

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Government and
the Shura Council of
the State of Qatar

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UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



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ANNUAL REPORT

2024

FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHURA COUNCIL
————— OF THE STATE OF QATAR —————

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UNOCT Communications Unit

Email: OCT-info@un.org

Website: www.un.org/counterterrorism

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ABBREVIATIONS

▶ AI	Artificial intelligence
▶ API	Advance Passenger Information
▶ AROS	Autonomous and remotely operated systems
▶ ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
▶ CSO	Civil society organization
▶ CT/PVE	Counter(ing) terrorism and prevent(ing) violent extremism
▶ CTC	Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee
▶ CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
▶ EUROCONTROL	European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation
▶ GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
▶ ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
▶ INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
▶ IPMR	Integrated Planning Management and Reporting
▶ NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
▶ NEASCOG	NATO-EUROCONTROL Air Traffic Management Security Coordination Group
▶ OCT	Office of Counter Terrorism
▶ OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
▶ OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
▶ OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
▶ PCVE	prevent(ing) and counter(ing) violent extremism
▶ PIU	Passenger Information Unit
▶ PKMCB	Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch
▶ PNR	Passenger Name Record
▶ RBM	Results-based management
▶ RMME	Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation
▶ SENTRY	Soft Target Engineering to Neutralize the Threat Reality – United States of America Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence
▶ SOP	Standard operating procedure
▶ STOCTI	Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations
▶ UAS	Unmanned aerial systems
▶ UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
▶ UNHQ	United Nations Head Quarters
▶ UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
▶ UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
▶ UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Executive Summary

Significant progress has been made in strengthening global counter-terrorism measures, enhancing international cooperation, and mainstreaming human rights and gender considerations in the fight against terrorism. Through increased engagement with Member States, regional organizations, and civil society, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) continues to play a leading role in supporting the development of counter-terrorism legislation, capacity-building programmes, and strategic coordination efforts.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which has expanded to include 46 United Nations entities, remains a key mechanism for system-wide coordination and technical assistance. UNOCT's focus on results-based management has strengthened monitoring and evaluation frameworks, ensuring transparency and accountability in counter-terrorism programming. UNOCT's field presence continues to grow, reinforcing its ability to provide targeted support to regions facing heightened terrorist threats.

At the same time, the global terrorism threat landscape continues to evolve, with terrorist groups adapting their strategies to exploit regional conflicts, new technologies, and online platforms. The rise of terrorist attacks in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel, underscores the shifting epicenter of global terrorism. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has emphasized Africa's growing vulnerability, as groups linked to both Da'esh and Al-Qaida continue to embed themselves within local conflicts and socio-political

grievances. The use of new and emerging technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems (UAS), encrypted communication platforms, and artificial intelligence (AI), has added complexity to the counter-terrorism landscape. Terrorist groups increasingly rely on digital propaganda, cyberattacks, and online radicalization tactics to expand their influence beyond traditional conflict zones.

Despite counter-terrorism successes, significant challenges remain. While sustained pressure has weakened the leadership and operational capabilities of groups like Da'esh and Al-Qaida, their decentralized nature allows them to adapt, recruit, and rebuild. The interplay between terrorism and transnational criminal networks further complicates counter-terrorism efforts, particularly in regions with weak governance structures. Looking ahead, UNOCT remains dedicated to implementing impact-driven counter-terrorism programmes, reinforcing international partnerships, enhancing information-sharing and inter-agency cooperation, and advancing strategic initiatives to address evolving threats through strengthened global collaboration.

UNOCT will continue to expand its capacity-building programmes, particularly in Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East, while reinforcing the integration of human rights and gender-responsive policies across all counter-terrorism efforts. As threats persist, multilateral cooperation, sustained engagement with Member States, and adaptable strategies will be key to achieving long-term counter-terrorism resilience.

Strategic partnership between the State of Qatar and UNOCT: Working together for a world free from terrorism

The renewal of the multi-year contribution to UNOCT for an additional three years from 2024 to 2026, marked a significant milestone in the fruitful partnership between Qatar and UNOCT. This strategic collaboration is built on a shared and unequivocal commitment to combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Qatar has been the largest contributor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since 2022, providing crucial financial support to UNOCT's initiatives. The steadfast political and financial backing from Qatar has been instrumental in UNOCT's ability to exercise strategic leadership and fulfil its mandate on United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, enhancing the organization's visibility within the international community.

The contribution has allowed UNOCT to deliver on its mandated functions, supporting Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and delivering tangible results across the world, including promoting a "whole of UN" approach through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and implementing innovative and impactful capacity-building programmes.

Qatar's support extends to various flagship programmes in priority counter-terrorism areas, benefiting numerous Member States through specialized technical assistance, training, and high-level thematic events.

UNOCT continues to rely on the strategic investments of Qatar and its other funding partners to deliver on its global counter-terrorism mandate effectively and with sustained impact.

Enhancing counter-terrorism policy and knowledge

The 79th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations reaffirmed that counter-terrorism is a top priority, with a significant increase in Member State engagement. Discussions emphasized the impact of terrorism in conflict zones, its links to organized crime, and the role of emerging technologies in security threats.

UNOCT has played a key role in shaping global counter-terrorism efforts, contributing to the Pact for the Future, which includes commitments to combat terrorism, transnational crime, and illicit financial flows. Moreover, UNOCT has also contributed to the Security Council's work on African Union-led peace support operations,



Photo/UNOCT

ensuring that counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism (CT/PVE) are integrated in future missions. In the area of knowledge management, UNOCT has advanced data-sharing and intelligence coordination, expanding the UNOCT Knowledge Repository and leading an inter-agency working group on PVE data.

As the secretariat for the AI-Hol Task Force, UNOCT oversees the Repatriation Repository, a centralizing database on repatriated individuals. These efforts enhance efficiency, coordination, and institutional knowledge, reinforcing UNOCT's commitment to global counter-terrorism and PVE initiatives.

Enhancing counter-terrorism coherence and coordination

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing global coordination on counter-terrorism efforts. With its expansion to 46 entities, the Compact has strengthened coherence, collaboration, and strategic planning in support of Member States, particularly in addressing the growing terrorist threat in Africa and advancing regional security initiatives. Key engagements, including high-level meetings and working groups, have focused on multilateral cooperation, intelligence sharing, and countering emerging threats, such as the

use of new technologies and unmanned systems by terrorist groups.

UNOCT has also prioritized knowledge management and data integration, establishing a centralized repository with thousands of data points on terrorism and PVE efforts. Collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and regional organizations has further reinforced capacity-building initiatives, ensuring Member States receive targeted support aligned with their national security priorities.

Delivering results-based technical and capacity-building assistance

In 2024, UNOCT undertook various capacity-building efforts across its global programmes to support Member States in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. These programmes incorporated various methods, including in-person training, e-learning courses, expert briefings, and the development of knowledge products. UNOCT also facilitated engagement with civil society organizations, private-sector entities and academia.

Key capacity-building initiatives included:

- **Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism:** Technical assistance provided to over 30 African Member States, including a workshop in Nairobi co-delivered by Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania; training on major sporting events security delivered to 14 African Member States, in

cooperation with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Ministry of the Interior of Italy; a symposium on managing major sporting events organized in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

- **Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets:** Tailored support provided to 10 Member States (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Senegal, Tajikistan, Togo, and Tunisia), resulting in national action plans and specialized recommendations; development of training curricula tailored to Kenya and Indonesia.
- **Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme:** Achieved a significant milestone by obtaining accreditation as an executive master's programme from the New England Commission for Higher Education for its Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI)

- **Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems:** Targeted institutional and operational capacity-building assistance provided to Malaysia and Senegal; training provided to 32 certified UAS operators and 13 trainers through in-person operational capacity-building.
- **Global Fusion Cells Programme:** Training provided to 285 law enforcement and security officials from 22 African Member States; development of a new training course entitled “Data Analytics and Management”.
- **United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme:** In 2024, the programme celebrated its fifth anniversary, marking significant progress in its long-term sustainability. Several beneficiary countries have transitioned into donors, contributing through support payments for goTravel. By the end of 2024, Botswana, Norway, and Mongolia were actively supporting the programme, with Georgia, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Philippines, and Switzerland set to join by 2027. In addition, 11 new beneficiaries joined the programme: Argentina, Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Seychelles, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Zambia. This expansion brings the total number of officially participating Member States to 83, including the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Security (CARICOM IMPACS), which represents 15 Member States.
- **United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security:** Assistance provided to national government administrations in Botswana, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Viet Nam to establish internal systems for using intelligence to protect civil aviation against threats.

Applying behavioural insights to counter-terrorism

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, located in Doha, Qatar, serves as a global centre of excellence for integrating behavioural science into countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In 2024, the Hub engaged 1,287 participants across 10 major activities, demonstrating its expanding reach. Specialized training

was conducted in Australia in May, where 40 officials explored the application of behavioural science to national security. In addition, UNOCT continued the rollout of its “Power of the Pitch” podcast, which was inspired by the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Engaging parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism

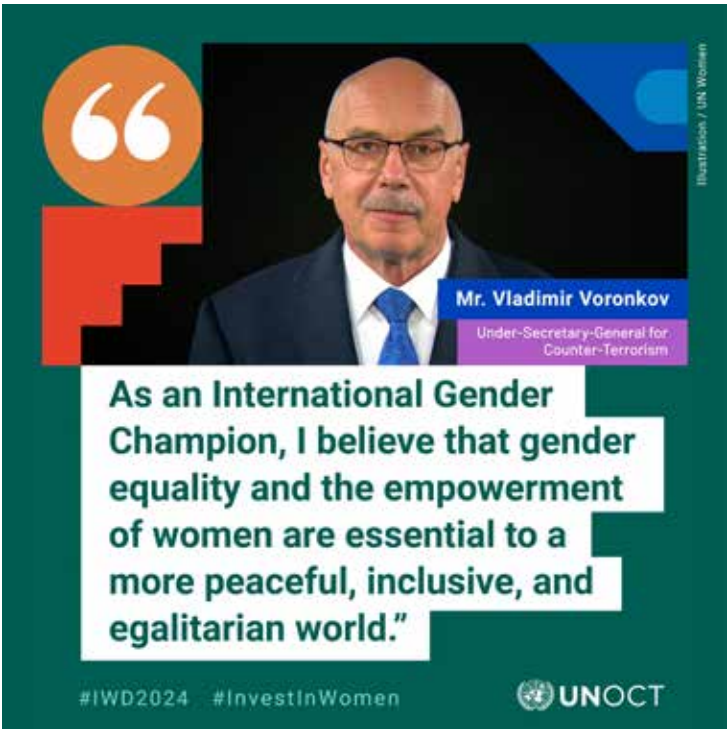
Key milestones of the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism include the fifth and sixth meetings of the Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism, engaging over 100 representatives from 18 parliamentary assemblies, and the launch of the Parliamentary Handbook on Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), providing guidance on aligning national counter-terrorism measures with international human

rights and humanitarian law. The programme also expanded its impact through the first Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, the Doha Youth Parliamentary Forum on Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and dialogues on the protection of religious sites and emerging technology threats. In addition, memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed with five parliamentary assemblies to enhance collaboration on counter-terrorism legislation.

Integrating human rights and gender equality in all counter-terrorism efforts

UNOCT remains committed to integrating human rights and gender equality across all its counter-terrorism and PVE efforts, in alignment with its Strategic Plan (2022-2025), the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights. The Human Rights Unit ensures meaningful incorporation of human rights considerations through technical assistance, quality assurance, and oversight. Similarly, guided

by its Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, UNOCT has advanced its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly in Sport-for-PVE programmes and law enforcement training.



UN Photo/Laura Jarriel

1 Introduction

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/291, which endorsed the competencies and functions as set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858), UNOCT has been mandated to carry out the following five functions:

1. **Provide leadership** on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system.
2. **Enhance coordination and coherence** across the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
3. **Strengthen the delivery** of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States.
4. **Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization** for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.
5. **Ensure that due priority** is given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

This mandate was further reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In 2024, UNOCT's work continued to be informed by the Strategy, its review resolutions, relevant General Assembly and Security Council mandates, consultations with Member States, analyses and recommendations from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), recommendations of United Nations human rights mechanisms, and programme/ project evaluations.

The UNOCT Strategic Plan continued to provide an overarching strategic framework for the Office to operationalize its mandate over the period 2022 to 2025. The Strategic Plan presents UNOCT's vision, mission, and strategic goals; establishes UNOCT's institutional priorities, through which the Office will organize itself to realize its vision, mission, and goals; describes UNOCT's policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation work; and presents the Office's results framework with expected outcomes under each strategic goal.

In line with the institutional priorities set out in the Strategic Plan, during the reporting year, UNOCT implemented its mandated functions with enhanced emphasis on building a "results culture"; ensuring that its structure and staffing remain "fit for purpose"; moving closer to partners and beneficiaries through the consolidation of field presences for more efficient, impactful and sustainable programming; cultivating strong coordination and coherence, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; mainstreaming human rights and gender across all UNOCT programming; and ensuring sustainable and diversified funding.

Underpinning all of UNOCT's work has been the foundational and strategic support provided by Qatar. That support proved critical to the continued delivery of flagship capacity-building programmes. By the end of 2024, the cumulative pledges from Qatar had reached \$139,530,281, making it the largest funding partner of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism for a third consecutive year. Qatar remains the only strategic partner contributing to all of UNOCT's core policy, coordination and capacity-building, as well as visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization functions.

Whereas the Office has been successful in sustaining support for core partners and attracting new ones in 2024, the increasingly competitive financial environment with multiple global crises competing for funding challenged the Office's ability to respond to an ever-increasing demand for technical and capacity-building assistance from Member

States, which was contingent on the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

In line with the terms and conditions of the contribution agreements concluded between Qatar and UNOCT, and to ensure transparency in the use of the contribution, the Office has reported on progress on the utilization of the financial contribution from Qatar through its annual reports since 2019, and through the quarterly updates since 2022. The present report covers the implementation of activities from 1 January to 31 December 2024 which were facilitated by the contributions of Qatar to UNOCT, including through separate contributions agreements signed in 2020 for the Doha-based International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism (Behavioural Insights Hub) and the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism (Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office).

Global terrorist threat landscape

The latest report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2024/583), which covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024, indicated that the risks of resurgence of Da'esh in the Middle East, and of the ability of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) to conduct attacks outside Afghanistan, raised in previous reports, have materialized, while the impact of Da'esh's activity continued to be disproportionate in conflict zones, in particular in Africa.

Da'esh increased its operational pace in the Syrian Arab Republic while maintaining a reduced pace in Iraq. The Da'esh core used its media capabilities to derive propaganda value from terrorist attacks globally, including the attacks in Kerman in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and in Moscow, stimulating media

coverage to amplify a perception of heightened threat, and seeking to recruit support. The "kill them wherever you find them" campaign of the Da'esh core in the first weeks of 2024 claimed coordinated operations in each of the group's self-proclaimed "provinces". Following the terrorist attacks in Kerman on 3 January, and in Moscow on 22 March, the terrorist threat emanating from multiple groups based in Afghanistan heightened concerns among Member States.

While the Da'esh core formally claimed responsibility for the events, several Member States assessed that fighters, funds and training to perpetrators of these two attacks were provided by ISIL-K. The Da'esh core has reportedly directed operatives from Afghanistan and neighbouring countries to undertake attacks abroad, while tapping into the Afghan and Central Asian diaspora communities for logistical, financial and operational support.

In West Africa and the Sahel, the Furqan “office” has grown in importance and capability, establishing cells and facilitation networks in north-west Nigeria, and facilitating Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) support for the operations of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) in the Sahel, under the direction of the Da’esh core leadership. The localized détente established in 2023 between ISGS and Jama’a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) has largely held, enabling both groups to expand the territory where they operate. ISWAP has increased its activities. In East Africa, the Karrar “office” remained a significant financial hub, and the Da’esh affiliate in Somalia grew stronger, increasing the number of recruits and enhancing its financial infrastructure. In Central and Southern Africa, the pace of terrorist attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and in Mozambique increased. In North Africa, the activity of Da’esh was significantly reduced by counter-terrorism operations conducted by national forces.

Elsewhere, terrorist threat levels have risen in Europe following the attack on the Crocus City Hall near Moscow, with Member States assessing that ISIL-K represents the greatest external terrorist threat to the continent. Increased propaganda possibly inspired actors to attack vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places (“soft” targets), raising concerns at high-visibility sporting events. In South-East Asia, the threat posed by Da’esh and affiliates has been suppressed by counter-terrorism operations, but the risk of resurgence remained.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

2

Policy leadership and knowledge management

In 2024, UNOCT provided strategic leadership in advancing global counter-terrorism efforts, fostering cooperation across the UN system, and supporting Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Amid an evolving threat landscape, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov engaged in diplomatic efforts to enhance international collaboration against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. He conducted high-level bilateral meetings with representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, and Civil Society to assess the terrorism threat, align counter-terrorism priorities, and strengthen partnerships to address emerging challenges. He also delivered 12 briefings to Member States, the Security Council, and its Counter-Terrorism Committee,

offering valuable insights into global terrorism trends and developments to facilitate informed discussions and bolster international co-operation. Additionally, UNOCT prepared two Secretary-General reports providing assessments on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) and UN efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat. Reinforcing its commitment to a cohesive, all-of-UN approach, UNOCT played a key role in advancing collective action against terrorism, while amplifying advocacy and visibility efforts, including through the observance of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism on 12 February and the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August.

2.1

POLICY LEADERSHIP

The 79th session of the General Assembly reaffirmed the high priority accorded to counter-terrorism by Member States. Data collected by UNOCT indicate that 116 Member States directly addressed terrorism, counter-terrorism, or violent extremism during the high-level debate, representing a significant increase compared to recent years. Their statements emphasized the devastating impact of terrorism, particularly in the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, and the Middle East, underscoring its intricate links to armed conflict and transnational organized crime, and highlighting the transformative role of emerging technologies in this complex landscape.



The 2024 Summit of the Future was a once-in-a-generation opportunity for approximately 130 world leaders to come together to agree on 21st-century solutions to address contemporary global problems concerning international peace and security, sustainable development, economic and financial resilience. 17 Member

States highlighted the terrorist threat during the opening session of the Summit, and during the interactive dialogue on international peace and security. Approximately one dozen Member States underscored that a strong commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation were essential strategies to counter-terrorism, while a few mentioned regional initiatives to address terrorism.



The Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1) was adopted at the opening session of the Summit, on 22 September. In the Pact, Member States undertook several commitments with regard to terrorism, including Action 23, We will pursue a future free from terrorism, Action 24, We will prevent and combat transnational organized crime and related illicit financial flows, and Action 26, We will uphold our disarmament obligations and commitments. To solidify these commitments and ensure their effective implementation, during the sixth High-Level Strategic Dialogue between Qatar and UNOCT, held on 20 November 2024, UNOCT proposed to convene an international conference on the implementation of the Pact for the Future in 2025.

On 21 September, **the Summit of the Future Action Day 2**, under the theme “A Peaceful Future for All”, UNOCT convened a session entitled “A Call to Action for a Future Without Terrorism”. Through audio-visual presentations and an interactive panel discussion, the speakers envisioned a cooperative, networked and interconnected approach to tackling conflict and the spread of terrorism. Previously, in December 2023, the Security Council had adopted resolution 2719 (2023), reaffirming the financing of African Union-led peace support operations from United Nations assessed contributions, and recognizing the changing nature of conflicts in Africa. On 23 May 2024, the Council reiterated its readiness to consider appropriate support, including to African Union-led peace support operations, through the



Photo/UNOCT



Photo/UNOCT

implementation of that resolution, on a case-by-case basis (See S/PRST/2024/2). UNOCT participated actively in the United Nations interdepartmental task force for operation-

alizing the resolution, as well as in the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security, which prepared a draft roadmap to operationalize the resolution.

2.2

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

In 2024, UNOCT's Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB) continued the development of UNOCT's knowledge management strategy, aiming to systematically create, capture, aggregate, and share knowledge both internally and externally. As part of this work, it is leading the establishment of UNOCT's Intranet and Knowledge Repository in coordination with other parts of the Office. Efforts to produce and improve existing knowledge products are ongoing, including the launch of the UNOCT internal database, which features over 3,500 data inputs on terrorism and counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism (CT/PVE) events from 2021 to 2024. PKMCB also coordinated UNOCT's input for the 2024 edition of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

In alignment with the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere, PKMCB has created an inter-agency ad hoc working group on CT/PCVE data. The working group, which includes the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the 1267 Committee Monitoring Team, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Department of Safety and Security, the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice

Research Institute (UNICRI), aims to enhance capacities in this field, raise awareness of the importance of CT/PCVE data, and ensure effective use of data in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. This includes the potential creation of the first "One United Nations" nomenclature relating to CT/PCVE data.

Since 2023, UNOCT has served as the Secretariat for the ad hoc principal-level Al-Hol Task Force, which is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder. In 2024, following endorsement by the Task Force, PKMCB (on behalf of UNOCT) was designated as the custodian of a common internal repatriation repository for the United Nations system.

This repository holds information collected by the United Nations on individuals repatriated from Al-Hol and Al-Roj camps, and detention facilities in the north-east region of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as policy positions and relevant legal rulings.

By effectively leveraging knowledge and learning from past experiences, these initiatives have enhanced efficiency, reduced duplication of efforts, avoided the repetition of past mistakes, accelerated outcomes, and preserved institutional knowledge and expertise.

3

Strengthening coordination, coherence & common action

3.1

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (Counter-Terrorism Compact) is the largest coordination framework underscoring the three core pillars of work of the United Nations: peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. The Counter-Terrorism Compact aims to strengthen a common United Nations action approach to support Member States, at their request, in the balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant United Nations resolutions and mandates.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact was developed as part of Secretary-General António Guterres' reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, following the establishment of UNOCT. It was signed on 23 February 2018 by the Secretary-General as an agreed framework with the heads of participating entities.

The launch of the Counter-Terrorism Compact was a major step forward in enhancing coordination and coherence in the work of the United Nations system on preventing and

countering terrorism, and the underlying spread of violent extremism, while respecting existing mandates. UNOCT serves as Secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Compact remained the primary means of providing coherent and coordinated support to Member States for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant United Nations resolutions. In March 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Compact expanded its membership by welcoming the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),



“Since its launch, the Compact has demonstrated a fundamental truth. Countering and defeating terrorism depends on collaboration.”

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

a specialized agency within the United Nations system that will bring a valuable contribution to addressing issues related to countering terrorist financing, and protecting soft targets through strengthening the role of cities and urban development. This new member brings the total number of United Nations and non-United Nations entities participating in the Counter-Terrorism Compact to 46 entities.

In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Compact organized several strategic initiatives, including the following:

- **The tenth meeting of its Coordination Committee** to discuss the growing terrorist threat in Africa, and advance strategic coordination of counter-terrorism initiatives

in the continent, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

- **The eleventh Partnership Consultation** between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and GCTF to explore opportunities for future cooperation between their respective working groups.
- **The eighth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism** to discuss options for the United Nations system to support the implementation of whole-of-society and government approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in operationalizing the Pact for the Future.



The Coordination Committee: a forum to discuss developments in the counter-terrorism landscape. Photo/UNOCT

Tenth meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact 24 and 25 January 2024

Held on 24 and 25 January 2024, the tenth meeting of the Coordination Committee focused on how best to integrate and coordinate approaches to address the increasing violence and continued expansion

of terrorist groups in parts of Africa, as well as align counter-terrorism efforts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063: *The Africa We Want*.

Secretary-General António Guterres underscored that Africa has become the global epicentre of terrorism in recent years, noting that: ▼

“Da’esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates are exploiting local conflict dynamics and fragilities to advance their agendas, while shredding the social fabric of entire countries with the blades of violence, mistrust and fear.”

Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres



Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov

expressed concern about the growing presence and activity of terrorist groups in parts of Africa, and stressed the need for a more robust, well-coordinated and adequately funded response that draws on the best knowledge, emphasizing that the transnational nature of terrorism requires stronger international cooperation and innovative partnerships, especially with regional organizations and partners on the ground.

The meeting brought together diverse stakeholders from 28 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, the Permanent Representatives of Qatar, Kenya and Morocco, the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, the Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and representatives from civil society, the private sector and GCTF.

Moving forward, participants highlighted the need to:

- i. Address both immediate security concerns and underlying conditions that can be exploited by terrorist groups – from poverty to inequality, socio-economic grievances, and governance challenges.
- ii. Protect human rights, including in online spaces.
- iii. Strengthen partnerships with regional organizations, governments and partners on the ground.
- iv. Enhance intelligence- and information-sharing capacities, improve border control, and counter terrorist financing measures.
- v. Integrate the multiple existing initiatives into a regional framework to foster greater coordination, and enhance inclusion through African regional organizations.
- vi. Enhance operational coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact, including through the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa.

The Coordination Committee adopted its **Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026**, which includes the overarching strategic priorities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, developed in consultation with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the thematic working groups, as well as Member States, regional organizations, civil society, and academia, and is aligned with General Assembly resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



Photo/UNOCT






Eleventh Partnership Consultation between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the Global Counterterrorism Forum
11 July 2024

Held on 11 July 2024, the eleventh Partnership Consultation was aimed at continuing to improve knowledge-sharing, and exploring opportunities for future co-operation between the working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and GCTF. Across two sessions, experts from Compact entities and GCTF shared updates on their activities, including on the nexus between climate change and violent extremism, border security management, threats posed by unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and artificial intelligence (AI), the use of behavioural insights in CT/PCVE interventions, and the ongoing efforts to mainstream gender and human rights in CT/PCVE.

The Compact entities and GCTF were briefed extensively on Africa, and recognized the severity of the regional terrorist threat and numerous opportunities for cooperation. Key themes of the discussion included:

- Strengthening collaboration:** the importance of fostering synergies and complementarity to minimize project and meeting overlaps was underscored.
- Focus on Africa:** the importance of strategic collaboration, united civilian efforts against terrorism, and the crucial roles of the East and West Africa Capacity-Building working groups of GCTF, partnering with regional governments and civil society, was emphasized.
- Addressing emerging threats:** collaborative approaches to address emerging terrorist threats, including the impact of climate change and new technologies, were called for.
- Upholding human rights while countering terrorism:** ensuring human rights compliance and gender responsiveness in CT/PCVE efforts, supported by GCTF's Oversight and Accountability in Counter-terrorism Initiative, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Toolkit for Strengthening Human Rights in Counter-terrorism Strategy and Policy were recalled.



Eighth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism 24 October 2024

Participants in the meeting discussed how the United Nations system could better support whole-of-society and government approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE), and addressing the drivers of terrorism, in support of the operationalization of the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution 79/1).

The meeting was opened by the **Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Earle Courtenay Rattray**, who noted that the Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, is rooted in the imperative to strengthen multilateral cooperation to tackle growing transnational threats, including terrorism and violent extremism. He emphasized that implementing a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, focusing on new and emerging technologies, enhancing the coordination of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, and ensuring compliance with international law must be the guiding priorities for current and future endeavours to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The Vice-Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on PCVE (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) recognized the need to expand sustainable development efforts, prioritize prevention, and ensure a comprehensive approach in addressing both the immediate security concerns and the root causes of violent extremism, including holistic approaches that prioritize education, and engage more meaningfully with youth, the technology industry, the media, civil society and religious actors.

The members of the High-level Action Group emphasized that the Pact for the Future reiterates the protection of human rights as the basis for countering terrorism, and welcomed the renewed commitment of the international community in this regard, as well as the emphasis on addressing the drivers of and conditions conducive to terrorism. Recalling evidence showing that securitized responses to terrorism cannot effectively address and eradicate the terrorism threat, and noting that genuinely holistic approaches remain largely lacking, the members called for an increase in investment to address the structural conditions that give rise to terrorist violence, and for the United Nations system's PCVE efforts to: (i) integrate human rights, and avoid securitized and militarized national PCVE strategies; (ii) support governments in tackling the intersection of new technologies and terrorist groups by pooling expertise and mandates across the United Nations, improving cooperation with the private sector, and ensuring compliance with human rights standards; (iii) prioritize the incorporation of gender perspectives; (iv) engage civil society with an emphasis on young people; and (v) further invest in monitoring, evaluation and adaptation aimed at fostering accountability, tracking and documenting progress, as well as identifying areas for improvement.

Thematic working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact



8 Working groups



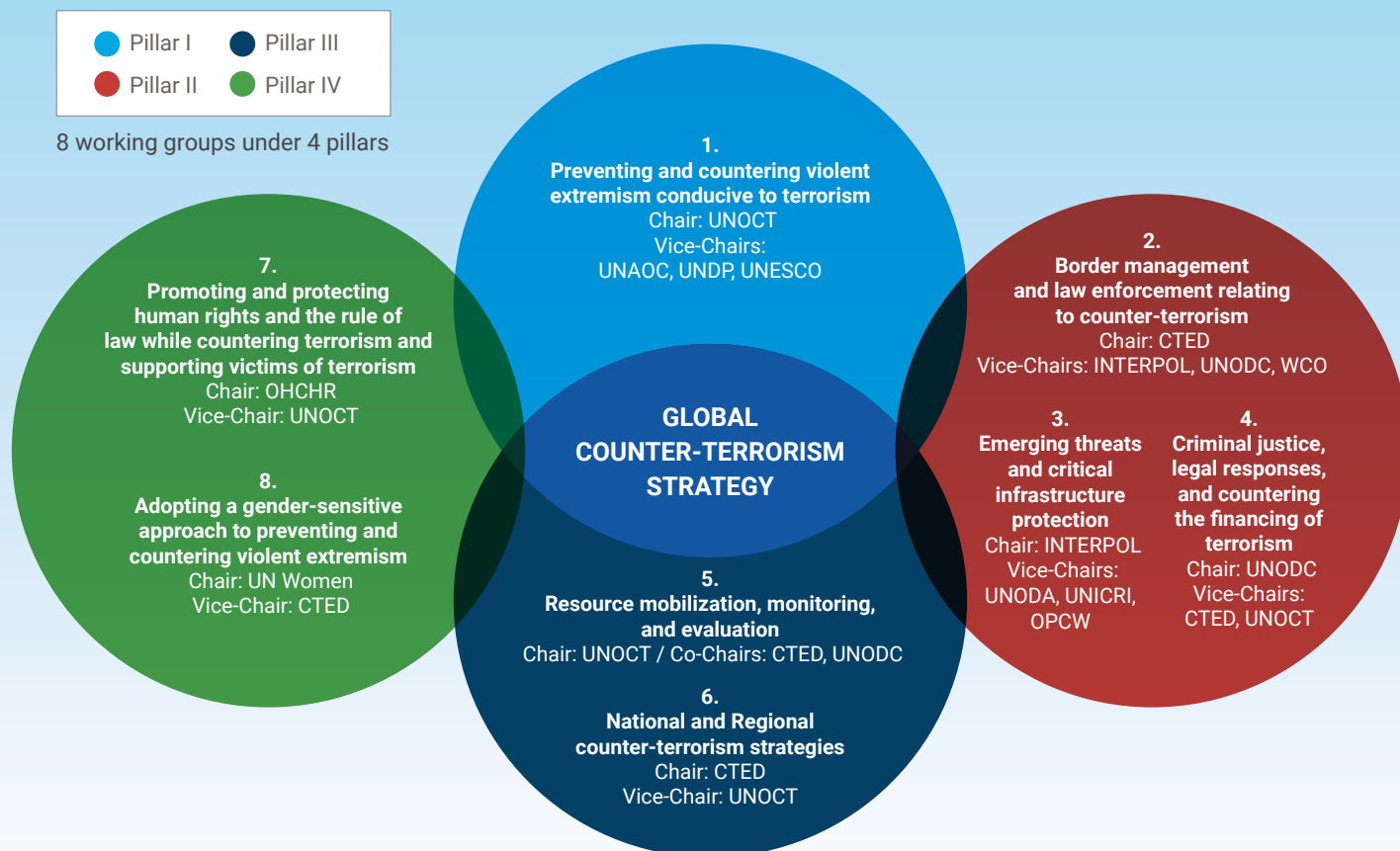
40 Meetings held



3 Joint projects, funded by Qatar

In 2024, the eight thematic working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact held 40 meetings to facilitate in-depth thematic briefings, exchange of information on best practices, joint research, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, and capacity-building; advance the implementation of three joint projects funded by Qatar; and

continue to enhance regional coordination and engagement with Member States, field representatives, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, in line with the seven practical options of the Counter-Terrorism Compact that were adopted in 2021, and the strategic priorities of the 2024-2026 Joint Programme of Work.



Information flow, dialogue, and cooperation

The eight working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact advanced information-sharing, shared best practices, and coordinated capacity-building initiatives. They organized 40 meetings, including regular quarterly meetings and discussions on specific topics. They also increased the involvement of Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society representatives, and other relevant stakeholders in their meetings.

The working groups discussed pressing challenges, such as countering the financing of terrorism, countering terrorist travel, maritime security, aviation security, and safeguarding vulnerable targets. They exchanged on efforts to prevent terrorist attacks against religious sites; addressed hate speech, violent extremism and terrorist narratives online; explored the interconnection between climate change and violent extremism; and examined terrorism-related risks related to small arms and light weapons, unmanned aerial systems, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Furthermore, the working groups examined how some counter-terrorism measures have affected civil society and the civic space, and how to support Member States in conducting counter-terrorism efforts in line with international law. They explored the gender aspects of CT/PCVE and how to support Member States in addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls in those contexts.

The working groups also emphasized the need to support victims of terrorism, and ensure that their rights are met. Finally, the meetings helped to prepare for the commemoration of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (12 February).

Joint research and capacity-building

With the support of Qatar and other generous funding partners, the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism has provided seed funding to support a total of 18 joint working group projects. By the end of 2024, 15 of those projects had been completed. The following three joint working group projects are ongoing and progressing towards completion:

- Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism – Human rights aspects of the use of artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism (OHCHR-UNOCT-UNICRI).
- Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies – Enhancing regional counter-terrorism cooperation (UNOCT-CTED).
- Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism – Compendium of existing good practices on data protection rules to facilitate international cooperation in countering terrorism (UNODC-CTED).

Collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum

In 2024, the partnership between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and GCTF continued to play a vital role in bolstering multilateral counter-terrorism collaboration across the international, regional, national, and local levels.

During 2024, representatives of the Counter-Terrorism Compact participated in several GCTF meetings, notably the twenty-third meeting of the GCTF Coordinating Committee on 29 February in Nairobi, which focused on whole-of-society approaches to counter-terrorism and PCVE in Africa, and on the margins of which, UNOCT organized a side event on the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa; the twenty-fourth meeting of the GCTF Coordinating Committee on 25 September in New York, which addressed emerging terrorism threats, particularly in Africa, and outlined priorities for the next two years; and the fourteenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary meeting on 27 September in New York, which discussed African-led counter-terrorism solutions. In addition, GCTF and the Counter-Terrorism Compact convened their eleventh Partnership Consultation on 11 July (see page 10), while the Counter-Terrorism Compact supported three GCTF side events on the





margins of the high-level week of the 79th session of the General Assembly, organized by GCTF's Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Working Group, East Africa Capacity-building Working Group, and West Africa Capacity-building Working Group, respectively.

Furthermore, the Counter-Terrorism Compact carried out the preparatory work to establish a new Working Group on Enhancing Counter-Terrorism Efforts through Behavioural Science

and the United Nations Quintet of Change, which will be operative in 2025. The Compact continued to strengthen its partnership with GCTF by:

- i. Becoming the implementing partner of GCTF's East Africa Capacity-Building Working Group, which is co-chaired by Kenya and Kuwait.
- ii. Jointly leading GCTF's Border Security and Management Initiative with Jordan and the United States of America, co-Chairs of GCTF's Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group.
- iii. Jointly convening the eleventh Partnership Consultation between the Compact and GCTF
- iv. Participating in GCTF's high-level meetings, mentioned above

The Counter-Terrorism Compact also continued to facilitate digital interaction and information exchange among focal points, Member States, and regional organizations, and published newsletters, web stories, and news posts to increase its visibility and outreach.

Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, which is maintained with the support of Qatar, continued to serve as an innovative and needs-based coordination tool for Member States and the entities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact. In 2024, the Platform facilitated

digital interaction and information exchange among over 1,050 focal points in 46 Compact entities, 137 Member States, and 14 regional organizations. It currently contains over 3,670 resource documents, and has been visited over 316,477 times since its launch.



137
Member States



14
Regional organization



1,050+
Focal points



316,477
Virtual visits



3,670
Document shared

Key Functionalities & Tools

- Global Networking
- Searchable Contact Directory
- Thematic Resource Library
- Joint Calendar
- Multi-stakeholder Collaboration
- Dedicated Working Group Spaces
- Dedicated page for Member States' Counter-Terrorism Priorities
- Joint Planning and Prioritization
- Matrix of UN Projects on preventing and countering terrorism
- CTED Country Assessments and Technical Assistance (TA) Recommendations
- Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa



In addition to the collaborative spaces used by the working groups in their daily activities, **the Platform features a user-friendly matrix with a list of 861 counter-terrorism-related technical assistance needs, recommendations by CTED, on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), to inform entities' capacity-building efforts, and a project matrix**, in line with Security Council resolutions 2395 (2017) and 2617 (2021). The secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Compact has also developed a dedicated page for Member States, which currently displays country-specific information received from 30 Member States on their national counter-terrorism-related priorities, good practices, and challenges.

with Member States and its key partners. The Coordination Platform is expected to facilitate the Compact entities' understanding of the counter-terrorism needs and priorities of Member States, foster further information exchange, and enhance Member States' visibility in the efforts carried out through the United Nations system. Since November, the Platform also hosts the "CTC/CTED Assessment Dashboard" to allow Compact entities to search the CTC/CTED technical assistance needs to inform their design of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts, which has been jointly developed by CTED and UNOCT.

This space is another step towards enhancing the Counter-Terrorism Compact's engagement



Launch of Member States page on the Platform and the CTC/CTED assessment dashboard

Visibility and outreach

The secretariat of the Counter-Terrorism Compact also worked on increasing its visibility and outreach by showcasing its activities and achievements through the publication of six bi-monthly public newsletters, an annual newsletter, as well as public web stories on the meeting of the Coordination Committee, and news posts on the Platform.



Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the Office will continue to implement the Counter-Terrorism Compact Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026, which includes the following five strategic priorities:

- **Enhance coordination and coherence** of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts in supporting Member States through a strengthened common-action approach, highlighting inter-agency efforts, field engagements, maximizing synergies, avoiding duplication, and undertaking a comprehensive impact assessment;
- **Strengthen engagement with Member States**, in line with the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the national priorities of Member States. This will entail delivering United Nations support in addressing Member States' counter-terrorism capacity gaps in collaboration with relevant entities, sharing best practices, including with respect to new technologies, countering the financing of terrorism, protecting vulnerable targets, and implementing the recommendations of CTED;
- **Advance partnerships among the Counter-Terrorism Compact**, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, academia, and the private sector, including through field engagement, capacity-building, coordination, and supporting victims of terrorism;
- **Consolidate joint planning and resource mobilization** for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, including through sustainable capacity-building assistance and sharing of knowledge and best practices; and
- **Ensure the mainstreaming of gender, human rights, and the rule of law in CT/PCVE**, including through human rights and gender analyses, strengthening the human rights and gender components of every UNOCT programme and initiative, engaging with Member States on their efforts to mainstream human rights and gender considerations, and integrating relevant stakeholders in gender-dedicated, human rights and rule of law-based initiatives.



USG Voronkov
with CTED
Assistant
Secretary-General
Ms. Natalia
Gherman. Photo/
UNOCT

Throughout 2024, UNOCT worked hand-in-hand with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) across all of its mandated functions. CTED played an active role as Chair, co-Chair or Vice-Chair of five of the eight working groups of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. CTED also collaborated with UNOCT in the roll-out of the “CTC/CTED Assessment Dashboard” through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform to make accessible assessment information, technical assistance recommendations and analyses as the basis for the design and development of relevant capacity-building in support of Member States.

Several flagship capacity-building programmes funded by Qatar continued to work in close partnership with CTED, drawing on its analyses and recommendations to inform the provision of technical assistance, and involving CTED experts first-hand in relevant activities. For instance, in 2024, the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets supported Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, and Senegal

in developing national action plans based on consultations led by CTED, and implemented tailored capacity-building activities based on the priorities and needs identified therein.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems conducted its first in-depth national consultations on unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in collaboration with CTED to assist Senegal in the development of a national roadmap to counter the threat posed by the use of UAS by terrorists.

The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme conducted five national consultations led by CTED on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) for Cambodia, Costa Rica, Gabon, Guatemala and Ukraine. In addition, the Programme participated, on behalf of UNOCT, in the follow-up assessment visit conducted by CTED to the United Republic of Tanzania, in August, on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

4

Overview of programme implementation

In 2024, UNOCT continued its results-oriented programmatic delivery through the effective implementation of several global programmes funded by Qatar, both at headquarters and through its programme offices in the field.

With the indispensable support of Qatar, UNOCT implemented 10 technical and capacity-building assistance programmes and projects during the reporting period, benefiting 165 Member States and nearly 5,551 individuals through 108 capacity-building activities. Despite resource limitations and in response to overwhelming demand from Member States, UNOCT significantly expanded the geographic reach of its programmes in 2024.

These programmes effectively supported Member States capacities in preventing and countering terrorism through the provision of specialized technical assistance, advocacy and outreach, production of policy guidance and knowledge products, delivery/conducting of training and workshops, and organizing several high-level thematic events that involved a wide range of counter-terrorism actors. In 2024, UNOCT also strengthened partnerships with a diverse range of counter-terrorism partners, including international and regional organizations, civil society, private-sector entities, academic and research institutions, and think tanks. These partnerships were cemented through the establishment of various agreements. This expansion in networks and collaborations bolstered UNOCT's efforts in capacity-building and coordination.

4.1

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON SECURITY OF MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS, AND PROMOTION OF SPORT AND ITS VALUES AS A TOOL TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM



The multi-year Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (Global Sports Programme) is implemented by UNOCT in close consultation with CTED, and in partnership with relevant

United Nations entities following a “One United Nations” approach.

In 2024, the Global Sports Programme was funded by Qatar, and benefited from financial support from France, host of the 2024 Summer

Olympic Games. Indonesia, Italy, and Kenya also provided in-kind direct contributions to support technical assistance deliveries during the year.

Key to the successful delivery of the Sports Programme are substantive and technical collaborations with the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Confederation of African Football (CAF), the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Global Sports Programme made significant strides in strengthening global security frameworks in the context of major sporting events and leveraging the power

of sport for social cohesion and community resiliency. This was achieved through organizing multilateral capacity-building activities and delivering direct technical assistance to Member States, holding thematic expert briefings, launching specialized e-learning courses, expanding its community of over 2,300 experts, including National Focal Points representing 134 Member States, as well as international organizations, civil society, sports federations, and private entities.

In 2024, over 1,800 individuals benefitted from the activities of the Sports Programme, which brought the total number of beneficiaries to more than 7,000 people in less than five years. The Sports Programme's digital map, which visualizes the Programme's compendium of existing projects, tools and initiatives has 13,000 views. Across Africa, in close cooperation with the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre, the African Union Sport Council, the CAF, the 13th African Games (Accra 2023) Organizing Committee, national authorities, civil society and sport entities, the Sports Programme provided technical assistance to 30 Member States that resulted in:

- Delivery of a four-day training on security of major sporting events for 14 African Member States from 12 to 15 January 2024 in Rome, Italy, in cooperation with the CAF and the Ministry of the Interior of Italy; ▼



Photo/UNOCT



Participants in the study tour, Police Academy, Rome, Italy January 2024. Photo/UNOCT

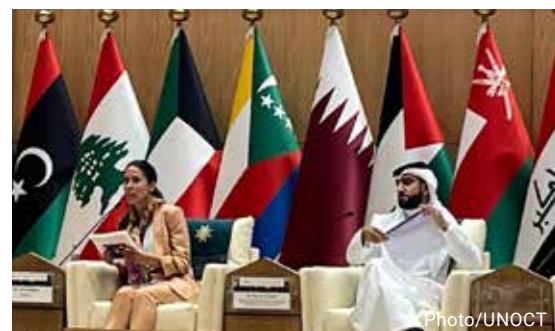


- Coordination of a secondary-prevention intervention training from 4 to 9 February 2024 in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in synergy with Inter Campus, and working closely with coaches and educators, which supported vulnerable children through sport-based activities;
- Establishment of a platform of youth leaders from 20 African Member States for continued intergenerational dialogue with African Union officials on youth empowerment through sport, which contributed to the organization of a youth camp during the Accra 2023 African Games from 8 to 11 March 2024 in Accra, Ghana;
- A technical workshop, co-delivered with the National Counter-Terrorism Centres of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, on 3 and 4 December 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, which led to the development of a three-year action plan to protect the delivery and legacy of the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), and leverage the value of sport to strengthen youth resilience against violent extremism ideologies.

Science Symposium, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (May 2024)

Across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, in collaboration with the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), the Sports Programme delivered a symposium on "Effective Management and Safeguarding of Major Sporting Events" from 27 to 29 May 2024, which helped to identify priorities for security of upcoming and future sporting events, as well as organized a study tour on security management at the Italian Police Academy in Rome, Italy, from 12 to 15 January 2024, with the participation of law enforcement officials from several member States of the League of Arab States (LAS), including the Ministry of the Interior of Qatar, and substantive support from FIFA, AFC, UEFA, CAF, the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), universities, private entities with a direct interest in sporting events, and CSOs. Innovative practices for securing



Scientific Symposium co-organized by UNOCT and NAUSS (May 2024) – Nasser Al-Khori, Executive Director of Generation Amazing Foundation, participated as an engaged stakeholder.

major sporting events and their legacy were identified, paving the way for the preparation of a new symposium in 2025 on the use of AI for security of major sport events, in partnership with FIFA and IOC. Participating sports federations and CSOs, including Generation Amazing Foundation, agreed that communities need to be better equipped to invest in sport as a priority for socio-emotional learning and the development of positive skills to combat inequalities and terrorism ideologies. The Sports Programme also contributed to technical deliveries of the expert discussions organized by INTERPOL's Project Stadia in Doha from 29 April to 1 May, and in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 25 and 26 September.



Photo/UNOCT

Workshop in Bali, Indonesia (October 2024)

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the National Counter-Terrorism Agency of Indonesia (BNPT), UNOCT delivered a workshop in Bali, Indonesia, from 1 to 3 October 2024. Hosted and co-organized by the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI), the seminar informed the preparation of a two-year action plan to: (a) harness the power of sport to strengthen social cohesion and make an impact on community resiliency; and (b) enhance cooperation between public authorities and private security companies in the security management of sporting events. The seminar benefited from key contributions from ASEAN, FIFA, AFC, and CSOs dedicated to sport, and laid the foundation for a regional-wide model for sport security and PVE.



With regard to the global landscape, the Global Sports Programme engaged with the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA) and provided a briefing on the current threats to security of major sporting events during the Association's annual board meeting, held in Tirana, Albania, from 16 to 18 December 2024; launched two e-learning courses entitled, "Vulnerable Targets and Major Sporting Events Security" and "Prevention of Violent Extremism through Sport", which were accessed by nearly 500 participants, and 150 certificates of achievement were awarded; contributed to the preparatory workshops of the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup organizing committee in the United States of America to address security threats; and participated in the UEFA annual conference on security in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 and 12 September 2024.

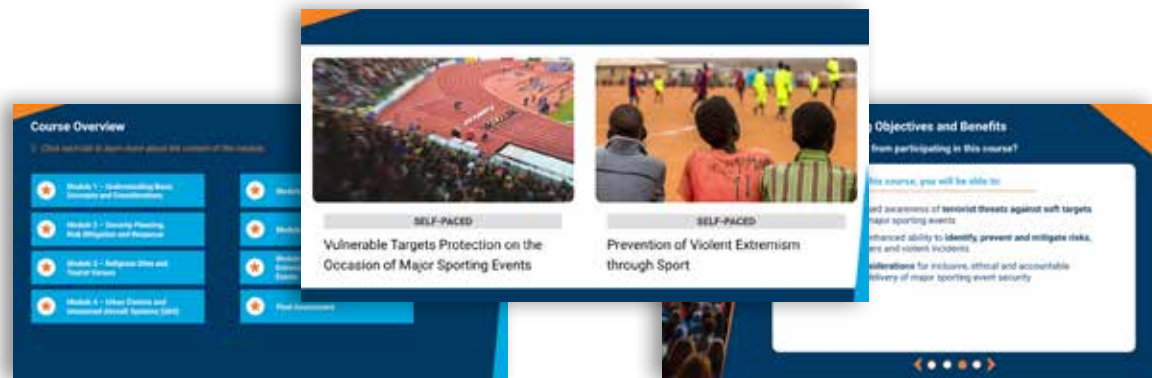


The Sport security seminar in Bali, Indonesia, October 2024. Photo/UNOCT

E-learning courses offered by the Global Sports Programme

Moreover, the Global Sports Programme delivered a number of expert briefings, in the form of webinars, analysing cases with a view to informing good practices in the area of sporting events security, in collaboration with the national police authorities of relevant Member States.

UNOCT, in synergy with INTERPOL, the Premier League, the World Health Organization and technology companies prepared a specialized paper on crowd management and control for major sporting events security. It is expected to be released during the first semester of 2025.



Priorities for 2025

By expanding capacity-building and training initiatives, the Sports Programme aims to deliver technical assistance to support high-profile events such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2027 AFCON, the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal, the first edition of the African Traditional Sports and Games, to be held in 2026 in Namibia, as well as assistance for countries with ambitions to host upcoming major sporting events, such as Indonesia. Discussions for the provision of technical assistance in the area of sporting events security are ongoing with Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Mozambique, Namibia, Iraq, Indonesia, Argentina, and Mexico. Fostering cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Global Sports Programme will also conduct briefings at United Nations Headquarters in New York on security at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics, and the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics, in partnership with the host countries.

In 2025, the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Generation Amazing Foundation will enhance the long-standing partnership between UNOCT and the Foundation, which has marked meaningful achievements throughout the Programme's history. Through that partnership, UNOCT has already participated as an online speaker in an expert briefing on promoting human rights and combatting human trafficking on the occasion of major sporting events, held in hybrid format in Doha on 14 January 2025. In partnership with Generation Amazing, UNOCT will increasingly focus on youth engagement and empowerment



through sport, building on the co-organization of several youth forums over the past years. In 2025, the priority will be to scale these efforts, by creating more youth-centered platforms for dialogue, fostering cross-generational exchanges, and continuing to leverage major sporting events for PVE awareness. This may involve increasing the reach and scope of initiatives such as the #MoreThanAGame campaign that was launched at the youth camp organized by Generation Amazing during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Doha. The Sports Programme will also seek to meaningfully integrate youth into its additional initiatives aimed at using sport for preventing violent extremism, including by promoting a human rights-based approach, incorporating gender equality, and encouraging full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women.

Within this workstream, the Programme will finalize its paper for coaches and educators to conduct sports training and exercises with a direct impact on skills development to foster social cohesion aimed at preventing violent extremism. In addition, the Programme will hold consultations for Member States to better incorporate sport into their national action plans and strategies for preventing violent extremism.

Building on the success of the e-learning courses launched in 2024, expanding and refining digital education platforms like the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform will be essential. In addition, the Programme will continue to deliver online expert briefings to raise awareness and share knowledge of new and emerging trends.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

The Global Sports Programme recognizes the potential of sport to promote human rights, including gender equality, through its potential to promote important values such as tolerance, respect, cooperation, and fairness.

The Programme also addresses potential human rights risks associated with delivering major sporting events and ensuring inclusive, meaningful participation in sports. It does so through providing guidance in its technical assistance delivery and knowledge products, which contribute to raising awareness, building partnerships and capacity.

In line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as General Assembly resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and UNOCT's Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, the Sports Programme has promoted the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in sport-for-PVE programmes at all levels.

The Global Sports Programme has expanded knowledge and visibility of human rights and gender equality through two e-learning courses, which were developed in close cooperation with UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section and the Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection, and launched in 2024. These courses addressed critical topics, such as the interplay between human rights and PVE, community engagement, youth participation, and gender equality in sport-for-PVE initiatives. The Global Sports Programme has embedded human rights and gender considerations into its technical assistance activities for Member States to provide guidance and raise awareness. Event sessions have included guidance on addressing human rights risks associated with the planning and hosting of major sporting events, with a focus on specific areas such as workers' rights, the right to health, housing rights within local communities, the right to education, the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, the right to non-discrimination, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

By doing so, the Programme supports Member States in fulfilling their human rights obligations, while encouraging private entities to meet their human rights responsibilities.

Activities and achievements map



4.2

GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON COUNTERING TERRORIST THREATS AGAINST VULNERABLE TARGETS



Since 2021, the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets (Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection) has been supporting the capacity of Member States to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks against their vulnerable targets, that is, critical infrastructure and “soft targets” or public spaces. UNOCT jointly with CTED, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and in consultation with INTERPOL, leads the programme delivery, supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (including General Assembly resolution 77/298

on its eighth review), as well as Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017), 2396 (2017), 2617 (2021), among others, and the 2015 Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and the 2018 Addendum (in particular principles 50 and 51). The Programme also responds to the expert recommendations of CTED and other policy documents. Through the development of knowledge products, connecting experts and providing technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, the Programme puts a strong emphasis on supporting Member States’ efforts to protect vulnerable targets in relation to identifying relevant needs and priorities; addressing new trends in vulnerable targets protection;

building resilience; promoting public-private partnerships; ensuring that human rights and gender considerations are taken into account; and strengthening national, regional and international cooperation.

In 2024, the Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection was funded by Qatar, with co-funding from France, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkmenistan, and the United States of America.

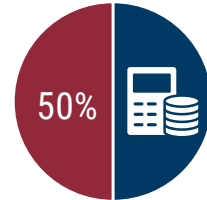
The Programme has obtained successful results vis-à-vis the outcomes it aimed to achieve over the past three years. It has demonstrated its relevance and the efficiency of its methodology – as recognized by the increase in new partnerships, requests for technical assistance at the national level, from two in 2021 to 10 in 2024, and funding partners, from one in 2021 to six in 2024 (namely, France, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkmenistan, and the United States of America). Over the past four years, UNOCT has significantly expanded the understanding of

terrorism threats and vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure and public places, and measures required to prevent, protect, and reduce the consequences of terrorist attacks.

These results have been achieved through over 100 activities, engaging more than 4,000 practitioners from around the world, including national capacity-building tailored to local contexts; the development of 10 national action plans, or roadmaps, on vulnerable targets protection for the beneficiary countries; the production of 11 new knowledge products (seven technical guides, three tailored training curricula and an e-learning course); the establishment of a first-ever Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks, which now comprises close to 230 members from 86 Member States, from both the public and private sectors, international and regional organizations, civil society, and academia. The Network specializes its assistance with innovative projects on key vulnerable targets areas.

Progress in 2024

While UNOCT has received financial resources earmarked for the protection of vulnerable targets from additional partners, Qatar remains its primary partner, providing over 50 per cent of its budget.



Developing knowledge products: In 2024, three brand new technical products were developed as strong reference sources and substantive bases for the provision of tailored, context-specific technical assistance to Member States. UNOCT piloted collaboration with public educational institutions and the national counter-terrorism centres in Indonesia and Kenya to establish a fairly comprehensive training programme – starting with the development of two training curricula tailored to the specific contexts of the respective countries in 2024, to building a pool of certified trainers over the period 2025 to 2026. UNOCT developed the *Technical Guide on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks* (in English and Russian), which was launched at high-level events in Ashgabat,



Turkmenistan, in November, and at United Nations Headquarters in New York in December. The Technical Guide provides a comprehensive

selection of case studies, good practices and recommended tools from various countries aimed at helping policymakers, practitioners, researchers and experts from the public and private sectors, civil society, and academia to strengthen the protection of vulnerable targets.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Global Sports Programme, an e-learning course on protecting vulnerable targets and sporting events security was launched in June 2024.



Connecting experts from around the world:

The United Nations Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks, established with the support of Qatar in 2022, continued to foster synergies between practitioners from around the world to share experiences and security innovations for critical infrastructure and public places.

This community of practitioners has become the most popular and active network on the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform. The Network's membership has increased from 110 experts from 40 Member States in 2022 to almost 230 experts from 86 Member States in 2024, bringing together formally nominated focal points from national entities with experts from other United Nations system organizations, as well as international and regional organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society. By December 2024, UNOCT had held 21 expert briefings on highly technical topics, providing a unique opportunity to learn and exchange on trends, developments, challenges, and innovations for protecting critical infrastructure and "soft targets".

In 2024, the Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection gathered experts and policymakers to various technical exchanges on: the European Union's Critical Energy Resilience Directive (with the European Commission, in January); protecting educational institutions and other learning spaces (with the United States of America and SENTRY – the United States Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, in July); safeguarding crowded places (with Australia, in February);



Side event held on the margins of the International Meeting on Enhancing Energy Connectivity. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 17 October 2024. Photo/UNOCT



protecting energy infrastructure (with the Russia Federation and Turkmenistan, in March); coordination of critical infrastructure protection entities (with Spain, in April); human settlements security (with UN-Habitat, in September); and inclusive security in crisis management (on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in UNHQ, New York, in December).

Other activities organized by the Network included: a parliamentary policy dialogue on protecting religious sites, symbols and objects against terrorist attacks (in cooperation with the Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office, in Istanbul, Türkiye, in May); and an international expert meeting on protection of critical energy infrastructure (on the margins of the Dushanbe Process High-level Conference, in Kuwait, in November).

Providing tailored technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States: The Programme has generated a strong demand of technical assistance and capacity-building from Member States, especially in the African and Asian regions. By December 2024, 10

Member States had benefited from the Programme's tailored support (namely, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Senegal, Tajikistan, Togo, and Tunisia) and several other Member States have expressed their interest in becoming beneficiaries. In 2024, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania and Senegal hosted in-depth high-level consultations with UNOCT, which resulted in the development of national action plans or roadmaps, and specialized recommendations aimed at strengthening protection of vulnerable targets.

Responding to emerging threats to vulnerable targets: In response to Member States' growing requests to address the evolving threats to vulnerable targets, UNOCT prioritized the development of innovative and tailored solutions to bolster their protection. To that end, the Programme launched a series of initiatives, focusing on safeguarding critical and high-risk areas, including religious sites, tourism hubs, educational institutions, and energy infrastructure. These targeted projects aimed to enhance resilience, strengthen security frameworks, and provide actionable strategies for mitigating risks and protecting lives and livelihoods.



Promoting visibility of Qatar: The Programme is recognizant of Qatar's core support for its different activities, and for the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid, from which the Programme is implemented, and actively expresses its appreciation. In December 2024, the Programme jointly organized an activity with the National Police of Spain to discuss national and international good practices relating to

protection of urban centres, in Madrid, to which the Ambassador of Qatar to Spain was invited to participate in the opening session. Furthermore, Qatar is explicitly recognized as the Programme's primary funding partner in all events, speeches, web stories and tweets, the visual identity of the Programme, and throughout its activities.



Experts shared strategies to enhance resilience & secure public spaces from terrorism. Madrid, Spain, December 2024. Photo/UNOCT

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, UNOCT expects that demand for support in countering terrorist threats against vulnerable targets will continue to grow. In order to provide access to innovative good practices and tools, the Programme will expand its compendium of highly specialized resources with a new knowledge product on security of transportation hubs. The Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets will continue to expand its geographical coverage and thematic scope. With a view to facilitating informal networking and regional cooperation, the Programme will mobilize resources to establish regional and subregional working groups, including with the collaboration of other organizations such as the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Building upon results achieved in 10 beneficiary countries, UNOCT will continue to support them, while exploring new formats of technical assistance, for example, by facilitating the

exchange of expertise through subregional and interregional activities, mentoring and study visits to countries with good practices in the area of vulnerable targets protection. To ensure the sustainability of technical assistance at the national level, the Programme will work with Indonesia and Kenya to integrate the training model developed in 2024 and build a pool of national certified trainers on vulnerable targets protection in 2025 and beyond. Finally, given the evolving terrorist threat to specific sectors and sites, UNOCT will start promoting expert exchanges on protection of energy infrastructure through regional forums and tailored technical assistance. The Programme will also explore partnerships for delivering initiatives on safeguarding religious sites and communities; tourism security; security of educational institutions; protecting cultural and archeological sites; as well as security of transportation hubs.



The Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme (Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme) enhances the ability of law enforcement agencies to conduct effective and rights-based investigations into terrorism and related crimes. Through an integrated approach combining 11 weeks of in-person modular training, sharing of specialized knowledge products, and delivery of a “train-the-trainer” model, the Programme builds sustainable national capacities that prioritize operational readiness, strategic decision-making, and adherence to international human rights standards. With its foundation in continuous consultation with Member States, the Programme is designed to remain adaptive to evolving security challenges while fostering regional cooperation and long-term institutional resilience.

In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme was funded primarily by Qatar, with additional funding from Australia, Canada, France, Morocco, Portugal, and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, which is funded by China.

The Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme holds a distinct comparative advantage due to its integrated and innovative approach to building counter-terrorism investigative capacity. By leveraging strategic partnerships with leading law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, and regional organizations, the Programme combines global best practices with local, culturally sensitive solutions tailored to the unique needs of Member States. Its accredited training curri-

culum, which is grounded in international legal frameworks and human rights standards, ensures credibility and recognition while fostering professional development through specialized career pathways.

In addition, the Programme’s focus on non-coercive and gender-sensitive investigative practices sets it apart as a leader in promoting ethical and effective law enforcement methods. Since 2022, the intensive +400-hour training programme has equipped 60 individuals from 16 Member States with the skills to excel in investigations. In 2024, 20 of these talented graduates earned advanced degrees and are now accredited national investigation trainers, ready to make a significant impact in their respective countries.



Photo/UNOCT

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme achieved a significant milestone by obtaining accreditation as an executive master’s programme from the New England Commission for Higher Education for its 11-week Specialized Training on Counter-



Terrorism Investigations. As part of the rigorous accreditation process, the Programme updated its subject-indicative content to align with international academic standards, and developed comprehensive course evaluation components, including both summative and formative assessments, to ensure that student performance meets university benchmarks.

Moreover, the Programme implemented a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, incorporating baseline assessments, standardized student and faculty reflection mechanisms, year-end townhalls for student feedback, and post-course surveys aimed at continuously refining and enhancing the training experience.

These efforts not only ensure the delivery of academically rigorous and operationally impactful training, they also allow the training programme to continue to develop and refine based on meaningful feedback.

The first cohort of 20 participants from seven African Member States – Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, and Togo – successfully graduated with Executive Master's degrees from Al Akhawayn University in Morocco.

By offering a recognized qualification, the Programme has significantly enhanced its value to beneficiaries, opening diverse career pathways and equipping trainees with the advanced skills and credentials needed to excel in their fields, while contributing to global counter-terrorism efforts.

Impact in 2024

In 2024, the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme continued to strengthen the investigative capacity of law enforcement officials in African Member States. The Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations was implemented through the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, which is based in Rabat, in partnership with Al Akhawayn University, Morocco. The programme delivered an intensive, university-accredited training curriculum designed to equip investigators with specialized skills in intelligence analysis, crime scene management, and counter-terrorism investigations. Through a structured 11-week modular training programme, participants gained advanced competencies to enhance their operational effectiveness and investigative techniques.

The impact assessment below outlines the programme's measurable outcomes for the year – which included the accreditation of 20 graduates with advanced investigative qualifications – and key performance indicators, reflecting improved investigative skills, strengthened criminal justice systems, and enhanced regional cooperation.

Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (2024)

PARTICIPANTS

22 English- and French-speaking participants* from Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, and Togo.



*Includes 6 female participants

STATISTICS (KIRKPATRICK MODEL - LEVELS 1 TO 4)

Level 1: Reaction
100% of participants found the training relevant to their jobs.

Level 2: Learning
96% of participants have increased knowledge and understanding of the subjects covered in this training.

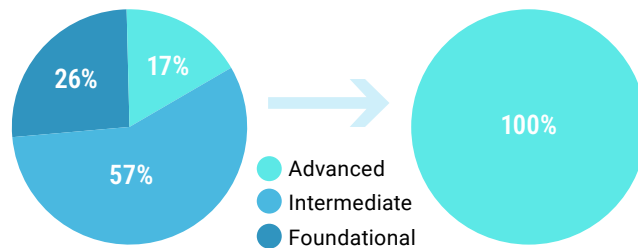
Level 3: Behavior
100% of participants are likely to apply what they learned from the training when they are back on the job.

Level 4: Results
100% of participants found the training to be useful for their professional developments.

Level 5: Results
100% of participants believe the skills and knowledge gained during the training will benefit their organization.

BEFORE

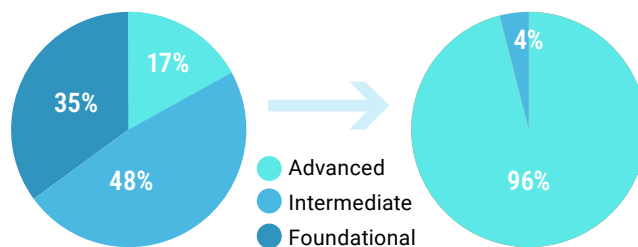
My level of knowledge and understanding of counter-terrorism investigations is:



AFTER

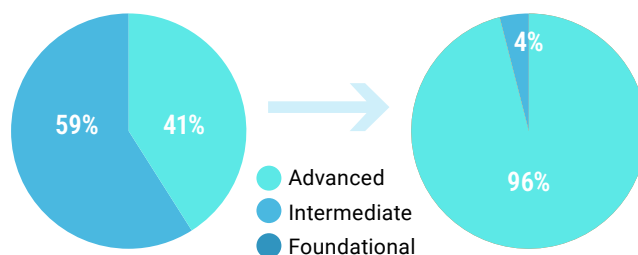
100%

My level of knowledge and understanding of Special Investigation Techniques is:



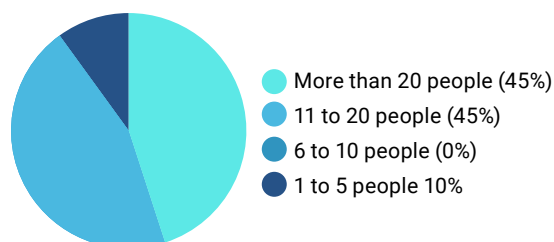
96%

My level of knowledge and understanding of Crime Scene Management is:



96%

The following number of people in my organization can benefit from this training:



Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme will prioritize delivering a new training cycle to a fresh cohort of beneficiaries, further expanding its reach and impact.

Building on the successes of 2024, the Programme will collaborate with United Nations Police (UNPOL) to develop a specialized three-week “Train-the-Trainer” course. This initiative aims to equip 2024 graduates with the practical skills and tools needed to deliver the Programme’s training effectively within their national academies, fostering local ownership and sustainability.

Furthermore, the Programme is actively working on developing standardized knowledge products for the 18 subjects covered in its curriculum. These products are meticulously designed to include comprehensive study guides, detailed lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, and practical exercises, all tailored to meet international standards, and address the unique challenges faced by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.



This standardization will ensure consistency and quality across all training sessions, regardless of the trainer or location, fostering a uniform understanding of best practices and methodologies.

The knowledge products will serve as enduring resources for trainees and trainers alike, providing accessible reference materials to reinforce learning and application beyond the classroom setting. Moreover, these materials are being developed with scalability in mind, allowing for their seamless integration into national training institutions, and adaptation to diverse regional contexts.

These priorities underscore the dedication of the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme to enhancing counter-terrorism capacities while ensuring sustainability through the transfer of knowledge and the cultivation of local expertise. By equipping participants with high-quality tools and resources, the Programme aims to empower Member States to independently sustain and expand their training initiatives, contributing to long-term security and capacity-building efforts.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

Recognizing the underrepresentation of women in leadership and operational roles, the Programme strongly encourages the participation of women in law enforcement and intelligence training courses. Targeted outreach and advocacy efforts are employed to promote gender equality and ensure that women have equitable access to capacity-building opportunities.

In line with the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Programme promotes human rights-compliant and gender-responsive approaches to counter-terrorism,

so that all participants receive mandatory human rights and gender awareness training. By integrating gender-sensitive approaches and human rights-compliant investigative practices into its curricula, the Programme not only enhances the operational effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts, but also fosters a culture of accountability and equality within the law enforcement and intelligence sectors. Through these efforts, the Programme contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goals 5 and 16) and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Communications and visibility

The Programme has adopted a low visibility strategy in order to respect the sensitive nature of the subject matter and safeguard the privacy of the law enforcement beneficiaries. It posted tweets, such as those below, to announce the commencement and completion of its modules on the official UNOCT X account in 2024.

The graduation ceremony, held in Morocco, for the Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI) was the only high-profile event organized by the Programme, and it was attended by the Ambassadors of Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Serbia, and representatives of the Embassies of Belgium, Brazil, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland, Togo in Morocco.

The Programme also developed an outline document entitled "Pathway to Change", which serves as a visual representation of the impact and potential outcomes of the Programme, and at the same time, illustrates its work but safeguards the privacy of individual participants and avoids media attention.





The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Programme) was launched in 2021 to support Member States in addressing the threat posed by autonomous and remotely operated systems, including unmanned aerial systems (UAS), unmanned underwater systems (UUS), and unmanned surface systems (USS). The AROS Programme directly contributes to the implementation of key Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373 (2001), 2309 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2396 (2017), as well as the 2023 Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles adopted by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC); and the 2019 Berlin Memorandum on Good Practices for Countering Terrorist Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (2019) and the 2023 Initiative to Operationalization the Berlin Memorandum of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). In addition, the AROS Programme directly advances Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and contributes to Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; and Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The goals of the AROS Programme are to enhance the awareness, understanding, and capacity of Member States and intergovernmental organizations to prevent and counter terrorism-related use of autonomous and remotely operated systems, including UAS; and to leverage these systems to prevent and counter terrorism in compliance with the States' obligations under international law.

The AROS Programme operates on three interconnected levels: institutional, policy, and operational. At the institutional level, the Programme builds essential cross-border and inter-agency partnerships to address transnational security challenges; at the policy level, the Programme aligns with international frameworks, supporting coherent legislative and regulatory standards for UAS, UUS, and USS; and at the operational level, the Programme equips practitioners with essential skills in intelligence, surveillance, border management, and counter-improvised explosive device (IED) operations, while ensuring adherence to human rights, and the rule of law.

In 2024, the AROS Programme was funded primarily by Qatar, with co-funding from Germany and the United Arab Emirates.

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the AROS Programme delivered targeted institutional and operational capacity-building assistance to Malaysia and Senegal. It organized three UAS Operator courses, two UAS Operator Train-the-Trainer courses, one round of national consultations on UAS threats, and one awareness-raising conference on the same topic. It also procured over \$230,000 worth of UAS and related equipment to be subsequently donated to Senegal.

In July 2024, the AROS Programme, in collaboration with CTED, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and United

Left: UAS Operator course in Malaysia, September 2024. Right: 5-day training-of-trainers course for UAS operators in Senegal, October 2024. Photo/UNOCT



Nations Global Service Centre, conducted national consultations in Senegal regarding the threats posed by UAS. Designed as a risk management discussion and guided by the Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles, the consultation sought to raise awareness of UAS threats. It brought together counter-terrorism-mandated officials and leading national UAS experts to present the trends in the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes. Senegalese security officials were informed of the current nature of threats posed by UAS in the context of countering terrorism, and were provided with advice on drafting their national UAS roadmap. Stakeholders emphasized the need for capacity-building, particularly in countering possible terrorist use of UAS. A roadmap for Senegal was finalized in the last quarter of 2024, and is expected to be delivered to Senegal in early 2025.

From July to September, the AROS Programme delivered UAS Operator training courses in Malaysia and Senegal, in partnership with the United Nations Global Service Centre. These courses offered comprehensive guidance on the use and operation of UAS to support efforts aimed at preventing and countering terrorism-related activities, including UAS operations, safety and security, and other key elements, such as international legislation, meteorology and navigation. By the end of the two-week United Nations-certified training, participants must pass written and practical assessments on UAS flight skills to obtain UAS Operator



certification. At the end of the training, 32 officials in the two countries were certified as UAS operators. The training courses received overwhelmingly positive feedback, as demonstrated by requests for further technical and training assistance.

Programme evaluation

The AROS Programme is undergoing an independent evaluation to assess its relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability in

preparation for the upcoming second phase of its implementation over the period 2025 to 2029. The evaluation identified several impacts that the Programme has had on its stakeholders, including national security officials and civil society representatives. Preliminary findings indicate that government beneficiaries who participated in institutional capacity-building activities, such as national consultations on UAS threats, have become core focal points for the development of pertinent national policy. On the ground, UAS operators who were trained by the AROS Programme prevented a terror attack by using a drone to detect and track a group of armed militants. Lastly, one civil society organization indicated that the partnership with the AROS Programme enabled the inclusive participation of technical experts in the political process.

Impact in 2024

The AROS Programme significantly enhanced counter-terrorism capabilities by training 32 certified UAS operators, and 13 trainers through more than 450 hours of in-person operational capacity-building. The Programme procured UAS and advanced UAS-based surveillance technology to increase the detection range and interdiction capacity of select Senegalese authorities operating in border areas. It also developed a comprehensive list of recommendations to strengthen Senegal's UAS security frameworks, and gathered world-leading technical experts to brief several Senegalese ministries and specialized entities on the current and predicted evolution of autonomous and remotely operated technologies. The Programme further contributed to a number of briefings, conferences, and capacity-building assistance organized by United Nations and Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, intergovernmental organizations, and regional coordination mechanisms.

On the ground, training delivered by the AROS Programme has directly contributed to search-and-rescue operations, and to detecting and deterring presumed terrorist attacks through

drone surveillance capabilities in West Africa. The Programme's efforts have reinforced institutional resilience, operational readiness, and policy development, ensuring a sustainable and effective response to emerging terrorist threats involving autonomous and remotely operated systems.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the AROS Programme plans to capitalize on its achievements reached in 2024 by continuing to provide targeted assistance to Member States. Plans are in place to provide training on UAS and counter-UAS operations, as well as deliver Train-the-Trainer courses, depending on the needs of the beneficiary Member States, which will be defined based on consultations. The Programme seeks to broaden its assistance portfolio and will deliver the first set of specialized courses focusing on UAS-based imagery interpretation; UAS-based counter-IED and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) operations; and unmanned underwater systems operations. These will enable end-users to interpret aerial data to bolster incident response and management capabilities, enhance counter-IED and CBRN operations efforts, and strengthen maritime surveillance in counter-terrorism scenarios.

Moreover, the Programme plans to hand over 16 UAS and high-precision imaging payloads to the counter-terrorism-mandated entities of Senegal. Through the safe and secure operation of non-lethal UAS, the Senegalese authorities are expected to enhance their capacity to gather critical information, strengthen border surveillance and conduct reconnaissance with the aim of bolstering the detection and interdiction of terrorism-related activities in West Africa.

The AROS Programme will also work with United Nations entities, academia, and research institutions to kick off the development of a joint regional knowledge product on the use of remotely operated technology for terrorism-related purposes.



The Global Fusion Cells Programme (Fusion Cells Programme) aims to enhance the analytical capabilities of intelligence analysts within national inter-agency coordination mechanisms to strengthen the overall response to terrorism and related nexus crimes. By providing modular training, developing specialized knowledge products, and implementing a train-the-trainer approach, the Programme seeks to build sustainable national training capacities that will continue to improve decision-making, planning, and the operational activities of its beneficiaries. The Programme's flexible capacity-building approach, informed by continuous consultation with beneficiaries, ensures that it remains responsive to evolving needs and operational realities.

In 2024, the Fusion Cells Programme was primarily funded by Qatar, with co-funding from France, Morocco, Portugal, the Russian Federation, and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, which is funded by China.

The Fusion Cells Programme has a clear comparative advantage in leading capacity-building assistance for national inter-agency coordination mechanisms through an extensive network of United Nations and Member States experts, and unique access to heads of national intelligence and counter-terrorism agencies through the Marrakesh Platform. The third Marrakesh Platform, held in Fez, Morocco in June 2024, brought together representatives from 34 African Member States alongside 18 Observer States, and representatives from

regional and international organizations to discuss terrorist threats, challenges, and lessons learned, and to agree upon national and regional capacity-building initiatives. These experiences enabled the Programme to develop its tried and tested delivery model that helps Member States to identify gaps and strengths in their national legal and institutional security frameworks, and to explore their operational readiness in determining their capacity-building needs. The Programme provides access to international best practice by coordinating study visits supported by the world's leading fusion or counter-terrorism centres to share experiences, good practices, and lessons learned. Since its launch in 2020, the Fusion Cells Programme has provided training to over 1,600 analysts.

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Fusion Cells Programme continued to work with its 22 African Member State beneficiaries, namely, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The Programme successfully trained 285 law enforcement and security officials from 22 African Member States, delivering 17 courses in five different languages (English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, and Spanish). That marked an 89-per cent increase in the number of

courses delivered (from 9 courses in 2023 to 17 in 2024), a 21-per cent increase in the number of officials trained (from 236 officials in 2023 to 285 in 2024), and a 16-per cent increase in the number of Member States supported (from 18 countries in 2023 to 22 in 2024).

Together with expertise from Morocco and Portugal, the Programme is developing a new training course on data analytics and management. This new product will provide

trainees with an understanding of how to manage big data, and to use data analytics and programming languages to enhance their analytical products and inform intelligence-led counter-terrorism investigations.

All the training delivered by the Programme promote the intrinsic value of protecting and upholding human rights, and raise awareness of gender considerations in counter-terrorism efforts.

Impact in 2024

In 2024, the Fusion Cells Programme collected disaggregated data over its 17 training sessions from approximately 6,000 data points from 285 participants representing 22 Member States, all of which were used to inform its impact assessments.

In September 2024, the Fusion Cells Programme delivered a core skills bundle to 26 French- and Spanish-speaking participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The skills bundle consisted of an Effective Intelligence Writing course, an Ethical Questioning and Elicitation Techniques course, and a Fusion Cell Managers course.

Prior to taking the Effective Intelligence Writing course, only 32 per cent of participants had received training on how to write effective intelligence reports and/or writing techniques; prior to the Ethical Questioning and Elicitation Techniques course, participants rated their ability to use the PEACE model for investigative interviewing, a non-accusatory information-gathering approach, as follows: disagree: 59 per cent; neutral: 36 per cent; agree: 5 per cent; while prior to the Fusion Cell Managers course, 13 per cent of participants stated that they could not manage a fusion cell; 60 per cent felt neutral; and 26 per cent stated that they felt confident.



The impact assessment below showcases the Programme's success in enhancing the analytical capabilities and decision-making processes of the trainees, and highlights the Programme's broader role in enhancing counter-terrorism analysis capabilities in the region.

Intelligence Analyst Training Curriculum (2024)

PARTICIPANTS

285 intelligence analysts* from 22 African Member States



*Includes 68 female participants

STATISTICS (KIRKPATRICK MODEL - LEVELS 1 TO 4)



Level 1: Reaction

96% of participants found the training relevant to their jobs.



Level 2: Learning

98% of participants have increased knowledge & understanding of the subjects covered in this training.



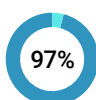
Level 3: Behavior

99% of participants are likely to apply what they learned from the training when they are back on the job.



Level 4: Results

100% of participants found the training to be useful for their professional developments.



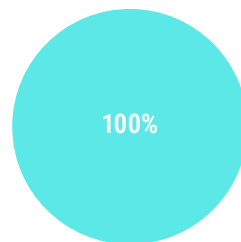
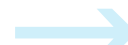
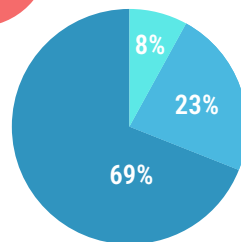
Level 5: Results

97% of participants believe the skills and knowledge gained during the training will benefit their organization.

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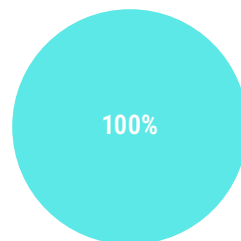
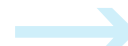
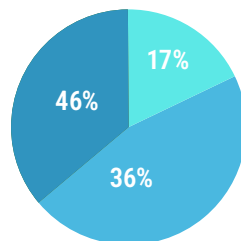
AFTER

I can conduct an investigative interview using the PEACE model



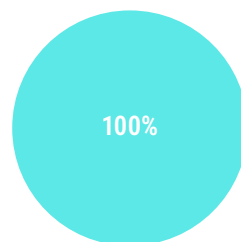
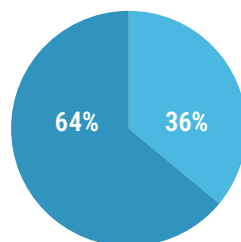
Agree
Neutral
Disagree

I know how to protect my online work environment



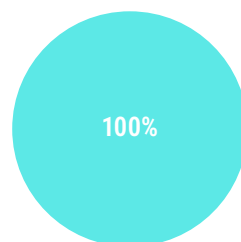
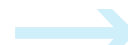
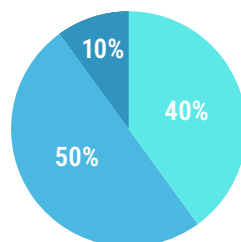
Agree
Neutral
Disagree

I understand how to manage resources



Agree
Neutral
Disagree

I understand how to manage resources



Agree
Neutral
Disagree

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the Programme will commence a new training delivery cycle, and deliver 55 courses to 32 African Member States, marking a 120 per cent increase on this year's delivery. In January 2025, the Programme will expand its current support network of 32 beneficiary Member States with the addition of 10 new beneficiaries, namely: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, and United Republic of Tanzania.

In the first half of 2025, the Programme will focus on national technical consultations with each new beneficiary Member State before delivering its courses in French, Arabic, Spanish, English,

and Portuguese. The Programme will continue to organize study visits for its beneficiaries, featuring experts from some of the world's leading national fusion or counter-terrorism centres, in both in-person and hybrid formats. In addition, the Programme is expected to deliver two more rounds of its Train-the-Trainer course in the first and second quarters of 2025.

The Programme will finalize the development of the Data Analytics and Management course, and deliver a pilot course to its current beneficiaries in the second quarter of 2025. It will also develop a multilayered, modular curriculum for an Open-Source Investigations training, to be rolled out in 2026.

Human rights and gender mainstreaming

Given the traditionally male-dominated nature of Africa's intelligence communities, efforts to address gender imbalances are relatively new, and women remain underrepresented in both leadership and operational roles. The Fusion Cells Programme is committed to encouraging female participation in the law enforcement and intelligence sector, including in training courses – which resulted in a 20-per cent representation of women in the training delivery held in Rabat, Morocco, in 2024. The Programme's unwavering focus

on ethics challenges discriminatory attitudes and behaviours, and highlights the value of human rights, reassuring stakeholders of its commitment to these fundamental principles. In addition, the Programme made a deliberate effort to engage female experts whenever feasible; it actively sought and invited female professionals to contribute their expertise. All training participants receive mandatory human rights and gender awareness training, which is delivered in five languages in order to further raise awareness and foster inclusivity.

Communications and visibility

The Programme has adopted a low visibility strategy as it supports the African intelligence community, which remains hesitant towards media engagement and publicity. In 2024, the Programme posted 15 tweets on the official UNOCT X account, and UNOCT posted an article on the Fusion Cells Programme on its website.

The Marrakesh Platform is the only high-profile event organized by the Programme; however, owing to the level of attendance (i.e. heads of African counter-terrorism and security

agencies, and officials from various observer states), the meeting is not widely publicized, although several media outlets did report on the event. Publications relating to the 2024 Marrakesh Platform included a press release by UNOCT and the opening remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, and press articles by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco (also available in Arabic and French), as well as various national and regional news agencies.



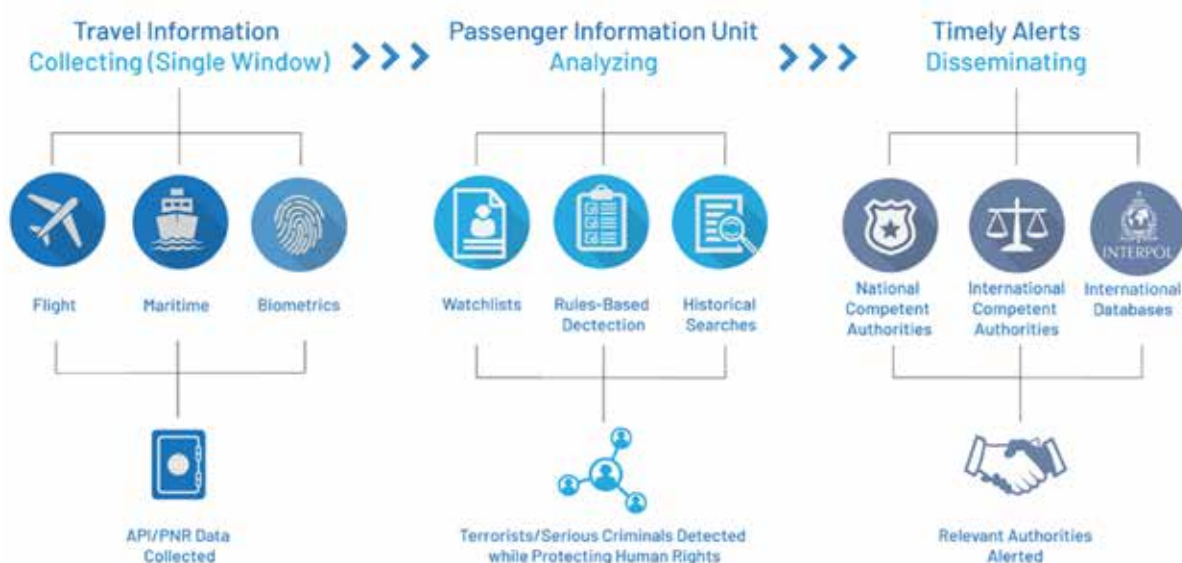
4.6.1 United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (Countering Terrorist Travel Programme) aims to enhance the capacities of Member States in preventing, identifying, investigating, and prosecuting suspected terrorists or individuals involved in other serious crimes. By leveraging travel information, including Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, the Programme seeks to optimize the use of international databases of known and suspected terrorists and facilitate information-sharing.

In 2024, the Programme was co-funded by Qatar, Australia, the European Union, Germany, Hungary, India, Netherlands (Kingdom of the),

Republic of Korea, and the United States of America. In addition, Botswana, Norway and Mongolia, which have successfully completed all phases of the Programme and are fully operational, are now providing financial contributions for the use of the goTravel software.

The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme provides comprehensive, yet tailored support for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019), as well as relevant international standards and recommended practices, including international human rights principles and norms. The Programme has global coverage and seeks to support Member States, upon request,



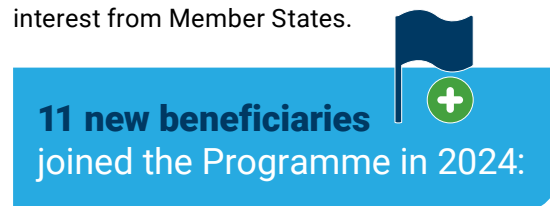
in enhancing their detection capabilities. The Programme is implemented by UNOCT, in partnership with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), ICAO, the Office of Information and Communications Technology, INTERPOL, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme was launched in 2019; since then, 83 Member States have officially joined it, including the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), on behalf of its 15 Member States. Over the past five years, the Programme has played a critical role in assisting its beneficiaries in establishing and

operationalizing Passenger Information Units (PIUs) to screen and process API and PNR data transmitted by the transport sector through the United Nations goTravel software system. The programme has also provided customized support for the development or improvement of domestic legislation and regulations with regard to human rights principles, incorporating data protection safeguards, and aligning with the Programme's standards. By strengthening the capacities of Member States to counter terrorist travel, the Programme has contributed to global security and law enforcement efforts while safeguarding human rights and respecting data privacy.

Progress in 2024

In 2024, the Programme continued to attract interest from Member States.



Argentina, Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Seychelles, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia.

With the support of the Programme, five PIUs were inaugurated in Azerbaijan, Botswana, Mongolia, and Norway, and three operational PIUs – in Ireland, Georgia, and Luxembourg – were actively supported. In addition, five Member States: Botswana, Norway, Mongolia, Georgia, and Luxembourg, are collecting live data from airlines through the goTravel software, and now have the operational and technical capabilities to process passenger data. The Programme enabled the pre-production and testing of the goTravel software for nine beneficiaries: Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Luxembourg, Namibia, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Switzerland, and provided technical support and expertise for the deployment and installation of the software.

In 2024, the Programme conducted five national consultations on API and PNR for Cambodia,

Costa Rica, Gabon, Guatemala and Ukraine, bringing the total number of consultations conducted since the start of the Programme to 42, and leading to the development of 42 roadmaps for API and PNR systems implementation.

The Programme provided comprehensive, tailored capacity-building support and technical assistance under its four key pillars, including legislative assistance to its growing number of beneficiaries to help them to establish a legal framework to regulate the collection, transmission, use, retention, and sharing of passenger data, while furthering compliance with internationally recognized standards, including the principles of international human rights law. In 2024, the Programme conducted legislative reviews of legislation from 14 countries: Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Fiji, Georgia (2), Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova (2), Sierra Leone, and Switzerland.

The Programme continued to provide operational support to Member States to establish PIUs. It delivered training on the use of an intelligence-led, risk-based approach to conducting risk assessments and implementing the appropriate targeting measures to identify, detect, and intercept



Photo/UNOCT

terrorists and other serious criminals, based on the systematic collection, analysis, use, and sharing of passenger data. The Programme developed a training module on gender and intersectional considerations in API and PNR data collection, and a course on privacy and data protection, as well as mentored and coached the staff of PIUs which enabled it to find out more about their understanding, experience, and decision-making processes in respect of the unit, and to engage with the competent national authorities.

The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme facilitated 29 awareness-raising, specialized and information technology (IT) training courses for a total of 586 participants from 18 Member States, namely, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Malawi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi

Arabia, Philippines, Switzerland, Botswana, Luxembourg, and Namibia.

The Programme's global reach, combined with the required commitment of the beneficiaries to formalize cooperation with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a memorandum of agreement (MoA), ensure that the Programme provides long-term, sustainable support towards enhancing the detection capacities of its beneficiaries. In 2024, the Programme concluded MoUs with seven beneficiary Member States: Argentina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, and Malawi, as well as MoAs with two beneficiaries: Georgia and the Philippines. In addition, the Programme signed four Strategic Partnership MoUs with Austria, CARICOM IMPACS, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), and the United States of America.



Signing with Congo,
Dr. Kunio Mikuriya,
Abuja,
23 April 2024

Signing with Kyrgyzstan,
Lieutenant General
Kamchybek Tashiev,
Bishkek, 17 May 2024

Signing with Austria,
Dr. Franz Ruf,
New York,
27 June 2024

Signing with Ghana,
Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah,
Budapest,
19 July 2024

Signing with Argentina,
Ms. Patricia Bullrich,
New York,
12 November 2024

Furthermore, a number of beneficiaries that successfully progressed through the implementation of all four pillars of capacity-building are fully operational, and are now becoming donors to the Programme, through the long-term sustainability model of support payments for the use of goTravel. As of the end of 2024, Botswana, Norway and Mongolia were all donors, and by the end of 2027, they will be joined by Georgia, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Philippines, and Switzerland.

In July 2024, UNOCT, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, hosted a forum to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. The forum provided a platform for Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, and other partners to celebrate the successful “One United Nations” approach of the Programme,

as well as the key achievements that have resulted from it, focusing on the global impact of the Programme five years after its launch.



Photo/UNOCT

Priorities for 2025

The Programme has made solid progress in establishing PIUs in several Member States, and expects that the number of operational PIUs using goTravel will increase in 2025 and beyond. In 2025, the Programme will continue to grow the international user community on goTravel, an initiative for Member States that

have signed MoAs for the licensing of goTravel, to prioritize requests for future development and updates of the goTravel software; and it expects to finalize the maritime and general aviation modules in 2025. To further support its regional cooperation efforts and sustainability, the Programme is working on the

establishment of two regional informal working groups on API and PNR for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and for East Africa, in addition to the four existing informal working groups for Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe

and Central Asia, West and Central Africa, and Southern Africa. In 2025, the Programme also expects to finalize the integration of the Threat Assessment Model within the Programme's methodology.

4.6.2 United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security

The United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM Programme) was launched in January 2021 with a view to strengthening Member States' compliance with relevant international obligations, including Security Council resolution 2309 (2016) and Annex 17-Security: Safeguarding International Civil Aviation against Acts of Unlawful Interference of the International Standards and Recommended Practices developed by ICAO. The Programme incorporates substantive expertise from CTED, INTERPOL, and UNODC, and is implemented in partnership with ICAO. It receives generous support from Qatar, the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Hungary.

During the first phase of the Programme (2021 to 2024), it provided beneficiary Member States in Africa and Southeast Asia with the tools required to identify and assess specific threats to aviation security, and to coordinate actions to prevent the threats from materializing. With the Programme's expertise and dedicated support, national government administrations in Botswana, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Viet Nam established internal systems to ensure that relevant intelligence information could be effectively used to protect civil aviation

against incoming threats. The Programme completed all those activities in 2024, and, in order to ensure its continuation, it has been integrated under the overall umbrella of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

In 2024, the TAM Programme was funded by Qatar and the United States of America.



Progress in 2024

In 2024, the TAM Programme provided support to the following Member States:

Botswana: The Government piloted the TAM Programme, developed and approved a standard operating procedure (SOP), and subsequently implemented a data-driven approach to protecting aviation security.

Nigeria: The Government harmonized its threat assessment methodologies, developed a new set of protocols, and initiated actions to institutionalize the provisions into its amended National Civil Aviation Security Programme.



Philippines: The Government established, codified, and passed a national resolution approving a new SOP and an inter-agency working group. During the summer of 2024, the Government reported that it continued to implement these procedures, and credited the TAM Programme with strengthening the way it approaches inter-agency cooperation for civil aviation security.



Morocco: The Government fine-tuned its internal assessment methodologies and developed a case study to showcase good practices for inter-agency coordination, which has been utilized to deliver training at the national and regional levels in support of South-South cooperation.



Viet Nam: In addition to expanding its national SOP, the Government took steps to establish national and provincial (government and airport authorities) coordination with regard to threat assessments.

The TAM Programme completed the development of its in-house threat-to-risk assessment tools with practical, real-world applications, which has proven useful for beneficiary Member States. It has also generated interest beyond the Programme's target stakeholders, including other Member States seeking to address the aviation security-related recommendations of CTC, and to replicate the tools for other security sectors, including passenger facilitation-related needs.

In 2024, the TAM Programme focused on introducing its methodology to a wider range of stakeholders, including through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Border Management and Law Enforcement (BMLE) Working Group on Risk Management in Counter-terrorism, as well as the Aviation Security Information Sharing (ASIS) Task Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-EUROCONTROL Air Traffic Management Security Coordination Group (NEASCOG), of which the Programme is currently the Vice-Chair. The Programme also aimed to extend access to its risk-related materials to a wider pool of beneficiaries so as to address all threats to, and through civil aviation security, and to the wider transportation security spectrum. The Programme has consolidated its materials, expertise, and resources under the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. As a result, the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme has benefited from the TAM Programme's in-house training modules, exercises, and tools, which are designed to enhance tactical and strategic assessment capacities, increase understanding of the threat picture, and institutionalize cooperation on aviation security and facilitation risk management practices. The TAM Programme also developed a digital training package with three e-learning modules and a customized threat assessment training package; it has begun adapting these materials for the regional and national training activities of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, in support of cooperation between PIUs and the competent authorities.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the TAM Programme will finalize its integration into the methodology of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

5

External partnerships

The External Partnerships Section (EPS) of the Special Projects and Innovations Branch (SPIB) of UNOCT supports the Office's mandate by engaging in robust partnerships with various counter-terrorism partners, including private-sector entities, international and regional organizations, CSOs, academia, think tanks and research institutes. These partnerships bring invaluable benefits to UNOCT: for example, the private sector has capabilities and resources – both technological and physical – that can amplify the Office's work; civil society actors

are plugged into the grassroots level and bring context-specific insights to programmes and projects; and academia and think tanks bring unique expertise and cutting-edge knowledge on trends and approaches that support the Office's efforts. Successful capacity-building requires these dynamic and inclusive strategic partnerships to strengthen the Office's ability to address the multifaceted threat of terrorism and violent extremism in an effective, human rights-compliant and gender-responsive manner.

Progress in 2024



Legal cooperation agreements

In 2024, UNOCT entered into 19 new legal agreements, and renewed three existing agreements with various partners. These agreements, including MoUs, provide a formal framework for collaboration and ensure a stable and legally sound foundation for joint efforts.

Engagement with civil society organizations

UNOCT actively engaged with a broad range of civil society actors in line with its Civil Society Engagement Strategy which facilitates

coherent and structured engagement at the global, regional, national and local levels.

In 2024, UNOCT facilitated engagement with approximately 150 civil society, private-sector, and academia partners. The External Partnerships Section maintains, and actively engages with CSOs through its database of over 400 organizations with focal points in countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (CT/PCVE). In August 2024, UNOCT organized a Civil Society Roundtable on the theme "Engaging



Civil Society in its Crucial Role to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa”. The virtual roundtable was attended by representatives of 27 CSOs, including 23 grassroots Africa-based organizations and youth-led and women-led organizations.

The event focused on the vital contributions that civil society makes in the collective efforts of Member States, United Nations entities, regional and international organizations, and other stakeholders in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Africa, including the important role of local civil society actors in supporting

African Member States in implementing the Abuja Declaration adopted at the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2024.

Under-Secretary-General, Vladimir Voronkov, held an informal dialogue with African-based CSOs on the margins of the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, held in Abuja in April. The informal dialogue provided a platform for civil society representatives working at the grassroots in Africa to share their insights and experiences on the threat landscape on the continent.

Engagement with the private sector and the technology industry

In June, UNOCT participated in the tenth meeting of the World Economic Forum's Global Coalition for Digital Safety, at which the white paper, "Making a difference: how to measure digital safety effectively to reduce risks online", was launched. UNOCT highlighted the partnerships that it has fostered with regard to digital safety and new technologies, including its participation in INTERPOL's Metaverse Expert Group, and the Incident Response Working Group of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT).



UNOCT made a significant contribution to the review of the World Economic Forum Metaverse Governance white paper, Shared Commitments in a Blended Reality: Advancing Governance in the Future Internet, more specifically on governance principles for immersive environments within the future Internet. The paper is aimed at redefining current internet governance norms as we approach a critical technological inflexion point. UNOCT's input has been crucial in ensuring that the governance principles are forward-looking, inclusive, and capable of protecting human rights in increasingly immersive and AI-driven digital spaces, where the effort seeks to influence global stakeholders to adopt a more cohesive and proactive governance approach.



Priorities for 2025

UNOCT's key priorities for 2025 include deepening engagement with diverse partners to amplify the Office's impact; formalizing strategic partnerships through MoUs and other agreements; and translating engagement into concrete, measurable action. UNOCT will continue to prioritize CSO engagement through in-person events and regional consultations,

and undertakes to update the UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy in 2025.

UNOCT will further deepen its engagement with the private sector, and will continue to strengthen partnerships with the technology sector by promoting new initiatives related to new and emerging technologies.

6

High-level events

Strategic dialogue with Qatar



The sixth High-level Strategic Dialogue between the Government of Qatar and UNOCT, held on 20 November 2024, highlighted recent achievements in the collaboration and outlined opportunities for future collaboration. Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, acknowledged Qatar's strong political and financial support, which has been instrumental in advancing UNOCT's global counter-terrorism initiatives, while the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Alya Ahmed Al-Thani, commended UNOCT's dedicated efforts in fulfilling its mandate.

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, H.E. Ambassador Faisal Abdullah Al Henzab, reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to deepening its partnership with UNOCT and sustaining its support for key counter-terrorism programmes. Participants reviewed progress on UNOCT-led initiatives funded by Qatar, and discussed strategic priorities to enhance counter-terrorism support to Member States in the upcoming year. Both parties reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening cooperation, and emphasized the importance of UNOCT's innovative approaches, particularly through the Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office and the Behavioural Insights Hub in Doha.

International and regional conferences

The steadfast political and financial support of Qatar has been instrumental in the successful delivery of our high-level regional and international conferences in various regions of the world.

Since 2018, the organization and delivery of 16 high-level international and regional counter-

terrorism conferences organized in close partnership with Member States, and covering a wide range of thematic issues relating to CT/PCVE, enabled UNOCT to effectively exercise its strategic leadership in relation to the General Assembly mandate on United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

These high-level events brought together:



Other high-level events

In 2024, UNOCT successfully delivered three high-level events: the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, in Abuja, in April; the Marrakesh Platform, in Fez, in June; and the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process, in Kuwait City, in November.

High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting



The 2024 High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, “Strengthening regional cooperation and institution building to address the evolving threat of terrorism in Africa”, was held in Abuja,

Nigeria, on 22 and 23 April 2024. It convened over 350 participants, including representatives from 29 African Member States, 21 international partners, six African regional organizations,



11 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, and 17 CSOs. Qatar provided financial support of \$50,000 for interpretation services in three languages (English, French and Arabic).

High-level attendees included the Presidents of Nigeria, Ghana, and Togo, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The meeting provided a platform for exchanging views on the current threat landscape, sharing lessons learned, and discussing best practices in preventing and countering terrorism. It also focused on enhancing regional capacities, and strengthening collaboration between African Member States and international partners. The outcome of the discussions are encapsulated in the Abuja Declaration prepared by the Government of Nigeria, which launched an Africa-led initiative aimed at coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and mobilizing resources.

The Declaration requested support from the United Nations, the African Union, and international partners to upgrade Nigeria's National Counter-Terrorism Centre into a regional centre. UNOCT will continue



to work to deliver the "Capacity-building package to counter terrorism in Africa" in order to address the priorities identified by African Member States at the 2022 Malabo meeting and at the 2024 Abuja meeting.



Marrakesh Platform

The High-level Meeting of Heads of African Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies – the Marrakesh Platform – met in Fez, Morocco, on 4 and 5 June 2024 to discuss the “Evolving field of intelligence analysis in the context of counter-terrorism”. The meeting marked a significant step in fostering regional cooperation in relation to intelligence analysis in counter-terrorism. Co-organized by the Kingdom of Morocco and UNOCT, this was the third edition of the Marrakesh Platform, an initiative launched in June 2022 under the umbrella of the Fusion Cells Programme to enhance regional cooperation and capacity-building among African counter-terrorism agencies.

The Platform provides a unique forum for African intelligence and security agencies to discuss emerging threats, including the implications of new technologies, and to coordinate effective responses to the evolving terrorism landscape on the continent.

The third edition of the Marrakesh Platform convened representatives from 34 African Member States (namely, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea



Bissau, Gambia, Liberia, Libya, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia); 18 observer States (namely Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Spain, Turkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America); as well as regional and international organizations (the United



During the Marrakech Platform, USG Voronkov met with (from left): Ms. Teresa da Silva, DG of External Intelligence Services (Angola), Lt. Gen. Hussein Al Ayeb, DG of Intelligence Service (Libya), Maj Gen Joseph Nzabamwita, SG of National Intelligence & Security Services (Rwanda). Photo/UNOCT

Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), the Accra Initiative, Artificial Intelligence Arab Forum (AIAF), Africa Focus Group (AFFG). The two-day meeting focused on intelligence analysis within the context of counter-terrorism, addressing key topics such as the evolving threat landscape in Africa, challenges and opportunities for inter-agency cooperation, and counter-radicalization from an intelligence perspective. The meeting resulted in a shared agreement to prioritize capacity-building activities related to emerging technologies, particularly AI, and to enhance information-sharing on the misuse of new technologies by terrorist groups, including the increasing use of autonomous and remotely operated systems/drones, online recruitment and radicalization, and crypto-assets.



Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process Conference

The High-level Conference, “Strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation and building agile border security mechanisms – the Kuwait phase of the Dushanbe Process”, was held in Kuwait City. Kuwait, on 4 and 5 November 2024. The conference marked an important milestone in fostering cross-regional cooperation on border security and counter-terrorism. Co-organized by Kuwait, Tajikistan, and UNOCT, the conference extended the Dushanbe Process beyond Central Asia to

encompass member States from the League of Arab States, Africa, and ASEAN. The event gathered over 500 participants, including 26 Ministers and officials from 91 Member States, as well as representatives of 15 international and regional organizations, 15 United Nations entities, and 24 regional and local CSOs.

The Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management, which was unanimously adopted, articulated a shared commitment to





multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. It emphasized the role of collaboration among international and regional organizations and CSOs, the integration of human rights and international legal standards, and the implementation of modern border security measures, such as biometric systems, and real-time information-sharing through tools such as Passenger Name Records (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API).



Priorities for 2025

During the sixth High-level Strategic Dialogue between Qatar and UNOCT, held on 20 November 2024, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, emphasized the significant role of Qatar in supporting global counter-terrorism efforts, and proposed concrete steps to enhance the collaboration in 2025 with a view to strengthening the United Nations system's support to Member States. He proposed several potential opportunities to that end, including an international conference to help to advance the implementation of counter-terrorism commitments made by Member States in the Pact for the Future, and the official launch of the newly established Working Group on Enhancing Counter-Terrorism Efforts through Behavioural Science, and the United Nations

Quintet of Change, within the framework of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, among other possible initiatives.

UNOCT has also proposed that a joint Qatar-UNOCT International Conference on the implementation of the Pact for the Future be convened in New York. The Conference would aim to bring together international experts, decision-makers, parliamentarians, CSOs, including women and youth, and will focus on concrete commitments and outcomes for "a future free from terrorism." A key objective of the event would be to ensure the implementation of one of the key tenets of the Pact, namely, "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism".

7

International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism



Progress in 2024

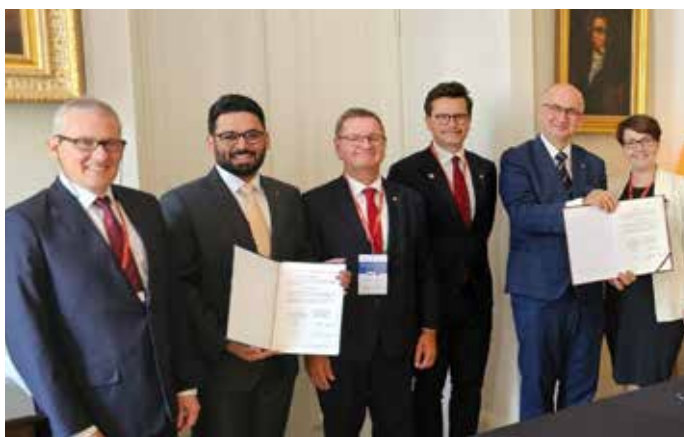
In 2024, the Programme Office of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism (Behavioural Insights Hub), located in Doha, solidified its reputation as a global centre of excellence for integrating behavioural science into countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. This year marked the conclusion of phase 1 of the Hub's activities, during which it successfully exceeded its objectives, thanks to the generous support of Qatar. The Hub's activities in 2024 reflected its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and the ethical application of behavioural science. Across its initiatives, the Behavioural Insights Hub engaged a cumulative total of 1,287 participants in 10 major activities.

A specialized training was delivered in Australia in May, in which 40 Australian officials participated in an in-depth exploration of behavioural science applications to enhance national security. This training demonstrated the Hub's capability to deliver tailored, high-impact capacity-building initiatives to address the specific needs of its partners.

In June, the Hub hosted the online Behavioural Science (BeSci) Week – “The future of behavioural science for peace and security” – which attracted 400 participants from around the globe. This annual event showcased emerging trends in behavioural science applications, further solidifying the Hub's position as a global leader in this domain.



MOU was signed between Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland and UNOCT on 5 July 2024. The University will enter a 5 year partnership to enhance UNOCT's research activities in Behavioural Sciences. Photo/UNOCT



July brought a local focus with a briefing for Doha-based embassies, during which UNOCT presented on the Hub's achievements and upcoming initiatives to 14 diplomatic representatives. This engagement highlighted the Behavioural Insights Hub's alignment with Qatar's vision for enhancing international security cooperation. In addition, the Hub formalized a strategic partnership with Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, in a signing ceremony that paved the way for robust academic collaboration.

In September, the Behavioural Insights Hub co-organized the Neuropaz conference, "Bridging the gap between theory and practice to foster trust, peace and democracy", held in Medellín, Colombia, which brought together 250 participants to explore the intersections of neuroscience and behavioural science in designing effective interventions for peace. The Hub also formalized cooperation with Poland through a high-level agreement that will result in its active participation in events for all 27 European Union member States during Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2025. These initiatives underscore the Hub's expanding influence within the European security landscape.



As the year concluded, the Behavioural Insights Hub co-organized and moderated a panel discussion on artificial intelligence

in behavioural analysis at the Beyond Europe Conference, "Artificial intelligence in international relations and communications: opportunities and challenges", held in Poznań, Poland in December. The panel discussion convened 40 participants to discuss the transformative role of AI in diplomacy and international security.

These diverse activities underscore the Hub's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration while ensuring the ethical application of behavioural science in security contexts.

Priorities for 2025

The Hub facilitated an exchange of letters between Under-Secretary-General, Vladimir Voronkov, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Roza Otunbayeva, which established a cooperation framework for integrating behavioural science into UNAMA's operations, as part of the "UN 2.0" initiative. This framework proposes a training package designed to enhance staff capacity and improve operational effectiveness in peacekeeping and special political missions. Plans are underway for a mission to Kabul to further develop this collaboration.

Having built a strong foundation during phase 1 of its activities, the Hub is poised to continue its vital work under phase 2, advancing Qatar's vision for sustainable peace and global security.

8

Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism

The Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, established with support from Shura Council of Qatar in November 2020, and launched in June 2021, assists parliamentarians in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism (CT/PVE) by fostering innovation and partnerships with parliamentary assemblies, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, regional

and international organizations, academia, and civil society. The Parliamentary Engagement Programme, which is implemented in collaboration with various international and regional parliamentary assemblies and other United Nations entities, promotes the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Progress in 2024

The Programme Office, supported by the Shura Council of Qatar and in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), held the fifth Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 8 and 9 May 2024. The meeting convened over 100 representatives from 18 parliamentary assemblies across Africa, Asia, Europe, the MENA region, and Latin America, as well as specialists from the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, UNODC, and OHCHR. Delegates and experts deliberated on regional security trends, critical terrorism-related issues, and the role of parliamentarians in upholding human rights in CT/PVE responses. At the

meeting, the Programme Office launched the “Parliamentary handbook on Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)”. The handbook aims to align national counter-terrorism measures with international human rights and humanitarian law, by providing guidance and best practices for parliamentarians. The handbook has been presented at several high-level events.

On 9 May 2024, the Programme Office and the Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection convened the third Parliamentary Policy Dialogue in Istanbul, Türkiye, dedicated to the “Protection of religious sites, symbols, and objects against terrorist threats”. Participants and included representatives from United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, UNODC,

FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT TERRORISM





OHCHR, 18 parliamentary assemblies, and Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, as well as experts from New Zealand, Spain, the United States of America, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), OSCE, and the Center for International and Regional Projects, Security Problems Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for International Studies.

The Programme Office hosted the first Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Doha on 26 and 27 June 2024, with the theme, “The role of women parliamentarians in the development, implementation, and oversight of CT/PCVE legislation, policies, and strategies”. The “Global initiative on engaging women parliamentarians in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism efforts” was launched at the conference.



In November 2024, as part of the World Bank Global Young MP Initiative, the Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office launched the Doha Youth Parliamentary Forum, entitled “Promoting youth perspectives in parliamentary responses to terrorism and violent extremism”.



Photo/UNOCT

Left to right:
Hamda bint Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar;
Hassan bin Abdulla Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar;
Cynthia López Castro, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
Guadalupe Megre, Officer-in-Charge of UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch, at the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, Doha June 2024.

The Doha Youth Parliamentary Forum, with Hamda bint Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, members of the Shura Council of Qatar, and young parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Doha, Qatar, November 2024. Photo/UNOCT



This initiative marks a significant milestone in integrating youth perspectives into parliamentary responses to counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism (CT/PVE). It is in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, which advocates for youth political engagement and inclusive policymaking.

The forum was attended by 47 students from partner universities: Georgetown University in Qatar, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar University, and Lusail University, of whom, 68 per cent were women.

On 5 December 2024, the Programme Office, with the support of the Shura Council of Qatar, and in collaboration with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, organized the fourth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue in Rome, Italy. The dialogue focused on countering the use of AI and new technologies for terrorist purposes, and attracted over 80 representatives from 13 parliamentary assemblies, as well as parliamentarians and experts worldwide. Participants assessed best practices for developing and implementing laws and policy recommendations to counter terrorism threats.

On 6 December 2024, the sixth Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies was held at the Italian Parliament in Rome. Organized by the Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office, in collaboration with the Shura Council of Qatar and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the meeting brought together over 80 representatives from 13 parliamentary

The fourth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue and the sixth Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies, Rome, Italy, December 2024. Photo/UNOCT



assemblies across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as international experts. Participants analysed key regional security

trends and counter-terrorism challenges, including organized crime, terrorist financing, and nuclear terrorism.

Memorandums of understanding

In 2024, the Programme Office signed MoUs for partnerships with five parliamentary assemblies – the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), and the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF).

These MoUs established a framework for collaboration aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States' national parliaments to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The agreements emphasize the adoption of human rights-compliant and gender-responsive strategies to tackle the evolving global and regional security challenges. The Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office will collaborate with the relevant assemblies to implement

targeted initiatives that will strengthen legislative efforts and advance global counter-terrorism objectives.





Parliamentary Approaches to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Counter-Terrorism in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373. Photo/UNOCT

On 18 December 2024, the Programme Office, with the support of the Shura Council of Qatar and in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, organized a side event entitled “Parliamentary approaches to the use of information and communication technologies in counter-terrorism, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1373”, on the margins of the nineteenth annual Internet Governance Forum, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The event highlighted the critical role of national parliaments in shaping and implementing counter-terrorism policies related to emerging technologies, proposed recommendations for leveraging information and communications technology (ICT) and AI in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism (CT/PVE), and facilitated preliminary agreements on joint follow-up actions.

Gender and human rights

Mainstreaming gender and human rights is a priority for and integral to the Parliamentary Engagement Programme. In collaboration with the UNOCT Gender Unit, the Programme Office initiated the multi-year project, “Global

initiative on engaging women parliamentarians in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism efforts”. The initiative aims to:

- ▶ enhance the leadership and participation of women parliamentarians in developing, implementing, and overseeing counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism (CT/PVE) legislation, policies, and strategies;
- ▶ incorporate gender perspectives into CT/PVE legislative frameworks.

With a view to advancing the human rights objective, the Programme Office has collaborated with the OHCHR to launch a joint project on human rights for parliamentarians in 2025.

Priorities for 2025

The Parliamentary Engagement Programme has outlined key priorities for 2025, focusing on strengthening parliamentary cooperation in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism (CT/PVE). Several high-level meetings, conferences, and expert discussions are planned throughout 2025.

On 8 April 2025, the Programme Office, with the support of the Shura Council of Qatar, and in collaboration with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), will organize a virtual round-table discussion entitled “Parliamentary perspectives on the 2025 Global Terrorism Index”. In addition, The Programme Office, with the support of the Shura Council of Qatar, and in collaboration with the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), will organize a regional parliamentary conference on 17 April 2025 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. The conference will be held on the margins of the fifty-eighth Plenary Session of IPA CIS.

The seventh Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies, and the fifth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue will take place in the second quarter of 2025 (location to be confirmed), while, an expert group meeting on the *Compendium of Good Practices and Recommended Legal Provisions on Data Protection Rules to Facilitate International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism* is planned for the third quarter in New York or in Vienna (to be confirmed). The High-level Conference on “Parliamentary approaches to CT/PVE in Africa”, and the second meeting of the Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Working

Group for Africa will be held in the fourth quarter of 2025 in Cairo, Egypt (to be confirmed), while the eighth Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies and the sixth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue will also be held in the fourth quarter in Doha, Qatar (to be confirmed).

In addition to these events, in 2025, the Parliamentary Engagement Programme will prioritize research and capacity-building activities, including the development of training curricula and practical tools for parliamentarians, including:

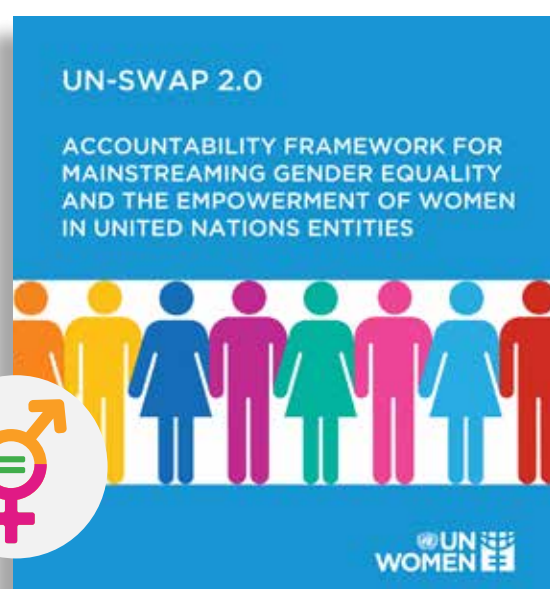
- ▀ Development of a training curriculum on the International Legal Framework for Counter-Terrorism (Q1-Q4 2025);
- ▀ Development of training curricula on AI and new technologies in CT/PVE (Q1-Q4 2025);
- ▀ Finalization of the Parliamentary guide for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (Q1-Q4 2025);
- ▀ Completion of the *Compendium of Good Practices and Recommended Legal Provisions on Data Protection Rules to Facilitate International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism* (Q1-Q4 2025).



Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, Doha, Qatar, June 2024. Photo/UNOCT

9 Gender

Guided by its Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, UNOCT made significant progress in fulfilling its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is demonstrated through the results achieved by the Office in implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0). Led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UN-SWAP 2.0, which was launched in 2018, is the second generation of the United Nations system-wide accountability framework to measure, monitor, and drive progress towards a common set of standards for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



As stated in the 2023 report to the State of Qatar, UNOCT exceeded the requirements of four of the 17 performance indicators and met the requirements of 11 others. Hence, UNOCT ratings compared with the wider United Nations Secretariat and the United

Nations system at large, demonstrate an 89-per cent share of ratings that meet or exceed requirements compared with 72 per cent in the United Nations Secretariat and 71 per cent in the entire United Nations system.



In 2024, as part of its core mandate, the Gender Unit of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section reviewed and provided inputs to at least 53 programmatic documents, reviewed 24 reports of eight different (external and internal) evaluations, reviewed and provided inputs to 45 documents related to capacity-building (including training modules, knowledge products, concept notes of events), 31 statements and talking points, 51 institutional documents (including guidance, handbooks, reports) and provided inputs to 10 external documents. The Gender Unit also delivered 13 presentations at seven capacity-building events organized by UNOCT programmes. These reviews and presentations were requested by UNOCT/UNCCT project managers in view of

mainstreaming gender and attaining enhanced results related to gender equality and women's empowerment. The demand for such reviews continues to increase, which is evidence of the growing awareness and understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender and attaining gender equality and women's empowerment objectives in CT/PCVE across UNOCT's activities.

To further support gender mainstreaming in programme and project design, the Gender Unit collaborated with the UNOCT Guidance Coordinator in the Evaluation and Compliance Unit, and the Programme Management Unit to review the new UNOCT Standard Operating Procedure 2 on Programme and Project Management, and its annexes, which was issued by the Under-Secretary-General in December 2024, and which supports stronger gender mainstreaming at all stages of UNOCT programme and project management.

In 2024, the Gender Unit continued to coordinate the UNOCT Gender Task Force, which is comprised of 23 representatives from all sections and units of UNOCT to support the implementation of its Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan. Guided by its annual work plan, the Gender Task Force held eight meetings in 2024, and organized a "brown bag" discussion for all UNOCT staff to support capacity-building on gender equality. In addition, the gender focal points developed 10 gender-related workplans for the sections or units that they represent, which are aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts in their respective thematic areas. They also organized one "brown bag" event to raising awareness of UNOCT staff on gender in CT/PCVE.

In addition to its core mandated functions, the Gender Unit made progress in implementing the Gender and Identity Factors Platform for CT/PCVE – a gender initiative which includes an e-platform dedicated to gender and intersectionality in CT/PCVE.

In 2024, the Gender and Identity Factors Platform was the most visited page on UNOCT's



GENDER & IDENTITY FACTORS PLATFORM

Connect & Learn Platform. Its library of 132 resources dedicated to gender and intersectionality in CT/PCVE counted a total of 812,037 views, while its interactive part engaged 267 users from more than 76 countries, including 117 women, 149 men, and one non-binary user, representing a diverse mix of government entities (100 users), CSOs (60 users), and multilateral/regional organizations (46 users). In 2024, the Gender Unit also launched the Platform's Community of Practice for Member States, and organized three webinars, which were attended by 94 representatives of Member States.

Examples of UNOCT activities promoting gender equality on X include the following:

- ▶ The first Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians on CT/PCVE, organized by UNOCT in Doha on 26 and 27 June, was promoted on the UNOCT website and in its newsletter.

In 2024, UNOCT organized two media campaigns that incorporated gender considerations:

- ▶ Two episodes of the "Power of the Pitch" podcast, produced by the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, and inspired by the work of the multi-year Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism. The episodes share the captivating personal stories of professional women athletes who use their platforms to empower women and girls through sport.



10

Human rights



UNOCT is committed to placing human rights at the centre of its mandate and its activities, as highlighted in its Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, in line with the United

Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and guided by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. The Human Rights Unit of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, supports the meaningful integration of human rights considerations into the Office's activities through technical assistance, quality assurance and oversight across all its policy, coordination and programmatic functions.

In 2024, the Human Rights Unit provided support aimed at mainstreaming human rights to several programmes and projects, as described in the relevant sections of the present report.

The Human Rights Unit continued to develop the UNOCT-wide Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy and a SOP to strengthen implementation of the United Nation-wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in the context of UNOCT's support to non-United Nations security forces. The Human Rights Unit has played an active role in human rights coordination in relation to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, in particular its Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism, which is chaired by OHCHR, with UNOCT acting as Vice-Chair. The Human Rights Unit is involved in key inter-agency processes related to human rights, including in support of the Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights, and the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Review Group.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the Human Rights Unit plans to finalize the Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy and adopt a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the implementation of the United Nations-wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations Security Forces. These objectives will further strengthen UNOCT's efforts to mainstream human rights into all of its policies, programmes and projects.

The Human Rights Unit will continue to engage across the Office's mandated policy, programmatic and coordination functions to ensure that it fulfils its commitment to

promote respect for human rights, and assist Member States in upholding human rights in their counter-terrorism efforts. The Unit will continue to provide focused, impactful technical assistance aimed at improving the capacity of Member States to incorporate human rights considerations in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. These elements are closely interlinked with achieving greater respect for human rights in the context of counter-terrorism, and pivotal to advancing the implementation of Pillar IV of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

11

Communications and visibility

As one of its core mandated functions, ensuring and enhancing visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts remained a priority for UNOCT. In 2024, the Office continued to highlight the central role of UNOCT within the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, and the important contribution of the State of Qatar to the Office's work across its policy, coordination and capacity-building functions.

Tailored communications plans and branded products were developed in close collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, other United Nations entities, and implementing/organizing partners to promote the Office's programmes, projects, and activities, and showcase the impact of the Office's work and the power of partnerships.

Conferences, outreach events, international days and briefings provided opportunities to further promote the Office's joint efforts

to counter terrorism and engage with the media, including at high-level events such as the African Counter-Terrorism Conference in Abuja, Nigeria, the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process conference on border security in Kuwait City, and the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, as well as the events that



Photo/UNOCT



Photo/KUNA (Kuwait News Agency)



bring together parliamentarians and youth on countering terrorism, and the fifth anniversary of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme in Budapest, Hungary.

In 2024, the Office used audio-visual products to promote its activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner: 13 videos were produced or updated. In particular, UNOCT prepared the video, “2024: Year in Review”, which highlighted its activities in 2024, summarizing key achievements, and acknowledging the contributions of its funding partners, including the generous support of the State of Qatar.

The video was presented by Under-Secretary-General, Vladimir Voronkov, during the UNOCT Ambassadorial-level Quarterly Briefing to Member States on 21 February 2025, and posted on the UNOCT website and YouTube Channel. The video will be featured at events and high-level conferences to be held in 2025, in addition to video loops featuring UNOCT global programmes.

Regarding the Office’s online presence, the UNOCT website recorded close to 900,000 page views, while the X account generated over 214 million impressions. These numbers are in line with the previous year’s levels.

UNOCT Year in review 2024

UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

@UN_OCT

900,000
UNOCT website page views

214 million impressions
generated on UNOCT X account

12

Monitoring, evaluation and oversight

Progress in 2024

In 2024, UNOCT continued to prioritize rigorous monitoring and evaluation of its programmes, projects and activities to ensure accountability for results and continuous organizational improvement. The enhanced focus on monitoring and evaluation further strengthened the Office's results-based management (RBM) system, which consists of the following:

- The Programme Review Board (PRB), which is the primary governance and oversight mechanism for all capacity-building and technical assistance activities of the Office. In 2024, the Board considered 53 requests over 14 sessions, and carried out 10 online reviews, ensuring the effective and efficient management of extrabudgetary funding provided to UNOCT in fulfilment of its mandate;
- The UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF), which provides the overall strategic direction and monitoring framework for the period 2022-2025. In 2024, UNOCT ensured the strategic alignment of its programmes and activities with the Strategic Plan, through programmatic reviews undertaken by the Programme Review Board mechanism and the integration of the workplans of the organizational units with the Strategic Plan.
- UNOCT internal guidance, which includes strategies, policies, SOPs, and guidelines, that govern the processes and operations of the Office, in alignment with United Nations policies, regulations and rules, and guidelines. In 2024, UNOCT developed a number of internal guidance to enhance

operational efficiencies and address institutional requirements, which were issued in December 2024. These include: (i) an updated Programme Review Board Policy; (ii) a new, streamlined SOP on Programme and Project Management that provides standards and processes for results-based programme management, and templates to be used for submissions to the Programme Review Board, in line with the UMOJA Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR) solution and UNOCT's operational needs; (iii) a SOP on Management of Correspondence and Information Products for Internal and External Use; and (iv) Guidelines on Internal and External Data Sharing.



- UNOCT governance mechanisms, which include the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (consisting of D-level managers) and the Senior Management Team (SMT) (consisting of P-5-level managers). In 2024, the two teams met regularly to support the executive decision-making process through the provision of consultative guidance, critical insights, and informed advice to the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

In 2024, UNOCT continued to strengthen its monitoring and reporting systems. The enhanced policies and SOPs provide the framework to ensure quality in the design of its programmes, so that they are developed through an RBM lens that facilitates meaningful collection of data during implementation. The frameworks also serve to ensure that the programmes are in line with the Strategic Plan and integrate gender and human rights considerations.

UNOCT also made good progress towards transitioning to the UMOJA IPMR solution, which is an ongoing process that will continue in 2025. The IPMR monitoring module will contribute to the regular monitoring of project/programme implementation and risks, as well as provide adequate risk mitigation measures.

With regards to evaluation and oversight, UNOCT's Evaluation and Compliance Unit (ECU), which is part of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, serves as the custodian of UNOCT's independent evaluation function. The Unit developed the UNOCT Evaluation Plan for 2024-2025, which was approved by Under-Secretary-General, Vladimir Voronkov, upon the recommendation of the Programme Review Board, and circulated to all UNOCT personnel to guide the planning and implementation of evaluations. The Evaluation Plan, which is the result of an Office-wide call for evaluation proposals and for programmes and projects to be assessed against established evaluation criteria, contains 13 new evaluation proposals, of which six pertain to programmes funded by the State of Qatar. The Evaluation Plan provides information on the status of evaluations from the 2023-2024 evaluation cycle, ongoing programmatic evaluations commissioned by UNOCT, and evaluations managed by funding and other external partners, with the support of UNOCT.

The Evaluation Plan was operationalized through the conduct of several evaluations of UNOCT programmes and projects in terms of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and cross-cutting considerations of human rights, gender equality,

the leave-no-one-behind commitment, and disability inclusion. Through these evaluations, UNOCT was able to determine the extent to which its programmes and projects achieved the expected results, generate lessons learned and actionable recommendations to guide the design and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance support, and strengthen UNOCT-wide learning through evidence-based knowledge.

Reflecting upon the results of finalized evaluations, UNOCT enhanced its focus on incorporating a robust monitoring and evaluation approach and system, as well as human rights and gender considerations, and the leave-no-one-behind objective in the development and implementation of its programmes and projects. In November 2024, UNOCT completed the final internal evaluation of the Global Sports Programme.

In addition, UNOCT made significant progress in the conduct of independent evaluations of two programmes that had reached the advanced evaluation phase, namely, the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons; and the Global Programme on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism. UNOCT initiated and advanced the conduct of independent evaluations of three other programmes: the AROS Programme, the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility, and the project "Strengthening the Counter-Terrorism Capacity of Member States in Africa through the Development of National Training Programmes and Counter-Terrorism Training Curricula" under the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme.

In line with UNOCT's internal evaluation guidance, and as part of the reporting requirements, the results and recommendations of finalized evaluations were disseminated to internal and external stakeholders, through dedicated briefings and presentations to the Programme Review Board, publication of evaluation deliverables on the UNOCT website, and formal communications with funding partners. The

Office further ensured the utilization of the evaluation results through the preparation of management responses, articulating how the evaluation recommendations would be implemented through targeted actions.



In 2024, UNOCT provided coordination and facilitation support to the conduct of an independent evaluation of UNOCT, that was commissioned by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The evaluation focuses on the substantive mandate implementation by UNOCT, including an assessment of the relevance, effectiveness and coherence of its work, and the extent to which it achieved the expected results and outcomes, and is expected to be completed in March 2025. The evaluation report will be made available on the OIOS website.

The recommendations from the first United Nations system-wide meta-synthesis of the evaluation and oversight results with respect to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that was commissioned in 2021, and benefited from seed funding from Qatar, continued to inform the work of the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation (RMME) Working Group of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, which is chaired by UNOCT and co-chaired by UNODC and CTED. In line with the meta-synthesis recommendations for an independent, full-fledged evaluation

of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the development of a common monitoring and evaluation framework, and in response to the General Assembly's request for an impact assessment – based on a results framework – of United Nations activities with respect to the Strategy (see resolution 77/298, para. 96), the RMME Working Group launched a multi-year project for the development of a United Nations system-wide results framework (phase 1: 2024-2025) as the basis for the conduct of an independent evaluation of the impact of activities, with respect to the Strategy, subject to fund availability (phase 2: 2026-onwards).

The Evaluation Sub-group of the RMME Working Group undertook a number of actions in 2024, including the finalization of the concept of the overall approach for the project, initiation of the mapping of existing results frameworks in the United Nations system, development of a terms of reference for the assignment and the required consultancy expertise, mobilization of an RBM/evaluation expert, and delivery of briefings to interested Member States on implementation progress and next steps.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, UNOCT will continue to strengthen its RBM systems at three levels:

- 1. At the strategic level** – efforts will continue to develop a results-oriented culture, with a robust RBM system and evidence-informed programming, which will include designing RBM guidelines and tools for integrated, efficient, and effective programming;
- 2. At the operational level** – efforts will continue to track and monitor UNOCT's programmatic performance against its Strategic Plan and Results Framework, and individual logframes; and
- 3. At the governance level** – Programme Review Board members will continue to provide quality assurance on all submissions.

In 2025, UNOCT will implement 12 ongoing and planned programmatic evaluations, including five independent evaluations of Qatar-funded programmes based on the UNOCT Evaluation Plan, and in line with United Nations evaluation requirements and UNOCT internal evaluation guidance, with the technical support and guidance of the Evaluation and Compliance Unit. The evaluations cover the Global Programme on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism; the AROS Programme; the project “Strengthening the Counter-Terrorism Capacity of Member States in Africa, through the Development of National Training Programmes and Counter-Terrorism Training Curricula”, under the Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme; the project to enhance the capacity of selected counter-terrorism entities in Africa to prevent and counter terrorism and use national-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms, under the Fusion Cells Programme; and a mid-term evaluation of the Programme on Vulnerable Targets.

UNOCT will continue to share evaluation results with internal and external stakeholders, in order to demonstrate the results and promote evidence-informed programme delivery, while ensuring the implementation of evaluation recommendations through the operationalization of the Evaluation Management and Tracking Tool. In addition, a call for evaluation proposals will be launched in 2025 to update the Evaluation Plan for the 2025-2026 evaluation cycle, and the internal evaluation system will be further strengthened through the refinement of relevant internal guidance, as appropriate, the development of an evaluation webpage, and continued sensitization of personnel on evaluation guidance, processes, and tools.

In 2025, UNOCT will develop the next iteration of its Strategic Plan, which will set out the strategic direction and a strengthened results framework for the Office for the coming years. This work will be guided by the findings and recommendations of the OIOS independent evaluation of UNOCT, inclusive and participatory

consultations with a relevant group of stakeholders, and a synthesis of key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations from evaluations conducted over the course of the current Strategic Plan and Results Framework.

UNOCT, in line with its coordination role and as Chair of the RMME Working Group, will work closely with its Counter-Terrorism Compact partners to develop the unified results framework for the United Nations system, which will provide the basis for an assessment of the impact of United Nations activities with respect to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as requested by the General Assembly (in resolution 77/298, para. 96). The results framework will be supported by a survey tool and a monitoring and reporting mechanism to systematically track and capture results across the United Nations system in a sustainable manner.

Risk and Challenges



In 2023, UNOCT achieved a significant milestone in developing an entity-level risk assessment and risk mitigation measures, and implementing a system of continuous risk monitoring in accordance with the United Nations Secretariat-wide enterprise risk management (ERM) methodology. Following the adoption of the UNOCT risk register in May 2023, the migration of the risk register into the UMOJA ERM platform was completed, including the assignment of associated risk

owners and process controls to assist with UNOCT-wide implementation.

The implementation of the UNOCT risk register is overseen by the Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. This UNOCT-wide effort is complemented by project-specific risk assessments, which ensure that programme managers develop the necessary risk mitigation measures and are ready to apply them, when needed, to avoid negative impacts or delays in implementation.

In this regard, UNOCT finalized and issued SOP 2 on Programme and Project Management, which was disseminated to all UNOCT personnel by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism. SOP 2 requires programme/project managers to undertake comprehensive risks assessments and identify appropriate risk management and risk mitigation measures.

UNOCT also issued a revised Programme Review Board Policy to guide the functioning of the Review Board, which serves as the primary governance and oversight mechanism for all UNOCT capacity-building and technical assistance activities. The updated Policy requires

all programmes/projects submitted to the Review Board to be in line with UNOCT's ERM framework, and to include comprehensive risk assessments and appropriate risk management and risk mitigation measures. Throughout 2024, the Review Board continued to review programmes/projects submitted to it, including in terms of associated risks and risk responses. As a result of strengthened institutional processes, OIOS' recommendation, based on its audit of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, to ensure project risk assessments and risk mitigation measures was closed.

The new SOP 2 on Programme and Project Management has enhanced internal systems for ensuring that programme/project risk assessments are conducted, adequate risk mitigation measures are in place, and foreseeable key risks are duly planned, monitored and mitigated.

The monitoring of risks and their impact are regularly captured in the Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT) App – the internal information management tool – that ensures efficient and transparent risk management.



13

Financial overview

In December 2024, the General Assembly approved a third consecutive increase in the Secretary-General's programme budget for UNOCT, which resulted in the conversion of three capacity-building-related posts to the United Nations regular budget for 2025, which were previously funded from extrabudgetary contributions to the Office through the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. With this, the percentage of UNOCT's annual budget covered by the United Nations regular budget increased from 9 per cent in 2017 to 20 per cent in 2024. While this is a significant improvement for ensuring predictable funding of UNOCT's core mandate, UNOCT continues to rely on voluntary contributions from its funding partners for 80 per cent of its annual budget, including for all capacity-building activities in support of Member States.

The State of Qatar remains UNOCT's largest funding partner since 2022. Its support is exemplary – owing to its flexibility, which allows

UNOCT to allocate funds where they are most needed, in line with the renewed strategic priorities outlined by Qatar for the period 2024-2026. In 2024, UNOCT secured \$19.3 million in new pledges from 28 funding partners. While this is a significant achievement, the income levels of 2024 have decreased compared to 2023, when UNOCT mobilized \$27.2 million from 23 funding partners.

UNOCT remains committed to seeking sustainable, predictable and diversified funding. However, the decrease in earmarked pledges reflects the challenging global environment in which multiple crises are competing for funding and ongoing economic support. Beneficiary Member States continue to call on UNOCT for technical assistance and capacity-building, which requires commensurable financial support. UNOCT is committed to further intensifying its efforts to deepen existing partnerships and forge new ones.

Figure 1: Number and type of funding partners in 2024

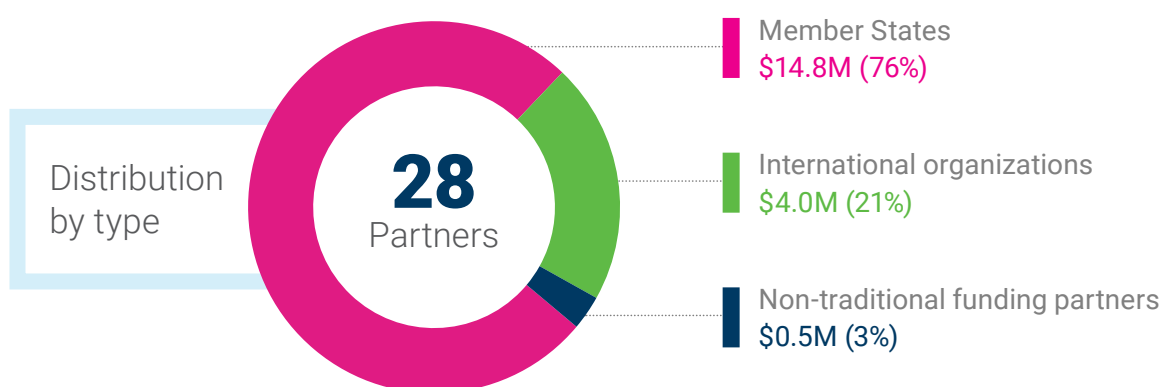
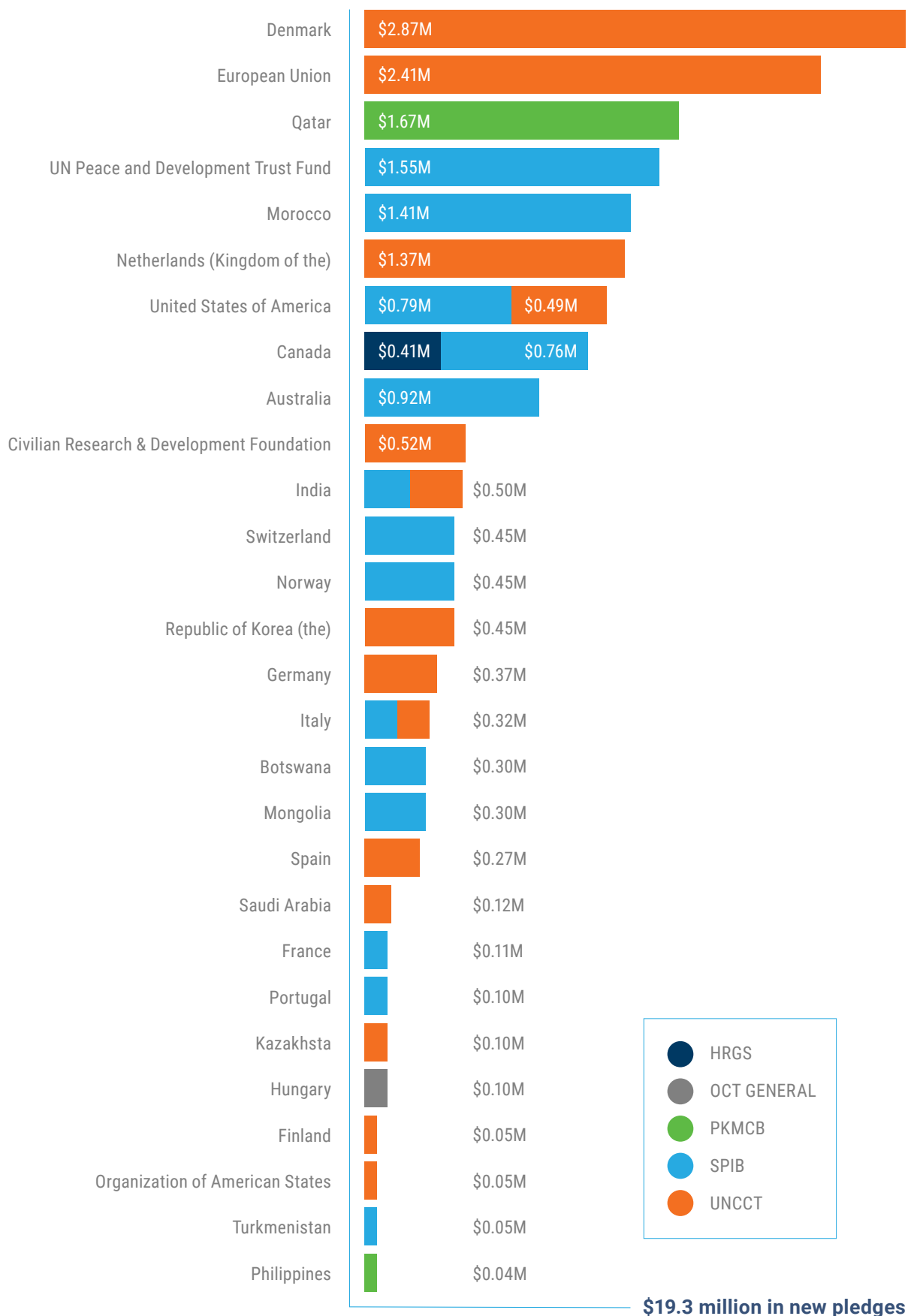


Figure 2: New pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2024



In addition, UNOCT continued its efforts to expand and diversify its funding base. In 2024, it welcomed contributions from four new funding partners: Botswana, Mongolia, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) Global – with a pass-through grant from the United States of America Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation.

Since the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2009, and until 31 December 2024, UNOCT obtained \$392,612,087 in cumulative secured contributions from 45

donors. Of significance, Qatar has been the largest contributor to the Trust Fund since 2022, with a total contribution of \$139.5 million, representing 36 per cent of the cumulative secured funds in the Trust Fund. This includes an additional contribution that was generously provided in 2024, which complements the ongoing support provided through the three main contribution agreements (see Figure 4).

It is important to note that these are cumulative pledges recorded since the establishment of UNOCT in 2017, but that they have been used to support UNOCT programming since 2011.

Figure 4: Overview of cumulative funding to UNOCT since its creation

#	Funding partners	Total in US\$
1	Qatar	139,530,325
2	Saudi Arabia	110,416,395
3	European Union	37,927,274
4	UN Peace and Development Fund/China	12,866,212
5	United States of America	12,417,221
6	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	11,164,153
7	Germany	9,940,903
8	Canada	9,755,296
9	Japan	5,234,945
10	Russian Federation	4,900,000
11	Morocco	4,323,333
12	Norway	4,197,133
13	Spain	3,783,302
14	Australia	3,772,324
15	Denmark	3,554,156
16	India	2,550,000
17	Republic of Korea (the)	2,435,054
18	United Kingdom	2,314,499
19	Italy	1,727,634
20	Kenya	1,155,000
21	UNDP/European Union	1,001,963
22	Switzerland	998,621
23	France	931,548
24	Sweden	800,772
25	Portugal	686,403
26	Hungary	635,893
27	Kazakhstan	528,552
28	Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF)	523,703
29	United Arab Emirates	350,000
30	UNODC	319,829
31	Botswana	300,000
32	Mongolia	299,982
33	Belgium	270,855
34	Finland	202,313
35	Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) – Philippines	191,788
36	Colombia	125,000
37	Oman	100,000
38	Turkmenistan	100,000
39	Türkiye	60,000
40	Organization of American States (OAS)	52,206
41	Uzbekistan	50,000
42	Philippines	45,000
43	Liechtenstein	40,000
44	Algeria	22,500
45	Nigeria	10,000
Grand total		392,612,087

Contributions by the State of Qatar to UNOCT

Year of Pledge	Purpose of the agreement	Signature date	Contribution Amount	Amount received as of 31 December 2024
2024 and 2022	International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, Doha	31 January 2024	\$6,667,000	\$6,667,000
2023	Contribution to support the organization of the African Summit on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa", to take place in Abuja, Nigeria	11 December 2023	\$50,000	\$50,000
2023	Contribution to support the second Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance	24 August 2023	\$43,325	\$43,325
2022 and 2018	Support for UNOCT core staffing and operational costs, as well as capacity-building programming. Main priorities: (1) the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; (2) programmes related to the use of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/ PNR) data; (3) preventing and countering violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism; and (4) supporting victims of terrorism	25 March 2022 (\$45m); and 16 December 2018 (\$75m)	\$120 million	\$90 million
2020	Contribution agreement with the Shura Council of Qatar for the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism	25 November 2020	\$12.5 million	\$9,999,956
2019	Joint Belarus/UNOCT High-level Conference, "Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies", 3 and 4 September, Minsk, Belarus	5 August 2019	\$20,000	\$20,000
2017	Contribution for UNCCT, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy	17 November 2016	\$250,000	\$250,000

In 2024, UNOCT programmed a budget amounting to \$17.7 million (compared to \$17.8 million in 2023), of which \$15.1 million was spent. As per standard practice, leadership, strategic planning, managerial capacity, as well as oversight, evaluation, and administration support for the Office was co-funded by the contribution of Qatar, which was apportioned among the priority areas (see table below).

The utilization rate in 2024 averaged 84 per cent of the total budget, compared to 88 per cent in 2023. UNOCT prioritized the use of earmarked contributions to ensure the most efficient and impactful use of the unearmarked contribution from Qatar.

Programmatic Area	2024 Budget (US\$)	2024 Expenditure (US\$)*	Budget Utilization Rate %
PRIORITY 1: Strengthen coordination, coherence and common action	3,988,488	3,699,730	88%
PRIORITY 2: Special projects and innovation	8,857,796	7,302,253	82%
International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, Doha	1,725,003	1,712,926	99%
UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, Doha	3,117,971	2,393,703	77%
Total	17,689,258	15,108,612	85%

* At the time of the publication of this report, the closure of the 2024 financial year was ongoing, therefore the figures provided are subject to variation. The 2024 expenditures include \$173,073 incurred by the Global Victims of Terrorism Programme (VoT) and the Global Prevention of Violent Extremism Programme (PCVE) prior to the receipt of the written notification from the State of Qatar communicating the renewed priorities.

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Conclusion and way forward

With the strong political, financial and technical support of Qatar, UNOCT continued to deliver on its mandated functions, working in close collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and other external partners, to support Member States and other counter-terrorism actors in the comprehensive, effective and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions, as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions to counter terrorism, and prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism worldwide.

The contribution of Qatar was utilized in accordance with the operational parameters stipulated in the multi-year Contribution Agreement between Qatar and UNOCT, which was signed on 16 December 2018, to support

strategic initiatives to address the scourge of terrorism. Qatar's contribution not only enabled the achievement of impactful results under the four key strategic initiatives defined in the agreement: the promotion of a "whole of UN" approach to counter-terrorism through the Counter-Terrorism Compact; implementation of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme; preventing and countering violent extremism; and supporting victims of terrorism, but went further to support the implementation of several flagship programmes in priority areas relating to counter-terrorism set out in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the General Assembly resolution on its eighth review, as well as various Security Council resolutions.

With regard to programmatic activities, the Global Sports Programme will continue



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to amplify its influence in 2025 through strategic initiatives, including the creation of more youth-centred platforms for dialogue, fostering cross-generational exchanges, and continuing to leverage major sporting events for PVE awareness, and the Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection will continue to expand its compendiums of specialized resources with a new knowledge product on security of transportation hubs. The Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme will deliver Specialized Counter-Terrorism Investigations training to more Member States in order to further extend its reach and impact, while the AROS Programme will continue to provide targeted assistance to Member States, including through additional national consultations and roadmaps, UAS operator courses, and “train-the-trainer” courses. The Fusion Cells Programme will commence a new training delivery cycle, and deliver 55 courses to 32 African Member States, marking a 120-per cent increase in training delivery. In 2025, the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme expects to see another increase in the number of operational PIUs using the goTravel software. The Programme will continue to grow the International goTravel User Community in order to prioritize requests for future development

of the goTravel software, and expects to finalize the maritime and general aviation modules in 2025. For its part, the Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office will seek to further enhance its focus on the provision of technical assistance and expert support to national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies for the development, enactment, implementation, and oversight of CT/PVE legislation, policies, and national strategies.

In terms of monitoring, evaluation and oversight, UNOCT will implement several ongoing and planned programme/project evaluations in line with its Evaluation Plan and recommendations of the Programme Review Board, to assess and demonstrate the results of its capacity-building support to Member States, identify lessons learned and good practices, and ensure continuous learning and improvement. As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact RMME Working Group, the Office will continue to support the inter-agency process for the development and finalization of a unified results framework for the United Nations system with a monitoring and reporting mechanism to measure and assess the impact of United Nations activities with respect to the Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy, in response to the General Assembly's request in paragraph 96 of resolution 77/298 on the eighth review of the Strategy. In the year ahead, UNOCT will continue to strengthen its internal guidance framework, including through the development of the next iteration of its Strategic Plan, which will be guided by the findings and recommendations of the recent OIOS evaluation of UNOCT, inclusive and participatory consultations, and a synthesis of findings from evaluations commissioned by UNOCT. In addition, UNOCT will continue to monitor and strengthen the implementation of its internal controls across all functional areas in order to ensure full compliance with United Nations standards, and effective risk management and risk mitigation.

The Office will continue to enhance the number of strategic partners to avoid funding gaps and to sustain full-scale programmatic delivery to meet the growing demand for assistance by Member States. The Office will also continue to deepen and expand its partner base by actively engaging with civil society, the private sector, and academia, through consultations and joint initiatives.

Further to its approval of the conversion of 24 UNOCT extrabudgetary posts to the United Nations regular budget for 2024, the General Assembly has affirmed its confidence in UNOCT by converting an additional three extrabudgetary posts to the United Nations regular budget for 2025, which will contribute to ensuring sustained funding for the Office's core non-programme functions.

As highlighted throughout the present report, in 2024, UNOCT accomplished substantial results across all pillars of its mandate, thanks to the strong financial, political, and technical support of Qatar. The Office will continue to count on the contribution from Qatar, as its key partner. In addition, the support from other funding partners will be instrumental to enabling the Office to effectively fulfil its mandate to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.



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