The UNOCT Fusion Cells Programme is launched on 1 January 2020, in partnership with CTED, UNPOL, INTERPOL AND CAERT, funded by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) China, and a small contribution from the State of Qatar. The Programme will initially focus on African countries.

FEB 2020
- Nigel Lazarus is appointed Programme Manager.
- Beneficiary counties identified (Burkina Faso, Botswana, Ghana and Mozambique).

MARCH 2020
- Olga Gurevich is appointed Programme Officer.

APRIL 2020
- One UNV joins the Programme management team.

JULY 2020
- Expert consultants Maria Lozano and Gil Gordian are onboarded for the Programme.
- UNOCT Fusion Cells webpage and newsletter are developed.

AUGUST 2020
- First virtual scoping mission with Botswana completed.

The Programme is funded by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund and will be initially tailored to African countries. The Programme will build on, and deepen the understanding gained through CTED assessments, as well as UNOCT’s other ongoing programmes, while working closely with each beneficiary Member State to set its priorities, bearing in mind the complex and sensitive nature of national interagency intelligence cooperation. The programme also complements, and benefits from the regional Fusion Centres being established by INTERPOL in Africa and promotes integration and full synergy at the regional and national levels.

"Homegrown terrorists are also testing the capacities of domestic security and intelligence agencies. So, as the threat from terrorism continues to evolve, we must adapt and learn lessons from what works and what does not. Our response needs to be as agile and multifaceted as the threat." Secretary-General’s opening remarks at High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, 28 June 2018
Understanding threats, trends and prospective pursuits is key to developing effective domestic and international CT strategies and essential to day to day mitigation activity. The adaptive nature of global terrorist groups as movements and networks and the ongoing threat they project onto national, regional and international security interests, make it necessary to ensure that national criminal justice, intelligence and law enforcement efforts can respond adequately.

Fusion Centres enable enhanced threat assessment and informed decision-making, which can help to prevent terrorist attacks from taking place, ensure appropriate preparedness and response measures are in place, as well as drive investigations to ensure best evidence is gathered and contribute to a more effective response to and recovery from a terrorist attack.

The development of new terrorist modus operandi and features calls for constant monitoring, adaptability and increased effort. This requires enhanced capacities from Member States to collect, collate, analyse and quickly exchange the information between all relevant institutions and entities in charge of preventing, countering and responding to terrorism threats.

Next steps:
- Drafting of the Compendium of Good Practices and related guidelines on establishing and operating Fusion Centres.
- Organizing an Expert Working Group (EWG) and Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to support the drafting process of the Compendium of Good Practices and related guidelines.
- Developing Fusion Centres training materials and handbooks...

For more information on the Fusion Cells programme contact OCT-fusion-centres@un.org