



# 2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism



## Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

UNOCT’s UAS programme brings together a variety of stakeholders, including national and local governments, international organizations, and private industry, with a view to raise awareness and work cooperatively to address the evolving risk of terrorist misuse of UAS and related technology.

### Description of the Project

**This programme focuses on operationalizing established good practice and addressing the lack of awareness, reducing the knowledge gap around the use of UAS by terrorist groups, and compliance with international law, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law.** In addition, the project will aim to promote ICAO and INTERPOL agreed terminology, legislation and strategic frameworks aimed at mitigating and countering UAS-related risks. Where required, the development of ad-hoc mechanisms, expert groups and the sharing of good practices, strategies and policies, and the provision of sustainable training will be carried out. The programme will also deliver training in the proactive use of UAS to counter terrorism, particularly in the area of border security and management. Incident response and management, and the protection of critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets.

The objectives of this programme are to a) promote international cooperation and public-private partnerships to prevent and counter UAS-related threats; b) enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and counter UAS-related threats; and c) enhance the capacity of Member State to use UAS for non-lethal/non-kinetic and human rights compliant counter-terrorism purposes.

### Rationale

The international community faces an adaptive threat as terrorist entities continue to prove their ability to adapt and evolve. Increasingly, terrorist groups look to move beyond attacks with small arms, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and vehicle-ramming to employ new technical means, dual-use technology, and technological convergence to threaten individuals, populations, facilities, and public order. The use of UAS by terrorist groups poses unique challenges and can enable a vast range of potentially disruptive attacks against civilians, soft targets, and critical infrastructures.

This programme will raise awareness and seek to identify, collate, analyze, inform, and support Member states to implement identified good practices whilst building innovative partnerships with academia and the private sector. UNOCT and its partners will seek to bring together a variety of stakeholders, including national and local governments, international organizations, and private industry, with a view to working cooperatively to better understand and address the evolving risk of terrorist misuse of UAS and related technological convergence. This programme will also focus on “operationalizing” established good practice and addressing the lack of awareness, reducing the knowledge gap around the use of UAS by terrorist groups, and compliance with international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

This programme will leverage new technologies and innovative solutions, in this case, UAS and their uses, to act as force multipliers in support of counter-terrorism efforts (e.g. providing training on the use of UAS to protect critical infrastructures and vulnerable targets; to support Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities in counter-terrorism contexts, including border security and management; to detect CBRN materials; and to help monitor and manage terrorist incidents). Concurrently, the programme will help train Member States so that they can confidently face emerging threats resulting from the misuse of new technologies associated with UAS and their parts.

The Programme will provide a vital response to the emerging threat of terrorist use of UAS, as highlighted by CTC/CTED and the Security Council, for example in resolution 2370 (2017) regarding measures to stem the flow of weapons to terrorist groups and 2396 (2017) on FTF responses. Furthermore, the Programme also directly responds to recommendations, gaps and needs identified during several assessments undertaken by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) / Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and to a CTED Trend Report dated March 2019 on UAS.

### Outcomes

The programme seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

**Outcome 1:** Increased global coordination and mobilization to raise awareness on UAS and their potential use for terrorism-related purposes.

**Outcome 2:** Enhanced level of preparedness of up to five (5) selected Member States to mitigate UAS-related risks.

**Outcome 3:** Enhanced level of preparedness of up to five (5) selected Member States regarding the non-lethal/non-kinetic and human rights compliant use of UAS for counter terrorism-related purposes, including Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR); border security and management (BSM); the detection of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials; vulnerable targets and critical infrastructure protection, etc.

### Outputs/Indicative Activities

The programme seeks to implement the following indicative activities:

- Create a matrix of major actors and initiatives currently planned or being implemented on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes.
- Establish agreements or memorandum of understandings (MoUs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) between UNOCT and relevant partners to ensure the coordinated and complementary implementation of activities within this programme.
- Establish a working group and/or network gathering relevant Member States, Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society stakeholders on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes.
- Organize awareness-raising events on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter
- Develop training curricula on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes
- Creation of a legislative guidance manual other guidance to aid Member States understanding of effective responses to include regulatory, legislative, and tactical countermeasures as identified in Interpol’s framework of good practices.
- Produce a compendium and/or legislative guidance manual to assist Member States in implementing identified good practices, guidance and legislative reforms compliance with international law, international human right law and international humanitarian law.
- Develop standard operating procedures, protocols and guidance to help ensure a coordinated response at the national level on responding and countering UAS-related threats.
- Organize awareness-raising events on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes.
- Provide pilot capacity-building activities to requesting Member States on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes.
- Provide capacity-building on legislative reforms, SOPs and guidance implementation based on created materials.
- Organize awareness-raising events on the use of UAS for non-lethal and non-kinetic counter-terrorism purposes and countering the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes.

### Human Rights Mainstreaming

In the implementation of this project, UNOCT will ensure that human rights and gender perspectives are mainstreamed in relevant activities (including legislative assistance and training to law enforcement, thematic areas). The programme will ensure that all training provided on the use of UAS for counter-terrorism purposes exclusively focuses on the non-lethal and non-kinetic use of such systems. In addition, the programme will seek expert feedback on potential human rights violations which could result from the use of such systems for counter-terrorism purposes. This feedback will be integrated in the design and implementation of activities. All training will be provided in compliance with international law, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law. The relevant activities will also be undertaken in compliance with the United Nations’ Human Rights Due Diligence Policies.

### Gender Mainstreaming

Gender statistics including sex-disaggregated data will be collected and analyzed during project implementation and evaluation and will be incorporated into the design and implementation of activities. The programme will also ensure to highlight and encourage the nomination and/or participation of women in all its events. When feasible, the programme will ensure to gender parity in its events with regards to guest speakers and moderators. The Gender Advisor of UNOCT has been consulted in the development of the programme and a gender expert will be consulted to further assess gender mainstreaming opportunities. In the implementation of this project, UNOCT will ensure that human rights and gender perspectives are mainstreamed in relevant activities (including legislative assistance and training to law enforcement, thematic areas).

### Budget

\$1,200,000.00

### Pillar

Pillar II - Measures to prevent and Combat Terrorism

### Project Status

Ongoing

### Implementation Period

2021-2023

### UN Org

UNOCT

### UN Global CT Compact Partners

CTED, DOS, ICAO, INTERPOL

### Countries

Global

### Current Donors

This programme is currently funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.