terrorism Prevention

Expert Group Meeting on Training Module Development for South-Eastern Europe

From 6-7 September 2016 in Vienna, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) held an Expert Group Meeting to review a training module on the investigation and adjudication of cases involving foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) in South-Eastern Europe. The meeting was attended by criminal justice sector practitioners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

UNODC and CTED develop evidence-based programmes to counter violent extremism in prisons

Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons

CRIMINAL JUSTICE HANDBOOK SERIES

The terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, the Sydney siege, the murder of Lee Rigby on the streets of London, and the twin shootings in Copenhagen were all planned or perpetrated by individuals who had served time in prison.

Those events, as well as the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) phenomenon, have given fresh impetus and priority to countering violent extremism in prisons.

Prisons, which harbour "identity seekers," "protection seekers," and "rebels" in greater concentrations than any other environment, can act as fertile terrorist recruitment ground. However, imprisonment can also serve as a first step in the rehabilitation process and in preparing prisoners for successful transitions back into society.

Despite the availability of specialised efforts and programmes in prisons in an increasing number of countries to disengage offenders from violent extremism, conclusive evidence regarding the effectiveness of such programmes remains scarce. In order to fill that void, the UNODC is working closely with CTED, under the umbrella of the CTITF, on a project to support Member States in their efforts to design and implement evidence-based programmes to counter violent extremism in prisons in line with international standards and norms.

The project will lead to the preparation of a UN technical guidance material in the form of a handbook and training material. With that handbook, authorities around the world will be able to start implementing evidence-based strategies on violent extremist offenders in prisons, thus addressing a critical and preventable risk. Further policy advice, training and technical assistance will be provided to specific Member States requesting it.

The handbook is available in English at: http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Handbook_on_VEPs.pdf. Versions in Arabic, French and Russian are also available.

Assisting Iraq, Jordan and Yemen on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence

Increasing numbers of violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) are posing a new set of challenges for prison administrations worldwide as it may lead to other prisoners being exposed to violent extremist ideologies. Addressing the issue requires the development and/or refinement of tailored prison management practices in compliance with the rule of law and international standards. Iraq and Yemen, for example, are witnessing a rapid increase in the number of VEPs. Being conflict zone areas, the management of these VEPs has created an additional burden on prison systems, which were already stretched.

The UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and Justice Section held a national workshop on the management of VEPs and the prevention of radicalization to violence for Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, from 8 to 10 November 2016 in Jordan. It was based on a new *UNODC Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*.

Representatives of the beneficiary countries stressed the need for the continued support of UNODC, and the need to enhance efforts being made in the field of pre- and post-release support and supervision for VEPs. This workshop was generously funded by the Government of Japan.

Security Council adopts resolution on countering terrorist threats to civil aviation

The global aviation system is of vital importance to economic development and prosperity, and all States must strengthen, both individually and collectively, aviation security measures, in order to secure a stable and peaceful global environment.

Adopting resolution 2309 (2016), on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the Security Council called on States to work with the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to ensure that its international security standards are reviewed and adapted to effectively address the threat posed by terrorist targeting of civil aviation.

Expressing particular concern that terrorist groups are actively seeking ways to defeat or circumvent aviation security, the 15-member body also called on all States to strengthen and promote the effective application of ICAO standards and recommended practices, and to assist ICAO in continuing to enhance audit, capacity development and training programmes in order to support implementation.

In the resolution, the Council noted with concern that the terrorism threat has become more diffuse and expressed its determination to combat it. The Council also expressed grave concern over terrorist attacks against civil aviation and over the fact that civil aviation may be used as transportation means by foreign terrorist fighters.

The Council called on all States to, among other action, ensure that effective, risk-based measures are in place at airports within their jurisdiction and to urgently address any gaps or vulnerabilities that may be highlighted by ICAO or national self-risk assessment or audit processes.

In addition, all States should strengthen security screening procedures and maximize the promotion, utilization and sharing of new technologies and innovative techniques that maximize their capability to detect explosives and other threats.

Specifically, under the terms of the resolution, States that are able to do so are urged to assist in the delivery of effective and targeted capacity development, training and other necessary resources, technical assistance, technology transfers and programmes.

Furthermore, the Council called on all States to strengthen their international and regional cooperation to boost information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and returnees.

The Security Council also encouraged continued cooperation between ICAO and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate on identifying gaps and vulnerabilities relevant to aviation security.

In addition, the Council requested that its Counter-Terrorism Committee hold a special meeting within 12 months, in cooperation with ICAO, on the issue of terrorist threats to civil aviation.

In July 2014, following the crash of a Malaysia Airlines flight over Ukraine that killed 298 people on board, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2166 calling for an international investigation into the incident, and demanded at the time that armed groups allowed unfettered access to the crash site and ensure that its integrity was maintained. Later that month, ICAO convened a special Task Force on Risks to Civil Aviation arising from Conflict Zones.

In September 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2178 in response to an unprecedented flow of foreign terrorist fighters and the growth of facilitation networks fueling conflicts around the world. Under the terms of that resolution, the Council called on **Member States to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information** to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure, from their territories, of individuals designated by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee.

FTF Capacity Building Implementation Plan

The phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) poses a serious threat to international peace and security. They increase the intensity and duration of conflicts that pose a serious challenge to the States through which they transit and, upon return, to their countries of residence.

More than 25,000 FTFs from around 100 Member States are estimated to have travelled to Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Libya.

The task of countering and preventing this phenomenon touches on some of the most challenging elements of international cooperation and collaboration.

In May 2014, the Security Council encouraged the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office to develop the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Capacity Building Implementation Plan. Taking an All-of-UN approach, the CTITF Office developed the Plan in close consultation with the Al Qaeda Sanctions Monitoring Team (AQMT) and CTED who identified the most critical capacity building needs of the most affected Member States.

By the end of 2016, twelve CTITF entities had submitted 37 project proposals addressing all aspects of the FTF life-cycle, including radicalization, travel, financing, prosecution and rehabilitation and reintegration should they return. The total budget of the projects is USD 126 million over five years. Some of the projects are already ongoing. CTITF entities reported that approximately USD 18 million (14%) were identified in outside funding. UNCCT is already contributing close to USD 1 million to ongoing projects and will contribute another USD 8.5 million (7.5%) of co-funding to high priority projects of the Plan. Additional funding will be required to implement all project proposals.

As the phenomenon of FTF has shifted over the past years, with fewer people leaving to conflict zones, but increasing numbers returning to their country of residence or nationality, the Task Force will add further projects to update the FTF Capacity Building Implementation to support Member States in their efforts in prosecuting, rehabilitating, and reintegrating returnees.

UNCCT Aviation Security Project in Nigeria

In July 2016, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) initiated a capacity-building project on aviation security in Nigeria in partnership with the Government and with co-funding from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Thirty-five (35) Nigerian aviation security Master Trainers were trained to train other aviation security experts in two new training centres, which will be established in Lagos and in Zaria, Nigeria.

The graduates are expected to deliver and sustain a high standard of aviation security screening across Nigeria's civil aviation infrastructure.

The Aviation Security project responds to the security environment and supports strengthening of the aviation security sector in Nigeria and the broader region. It brought together the best aviation security and counter-terrorism experts worldwide to develop these new "Centres of Excellence" in Nigeria.

"The project demonstrates the unyielding commitment of the Nigerian Government to aggressively tackle the most difficult challenges posed by terrorist organizations"

Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director of UNCCT

The project was designed to improve aviation security at all airports throughout Nigeria through a more efficient security screening process for all passengers, in accordance with international standards required by the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) and the European Union.

The project contributes to the Nigerian Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy by helping to mitigate the threat posed to civil aviation by terrorist organizations and their operatives.

The project also contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2309 adopted on 22 September 2016, which calls on Member States to take all necessary efforts to improve and protect aviation security worldwide.

ICAO TRIP TRAVELLER IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME

ICAO introduces a new training package: Control of the Authenticity and Validity of Travel Documents at Airport Borders

ICAO launched a new training package (TP) to consolidate the competencies of front-line inspection officers from immigration and border control authorities to examine travel documents effectively, allowing them to expedite the movement of legitimate travellers while identifying high-risk individuals.

The four-day course was developed according to a standardized training methodology referenced in *ICAO's Training Development Guide, Competency-based Training Methodology* and builds upon ICAO's leadership in developing travel document specifications contained in *ICAO's Machine Readable Travel Documents*, and in assisting its Member States in strengthening their national traveller identification programme.

Upon successful completion of the course, the trainees will be able to: (1) describe the basic elements of a travel document; (2) identify the different types of fraud; (3) examine a travel document manually and visually to detect whether it is fraudulent or not; and (4) examine a travel document using an electronic document reader to detect whether it is fraudulent or not.

ICAO forecasts that scheduled global passenger traffic will increase from 3.5 billion in 2015 to 6.4 billion by 2030. The increased passenger volume will impact an essential aspect of international air travel: travel document examination. Providing quality and relevant training for carrying out this task is critical for global security, border control and the facilitation of air transport.

This Training Package was developed to assist Member States in implementing the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, endorsed by the 38th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2013. The Strategy emphasizes a holistic approach to traveller identification management in order to uniquely identify individuals. It promotes a robust identification management programme, modern secure travel documents and effective border and identity controls as powerful tools to be used to mitigate and counter threats posed by trans-border crime and terrorism.

By helping to enhance border security and control at airports, the training also assists States in implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions related to terrorism, including resolution 2178 (2014) on Foreign Terrorist Fighters, which calls on all States to "*prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups […] through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents*".

The development of the ICAO Training Package was funded by the Government of Canada

Available in English and French, the ITP will be translated into all of the other languages of ICAO. Member States are invited to host this training course to train their officers by sending an email to aviationtraining@icao.int.

www.icao.int/Training/Pages/TDexam.aspx

INTERPOL LAUNCHES GLOBAL DRIVE FOR TERRORIST BIOMETRICS SHARING

Amidst concerns about the rapidly evolving threat landscape, INTERPOL is calling on countries to support a global drive for the collection and sharing of biometric information related to terrorist suspects.

Police chiefs from around the world attending INTERPOL's 85th General Assembly session on 7-10 November 2016 in Bali, Indonesia recognized the urgency with which this threat needs to be addressed.

The military dynamics of the Syria/Iraq theatre, where Da'esh has lost control over a substantial amount of territory, indicate that cross-border terrorist mobility risks are significantly increasing. Some 15,000 fighters are believed to be still active in this conflict zone, many of them battle-hardened and trained in skills such as small arms and light weapons handling, and the manufacture of improvised explosive devices.

As the group comes under increased pressure, any of these fighters could move to a new conflict zone or return home to engage in radicalization or covert operations. The same applies to members of other terrorist groups. This shifts the scenario from Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) flows converging in a single conflict zone, to a networked environment with conflicts feeding each other, making cross-border movements of operatives and their know-how less predictable.

Tracking and preventing terrorist travel remains pivotal – and with it INTERPOL's role in this effort as recognized by Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

Efforts to enhance information sharing are now paying off. At its launch, INTERPOL's Foreign Terrorist Fighter Project included only twelve FTF profiles. Three years later, some 9,000 have been shared by 60 countries with a further 40,000 entities being analyzed.

Nevertheless, a parallel surge is required in the depth of information available at the frontlines, to positively match subjects of interest with known terrorist profiles. The proliferation of aliases, fraudulent travel documents, creative deception tactics and basic issues such as transliteration, present serious challenges to law enforcement.

Unique identifiable attributes – fingerprints, DNA profiles and high-quality images for facial recognition – play a key role. INTERPOL witnessed this, for instance, in successful interdictions at the border of the Schengen zone; confirming FTF deaths in conflict zones via DNA matching; or tracking terrorist movements in the Sahel with the collection of biometric data from detained suspects.

In line with its Counter-Terrorism strategy, INTERPOL will enhance efforts to support the General Assembly's call for member countries, in compliance with national legislation, to collect and share via INTERPOL any biometric information related to:

- Known individuals believed or confirmed to be bound for, or having reached, conflict zones for the purpose of supporting and/or joining terrorist groups;
- Individuals recently deported, incarcerated or subject to other judicial decisions – either in their home countries or abroad – for terrorism-related offences;
- Returnees from conflict zones, subject to criminal investigations and/or restrictive measures in their home countries, and assessed as posing a high risk of cross-border mobility and/or reoffending.

Making available vital policing information to frontline officers, who often have just seconds to make a decision, will help improve results in identifying and interdicting returning FTFs.

Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee holds special meeting on preventing exploitation of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes

The exploitation of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes will only be defeated through sustained and comprehensive action involving the active participation and collaboration of Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector.

This was a common theme expressed by a number of participants in a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, held at the United Nations in New York on 1 December 2016.

"We must work together to promote dialogue among all stakeholders in order to find effective ways to prevent the exploitation of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes," H.E. Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, said in his closing statement.

The meeting entitled "*Preventing the exploitation of information and communication technologies (ICT) for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,*" was held amid the significant and growing threat posed to Member States by the exploitation of ICT, in particular the Internet and social media, for terrorist purposes.

In a number of resolutions, the Security Council has recognized this threat and called upon Member States to take the measures needed to deliver an effective response. The formal meeting was preceded by technical sessions on the same theme organized by the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTED) on 30 November and 1 December 2016.

Private sector representatives underscored their commitment to preventing the exploitation of ICT for terrorist purposes. "Twitter has suspended over 360,000 accounts for threatening or promoting terrorist acts since mid-2015", the Public Policy Team Mannager of Twitter, Maryam Mujica said.

Participants in the special meeting and the accompanying technical sessions included Member States, international and regional organizations, United Nations entities, the private sector, academia, faith-based leaders, and civil society representatives.

#SpreadNoHate initiative: preventing hate speech in the media

Under the framework of the #SpreadNoHate initiative and in the margin of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNAOC organized a 4th Symposium on the treatment of migrants and refugees in the media, and their integration in host societies.

In line with the UN global campaign against racism and xenophobia "Together: respect, safety and dignity for all", the event entitled "Combating xenophobic language in the media and fostering inclusive integration of migrants and refugees," served as an opportunity to prepare discussions that took place during the UNGA high level summit on refugees and migrants. The debate enabled media experts, United Nations officials and representatives of NGOs to address xenophobia entitled in the media and set out recommendations to prevent and counter hate speech.

Held on 15 September 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York, the event was co-sponsored by the European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations. Over 120 people, including several representatives of Member States and NGOs, attended the symposium. The discussion was broadcast live on UN Web TV and reached close to 228,000 people online globally at the UNAOC hashtag #SpreadNoHate and generated close to 478, 700 impressions.

In addition, UNAOC is working closely with the European Union on the 5th #SpreadNoHate Symposium to be held in January 2017 in Brussels. This symposium will focus on countering hate speech against migrants and refugees, specifically in the Mediterranean region in the media.

#SpreadNOHate
A Global Dialogue On HATE SPEECH
Against Migrants and Refugees in the Media

Fellowship Program 2016:
Countering Hate Speech and Radicalization in the Media

UNAOC's 2016 intercultural exchange program enabled young professionals and civil society leaders from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and their counterparts from Europe and North America (EUNA) to learn from one another and address issues related to intercultural understanding and interfaith dialogue.

Activities and discussions of the *UNAOC Fellowship Program* focused on education as a tool for the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia. Participants were selected for their professional achievements in the field of education in their home countries.

They travelled to the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Morocco, Egypt, and Qatar, and met with representatives from international organizations, governmental institutions, NGOs, think tanks, as well as religious leaders, journalists, and civil society actors involved in activities related to education and the prevention of radicalization and xenophobia.
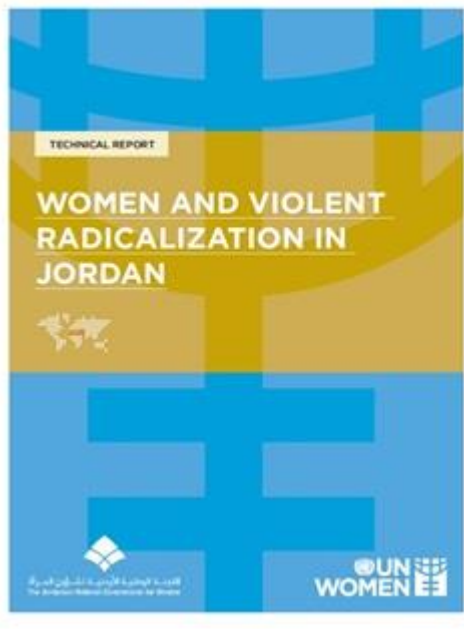
UN WOMEN: Radicalization of Women

Radicalization (evolution towards violent extremism) is a growing concern among Jordanians and the majority of those interviewed believe it is spreading in universities and communities. These are the key findings of a study conducted by the Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development and Search for Common Ground on behalf of UN Women. The Jordanian National Commission for Women in February and March 2016 found that women face heightened threats of the impact of radicalization due to diminishing public space, stricter gender norms that define the spaces they may and may not occupy, and increased violence against women.

These findings will support the Jordanian National Commission for Women and the Government of Jordan in developing a National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325.

What is driving radicalization?

The root causes and drivers of radicalization in Jordan are not easily traced and can be linked to factors such as religious conviction. However, other potential triggers include the lack of a sense of belonging, personal political views, animosity towards other religious groups, and searching for a greater sense of identity and purpose. Of the respondents interviewed for the report, 82 per cent believed that social and economic pressures led people to take part in violent extremism.

The report notes that as individuals, mothers, wives, sisters, caregivers and community-builders, women in their diverse roles can be powerful allies in countering radical ideologies. For example, they can uncover "early warning signals" and serve as bolsters to radicalization within the family and community. The report highlights global good practices in supporting women's roles in preventing violent extremism. In Pakistan, a women's organization helps families intervene when children show signs of radicalization, while in Morocco the Government has trained local women religious leaders to steer people away from violent paths.

In order to prevent radicalization in Jordan, the report recommends having locally-rooted strategies led by the government and civil society, including amplifying the voices of Jordanian women as decision-makers in politics and academia and building the capacity of female *imams*. The report also urges Jordan to create a national strategy that captures diverse voices, including of youth and women, and prevention programmes to cover all governorates.

For more information and to [download the full](#) report visit: www.unwomen.org

PODCAST: Preventing the young terrorists of tomorrow – former Taliban supporter says UN has key voice in global debate

Mubinoddin Shaikh, former Taliban radical, addressed the General Assembly High-level Thematic Conversation on Children and Youth affected by Violent Extremism convened by the General Assembly. Mr. Shaikh told *UN Radio* producer Matthew Wells that the UN had an important and significant role in helping turn young people away from joining terrorist groups such as Da'esh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or ISIL), Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, and Al-Shabaab.

In January, the Secretary-General presented to UN Member States a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, calling for a comprehensive approach addressing not only security issues, but "systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups."

Human Rights Training for Law Enforcement Officials

In the last three months of 2016, law enforcement officials in Tunisia, Jordan and Iraq benefited from training workshops delivered as part of a project called "Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism" led by the CTITF Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism.

The overall objective of the project is to improve States' capacity to prevent, respond to and investigate terrorism threats, and to support them in their efforts to implement measures included in Pillar IV of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288).

By offering participating States access to expert trainers, information and expertise on emerging best counter-terrorism practices, within human rights training on the applicable international legal standards, the project aims to attract the interest of operational police and security officials and embed respect for international human rights norms in their counter-terrorism programming.

The training includes modular presentations on the International Legal Framework relating to terrorism; the use of force within human rights constraints; human rights compliant detention and interview practices; and the use of intrusive special investigation techniques, together with discussions and exercises designed to allow participants to consider operational scenarios in a human rights context.

The purpose of the workshop is to ensure that officers who are trained will influence and develop working practices, standard operating procedures and policies so that they comply with international human rights norms in their counter-terrorism fight. Middle and senior ranking officers from a variety of state organisations engaged in countering terrorism, from the three countries came together, often for the first time in this context, and discussed how they can protect the rights of the public, officers and terrorist suspects whilst maintaining and building their own legitimacy through compliance with both national and international law.

Having had exposure to human rights law in the counter-terrorism context, most participants expressed a wish to receive further training to increase their expertise, and many said that their colleagues would also benefit.

The next step of the project will incorporate suggestions on the integration of an element for the second training to these Member States and others. The project continues to develop more thematic training modules, particularly focusing on preventing violent extremism, community policing and humanitarian law.

Young Peace-builders in West Africa: Promoting intercultural & interfaith dialogue

The pilot edition of **UNAOC** Young Peace-builders was launched on International Youth Day 2016, focusing on West Africa. 20 young men and women from 11 countries in West Africa were selected among more than 450 applicants through a competitive call for applications, to take part in the program. After 7 weeks of preparatory engagement facilitated through an online platform and curriculum, participants were excited to finally meet face-to-face, at a workshop in Abuja.

Implemented in collaboration with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (**UNOY**), the program seeks to grow the youth peacebuilding movement. This collaboration is an example of the meaningful partnerships between young people and UN agencies on all issues related to peace and security, which the UN Security Council called for when it adopted resolution 2250 in December 2015.

The program also addresses key recommendations made in the **Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE),** namely by

providing educational opportunities for young people

to strengthen their competence in peace building.

UNESCO Develops Two Guides on PVE through Education

In May 2016, UNESCO launched a **Teacher's Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism to provide practical tips to educators** at the primary and secondary levels seeking guidance on how to discuss the subject in classrooms.

It is available in eight languages, notably in Arabic, Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, English, French, Serbian and Russian at: unesdoc.unesco.org

Radicalization leading to violent extremism is not confined to any age, gender, group, or community. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the messages of violent extremists.

While preventing violent extremism includes a complex set of measures, education is one of the most powerful tools against the spread of extremist ideologies.

In this regard, UNESCO's role is to assist Ministries of Education in adopting the appropriate educational measures to prevent violent extremism.

This includes strengthening the capacities of national education systems to contribute to national prevention efforts and to implement effective educational strategies, which nurture a culture of peace and non-violence.

The Organization's work in this area is being undertaken within the framework of its ongoing efforts to promote Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and support country implementation of Target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Education.

UNESCO has also developed a **Policy Guide on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education.** This guide builds on the outcomes of the first *Conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education: Taking Action (mgiep.unesco.org/pve-e/) co-organized by* UNESCO HQ and the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of
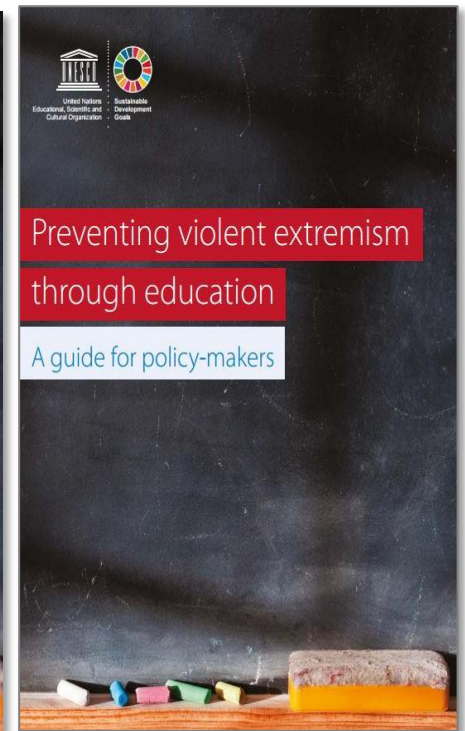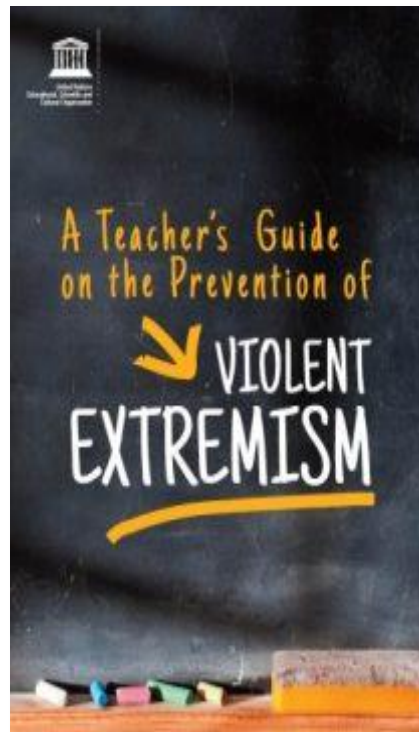
Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in September 2016 in New Delhi India.

The Policy Guide will help prioritize, plan and implement effective and appropriate education-related actions, contributing to national PVE efforts.

It will be finalized based on suggestions received from the participants during the Conference held at New Delhi and made available in English and French by early 2017.

On the basis of the two UNESCO Guides, key follow-up actions are underway to build capacity of policy makers and teachers.

Moreover, UNESCO is carrying out other activities aiming to raise awareness among educational stakeholders such as the expansion of the *GCED Clearinghouse with* PVE materials (www.gcedclearinghouse.org/), regular email updates on PVE education and thus facilitation of networking among those responsible for, or engaged in, PVE related work.

IN THIS ISSUE

Security Council underlines need to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Expressing concern over the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire or use nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, the United Nations Security Council called on all countries to establish national controls to prevent proliferation of such weapons as well as their means of delivery.

In a resolution adopted on 15 December 2016 the 15-member Council also reiterated the need to continue to strengthen ongoing cooperation among various intergovernmental bodies and entities concerning terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh).

The Council further called on all UN Member States to ensure the full implementation of its resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also called for strengthening the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities through additional funding so that it is able to better assist countries in implementing their obligations under resolution 1540.

Prior to the adoption of the resolution Deputy-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson underlined the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction in the wrong hands and called on the international community to "take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen our collective defences […] that are nimble and flexible."

Stressing the threats of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as well as of the "growing nexus" between such weapons, terrorism and cyber security, he added: "The nightmare scenario of a hack on a nuclear power plant causing uncontrolled release of ionizing radiation is growing." He further underlined the importance of strengthening the capacities of all countries to combat such threats and called on them to fulfil their commitment to build a world that is free of all weapons of mass destruction.