PILLAR II:

Measures to prevent and combat terrorism

Drawing on UNCCT expertise/assistance and programme support, Member States and regions counter terrorism in a strategic manner, combat the financing of terrorism, and prevent the travel of terrorists and cyber terrorism (Outcome 2, UNCCT 5-Year Programme)

Output 2.1:	Via UNCCT support, requesting Member States and regions have in place holistic and integrated counter-terrorism strategies based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The multidimensional nature and transnational scope of the terrorist threat requires that counter-terrorism responses are coordinated, both at national and regional levels, and engage all of society and all of government. Regional and national counter-terrorism strategies provide useful frameworks for involving and coordinating both government and non-government actors, identifying gaps and capabilities, setting strategic objectives and priorities, building commitment, and monitoring actions and processes. UNCCT is working actively with national and regional partners, the Global Compact entities, and relevant Global Compact Working Groups, in particular the National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies Working Group, to develop and implement inclusive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars.

In this regard, the Centre is supporting regional organisations to implement the regional counter-terrorism strategies in Southern Africa, Horn of Africa and Tanzania, and Central Asia. Its global PCVE programme (see programme UNCCT-2017-72 above) provides policy guidance and technical assistance to requesting Member States and regional organisations in the development of PVE action plans based on national and regional priorities. The Centre has also initiated a new project to support the development and implementation of a new updated regional strategy for the Arab region.

UNCCT-2017-69:	Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (Phase III)

Status: Ongoing

The third phase of the Joint Plan of Action towards a comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Central Asia was formally launched at a High-Level Conference on 30 April in Ashgabat with the participation of representatives from five Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as CTED and UNRCCA. At this conference, all Central Asian countries reaffirmed their readiness and commitment to closely cooperate and coordinate with each other to tackle the common threat of terrorism in the region through the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA).

During the reporting period, UNCCT and UNRCCA, in partnership with other regional and international organisations, including UNODC, UNDP, OSCE, and International Organization for Migration (IOM), organised a number of regional activities in support of the JPoA to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. The first activity was a regional coordination meeting in Istanbul on 23 February where 14 practitioners from eight regional organisations shared information on their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. This activity enabled the mapping of all CT/PVE activities in the region, the identification of potential synergies and complementarities, and exchange of good practices and lessons learned. As an outcome of the meeting, a *Mapping of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives* in Central Asia was prepared. The Mapping is available on the website of UNRCCA. (https://unrcca.unmissions.org/mapping-pve-and-ct-initiatives-central-asia-0).

Second, UNCCT and UNRCCA organised a two-day regional workshop in Astana on 21-22 May on 'Addressing Drivers of Violent Extremism and Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism' with approximately 70 participants from Central Asian countries, regional and international organisations. The workshop was a follow-up to the Secretary-General's visit to Central Asian States in 2017 that reviewed the implementation of the JPoA. It provided an opportunity for government representatives to present their progress and challenges in addressing the drivers of violent extremism and for international and regional organisations to present their areas of support. It included moderated discussions around thematic areas of relevance to the region, and exchanges of good practices and lessons learned in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism at national and regional levels. As a result, UNRCCA finalised and published a policy brief on *Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism* (https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/final_astana_report_eng_1.pdf).

The third and final activity was a regional border security and management training in Ashgabat on 15-19 October, which contributed to the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in border security and management in the context of stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. This activity was undertaken in light of CTED's country specific assessments of Central Asian countries as well as its recommendations to address regional gaps in the areas of border management. Twenty-three participants from relevant government agencies learned how to better utilise new technologies to improve customs control and combat illicit trafficking, as well as inter-agency cooperation and coordination, and how to better assess and respond to existing needs for countering terrorism at the border.

In addition to these regional activities, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism developed a Matrix in which it mapped activities against CTED recommendations in Central Asia. The Office has also worked with OSCE to identify which CTED recommendations have been and will be considered and which still need additional work. To enhance the impact of delivery, UNCCT held consultations with Central Asian States to ensure that the Centre's capacity-building assistance met their counter-terrorism needs and priorities. On the basis of these consultations, the Centre developed a detailed work plan for the implementation of the project with relevant outputs, activities, action points tailored to reflect the priority thematic issues and capacity-building needs of Central Asian States. Specifically, the Centre identified three common thematic areas, which will be the focus of the Centre's capacity-building support in 2019. These include: (1) combating the financing of terrorism; (2) cyber security; and (3) border security management.

Results/Impact

In the framework of the Joint Plan of Action countries from the region have made progress on regional and cross border cooperation to specifically counter the financing of terrorism, enhance border security, and jointly respond to the transnational threat of terrorism. The regional events organised jointly by UNCCT and UNRCCA generated considerable interest. They enabled an assessment of the implementation of the JPoA, and identified common concerns and challenges in the region in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

The regional coordination meeting set a good foundation for meeting the increasing need to coordinate resources available for capacity-building in Central Asia and for establishing partnerships to ensure coordinated outcomes and tangible impact from technical assistance. It provided a mapping of programmes, projects, and activities that are and will be implemented in the region, as well as available tools and manuals. It also provided an opportunity to learn about the comparative advantages of regional organisations and their expertise, internal capacities as well as good practices in counter-terrorism and PVE. Participants including Member States indicated that this exercise helped them to gain a better understanding of activities and responsibilities for technical assistance in the region and to better align and plan ongoing activities towards improving regional cooperation.

The second event on *Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism* enabled participants to review existing efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, discuss drivers of radicalisation and terrorism in the region, exchange good practices and lessons learned in implementing Pillar I of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia at both national and regional levels, and share good practices from outside the region.

The third activity on Border Security and Management helped participants to familiarise themselves with the latest tools to assess risks and improve border security, and helped to increase their capacities in reinforcing their border controls and preventing the movement of FTFs. Ninety-two per cent of participants found the training to be very useful and satisfactory.

UNCCT-2016-50:	Facilitating the Implementation of a Regional Strategy for East Africa and the Horn of Africa to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism

Status: Ongoing

In 2018, UNCCT worked closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support the implementation of the regional PVE Strategy for countries of the Horn of Africa and Tanzania, which was developed by IGAD with the support of UNDP and launched in 2017. UNCCT undertook a mission to Djibouti in March to meet with the representatives of IGAD Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) to discuss how UNCCT can support the implementation of the regional PVE Strategy, to define and prioritise capacity-building activities in potential thematic areas of cooperation to support the Strategy's implementation, and to present the Centre's projects on PVE through Strategic Communications and on cyber security as possible starting points. During these consultations, ICEPCVE welcomed the Centre's proposal to provide support on strategic communications (see project UNCCT-2015-38 above).

Results/Impact

The scoping missions and consultations helped IGAD to prioritise the aspects of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that are most relevant to the needs of the countries in the Horn of Africa. These missions also helped strengthen relations and collaboration between UNCCT and ICEPCVE.

UNCCT-2016-51:	Facilitating the Implementation of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Southern Africa

Status: Ongoing

In 2018, UNCCT continued to support the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in the implementation of the regional counter-terrorism strategy for Southern Africa. This Strategy was adopted at the SADC Heads of State Summit in August 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana, following a regionally-owned process that UNCCT supported through the provision of expertise and funding under a project implemented during 2013-2015. It is modelled on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and aligned with the *2013 Bogota Guiding Principles for Counter-Terrorism Strategies*. The Strategy and Plan of Action establishes a framework to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism to the region.

UNCCT, in close cooperation with SADC, facilitated the designation of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points in each of the 15 SADC countries. A workshop on 'Human Rights at International Borders', jointly organised by SADC, UNCCT, and OHCHR, was held in Gaborone, Botswana on 4-6 July, within the framework of the Centre's support to the implementation of the SADC regional counter-terrorism strategy. In addition, bilateral consultations were held with representatives of SADC in Botswana and with stakeholders from the Government of Botswana to discuss forthcoming cooperation to expedite the implementation of the regional strategy, including the identification of capacity gaps in Southern Africa, and facilitation and joint organisation of capacity-building workshops on priorities identified by SADC countries in the regional counter-terrorism strategy and its roadmap. In 2019, UNCCT plans to co-organise a meeting of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points with SADC to discuss priorities and possible options to strengthen SADC capacity in counter-terrorism and PVE.

Results/Impact

As foreseen in the Roadmap of the Regional Strategy, UNCCT, through consultations with national authorities and SADC officials, supported the designation of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points in 8 out of 15 SADC countries given that four countries already had designated focal points. The designation of Focal Points contributed to facilitating the implementation of the Regional Strategy at the national level and to enhancing related reporting to the SADC Secretariat. The workshop on human rights at borders received positive feedback from participating border officials and helped raise awareness of key legal standards on human rights, interception, rescue and immediate assistance, screening and interviewing, detention, and removal (see project UNCCT-2017-65 below).

UNCCT-2018-02-88: Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World

Status: Initiated

In April 2018, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Riyadh which calls for cooperation "with respect to relevant projects and other initiatives to support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars", and the development of "joint activities to build the capacity of the Member States of the League of Arab States in the field of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism."

As the first capacity-building initiative under this agreement and responding to an official request of AIMC for technical assistance, UNCCT developed a project to support the development and implementation of a regional counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab region based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. The project will be implemented jointly by UNCCT and AIMC over a period of five years (January 2019-December 2023) and will consist of two phases: the development phase (April 2019-March 2021) and implementation phase (April 2021-December 2023).

The first phase of the project is dedicated to the development of a new updated regional counter-terrorism strategy based on the needs and priorities of the Arab region, as well as a plan of action to facilitate the implementation of the strategy, through the delivery of a project launch meeting with senior officials from the AIMC Member States and five regional consultative workshops with Arab officials and expert working groups. The second phase will support the implementation of the regional counter-terrorism strategy and its action plan through: (1) the provision of institutional and technical capacity building; (2) the conduct of research studies and sharing of good practices in identified regional priorities; and (3) the promotion of international cooperation and outreach. The UNCCT-AIMC project will be formally launched at the 36th Annual Session of the AIMC that will be held in Tunis, Tunisia on 3 March 2019.

Output 2.2:	Through UNCCT assistance, requesting Member States and regions have in place policies, legislation and trained officials to counter the financing of terrorism

Combatting the financing of terrorism is a core component of counter-terrorism. Terrorist groups explore and use new and innovative means to raise, channel and access funds to sustain their operations. To address the evolving terrorist financing typologies, the Security Council has strengthened the international legal framework through the adoption of several resolutions, such as resolution 2133 (2014) on kidnapping and hostage taking by terrorists, resolution 2178 (2014) on suppressing the financing of FTF travel and activities, resolution 2195 (2014) on preventing terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, and resolution 2199 (2015) on preventing terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq from benefiting from trade in oil, antiquities and hostages and from receiving donations, among others. Member States are required to criminalise terrorist financing, enhance domestic and international cooperation, prevent the movement of funds across borders, improve monitoring of financial flows, freeze terrorist assets, prevent ransom payments, and suppress illicit trade and trafficking in persons, cultural goods and other natural resources. To support Member States' implementation of the international legal framework and to strengthen the resilience of their financial systems against the terrorist threat, UNCCT provides capacity-building assistance on counter-terrorist financing practices, with increased focus on the integration of financial intelligence and risk assessments, and promotion of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

UNCCT-2018-02-78:   Countering Financing of Terrorism through Effective
                        National and Regional Action

Status: Ongoing

This project builds on the work and achievements of UNCCT's previous
capacity-building project on 'Terrorist Designations and Asset Freezing' that was
implemented from 2015-2017. In 2017, UNCCT reviewed the asset freeze project
to identify areas where the Centre could better meet the emerging needs of
Member States and to ensure sustained impact of capacity-building assistance.
To effectively respond to the evolving terrorist threat, the current project
substantively expands the focus of technical assistance and training beyond
the singular focus on terrorist designations and asset freezing. It includes
preventive and other complementary dimensions including by enhancing
the use of financial intelligence, national risk assessments and coordination
between the public and private sector.

In 2018, UNCCT engaged closely with Tunisia, Mauritius, and Mongolia to deliver
capacity-building activities at national level. UNCCT also supported the Eastern
and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) in developing
its regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan.

The UNCCT-CTED 'National Capacity-Building Workshop on the Implementation
of Terrorist Designation and Asset Freezing Regime under UNSCR 1373 (2001)'
took place in Tunis, Tunisia on 3-5 July. This was the second phase of a capacity-
building programme on terrorist designation and asset freezing. The first

phase included a national roundtable in Tunis in January 2017, organised by UNCCT in close cooperation with CTED, which facilitated the adoption of a Governmental Decree by Tunisia in January 2018 for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on terrorist financing.

The second phase of the programme was designed to support national authorities in Tunisia to effectively implement the Governmental Decree through the development of practical skills for the elaboration of terrorist designations, in compliance with international human rights requirements. The workshop was attended by approximately 35 participants from the Presidential Office, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Religious Affairs, National Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as the Central Bank, the Financial Market Council and the Supervisory Authority for Microcredits. Experts from the Intelligence Fusion Centre of Belgium, the Directorate General of the Treasury of France, and the Russian Federation's financial cell (Rosfinmonitoring) took part in trainings as presenters, along with UNCCT and CTED.

In October, UNCCT convened capacity-building workshops for Mongolian officials in Ulaabaatar, Mongolia and for Mauritian officials in Port Louis, Mauritius. Both workshops focused on key elements related to the implementation of targeted financial sanctions, asset freezing, coordination with law enforcement, and liaison with the private sector.

During the reporting period, UNCCT engaged with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), including the ESAAMLG, on the identification of needs and delivery of capacity-building support. ESAAMLG requested UNCCT's assistance on the development of its regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan as a priority step in promoting more effective efforts at regional and national levels on countering the financing of terrorism. The request for support came from the recommendation of the FATF to all FSRBs to develop their own regional plans and actions on countering terrorist financing. Responding to a critical need, UNCCT collaborated with the Secretariat of the ESAAMLG and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) of the Government of South Africa to convene a regional meeting for member jurisdictions of the ESAAMLG to identify priority focus areas and draft a regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan. Consultations were held at the FIC Headquarters in Pretoria, South Africa on 18-19 July, with participation from Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Operational Plan was developed and subsequently adopted at the ESAAMLG Ministerial Plenary Meeting held in Seychelles in September.

Results/Impact

The ESAAMLG leadership appreciated UNCCT's support to the development of the ESAAMLG Counter-Terrorist Financing Operational Plan. Without the Centre's timely response to the request of ESAAMLG, the plan would have been delayed by more than a year. In 2019, UNCCT and ESAAMLG plan to focus on the implementation of the Operational Plan through a number of regional workshops.

UNCCT engagements at the national level have strengthened partnerships with relevant national authorities on countering the financing of terrorism. This training has helped national authorities, including the National Commission on Counter-Terrorism, to designate entities and individuals to undertake asset freeze and other targeted sanctions. In Mauritius, the Centre was requested to return for a follow-up training on reducing the vulnerability of non-profit organisations (NPOs) from terrorist financing abuse. To respond to this request, the Centre has expanded the project's thematic focus to NPO sector as well. This expansion helps address FATF assessment methodology Immediate Outcome 10 on the protection of the NPO sector from terrorist financing abuse. Similarly, in Mongolia, based on participants feedback following UNCCT's training on targeted financial sanctions and asset freeze, the Centre is planning to organise a follow-up workshop in the first quarter of 2019 to further deepen the understanding of the terrorist financing threat and to help promote national coordination.

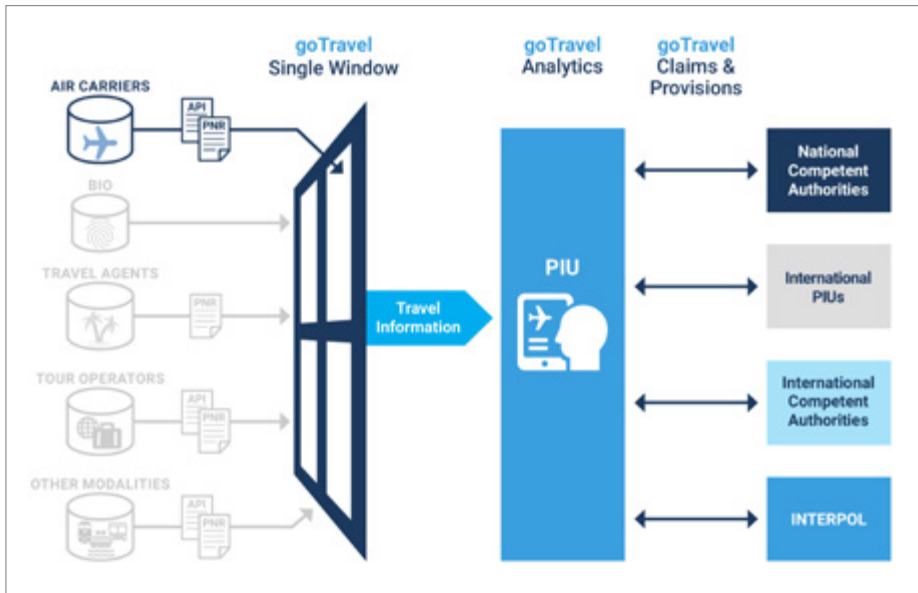| Output 2.3:	Based on UNCCT assistance, requesting Member States and regions have improved border security and management, including through enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation

Ensuring effective border security and management is essential for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters across land, air, and maritime borders, as well as the illicit cross-border movement of arms, ammunition, explosives, hazardous materials, goods and cargo that may be used for terrorist purposes. Despite enhanced measures taken by Member States in the last few years to strengthen border security, especially in light of the evolving FTF phenomenon, capacities among States in this area differ and gaps exist in the collection, use and sharing of passenger data, effective control of identity papers and travel documents, screening processes, technical equipment and trained border personnel, and coordinated border management. UNCCT supports Member States and regional organisations in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions such as resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017), through the provision of tailored technical assistance on aviation security, advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) systems, border security and management good practices, cross-border cooperation and information sharing, and border management strategies, among other issues.

UNCCT-2018-02-82:	Supporting the Use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data to Detect, Prevent, Investigate and Prosecute Terrorist Offenses and Other Serious Crime

Status: Ongoing

This global programme seeks to build the capacity of Member States to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offences and related travel by using API and PNR data, watchlists and enhanced international information exchange in accordance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), as well as other international law obligations. This new initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and implemented through an 'All-of-UN' approach in partnership with UNCCT, CTED, UNODC, ICAO, and the UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT).

The programme has an estimated budget of USD 12 million per annum over an initial five-year period and is co-funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India and the State of Qatar. It mainly targets Member States most affected by the FTF phenomenon, and builds on UNCCT's recently concluded API project, as well as the experience and expertise of Member States that are already implementing or have implemented national API and PNR systems. It further benefits from the Travel Information Passenger (TRIP) system, an IT software solution to detect terrorists and serious and organised criminals using API and PNR travel data developed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and which is now promoted as 'goTravel'.

At the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Stef Blok, signed an Administrative Agreement to transfer ownership of the TRIP system to the United Nations to support capacity-building efforts in compliance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). The Agreement was signed in the presence of the UN Secretary-General, the Dutch Prime Minister, and the UN Legal Counsel.

The transfer of the TRIP system was preceded by a series of on-site technical reviews undertaken by OICT, which aimed at analysing and further configuring the software in preparation for its deployment to recipient Member States. Following the approval of the full project document, the initial six-month inception phase of this initiative began on 1 October, during which the Office sought to develop the criteria for the selection of beneficiary countries, in close consultation with CTED, mobilise resources to support programme implementation, agree on an accountability framework with all the implementing partners, and ensure alignment with similar capacity-building initiatives through consultations with Member States.

Additionally, a series of technical discussions were held to ensure the successful start of the implementation phase of the programme in early 2019. Key among these was 'the First Meeting of the Expert Panel on the Prevention, Detection and Investigation of Terrorist Offences and Related Travel using API and PNR Data', which was held on 17 December in New York. The meeting facilitated a result-oriented discussion to better understand and address two key issues: existing conflict of laws inhibiting the international transfer and processing of PNR data; and human rights concerns pertaining to the collection, transmission, use, retention, and sharing of such data, including data protection and the right to privacy. The meeting was attended by 35 experts, 14 of whom were women. They included experts from 7 Member States, including Australia, Canada, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, as well as 8 entities, namely, CTED, the European Commission, INTERPOL, IOM, OHCHR, OICT, UNODC, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

The programme will be officially launched in May 2019 in New York. Additional meetings of the Panel of Experts will be held in 2019 to facilitate further discussions on conflicts of law and human rights concerns as well as other issues, including the selection of beneficiary countries. Following its official launch, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will coordinate the joint delivery of this programme, which foresees a flexible four-tiered implementation approach based on the different stages of readiness of Member States, which includes (i) the assessment, coordinated by CTED, and selection of beneficiary countries most affected by the FTF phenomenon and the production of a tailor made roadmap for national implementation; (ii) the provision of legislative assistance by UNODC; (iii) institutional set-up and capacity-building support to national passenger units by UNCCT, UNODC (TPB and AIRCOP) and ICAO; and (iv) the provision of technical expertise by OICT, including the deployment, installation and maintenance support to countries that will adopt the 'goTravel' system, and support by ICAO to ensure cooperation with the industry.

Results/Impact

In resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council built on resolution 2178 (2014) by creating new international obligations to strengthen border security and information sharing. In addition to reaffirming its previous requirements on API, the Security Council called on Member States to "develop the capability to collect, process and analyse, in furtherance of ICAO standards and recommended practices, PNR data and to ensure PNR data is used by and shared with all their competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The joint efforts of the above-mentioned entities will provide a solution to interested Member States to facilitate their collection, processing and

transmission of passenger data, thus enabling them to comply with the API and PNR related requirements under Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), and better use international watchlists from INTERPOL and enhance international information exchange. This initiative is therefore expected to have a significant practical impact on the capabilities of beneficiary Member States and the broader international community to curb the mobility of FTFs, as called for in resolution 2396 (2017). It is also an example of how the Office is partnering with other UN entities to develop and implement meaningful multi-year initiatives through an 'All-of-UN' approach.

At the margins of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism participated in a meeting with the PNR Like-Minded Group, which was convened by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and discussed the need for an international standard to regulate the collection, use, processing and protection of PNR data, as called for by resolution 2396 (2017). The Office also participated in a subsequent meeting convened by the Netherlands on enhancing interoperability between API and PNR systems for counter-terrorism purposes. Both meetings served to identify how the Office could further complement these ongoing initiatives with the aim of enhancing the capability of Member States to use passenger data.

The First Expert Panel Meeting was instrumental in bringing together experts to better understand existing conflicts of law and human rights concerns pertaining to the collection, transmission, use, retention and sharing of passenger data, with a view to determine how the project could support the development of a universal legal standard that resolves these issues, as well as how it could be implemented in the absence of a global solution at this time. The Expert Panel has since been institutionalised to ensure quality control and quality assurance in the implementation of this new initiative and will seek to convene on a quarterly basis. Its first meeting was immediately followed by the First Programme Management Team Meeting on 18 December, which provided an opportunity for all the project partners to agree on the implementation methodologies for the successful launch and implementation of this initiative, as well as to ensure alignment with similar capacity-building initiatives.

UNCCT-2017-68:	Strengthening Member State Capacities in the Area of Border Security and Management to Counter Terrorism and Stem the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (BSM programme)

Status: Initiated

Building on the lessons learned through the Border Security Initiative (BSI), jointly implemented with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and finalised in September 2017, UNCCT completed the design of a new comprehensive programme that aims to strengthen Member States' capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) through improved border security and management. Through a combination of core activities and targeted capacity-building projects, this global BSM programme seeks to address a number of key border security gaps, which have been identified as a result of the previously concluded Border Security Initiative and consultations with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities:

- Lack of good practices relating to BSM and modes of cross-border transportation in the context of counter-terrorism

- A need to expand cross-border cooperation and information sharing, including the responsible sharing of biometric data

- Lack of border management strategies based on risk and needs assessments that address counter-terrorism and specific issues related to FTFs

- Lack of training and courses on BSM as it relates to counter-terrorism

- Lack of minimum standards of technical equipment required to detect and intercept the movement of FTFs across borders

The core capacity-building activities and projects envisaged within the BSM programme include: (1) Provision of thematic expertise to Member States, regional bodies, and/or Global Compact partners to enhance awareness, understanding, and capacity of BSM; (2) development and dissemination of cross-border travel cycle modules pertaining to air, maritime, railway and bus travel; (3) development of tailored training modules based on the UNCCT-GCTF developed *Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism* and their joint delivery with Global Compact partners in regional forums; (4) delivery of national and regional training workshops to build the capacity of frontline officers at high-risk international airports to address threats posed by FTFs; and (5) delivery of regional workshops to strengthen awareness, knowledge and capacity of Member States to use and share biometric data in a responsible manner.

In 2018, UNCCT developed specialised capacity-building projects in the identified priority areas, including airport interdiction training (AIRCOP) and biometrics. UNCCT trained and sensitised 96 participants on BSM through a number of workshops including a five-day regional training on 'Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism', jointly organised with UNODC and IOM in Ashgabat in October 2018 under the Centre's project 'Comprehensive Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia' (see project UNCCT-2017-69 above), and three regional workshops held in Northern Africa, the G5 Sahel, and South-East Asia within the scope of the Centre's project 'Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism' (see project UNCCT-2017-65 below). At the same time, UNCCT contributed to the development of a joint publication with CTED and the Biometrics Institute entitled *United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism*, which was published in June 2018.

UNCCT will officially launch the global BSM programme in the first quarter of 2019.

UNCCT-2017-63:   Aviation Security

Status: Initiated

To support Member States to prevent and counter terrorist threats to civil aviation in line with the requirements of Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), UNCCT developed a new Aviation Security project during the reporting period, in close coordination with CTED and ICAO. The development of this new initiative was very timely considering the adoption by ICAO of its Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) in November 2017. In resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council welcomed the approval of the GASeP, noting that it provides the foundation for all stakeholders in the civil aviation industry to

work together to enhance aviation security worldwide. The aim of the new project is to enhance the capacity of target countries to provide aviation screening across their national civil aviation infrastructure, consistent with the minimum standards required by ICAO and the EU.

UN Photo

The project builds on the positive results and lessons learned from the aviation security project in Nigeria, and will continue to support and focus on Nigeria in its first phase, while also identifying new beneficiary countries. To facilitate the launch of the project in Nigeria, UNCCT undertook a scoping mission to Abuja on 11-14 June, during which a series of meetings were held with senior officials from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and the Federal Ministry of Transport. Given Nigeria's growing aviation security sector, the scoping mission was instrumental in building consensus among national authorities on the need to make optimal use of the 35 national officials who had previously received Training of Trainers training as Master Trainers in order to strengthen the provision of aviation security training in the country.

A follow-up country visit was undertaken to Abuja, Lagos and Port Hancort in November and December, during which UNCCT delivered on-the-job training and mentorship support to 35 Master Trainers that had received training through the previous 'Aviation Security project in Nigeria', with the aim of improving their delivery of Training of Trainers training. UNCCT also assessed all training spaces allocated by the Government in both Abuja and Lagos, and reviewed existing national aviation security training materials and schedules, in close consultation with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN),

the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and ONSA. The purpose of these assessments was to identify how the project could strengthen the country's national civil aviation security quality control programmes, specifically in relation to aviation security recruitment, training and certification.

Results/Impact

The scoping mission undertaken in June identified additional areas through which UNCCT could provide further capacity-building support to Nigeria given its growing aviation security sector. Key among these is the introduction of training for handlers of explosive detection canines, the provision of training on new screening equipment, as well as support towards enhancing landside security of key airports around the country. These elements have been incorporated into the project and will inform the delivery of assistance to Nigeria and other beneficiary countries.

The follow-up country visit to Nigeria in November and December was instrumental in ensuring that the Master Trainers who had previously received training had the necessary support and mentorship as they delivered the Training of Trainers training to their compatriots. A UNCCT expert was therefore available on-site in Abuja, Lagos and Port Harcourt to observe the Master Trainers as they delivered training, as well as answer their questions, which ranged from the technical and operational aspects of aviation security to the logistical and administrative aspects of organising training sessions.

Going forward, UNCCT will continue to support Nigeria and explore how the project can best be replicated in other Member States. Therefore, additional scoping missions will be undertaken to identify new beneficiary countries, in close coordination with CTED, ICAO, and requesting Member States.

Output 2.4:	Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States are better able to prevent terrorist cyber-attacks, and mitigate the effects and expedite recovery should they occur

Terrorists seek to exploit digital space to recruit and incite individuals to carry out attacks, steal identities and data, extort money, cause fear, damage critical infrastructure, and disrupt government operations. The increasing sophistication and transnational nature of cyber threats requires Member States to have the necessary legislative, regulatory, enforcement and technical capabilities to prevent and address cyber-attacks, and to strengthen international collaboration in this area. The 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/284) highlights "the increasing use, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts", and encourages cooperation among Member States, international, regional and subregional organisations, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to address this issue. The resolution further calls upon States "to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damage from terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure facilities." UNCCT, through its cyber security project, seeks to strengthen the prevention, readiness, prosecution, response, and mitigation capabilities of requesting Member States against potential cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorist actors.

UNCCT-2017-58:	Enhancing the Capacity of Member States to Prevent Cyber-Attacks Perpetrated by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate their Impact

Status: Ongoing

Cyber-attacks could have wide-ranging effects potentially leading to death and destruction. Several terrorist organisations, including Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da'esh), have expressed a clear intent to build offensive cyber capabilities that would allow them to carry out attacks on critical infrastructure. There is an immediate need to enhance Member States' security and resilience against cyber-attacks, including their ability to recover and restore systems should attacks occur, as well as bringing those responsible to justice.

In 2018, UNCCT launched a project that seeks to (1) build awareness and understanding of cyber threats, (2) enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and investigate cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorists and mitigate their impact, and (3) improve the sharing of information and expertise in

this field. The project includes two awareness-raising events for countries in South-East Asia and Africa, as well as capacity-building workshops for three Member States in each region. Preparations for the project's launch have continued during the reporting period, and project activities will begin in the first half of 2019.

Output 2.5:	Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States and International Organisations have enhanced capacities to prevent terrorists from accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials, and are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, terrorist attacks involving such weapons or materials

The prospect of non-state actors, including terrorist groups and their supporters, gaining access to and using WMD/CBRN materials is a serious threat to international peace and security. Terrorist groups have tested new ways and means to acquire and use more dangerous weapons to maximise damage, including weapons using CBRN materials. With advancements being made in technology and the expansion of illegal and legal commercial channels, including on the dark web, some of these weapons have become increasingly accessible. The reported use of chemical weapons on civilians by terrorist groups in Syria, the attempt to use ricin as a weapon of terror in Germany and the lockdown of two nuclear power plants in Belgium under suspicion of an attempt by ISIL (Da'esh) to attack, infiltrate or sabotage the facilities have demonstrated that the threat is real.

The concern about WMD/CBRN weapons has been recognised at various levels throughout the UN System. The Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* launched in May, identified WMD/CBRN weapons as one of its three priorities. The Security Council has addressed this threat on several occasions, including resolution 1373 (2001), resolution 1540 (2004) and resolution 2325 (2016). The General Assembly, under Pillar II and Pillar III of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, has recognised the need to prevent and respond to WMD/CBRN terrorism. More recently, through the sixth Review of the Global Strategy, the General Assembly has called upon all Member States to "prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery... and [encouraged] cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard."

UN Photo

| UNCCT-2018-02-79: | Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (WMD/CBRN Programme) |

Status: Ongoing

In 2018, UNCCT launched a new global multi-year programme that aims to enhance the capacities of Member States, international organisations, and UN entities to prevent terrorist organisations from accessing and using WMD and/or CBRN materials, and to ensure that they are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials. The programme seeks to achieve this goal by enhancing the visibility of UNCCT activities; strengthening strategic partnerships with members of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; advancing knowledge and understanding of the threat; implementing capacity-building projects to support Member States; and supporting the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks.

(1) Visibility

The WMD/CBRN Programme was presented during several events at the international level including meetings, seminars, congresses and colloquiums organised by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementations Support Unit (ISU) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO), and INTERPOL.

(2) Partnerships

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), a platform composed of 88 Member States and six international organisations and chaired by the Russian Federation and the United States of America. In addition, UNCCT delivered several briefings to and enhanced coordination with the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), a partnership composed of 30 Member States that coordinates capacity-building programming in this area. Finally, the Centre strengthened coordination with the Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, IAEA, INTERPOL, OPCW, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNODA, UNODC and WHO.

(3) Threat/risk analysis

In order to advance knowledge and understanding of the global threat and risk of terrorist groups accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials, UNCCT engaged in exploratory discussions regarding the possibility of conducting a global study on the subject with international partners such as the BWC ISU of UNODA, the Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, INTERPOL, OPCW and WHO. In addition, the Centre, together with INTERPOL and UNICRI, organised a side event on the margins of the 'Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention' in the Palais the Nations in Geneva in December, which convened more than 75 participants from Member States and international organisations. The side event focused on the risks and benefits posed by emerging technologies and analysed the preventive and response measures related to WMD and CBRN terrorism. This event represented a great opportunity to advance the understanding of the level of threat posed by misuse of emerging technologies, a trending topic that is on top of the international agenda.

(4) Capacity-Building

During the reporting period, UNCCT developed three multi-year pilot projects to support Member States in prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism, including:

- *Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan*, in partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- *Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq*, in partnership with the Department of State of the United States of America

- *Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*, in partnership with the EU and UNODC

These projects will be reported separately in the section below.

(5) International Inter-Agency Coordination

UNCCT co-organised a workshop to develop the third phase of the project 'Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks', to be implemented by the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks, in close cooperation with the Government of Canada, IAEA and OPCW. Additionally, the Centre provided technical expertise for the development of a new Working Group project on 'Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism'. Both projects will be implemented during 2019-2020.

Results/Impact

With regard to the first strategic objective on *visibility*, UNCCT was present and actively participated in events at the international level, through the delivery of statements, videos, and presentations. These contributed to increasing the visibility of the WMD/CBRN programme as well as the Centre at the international fora. In terms of the second objective on *partnerships*, the programme effectively coordinated activities with relevant WMD/CBRN actors in the international community as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities. Regarding the third objective of *threat/risk analysis*, the programme commenced the design of a research study on the global threat and risk of terrorist groups accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials focusing in particular on capabilities, vulnerabilities, impact and the

relevance of new technologies, which will serve as a basis for programme implementation going forward. On the fourth objective pertaining to *capacity-building*, the programme developed three pilot projects to support Member States in line with the Global Strategy and strategic priorities, thematic areas, geographical scope and needs of Member States, international organisations and UN entities. As regards the fifth and final programme component on *inter-agency coordination*, the programme supported the coordination and development of projects of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks through the provision of technical expertise and guidance.

The intended impact of the programme is to contribute to making the world safer and more secure from WMD/CBRN terrorism through the implementation of the WMD/CBRN provisions of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this regard, the programme will support Member States to implement enhanced policies, practices, procedures for the prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism and to operate with improved awareness, knowledge and understanding of the threat and risk. Through this programme, international organisations and UN entities are expected to support Member States in the prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism in a more informed and coordinated manner, in line with the 'All-of-UN' approach.

UNCCT-2018-02-79-A:	Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq (under WMD/CBRN Programme)

Status: Initiated

The reported alleged use of chemical weapons, including mustard gas, by ISIL during the protracted conflict in Syria demonstrates that the group may have obtained the tools and know-how to manufacture and use weapons of mass destruction. ISIL has also reportedly sought out personnel with technical expertise to expand its programmes involving CBRN materials. Concerns have been voiced by a number of national law enforcement agencies regarding the potential development and use of biological weapons by ISIL. Despite recent successes of Iraq against ISIL, violent extremism, terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters continue to pose a threat to both Iraq and the region, increasing the relevance of concerns about WMD/CBRN terrorism.

The project aims to enhance Iraq's capacities to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack involving chemical and biological weapons or materials. The project will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach, focusing on biological and chemical security, investigation, intelligence sharing, security culture in academia, and CBRN response. To this end, a series of workshops and conferences will be held to raise awareness and knowledge of chemical and biological security, and to address investigation and intelligence sharing. The project will integrate information into a database tracing the chemical and biological expertise of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorists and deliver a training course on CBRN response.

The project will be implemented over the course of 16 months, in partnership with the Department of State of the United States of America and in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq. Moreover, international organisations and UN entities will be regularly informed; and activities will be coordinated with their respective projects and programmes.

In 2019, project activities will include the development and dissemination of the database, training on CBRN response, a conference on chemical and biological and security culture, and drafting of the national biosecurity strategy. UNCCT and the US Department of State are working on finalising the legal and financial arrangement of this joint project to commence implementation in 2019.

UNCCT-2018-02-79-B:	Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan (under WMD/CBRN Programme)

Status: Ongoing

The project aims to enhance the national capabilities of Jordan in the areas of preparedness and response to a terrorist attack involving CBRN weapons or materials. More specifically, the project will include identification of Jordan's CBRN resilience, preparedness, and consequence management needs through self-assessment; delivery of a CBRN training course for first responders based on NATO's international training curriculum; organisation of a field and virtual reality exercise; identification of lessons learned from this exercise; and issuance of recommendations for the future.

The 36-month project, which began in October 2018, is jointly implemented with NATO. The project will coordinate its activities with regional and international organisations as well as UN entities, including the EU and members of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks.

The first project activity took place in Belgrade, Serbia on 8-11 October, where two representatives from Jordan attended the consequence management field exercise ''SRBIJA 2018'', jointly organised by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response and Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Ministry of Interior of Serbia, to improve interoperability in international disaster response operations. In 2019, UNCCT will focus on organising a ceremony in New York to launch the project and a scoping visit to Jordan, as well as preparing the self-assessment methodology and delivering a workshop to facilitate such assessment.

UNCCT-2018-02-79-C:	Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

Status: Initiated

There have been several attempts by terrorists to gain access to and use radiological or nuclear weapons or materials. In 2016, it was reported that ISIL had been monitoring a senior scientist working at a nuclear research facility in Belgium, which resulted in the lockdown of two nuclear power plants as a counter-measure against suspected attempt to attack, infiltrate or sabotage these facilities. More recently, in June 2018, it was reported that ISIL had seized 40kg of low enriched uranium from scientific institutions at the Mosul University in Iraq.

To support the efforts of the international community in addressing the threat from nuclear terrorism, this project will seek to promote the universalisation and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). Together with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, ICSANT serves as the primary tool for ensuring that there is no safe haven for those that commit or seek to commit acts of terrorism involving radiological or nuclear materials. These Conventions provide a basis for the harmonisation of criminalisation provisions across jurisdictions, thus enhancing the framework for and facilitating international cooperation. However, these instruments can only realise their full potential through universal ratification.

This joint initiative with UNODC, which will be implemented for a period of 36 months, aims to promote adherence to the International Convention through legislative assistance and judicial training led by UNODC, and outreach and capacity-building activities led by UNCCT. Specifically, UNCCT will seek to enhance coordination and coherence across the UN system and raise awareness through a high-level meeting and workshops for policy-makers, legislative bodies and representatives of non-governmental organisations. The Centre will conduct a special study to better understand the causes of delay in the ratification of the Convention and its effective implementation. It will also deliver capacity-building activities in border security and management.

The project will ensure coordination with relevant initiatives, experts, and organisations, including the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, GICNT, Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, the IAEA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UNICRI, UNODA, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The project will start in 2019, and during its first year of implementation, the project will develop its methodology, conduct a workshop for policymakers and legislative bodies, organise a workshop in border management, design the special study, and initiate the preparations of the high-level event.