



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite important advances in thwarting terrorist attacks across the world, the global threat of terrorism persisted and diversified throughout 2021, against a fluid context impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid development and adoption of new technologies. Increased polarization, together with a surge in conspiracy theories, anti-government sentiment, hate speech and violent extremist propaganda continued to provide fuel to terrorist radicalization and recruitment. Al-Qaida, Da'esh and their regional affiliates remained the dominant global terrorism threat, with signs that they might not only be emboldened by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan but could also reap operational benefits. The interplay between terrorism, weak governance, armed conflict and organized crime continued to complicate an already difficult state of affairs in fragile countries. Concerns have grown especially more acute over Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates gaining strength in parts of Africa. Tackling the new and emerging threats from terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, was also called for by Member States in the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Against this background, the Secretary-General presented his landmark report on 'Our Common Agenda' at the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly in September, in which he identified terrorism as a 'strategic security risk' that requires continued cooperation

as part of a New Agenda for Peace. He highlighted how protracted conflicts involving transnational networks and new actors are often associated with terrorism. Echoing his sentiments, more than 100 Member States pointed to terrorism as a serious threat to international peace and security during the General Debate, including its spread and devastating impact in conflict zones. Several world leaders called for strengthened multilateral cooperation at international and regional levels and stressed the role of the United Nations in this regard, with H.H. the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, affirming Doha's support to the United Nations entities and its participation in international efforts to combat terrorism and address its causes. A number of countries also referred to UNOCT and its initiatives on this occasion.

With the generous support provided by the State of Qatar and guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) continued throughout 2021 to spearhead the United Nations system's counter-terrorism efforts. Despite the operational challenges that persisted due to COVID-19 and the spread of new variants, the Office was able to continue delivering tailored, cost-effective and impactful capacity-building initiatives across the four pillars of the Strategy, upon request, by building on its successful adaptation and mitigation strategies initiated in 2020.

2021 was marked by several key milestones in the fight against terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations, making it a year of deep reflection amid a complex and uncertain global terrorism landscape. It coincided with the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373, which led to the establishment of its Counter-Terrorism Committee and set the framework for global counter-terrorism efforts in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States of America. The year also marked the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

As part of the year of commemoration, UNOCT led the organization of the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations in June, during which the General Assembly adopted the landmark seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy – a process supported by UNOCT as secretariat. The Counter-Terrorism Week also featured the Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States focusing on the impact of transformative technologies, which hosted H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and benefited from the valuable contributions of Major General Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Ansari, the Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee. Over the course of the week, UNOCT coordinated the organization of 36 virtual and hybrid side events that gathered more than 25,000 participants and viewers. Among these, the side events on behavioural insights programming to counter terrorism in the digital decade and mainstreaming counter-terrorism responses across parliamentary functions organized in partnership with the State of Qatar garnered particular interest.

Member States also reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive and multilateral response to the terrorism scourge through their active participation in the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in August and the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks with a special commemorative event organized by UNOCT at the 9/11 Memorial in New York that garnered over 300 delegates and reaffirmed the Office's commitment to supporting and standing with victims of terrorism. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on victims of terrorism, exacerbating a sense of isolation, triggering traumatic reactions, and in some cases, further limiting access to justice, and legal, financial, and psychosocial support in a post-pandemic era. The UNOCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme led by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT) continued to address the needs and advocate for the rights of victims of terrorism and developed key legislative provisions to serve as a model for the review and modernization of laws related to victims of terrorism, made possible through the generous donation of the State of Qatar.

Adapting to the pandemic environment, UNOCT expanded its digital capabilities to engage and collaborate with Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities through the use of virtual tools and solutions, thus enabling it to convene a broad range of webinars, meetings and other events. A hybrid modality was adopted for the successful Second Counter-Terrorism Week in June, which allowed UNOCT to reach a much wider and diverse audience. UNOCT also launched the Connect & Learn Platform in October which facilitates the delivery of e-Learning courses and the development of practitioners communities around the world, ensuring uninterrupted

implementation despite COVID-19 related restrictions. UNOCT also continued to explore the use of innovative technology solutions to maximize the potential of future technological advances, such as augmented and virtual reality and the use of video games as a tool to prevent radicalization.

2021 witnessed the full operationalization of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism which laid ground for the successful delivery of the Hub's core functions on research, capacity-building and advocacy. In its first year of full operationalization, the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism supported by the Shura Council has become a hub for research, knowledge, and capacity-building to enhance support to parliamentarians worldwide, leveraging on innovation and partnerships, successfully organizing key high-level events such as the *First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism* held in Vienna, Austria, and the *First Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies* held in Doha.

The Office also further strengthened its proximity to beneficiaries and partners through the establishment of new field-based presences in Africa, including the UNOCT Programme Office and Training Centre in Rabat, Morocco, and the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi, Kenya. At the same time, UNOCT continued to prioritize and strengthen its coordination with Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to enhance technical assistance in country and regional settings.

In addition, the State of Qatar continued to support several Global Programmes that have delivered tangible and impactful results in 2021. For example, by the end of 2021, the flagship Countering Terrorist Travel

Programme supported 49 beneficiaries, with 12 countries joining in 2021, and continued to shift towards concrete technical implementation with the United Nations 'goTravel' software now in use by 21 countries. The programme has also expanded into the maritime mode and added a new regional dimension with the launch of two regional informal working groups on passenger data for Eastern Europe and West Africa that will further strengthen cooperation and coordination in the area of passenger data exchange.

2021 also saw the official launch of new and innovative programmes such as the Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security to enhance inter-agency cooperation to enable Member States to efficiently and effectively address terrorism-related threats to critical civil aviation infrastructures; the Global Programme on Vulnerable Targets Protection to assist Member States' efforts to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks against their vulnerable targets; the Global Programme on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to promote coordination and good practices and strengthen capacities of Member States to counter UAS-related threats; and the Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme, with a component on countering kidnapping for ransom.

As part of UNOCT's consolidation efforts to respond to its rapid programmatic and organizational growth and build its institutional capacity to meet the demands of its mandate, UNOCT prioritized in 2021 the 'all-of-UNOCT' development of the *Strategic Plan and Programme Framework (SPPF)* to guide the delivery of the Office's functions in 2022-2025, inspired by a common mission and vision. The SPPF will help anchor the continuing attention paid by the Office to reinforcing its monitoring and evaluation efforts, enshrining a results-based culture,

and maximizing impact. These efforts were complemented by the review, revision and development of UNOCT's internal governance and guidance materials (i.e., strategies, policies, standard operating procedures, and guidelines), as well as steps to strengthen data-related capabilities through the recruitment of a dedicated Information Management Officer, conduct of information management assessment exercise, and development of internal and external information management tools.

In response to the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights and acting on the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June, the Office took further concrete action during the year to mainstream human rights and gender in its work. In addition to the adoption of a Gender Policy and Action Plan, UNOCT

developed several new gender-responsive and human-rights compliant programmes, and continued to engage with a broad range of civil society actors through regular round table discussions. While a dedicated high-level conference on counter-terrorism and human rights and the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism had to be postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19, UNOCT organized in May a virtual dialogue on counter-terrorism with human rights and civil society partners.

UNOCT's successful and unimpeded delivery of its mandated policy, coordination and capacity-building functions was possible through the strong political, financial and technical support from the State of Qatar. With the generous support from the State of Qatar, UNOCT will continue to advance the United Nations' efforts to strive for a future without terrorism.



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 is 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 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; and **(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 on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy unanimously adopted in July 2021 ([A/RES/75/291](#)).

By the end of 2021, the cumulative pledges from the State of Qatar reached \$92.8 million, making Qatar the second largest donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism and a vital strategic partner in supporting UNOCT's core policy, coordination and capacity-building functions and its ability to deliver tangible and impactful results in the fulfilment of its mandate. The generous support provided by the State of Qatar through the following contribution agreements has been crucial for UNOCT to further expand its programming and implementation into innovative priority areas of Member States.

Table 1: Contributions from the State of Qatar since 2018

Purpose of the Agreement	Signature date	Period covered	Amount	Amount Received*
Contribution for UNCCT aimed at strengthening the implementation of the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy	17 November 2016	Open	\$250,000	\$250,000

Purpose of the Agreement	Signature date	Period covered	Amount	Amount Received*
Support UNOCT core staffing and operational costs, as well as capacity-building programming. Main priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact 2. Programmes in the areas of using Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) data 3. Prevention and countering of violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism 4. Supporting victims of terrorism 	16 December 2018	Five years (2019-2023)	\$75 million	\$45 million
Joint Belarus/UNOCT High-level Conference "Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies" on 3-4 September, Minsk, Belarus	5 August 2019	2019	\$20,000	\$20,000
Establishment and operations of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha	8 September 2020	Three years (2020-2023)	\$5 million	\$5 million
Contribution agreement with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar for the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism	25 November 2020	Five years (2020-2025)	\$12.5 million	\$2.5 million

*Data as of 31 December 2021

In line with the terms and conditions of the relevant contribution agreements, UNOCT has reported on progress on the utilization of the financial contribution from the State of Qatar through its annual reports since 2019. This report covers implementation from 1 January to 31 December 2021 and demonstrates the substantial progress achieved despite the continued impact of COVID-19 on the operating environment in

which UNOCT's projects and activities were implemented. This report also provides progress update on the implementation of two contributions signed in 2020 for the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism based in Doha, Qatar.

2 STRENGTHENING COORDINATION, COHERENCE AND COMMON ACTION

2.1

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT



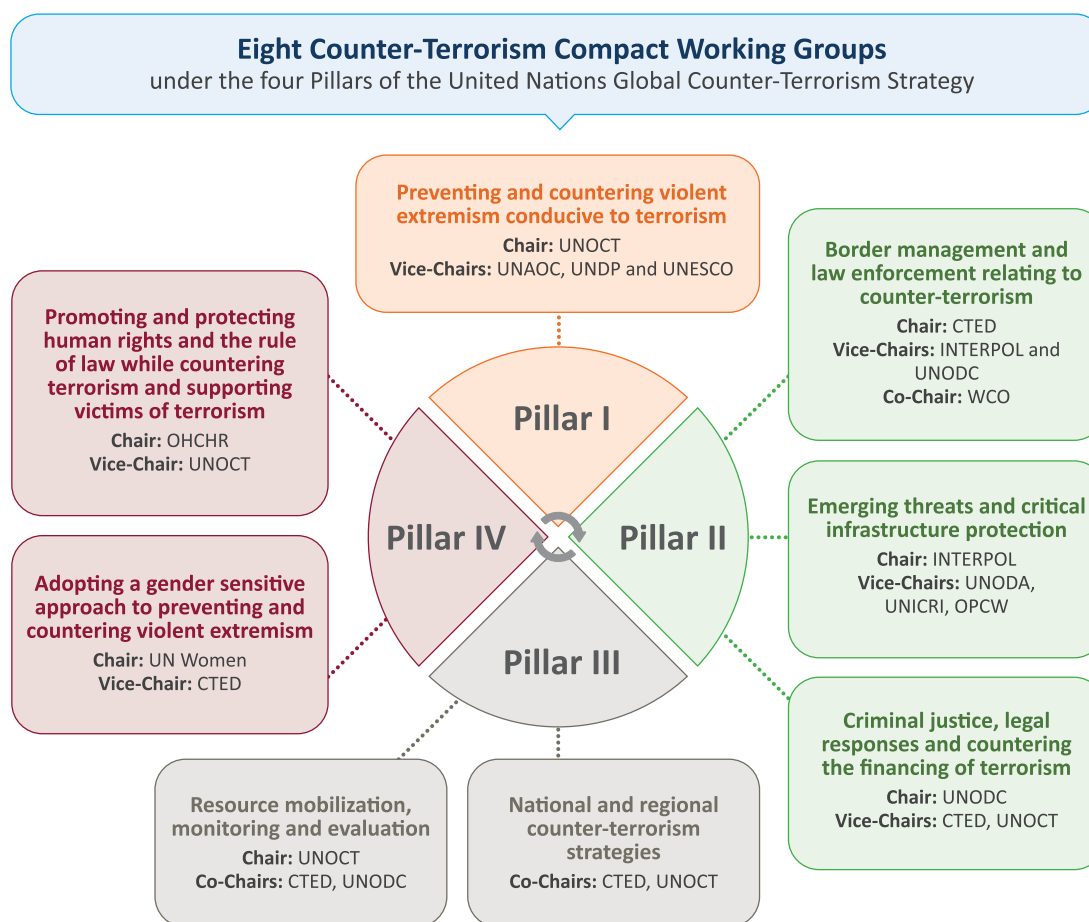
Progress in 2021

In 2021, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (hereinafter “the Counter-Terrorism Compact”) has continued to serve as the primary vehicle for coherent, coordinated and increased support to Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. During the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations held from 24 to 30 June 2021, Member States expressed appreciation for the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations system and reiterated the important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Compact. The seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy refers to the Counter-Terrorism Compact 29 times and provides a strong mandate to UNOCT to sustain the United Nations counter-terrorism coordination and coherence efforts.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact’s secretariat, which is a small, dedicated team operating in the Office’s Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), and funded solely through the contribution of the State of Qatar, has provided pivotal substantive and logistical support to enable the functioning of the Counter-Terrorism Compact’s Coordination Committee and its eight thematic working groups aligned with the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Coordination Committee, chaired by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, has met twice in 2021 at principal-level to provide strategic direction to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact. In June, the Coordination Committee submitted to the Secretary-General its second annual report on the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in 2020, which highlighted key achievements and progress of its work.

Figure 1: Working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact



Box 1: The Coordination Committee as a forum to discuss developments on the counter-terrorism landscape

Against the backdrop of the developments in Afghanistan, the Coordination Committee has served as a platform for information exchange on the evolving situation in the country and its impact on other regions. The Coordination Committee's meeting in October gathered 27 entities, and its meeting in December 2021 gathered 26 entities to hold strategic discussions on the risks and challenges related to recent developments and their impact on the United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts.

In the October meeting, the Permanent Representatives of Kenya and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of the European Union and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization shared their counter-terrorism concerns and expectations in terms of the United Nations role. Participants agreed on the need to prioritize the humanitarian response to support the people of Afghanistan, while helping mitigate the potential destabilizing impacts for the immediate region and beyond, with a

particular focus on strengthening border security and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Additionally, a strong emphasis was put on coherence, coordination and integration of the Counter-Terrorism Compact efforts with the field to enhance the impact of the United Nations' counter-terrorism engagement, in particular for capacity-building. In this regard, the Coordination Committee welcomed the growing involvement of Resident Coordinators and field representatives from entities as well as civil society in the meetings of the working groups.



6th Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee, 8 October 2021

The December meeting was convened on the initiative of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres who underscored how the terror threat is presently more diverse, spreading offline and online amid growing mistrust, polarization, weak governance, organized crime, and conflict, and encouraged entities to strengthen their efforts and partnerships through the Counter-Terrorism Compact to deliver technical assistance rooted in human rights and the rule of law. Participants highlighted the high threat level in Afghanistan and agreed that while there seems to be no major direct threat to Central Asian countries in the short-term, the medium to long term scenario is filled with uncertainties, including how fast Al-Qaida and Da'esh's "Khorasan Province" may

7th Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee, 14 December 2021



be able to constitute external operations capabilities. Counter-Terrorism Compact entities assessed that the dire economic, humanitarian and human rights situation will likely contribute to the expansion of the terrorist footprint in the country, creating a breeding ground for radicalization and spreading insecurity. They further noted that Afghanistan could become an appealing destination for terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters to receive training and organize attacks, with inevitable regional implications, and underscored the potential for a "global ripple effect" from the Taliban takeover as an inspirational factor for terrorist groups around the world. Going forward, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities agreed that collective efforts through the Counter-Terrorism Compact continue to be critical to strengthen the collective situational awareness and provide assistance to requesting Member States, notably through enhancing border controls, screening operations, the use of biometrics, and supporting the judiciary, and called for continued engagement to ensure the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan are respected and the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance. To this end, the Coordination Committee unanimously approved seven practical steps to enhance the regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its impact in the field.

Practical steps to enhance regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact

In consultation with the working groups Chairs, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat proposed the following seven practical steps for working groups to enhance regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact, which have been unanimously endorsed by the Coordination Committee in December:

1. Take into account country-specific recommendations from entities that have developed a strong knowledge and expertise in country situations
2. Include agenda items focused on addressing thematic issues in specific countries or regions
3. Invite field staff of entities to their meetings, including Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams of countries affected by terrorism
4. Engage with civil society organizations, women-led organizations and networks, youth, as well as with academic institutions, and the private sector representatives
5. Strengthen their engagements with Member States and regional organizations, and invite them to brief during their sessions and/or meetings
6. Explore concrete options for collaboration with the GCTF working groups
7. Leverage the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform to increase the online collaboration between Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Member States' focal points, and to grant access of field representatives of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to working groups' spaces

The two Counter-Terrorism Compact principal-level meetings allowed entities to share their early warning analysis, and to adapt and coordinate their responses to ensure a common approach to the provision of assistance where it is most needed, in line with the Secretary-General's guiding principles and Security Council resolution 2593 (2021) on Afghanistan.

The eight working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact have progressed in the implementation of their work plans and held 44 meetings in 2021 to facilitate information flow on initiatives and best practices, joint research, and capacity-building. UNOCT's Trust Fund has provided seed funding to support 18 joint projects implemented by the working groups, out of which three were funded thanks to the State of Qatar

as presented in Box 2. The remaining joint working group projects are currently under implementation.



Box 2: Working group projects with seed funding from the State of Qatar

1 “Global Digital Consultation” implemented by the working group on adopting a gender sensitive approach to preventing and countering terrorism.

As a follow-up to the project, which was completed in 2020, and under the lead of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and UN Women, dialogue sessions were organized for women-led civil society organizations that took part in the global digital consultation and the co-facilitators of the revision of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as technical experts. These consultations gave the opportunity for independent civil society organizations originating from and working in contexts impacted by terrorism to carry out advocacy efforts and provide substantive contributions to increase gender and human rights related provisions in the seventh review resolution.

2 Joint project on “Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for Peacebuilding” implemented by the working group on preventing and countering violent extremism.

In 2021, UNOCT/UNCCT, together with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), continued the implementation of the joint project “Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for



Peacebuilding”, which aims to provide support to young people in developing video games for preventing and countering violent extremism. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development in New Delhi, India, and works towards strengthening the positive role of youth in preventing and countering violent extremism efforts through co-creating game-based methodologies that develop relevant competencies for intercultural dialogue and socio-emotional learning. Following consultations with youth in Southeast Asia in 2021, the identified project deliverable is the development of a concept on how video games can be used as an effective educational tool for preventing and countering violent extremism interventions. The project will be finalized in the first quarter of 2022.

3 Joint project on “Independent Meta-Synthesis of Evaluations Conducted under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Implemented by the working group on resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation.

Described in more detail in box 9 in section 10 on Monitoring, evaluation and oversight.

The working group meetings facilitated dedicated and in-depth thematic briefings on the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy (HRDDP), CTED's technical assistance needs and recommendations, as well as issues such as acquisition and financing of arms by terrorist groups and the nexus between terrorism and climate change. Working groups also made additional efforts to invite Member States representatives to their meetings, as well as representatives from United Nations entities in the field, in line with the expectation set by Member States in the review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Through the working group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities launched the **2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism** on 29 June during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations which was subsequently presented and promoted in



various platforms. The Multi-Year Appeal has enabled Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to coordinate their request for the funding of 52 projects from 12 entities for a total of \$179 million, with an aim to avoid potential duplication, and to ensure that priority needs of Member States are supported in the most effective and efficient manner.



In 2021, the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) have further consolidated their collaboration through the participation in each other's high-level meetings and events, the holding of two partnership consultations and one joint side event during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, and the successful completion of two joint initiatives leading to the publication of guidance documents on the impact of counter-terrorism financing measures on humanitarian and civic space and on watchlisting.

The **Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform** (hereinafter "the Platform"), which is maintained with the support of the State of Qatar, has continued to serve as an innovative and need-based coordination tool for Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities. In 2021, the Platform facilitated the digital interaction and information exchange between over 911 focal points of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and 131 Member States, the European Union and the GCTF. It presently includes over 2,400 resource documents on its various pages and has been visited over 105,000 times since its launch.

In addition to the collaborative spaces used by working groups in their daily collaboration, the Platform features a new and user-friendly

matrix with 705 technical assistance needs and recommendations identified by CTED on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to inform entities' capacity-building efforts, and a project matrix. In 2021, the Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat has also developed, in collaboration with the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), chat and discussion forum functionalities to improve interactivity on the Platform. The Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat is currently developing a dedicated page for Member States resources. This space is another step towards enhancing the Counter-Terrorism Compact's engagement with Member States and its key partners and is expected to facilitate the understanding by Counter-Terrorism Compact entities of the counter-terrorism needs and priorities of Member States, foster further information exchange, and enhance Member States' visibility of the efforts carried out through the United Nations system. This section will host a standard 'counter-terrorism country resource page', with information on national counter-terrorism policies, priority areas, legislation, architecture, and international and regional cooperation frameworks based on inputs provided by Member States. Furthermore, the Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat will invite additional regional organizations to join the Platform.

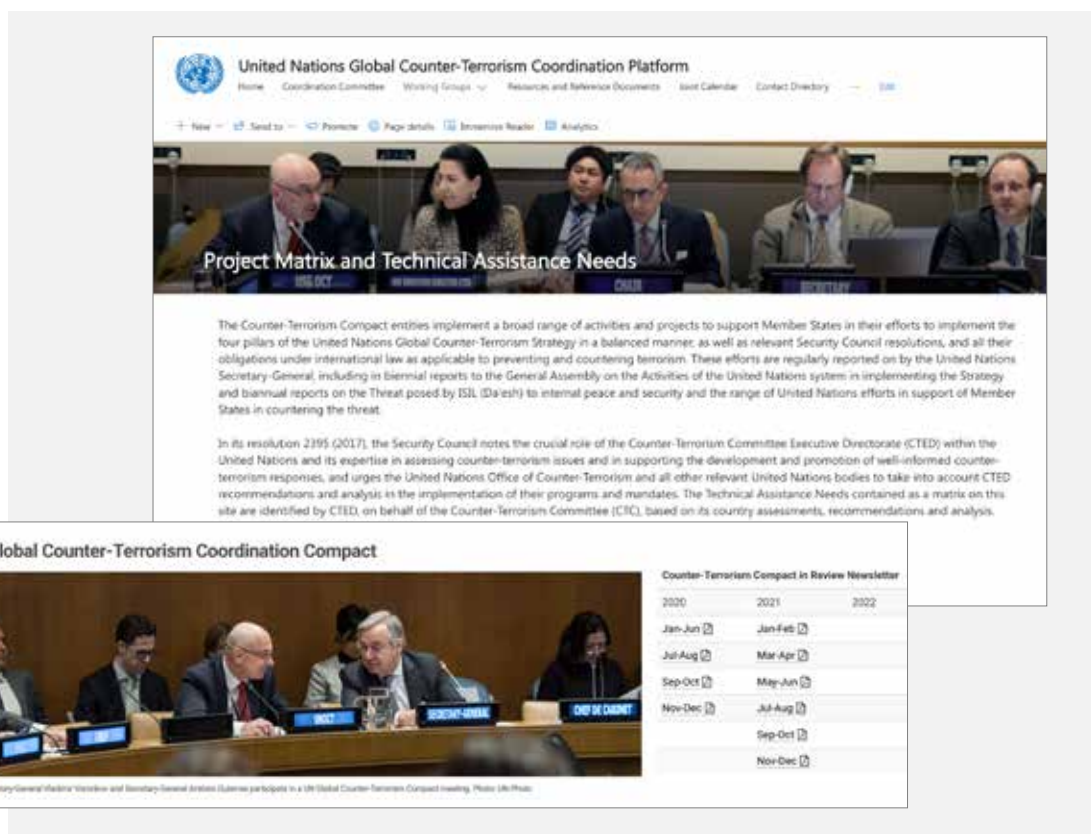
Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform



Key functionalities

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination platform provides to designated focal points from Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Member States the following key functionalities:

- Global Networking
- Searchable Contact Directory
- Thematic Resource Library
- Joint Calendar
- Multi-stakeholder Collaboration
- Dedicated Working Group Spaces
- Joint Planning and Prioritization
- Activity Trackers
- Matrix of UN Projects on preventing and countering terrorism
- CTED Technical Assistance Recommendations



The Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat also worked on increasing the visibility and outreach on the achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Compact through the development of six bi-monthly public newsletters published on the UNOCT website and the Platform, an annual newsletter for 2021, public web stories on the Coordination Committee meetings on the UNOCT website, a joint web story with the GCTF, and news posts on the Platform.

Key priorities for 2022

Building on the important priorities outlined during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the recommendations formulated by Counter-Terrorism Compact entities during the meetings of the Coordination Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat will prepare the Coordination Committee's Joint Programme of Work for 2022-2023, which will guide the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact during the next biennium.

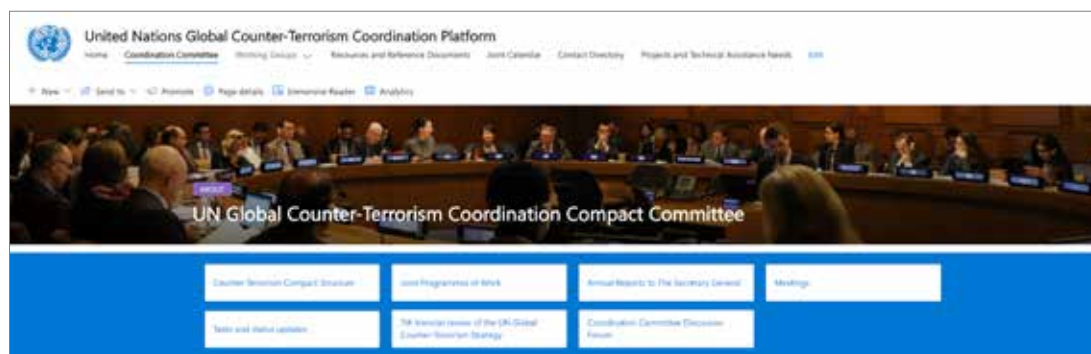
As a matter of priority, the Counter-Terrorism Compact will focus its efforts on strengthening the impact of engagement with Member States and of the Counter-Terrorism Compact on the ground, allowing for greater coherence in the United Nations delivery of assistance to Member States. The



Counter-Terrorism Compact will continue to place particular emphasis on strengthening the mainstreaming of human rights and gender and enhancing engagement with civil society, academia and the private sector. In addition, the Counter-Terrorism Compact secretariat will continue to re-tool the Platform to allow for a greater effectiveness of joint efforts and to increase transparency

and visibility of United Nations' counter-terrorism work towards Member States.

Finally, a key priority in 2022 will be to raise funds for the programmes and projects included in the Multi-Year Appeal to ensure a coherent and effective approach to resource mobilization.



2.2

HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

Virtual Dialogue with Human Rights and Civil Society Partners on Building a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter Terrorism, 25-26 May 2021.



On 25-26 May 2021, UNOCT partnered with Spain to deliver a two-day *Virtual Dialogue with Human Rights and Civil Society Partners on Building a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter Terrorism*. The event, delivered in virtual format, brought together over 325 participants, including 152 participants from 76 Member States, 34 participants from 15 United Nations entities, and 98 participants

representing 67 civil society organizations, as well as representatives from human rights, women-led and youth organizations.

The virtual dialogue facilitated a practical exchange of views on how to address terrorism and violent extremism while safeguarding and promoting human rights, in particular the rights of women, children and

victims of terrorism. One of the highlights of the event was the premiere launch of the documentary [“VictimA – Victims of Terrorism: Voices of Women from Spain”](#), which portrayed the voices of five women victims spanning several decades of terrorist acts in Spain. The film explored how these acts have impacted the lives of the women and how they became agents of change.



Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, 28-30 June



UNOCT delivered on 28-30 June, the Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. Convened in a hybrid format under the auspices of the Secretary-General on the theme of “Countering and Preventing Terrorism in the Age of Transformative Technologies: Addressing the Challenges of the New Decade,” the Conference brought together over 2,100 in-person and online participants representing 147 Member States, 38 United Nations entities, 38 international and regional organizations, and 88 civil society and private sector organizations in 13 interactive sessions featuring 85 eminent speakers. On the margins of the High-Level Conference, UNOCT also partnered with Member States, United Nations entities and other key stakeholders to organize 36 side events with online attendance from 25,000 participants.

The theme of the Conference responded to the concern expressed by participants during the First High-Level Conference of the Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened on 28-29 June 2018 by Secretary-General António Guterres, regarding the widespread use of information and communications



Photo / UNOCT



technologies (ICTs) by terrorists to spread their ideologies and coordinate attacks. Subsequent high-level regional conferences organized by UNOCT in partnership with Member States also underlined the need for more guidance on practical measures to address terrorist exploitation of ICTs in compliance with international law. This was echoed by Member States during the 2020 Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week organized by UNOCT in July 2020. They warned that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic would likely lead to more diverse terrorist threats, including cyber disruption of critical infrastructure. They further deemed the misuse of digital technologies and social media to spread terrorist narratives the most pressing issue requiring urgent joint action from governments, social media, technology companies, and civil society.

During the Second High-Level Conference, broad consensus emerged on the need to build resilience, strengthen efforts to promote and protect human rights while preventing and countering terrorism, and address the challenges and opportunities of transformative technologies. Some of the issues for which participants pressed for action included: (a) the unsettled issues emanating from ISIL/Da'esh atrocities in Iraq and Syria to prevent its resurgence, both through accountability and urgent

repatriation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and associated family members; (b) the increasing terrorist threat in some parts of Africa; (c) the transnational threat from terrorism and violent extremism driven by "xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief"; and (d) the enormous counter-terrorism potential of new technologies and the risks they pose to human rights if misused. Several participants specifically noted the need to strengthen international efforts to address the risks related to cyberattacks, encryption, blockchain, drones, 3-D printing, deep fakes, and the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorist attacks.

Under the Secretary-General's leadership, the High-Level Conference and the 36 side events held on its margins which brought a record number of 25,000 participants and viewers, saw productive exchanges among a broad range of stakeholders, fostering a shared understanding of counter-terrorism challenges in the new decade and practical ideas on how to partner and move forward to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions. The discussions echoed the priorities addressed during the seventh review of the Strategy and the resulting comprehensive and forward-looking resolution 75/291 adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on 30 June 2021, marking the end of the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations.



25,000 participants
36 side events

Consistent with the impetus provided to multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation by the first High-Level Conference held under the Secretary-General's leadership in 2018, and sustained through the seven High-Level Regional Conferences co-organized

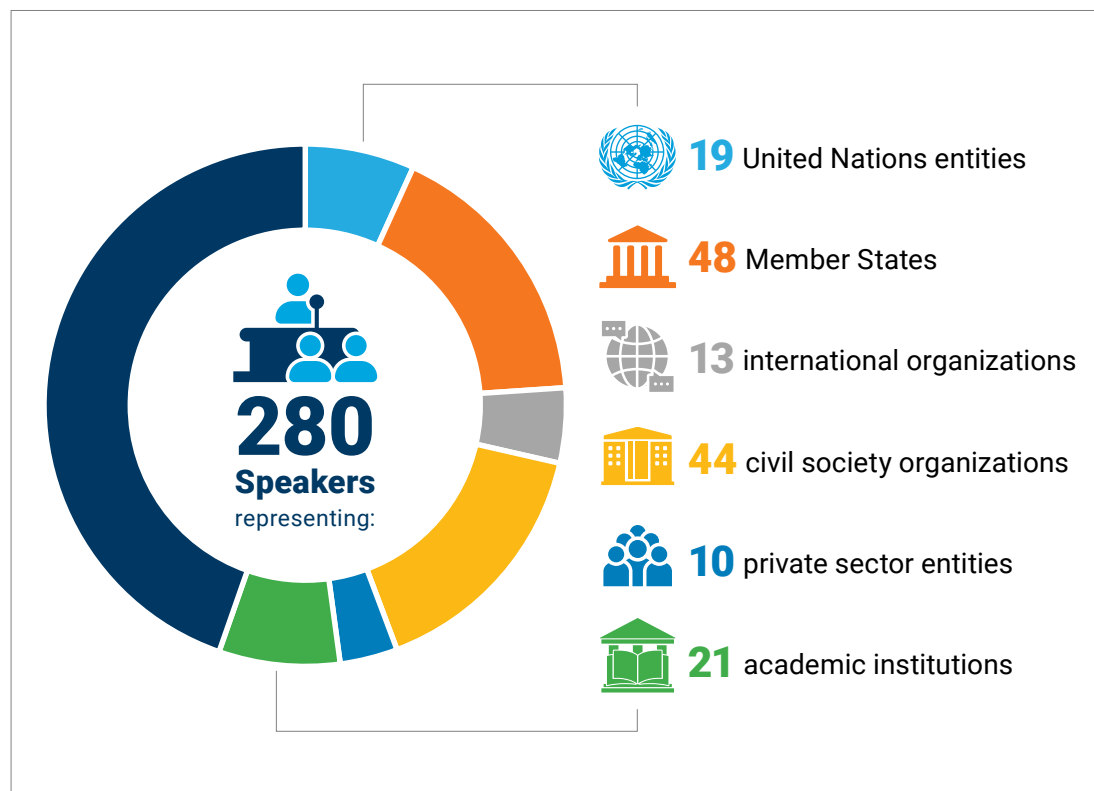
with Member States in different regions in 2019 and 2020, as well as UNOCT's Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week in July 2020, stakeholders appreciated the significant contribution of the Second High-Level Conference in strengthening inclusive and networked multilateralism in the fight against terrorism. The Conference also reaffirmed UNOCT's global agenda setting role, aligned with its policy leadership and coordination mandate.

The key outcomes of the Conference together with the adoption of the seventh review resolution, was to inform the capacity-building support to Member States, strengthen engagement with all relevant partners to broaden and deepen the consensus on prevention and building resilience, facilitate a human rights reset on counter-terrorism, as well as harness the challenges and opportunities of transformative technologies.

Side events organized during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week, 24-30 June 2021

Over the course of the Second Counter-Terrorism Week, UNOCT successfully coordinated a record number of 36 side events, organized by Member States, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, international and regional organizations, private sector, academia, and civil society organizations, which brought together over 25,000 total participants and viewers.

A total of 280 speakers participated in discussions, representing 19 United Nations entities, 48 Member States, 13 international organizations, 44 civil society organizations, 10 private sector entities, and 21 academic institutions. UNOCT organized or co-organized 19 side events on a diverse range of counter-terrorism issues such as artificial intelligence, misuse



of communication platforms, integrating gender into cybersecurity and new technologies, implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, the use of unmanned aircraft systems in the counter-terrorism context, securing vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks and major sporting events security governance, and mainstreaming counter-terrorism responses across parliamentary functions, among others.

The side events provided an opportunity to better understand and reflect on the challenges of the new decade in preventing and countering terrorism in the age of transformative technologies and offered an inclusive and interactive global platform for both policy makers and practitioners to exchange perspectives and recommendations across a wide array of thematic issues covering all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They highlighted the key role of new and emerging technologies in counter-terrorism and the need to engage public and private



sectors with particular emphasis on young people to benefit from the potential of new technologies and mitigate associated risks, while underscoring the need to mainstream human rights, age and gender considerations in the use of new technologies.

Through these side events, UNOCT was able to promote the work of its Doha-based programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement; launch the 2021-2022 Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism to mobilize “all-of-UN” funding for global counter-terrorism efforts; and launch various publications such as the United Nations Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events and the Parliamentary Guide to Facilitate the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The side events also created networking opportunities and reinforced existing partnerships (e.g., side event on Counter-Terrorism Compact-GTCF partnership), and enhanced visibility of and support for the United Nations’ counter-terrorism efforts. Moreover, the record number of side events demonstrated the increasing reach of and interest in UNOCT’s programmes, projects and activities.



High-Level Conferences planned for 2022

High-Level International Conference on Regional Cooperation among Central Asian States within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

The Conference will be held in Tashkent on 3-4 March 2022, in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan, the Uzbekistan Institute of Regional and Strategic Studies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). Organized in a hybrid format, the Conference will bring together over 200 high-level officials and experts from Central Asian States, representatives from international and regional organizations, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, civil society and academia, to discuss regional cooperation on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as conducive to terrorism within the framework of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

First Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance jointly convened with the State of Qatar:

The Beneficiaries Forum will be held on 28-29 March 2022 in a hybrid format in Doha. This will be the first annual forum bringing together beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical assistance, to assess the results and impact of the policy, coordination and capacity-building activities carried out by UNOCT in cooperation with its partners and supported by the State of Qatar. Participants will discuss strategic priorities that inform counter-terrorism programming, opportunities and challenges in the delivery of assistance, and how to improve

performance, programme development and implementation.

High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism “For a Future Free from Terrorism, Building Resilience with Civil Society through the Rule of Law and Human Rights”:

The Conference will be co-organized with the Government of Spain in Málaga, Spain, in May 2022. It is planned as an in-person event with a contingency to move to a hybrid or virtual format. This will be the first UNOCT conference dedicated to human rights and civil society. It will bring together Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, human rights and civil society actors, experts and other stakeholders, to engage in a robust and practical exchange of innovative ideas on how to strengthen social cohesion, build resilience, and effectively embed human rights, gender equality and the rule of law, into the international community’s response to terrorism and violent extremism, while safeguarding and promoting human rights, in particular the rights of women, children, and victims of terrorism. UNOCT will also coordinate and facilitate 15 in-person side events to be held on the margins of the conference.

High-Level Regional Conference on Border Security Management, Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Social Resilience:

The Conference is planned to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in collaboration with the Government of Tajikistan, in October 2022, in continuation of the Dushanbe Process launched through the first joint High-Level Regional Conference on Countering the Financing of Terrorism from the Proceeds of Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, which was co-hosted by UNOCT and Tajikistan in May 2019.

2.3

EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering with the private sector, academia, think tanks and civil society organizations (CSOs) is more important than ever to achieve the commitments under the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and pertinent Security Council resolutions. UNOCT's External Partnerships Section within the Special Projects and Innovations Branch (SPIB) continued to tap into innovative partnerships, proactively engaging with a diverse group of private sector partners, regional organizations, CSOs, grassroots organizations, academia and research institutes to leverage subject

matter expertise and create synergies to yield tangible and impactful results for Member States.

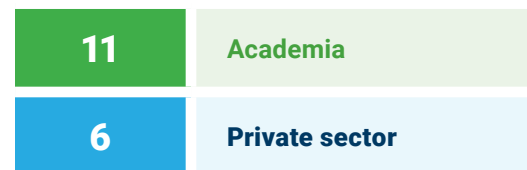
Progress in 2021

In 2021, UNOCT gathered multi-stakeholder perspectives making sure to include diverse voices, which resulted in rich dialogue and contributions from the private sector, academia, think tanks and CSOs, and helped to better inform UNOCT's policy and programmatic work.

Forward-Looking Platforms and Events Adopting a Whole-of-Society Approach

Launch of UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform: Innovative Tool Boosting UNOCT Capacity-Building Delivery

On 1 October, UNOCT successfully launched UNOCT's "Connect & Learn" platform on the margins of the high-level debate of the 76th United Nations General Assembly.



The platform's impact is two-fold. First, the eLearning platform houses widely accessible virtual resources on counter-terrorism (CT) and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE), courses, modules and training materials. Second, the Communities of Practice connect CT and PCVE practitioners and experts from academia, private sector, CSOs, and international and regional organizations from around





the world to engage in knowledge sharing, exchange of good practices and lessons learned. The platform acts as a force multiplier, with online delivery of dedicated eLearning modules to complement in-person workshops for UNOCT Global Programmes in a new, innovative and sustainable business model that will remain a key tool during and post COVID-19 pandemic environment. To enhance engagement with Member States, UNOCT conducted dedicated coordination and outreach meetings with Member States and organizations, providing briefings on the features and tools of the platform. The platform serves to enhance the Office's overall reach as virtual courses overcome barriers such as cost, remote locations, and pandemic-related movement restrictions. In just over three months since its launch, the platform already hosts nearly 500 users.

Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality Expert Roundtable

As part of its digital series, on 8 July, UNOCT held a webinar on "The Application of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Technologies in Countering Terrorism and in Preventing Violent Extremism" in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, gathering over 1,000 viewers and

participants. This key global event raised awareness among all relevant actors on the applicability of AR/VR technologies in CT and PCVE efforts, including in the delivery of trainings, and helped establish and strengthen collaboration between Member States, CSOs, the private sector, academia, and think tanks. The webinar discussed the practical and theoretical implications of integrating these emerging technologies into CT/PCVE efforts and examined the underlying ethical issues associated with their use, including the protection of privacy and potential misuse of these technologies by terrorists and violent extremist groups.



Civil Society Engagement

CSO Roundtable

On 29 November, UNOCT hosted the third UNOCT Civil Society Organization Roundtable, led by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Gregorian to promote a principled approach to CT and PCVE efforts through increased senior level engagement with CSOs. The Deputy to the



Under-Secretary-General hosted a group of over 17 representatives from 15 CSOs consisting of grassroots organizations, regional and international non-profits, ensuring geographical diversity and including several women and youth-led organizations. The informative event was a successful step towards the Office's commitment for civil society engagement and provided an opportunity for CSOs to engage directly with senior-level United Nations officials and provide feedback on UNOCT's current and upcoming civil society engagement activities.



Engagement with Academia and Think Tanks

Academic Webinar on Lessons Learned from the European Union PVE Strategies

On 29 April, UNOCT organized a seminar on Implementation of the European Union's PVE Policies in cooperation with the European Union-funded PREVEX research network. The seminar presented PREVEX's in-depth analysis of the implementation of adopted PVE measures and practices in the European Union and a selection of its Member States vis-à-vis the Western Balkans and the broader Middle East and North Africa region.

Over 120 members of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact and UNOCT participated in the seminar, where practitioners discussed best practices and lessons learned on how to support PVE efforts.

Promotion of UNOCT's Mandate through Renowned Publications

UNOCT facilitated the publication on the United Nations and Counter-Terrorism in the Post-Pandemic World by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General. In light of the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the negotiation of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Peace Institute's Global Observatory has launched a series on "20 years into UN policies on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism: Assessment and Prospects". The series features renowned policy and legal experts engaging in reflection on the evolving United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and the relevant body of decisions adopted by Member States to date.

Coordinator of Global CT Efforts Across all Sectors, Including Academia

In 2021, UNOCT reinforced cooperation between academic institutions and the United Nations system. Notably, the Pusan National University in the Republic of Korea engaged with OICT to develop, implement, and maintain technology solutions for goTravel and goFintel underpinning the delivery of two flagship UNOCT Global Programmes on countering terrorist travel and combating the financing of terrorism. Similar efforts were conducted with the Austrian Institute of Technology and the Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates to provide in-kind expert support to OICT to enhance its efforts to develop, implement and maintain these software solutions, as well as to collaborate on the use of emerging technologies.

UNOCT Resource Library

In 2021, UNOCT further expanded its Resource Library with a list of world-renowned academics to assist UNOCT colleagues in collaborating with subject matter experts. The Library's objective is to help establish collaborative relations and strategic partnerships between UNOCT and think tanks, universities, and other research institutions. The academic list for the Resource Library now contains 189 counter-terrorism experts from institutions representing 36 different countries.

Priorities for 2022

General Partnerships Strategy: Moving forward, UNOCT will develop a strategic framework on collaborative partnerships and commitments between the Office and relevant parties to work together to achieve common objectives in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The framework will feature a broad range of mutually beneficial partnerships that support the achievement of UNOCT's mandate and ensure innovation in CT/PCVE initiatives and activities.

Civil Society Engagement: UNOCT will hold three round tables in 2022 under the leadership of the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, and plans to establish a Network of vetted CSOs categorized by theme, size, and region to be made available to Member States at their request. UNOCT will launch the CSOs Online Community, providing a space for CSOs across the globe to connect with one another to exchange information, good practices, and lessons learned.

Private Sector Engagement: UNOCT will organize an expert panel event building upon its successful AR/VR and Video Games events in 2021, focusing on safeguarding emerging digital spaces including the Metaverse. It will also seek to increase engagement with

Global Internet Forum to Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT) and Tech against Terrorism (TaT) and prioritize its outreach and advocacy with the business sector and foundations through partnerships, innovation and collaboration. UNOCT will continue to explore new funding modalities, procedures, and frameworks for multi-year strategic engagement with the private sector which will be reflected in the Private Sector Fundraising Strategy, an implementation action plan, and training modules on private sector fundraising for UNOCT field programme offices.

Academia and Think Tank Engagement:

UNOCT is in the process of developing an innovation proposal to respond to Member States' call for UNOCT to build, enhance, connect, harness and steer existing technology and innovation capabilities towards identifying and adopting innovative and transformative new solutions to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's call that "each organization across the United Nations system should develop an action plan to build the necessary architecture, partnerships, and culture to encourage and scale innovation" (Resolution CEB/2018/1).

UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform: UNOCT will include additional eLearning activities and Communities of Practice for the Office's Global Programmes and engage with private sector, academia, and think tanks to share knowledge and best practices through the platform. UNOCT will produce instructional material to enhance user experience, develop a risk assessment and mitigation strategy to ensure information security, and regularly monitor the level of engagement. The Office will also deploy a wide range of new functionalities to the platform such as a mobile-app, a user moderation feature, advanced security features, user analytics, a search engine, and peer-to-peer messaging, and provide for the translation of the platform to all six United Nations official languages.

3 OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

3.1

PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

3.1.1 Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme



The primary objective of the UNOCT/UNCCT Youth Engagement and Empowerment project (YEEP) co-funded by the State of Qatar in 2021, is to empower young women and men to contribute meaningfully in the United Nations global, regional and national efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism, while supporting international efforts to strengthen the resilience of youth against radicalization. It reinforces and contributes to youth-focused PCVE efforts and strengthens partnerships with civil society organizations. It promotes the role of young women and men as positive agents of change and collaborates with them to strengthen community resilience, social cohesion and improve

cooperation to address the conditions conducive to terrorism.

Progress in 2021

The YEEP Peer-to-Peer Model (P2P) was piloted in Australia, Sweden and Sudan, empowering young people to participate in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism. It involved training youth cohorts on the topics of dialogue, facilitation, difficult conversations, leadership, and peer mentorship to enable them to facilitate and hold their own workshops in a “Training-of-Trainers” modality. The final stage involved a UNOCT/UNCCT-convened

policy dialogue between the youth facilitators and senior officials at the national and international levels to enable the youth to present their policy recommendations to policy and decision makers.

The P2P pilot model emerged as a powerful and impactful technique to work 'with, on and for youth' and provided a space for open discussion that culminated in the development of concrete CT/PCVE policy recommendations based on priorities identified by youth.

Across the three pilot countries, the YEEP achieved the following:

- Enabled 263 young men and women to express their views, priorities, and concerns in relation to violent extremism and terrorism.
- Out of the total participants the YEEP engaged between 2020 and 2021, 58% were women and 42% men. This amounted to 173 young women and 125 young men directly engaged in the programme, particularly at the grassroots level and in hard-to-reach communities. This includes young people from communities with high rates of Foreign Terrorist Fighters who travelled to Iraq and Syria, refugee communities, and young people who had self-reported experiences of being targeted by violent extremist groups and ethnic and religiously-driven hate speech online.
- Built the capacity of 35 young empowered leaders, who then delivered 19 P2P workshops.
- Led 19 P2P workshops, four webinars and three training programmes.
- In total, 298 young people between the age of 14 and 30 were reached, of which 173 were young women and 125 were young men.

The YEEP issued a call for applications in July 2021 to expand its signature P2P to South Asia and Southeast Asia, receiving 706 applications in total: 384 men and 316 women and six other. Out of the 706 applicants, 36 young leaders were selected, 16 women and 20 men.

Following the successful the YEEP P2P pilot, on July 2021, UNOCT issued a call for applications to expand its work to South Asia and Southeast Asia. This constitutes UNOCT/UNCCT's next phase of engagement with young PCVE leaders and advocates, and the first at a regional level. This call for applications received over 706 applications from South and Southeast Asia. Following three rounds of assessment, 36 young peacebuilders have been selected to become the first YEEP regional cohort in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Visit: bit.ly/3iJ1bUi for more information.

Priorities for 2022

UNOCT is currently developing the second phase of this project to expand on its existing activities, build on lessons learned, and further align with UNOCT/UNCCT's youth work with the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. In 2022, UNOCT plans to establish the Youth Fellowship Programme to raise awareness of CT/PCVE issues and build the leadership potential of youth at a global scale. This will be complemented with the establishment of a UNOCT/UNCCT Youth Advisory Group to guide the mainstreaming of Youth, Peace and Security considerations into all UNOCT and UNCCT relevant programmes, projects and portfolios, as well as the creation of a "Youth Against Terrorism" Network with a social media presence and dedicated virtual platform curated "with and for" youth.

UNOCT is an active member of the United Nations Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security and will become the co-chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network

for Youth Development in April 2022. In addition, the project team is currently exploring partnerships with the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Office of the Special Envoy

on Youth, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Population Fund, Search for Common Ground, and a number of grassroots-level youth networks.

Examples of the Youth Programme's social media visibility

UNCCT Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Over **700** Youth Engaged → From **50** Countries

35 Young facilitators received
• 2 Weeks' Training
• 10 Hours Individual Coaching

Peer-to-Peer Workshops in Australia, Sudan and Sweden **19**

5 Outreach Events

2020-2021

EMPOWERMENT

Training, mentoring and monitoring young leaders to engage with their peers on difficult conversations regarding violent extremism.

ENGAGEMENT

Establish mechanisms for meaningful youth inclusion and a UNCCT network of youth alumni and border dialogues with senior officials.

COMMUNICATIONS

Amplify the voice of young women and men to show the potential and perceived role they play to promote peace and social cohesion in their communities.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Synthesize an synergies within the UN system, and leveraging the position of civil society organizations and private sector actors.

UNCCT Youth Programme Survey

133 workshop participants completed the surveys across Sudan, Sweden and Australia

3 x More youth felt listened to and included in PCVE work

83% Youth participants felt their contribution was valuable

99% Recommend attending the youth workshops with their peers

100% Young Facilitators felt they met their priorities relating to violent extremism

Young people engaged with UNCCT Youth Program unanimously share the same perspective on violent extremism

Terrorism and violent extremism are real threats, which youth want to prevent in their communities

Terrorism and violent extremism are real threats, which youth want to prevent in their communities

Terrorism and violent extremism are real threats, which youth want to prevent in their communities

reviving history
Political change
Cultural Awareness
Educational Reform
youth action
connect with homeland

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism @UN_OCT Aug 12, 2021

Giving a voice to young people is imperative to learn from their experiences with violent extremism. **#UNCCT** youth program collaborates with young men & women to tell their stories driving community solidarity & building **#PCVE** awareness **#Youth4Peace** **#IYD2021**

0:07 / 1:15

Call for Applications

To register for the Youth Engagement Programme: bit.ly/3B614ci

Deadline 10 Sept

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

3.1.2 UNOCT Programme offices expansion/consolidation in 2021



The General Assembly, through the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/75/291):

“recognized the important role of the United Nations in providing integrated and coordinated assistance at the field level, and noting in this regard the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in increasing its field presence, including at the regional level through programme offices in Hungary, Kenya, Morocco, Qatar and Spain to facilitate the delivery of programmes closer to beneficiaries, enhance their impact and cost-effectiveness, and strengthen cooperation with national and local counter-terrorism actors, as well as regional bodies and other providers and recipients of assistance.”

International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, which have been operationalized through the vital support of the State of Qatar. In addition, funding from Qatar supported field presences in Budapest and Madrid. The Budapest Office includes the Strategic Planning and Programme Support Section which supports all of UNOCT in human resources, finance, procurement, office management and other administrative matters. On the programmatic side, the Budapest Office hosts the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and the Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM) initiative. In Madrid, funding from the State of Qatar supported the implementation of the Global Vulnerable Targets Programme, Global Sports Programme, and Victims of Terrorism Programme.

In 2021, UNOCT field presence expanded to a total of 14 countries with UNOCT personnel deployed to Ashgabat, Baghdad, Bangkok, Bishkek, Brussels, Budapest, Dhaka, Doha, Khartoum, Madrid, Manila, Nairobi, Ouagadougou, and Rabat.¹ This field presence includes the Doha-based



14 COUNTRIES
now with UNOCT field presence

¹ In 2022, UNOCT personnel will no longer be deployed in Dhaka and Bishkek.

3.1.3 Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events



The three-year (2020-2022) Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), (hereinafter referred as the “Global Sports Programme”), is co- implemented by the United Nations Interregional Criminal Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNAOC and the International Centre for Sport and Security (ICSS), in close consultation with CTED. The Global Sports Programme is co-funded by the State of Qatar, the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (China), and the Republic of Korea.



In 2021, the programme gained increased recognition across Member States, relevant United Nations entities, sports federations and civil society, and contributed to an increased Member States awareness of terrorism-related threats against vulnerable

targets and enhancing their ability to prevent and counter threats against major sporting events (MSE). The Global Sports Programme also assisted Member States, Sport Federations and civil society on the use of sport and its values for PVE.

Progress in 2021

On 20 and 21 January, the Programme hosted its first online Youth Consultation that gathered 48 young leaders from 40 countries and 20 National Focal Points from the Programme’s PVE workstream. The two-day discussion focused on advancing the role of sport in PVE efforts and youth and girls’ engagement in policymaking processes. The Programme organized the discussion “(Re)building post-pandemic societies: youth using sport to prevent and counter violent extremism” during the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April 2021 on the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, where youth discussed the impact of COVID-19 on sports and offered guidance as to how young people could be involved in the implementation of PVE strategies. Participants included representatives from CSOs, Generation Amazing (Qatar) and Integrated Community Development

Initiative (Uganda), the United Kingdom government-led programme PREVENT, the National Youth Services Council from the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Sri Lanka, as well as Ms. Aya Medany from Egypt, the youngest competing athlete in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. The forum provided a unique space to promote women and girls' participation in sports and demonstrated the role of youth and sports in preventing violent extremism.

On 29 June, during the 2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, the programme organized a side event on *Securing of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks: Promoting Sustainable Security and Legacies*, attended by 170 experts representing Member States, international and regional organizations, and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities. The event highlighted the importance of multi-level and multi-stakeholder cooperation as critical to strengthen security of major sporting events and value of sports for PCVE.

In 2021, the Global Programme carried out one technical assessment mission, implemented a virtual training on "*Planning and Security of Major Sporting Events*", and published a guide on the security of sporting events and the prevention of violent extremism through sports. It completed the selection and awarding process of grants for CSOs launched in 2020 which gathered

interest from 441 CSOs from 74 countries. In total, the Global Sports Programme awarded grants to 10 CSOs to implement sport values-based community-level PVE projects. These are innovative projects to promote PCVE with a focus on women, girls and youth empowerment. The promotion of human rights and gender were key requirements of the grant mechanism.

In addition, the Global Sports Programme delivered virtually a 12-week training to law enforcement, intelligence, and other relevant agencies from Costa Rica and El Salvador in advance of the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup and 2022 Central American Games to be held in these countries. The training was delivered in collaboration with FIFA and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States. It covered topics such as gender perspective on the security of MSE, the importance of applying legal and institutional frameworks to respect human rights, and the creation of sustainable sport events in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda. The training was attended by 22 national officers who improved their security skills and contributed to strengthening relevant interagency coordination for future sporting events. While this activity was offered virtually due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, a second follow-up in-person training will take place in Q1 2022.



Following virtual debriefings on the security arrangement for the Total Energies 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, the programme worked with the Security of Organizing Committee of Cameroon and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to support the preparation of security measures and conducted a series of briefings with the Police of Cameroon and the CAF. In addition, the programme undertook a one-week mission to Cameroon with the CAF Safety and Security Department and the FIFA to inspect training sites and hospitality facilities to be used during the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations that will take place in 2022. The mission resulted in the preparation of an assessment of the level of implementation of security measures and recommendations to guide the Cameroon Local Organizing Committee and facilities' managers to ensure security preparedness during the tournament. In addition, initiatives on sport and PVE were discussed with CAF's Social Responsibility Department and with the Head of the Yaoundé-based African Union Sport Council to seize the momentum of the Africa Cup of Nations and conceptualize a broader engagement in the continent beyond major football events.

On 13-15 December, the National Focal Points network, comprising 187 senior officials nominated by Members States, began its series of regional level meetings with a two-day meeting held in Málaga, Spain. The meeting was opened by the Mayor of Málaga and a senior representative of Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thirty representatives from Member States and relevant United Nations entities took part in the event and actively shared expertise and good practices on the security of major sporting events and the prevention of violent extremism. The event created a unique space for the exchange of information and best practices for the different public officials and law enforcement agencies involved.

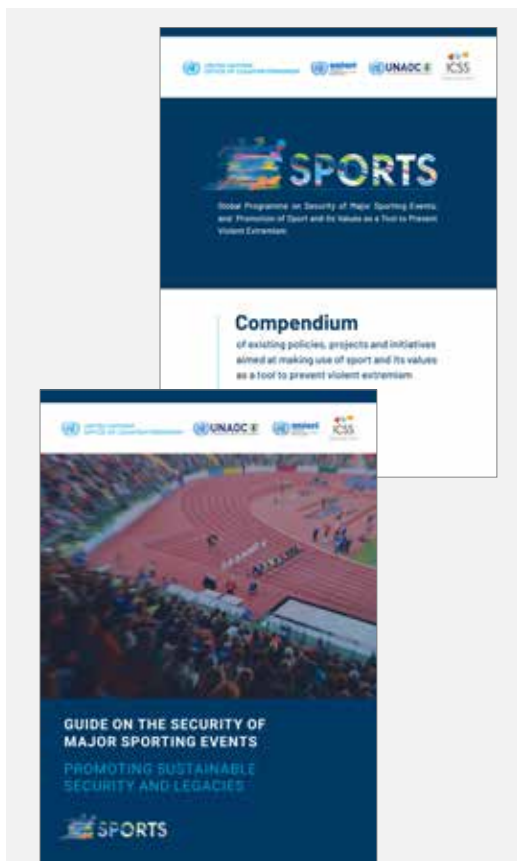
The Global Sports Programme created two communities of practice on the security of MSEs and PVE hosted in the UNOCT Connect and Learn virtual platform. These communities of practices are comprised of hundreds of participants representing Member States, the academia, experts, sports federations and civil society organizations, and provides a space where practitioners and policymakers can exchange good practices and share expertise for the security planning of MSEs.



Photo / UNOCT: European National Focal Points Regional Forum, 13-15 December 2021, Málaga, Spain

Publications

On 29 June, the Programme launched the *"United Nations Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sustainable Security & Legacies"* on the margins of the 2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. The guide was translated into Russian and will be available in all United Nations languages in 2022. The *"Compendium of Existing Policies, Projects and Initiatives Aimed at Making Use of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism"* (the "PVE Compendium") was launched in March 2021 to help Member States integrate sports based PVE activities into national PVE action plans. Both publications benefited from the contributions of the National Focal Points elected by the Member States, the Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups on PCVE and Emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection, international and regional organizations, sports federations and associations, the private sector, the academia and the civil society.



Priorities for 2022

A key priority is the organization of the High-Level Round Table on Sports Security and PVE scheduled in March 2022 in Doha. The Global Programme will present its main achievements and kickstart a media campaign to strengthen resilience against violent extremism, especially among youth. It will also launch the Guide for Policymakers for the Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the six United Nations languages, as well as the translation of the Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sustainable Security & Legacies into the five remaining United Nations languages. These publications will be disseminated on the margins of the Beneficiaries Forum planned to take place on 28-29 March in Doha.

The Global Programme will capitalize on the significant media attention allotted to the 2022 major sport events and will ensure due recognition to the State of Qatar and other donors of the programme.

In 2022, the Global Sports Programme will complete the development, production and delivery of two e-learning modules on the security of major sporting events and on the prevention of violent extremism, and launch a living georeferenced digital map of the Compendium of existing policies, projects and initiatives aimed at making use of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism to be include in UNOCT Connect&Learn Platform. The map will include information on programmes, projects and initiatives implemented by Member States, organizations and United Nations entities on sports security and PCVE around the world as well as international best practices on the subject.

Finally, the programme will continue to coordinate with CSOs on their ongoing projects on the prevention of violent extremism through sport-based initiatives.

3.1.4 Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets



On 19 January 2021, UNOCT and the State of Qatar launched the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets (herein by referred as the “Global Programme on Vulnerable Targets”) as a multi-year endeavour implemented in partnership with CTED, UNICRI and UNAOC and in collaboration with the Intermapoma; Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). At the high-level segment, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov stressed how the programme directly responds to a fundamental goal of the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda: to ensure that all people can safely enjoy their daily life without fear of terrorist violence. The launch of the programme received strong support from Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. The tweets of the launch were among the most popular UNOCT tweets in 2021. Furthermore, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee requested a UNOCT briefing on the Global Programme at the open briefing on “*Protection of ‘soft’ targets against terrorist attacks*” which was held in a virtual format on 27 January 2021.

The results achieved over the past year directly supported the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well

as Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017) and 2396 (2017) and the Security Council Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and its 2018 Addendum. As the implementation of the programme progressed over the course of the year, Member States increasingly focused their attention on the importance of protecting vulnerable targets. In June 2021, Member States included two preambular and four operative paragraphs on vulnerable targets in the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Additionally, Security Council resolution 2617 (2021) adopted in December 2021 also included new specific language on the protection of critical infrastructure and ‘soft targets’ as part of the new mandate of CTED and recognized the crucial cooperation with UNOCT in this area.

Progress in 2021

During its first year of existence the Global Programme on Vulnerable Targets sought to strengthen the capacity of Member States to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks against their vulnerable targets. The Programme, through the development of knowledge products, technical assistance and capacity building to Member States, and the creation

of a Global Network of Experts, put a strong emphasis on building resilience, promoting public-private partnerships and promoting

collaborative synergies amongst relevant stakeholders across the world.

Knowledge products

In 2021, the programme developed knowledge products that have served as a strong basis for the tailored technical assistance provided to Member States, both online and in-person. Five specialized modules were produced on (i) general aspects of safety and security of “soft” targets; (ii) safeguarding religious sites and places of worship; (iii) the protection of tourist sites; (iv) urban centers and (iv) against threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). These five new handbooks were developed by a specialized expert in consultation with UNOCT, CTED, UNICRI and UNAOC and benefitted from a comprehensive review process from specialized United Nations entities under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, complementing the *Compendium of Good Practices for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks* produced by INTERPOL,



UNOCT and CTED in 2018. The modules, which will be available in early 2022 in Arabic, English, French and Russian, feature a comprehensive selection of case studies, good practices and recommended tools from around the world to help policymakers, practitioners, researchers and experts from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia strengthen the protection of vulnerable targets.



Image / UNOCT: “Vulnerable Space Protection Demonstration” with unmanned aircraft systems. 26 May 2021, Spain.

Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets

To inform the specialized modules, increase the visibility of the programme, and develop synergies among experts on vulnerable targets protection across the world, UNOCT held three virtual expert group meetings (EGM) in 2021 on: (i) safeguarding religious sites and places of worship (19 January); (ii) protection of tourist sites and urban places (15-16 June); and (iii) UAS-related threats



to vulnerable sites (6-7 October). The three EGMs generated significant interest bringing together over 1,000 representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Moreover, the EGMs paved the way for the establishment of a new *Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks* hosted in the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform. This new online professional community seeks to foster synergies between experts from across the world and exchange good practices and information on the protection of vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and “soft” targets. In only three months of existence the Network already gathered 100 members, including experts from academia, civil society, international and regional organizations and the private sector, demonstrating great interest in the programme. The community has facilitated and enriched interactions among experts and also includes a virtual library (repository of good practices) on vulnerable targets.

Technical assistance and capacity-building

The Global Programme on Vulnerable Targets has also generated a strong demand of technical assistance and capacity-building from Member States, especially in Africa and Asia. UNOCT has received official assistance requests from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tajikistan, Togo and Tunisia, provided capacity-building to Sudan for 40 practitioners from relevant Sudanese ministries and agencies in September 2021, and received expressions of interest from five other Member States.

While travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have slowed down in-country consultations, the programme has successfully launched

technical assistance in Tunisia and Togo – the latter through a high-level event



jointly opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Togo, H.E. Mr. Robert Dussey, and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov in November. Additionally, UNOCT and CTED held preparatory meetings with Member States' counterparts and developed a comprehensive methodology for in-depth consultations with beneficiary countries to identify national strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats across three fundamental pillars, i.e., legal and regulatory

framework, institutional structure and operational and technical readiness as relevant to vulnerable targets protection. As a result of this deep dive analysis, each beneficiary receives a road map with concrete recommendations on measures required to improve the safety and security of critical infrastructure and "soft" targets against terrorist attacks based on priority capacity-building needs or gaps identified.

Management and communications

In 2021, UNOCT reached an agreement with Spain to open a new Programme Office in Madrid with the Vulnerable Targets Programme forming the core of its operations. This transition from Headquarters in New York to Madrid has allowed significant cost-savings, brought the programme closer to beneficiary countries to better assess and tailor programme activities, and provided increased visibility, particularly in Europe, Africa and Asia and among potential donor and beneficiary Member States. In all its activities, the programme has put particular attention to visibility and

communication efforts, recognizing the critical importance of the generous funding of the State of Qatar. For example, H.E. Ambassador Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al Thani opened the launch and three EGMs organized in 2021. The generous funding provided by the State of Qatar for the programme has been recognized in the specialized modules on vulnerable targets protection and all other communication products, including tweets, webpage content, Connect & Learn platform, brochures, and other substantive, promotional and outreach materials (in Arabic, English, French and Russian).

Priorities for 2022

UNOCT will focus on further delivering technical assistance and capacity-building to current beneficiary Member States (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tajikistan, Togo and Tunisia) and to other potential beneficiaries that still need to formalize their request (e.g. Indonesia, Uzbekistan); expanding the Global Network of Experts through e-learning, increasing synergies among experts, organizing in-person regional/sub-regional events and expanding the membership; and building the virtual library of good practices, as well as updating knowledge products. The programme also

plans to expand its visibility efforts through the production of new communication products such as a promotional video, as well as its outreach and fundraising efforts to expand the pool of programme partners and donors. Furthermore, UNOCT will launch a new initiative to train law enforcement officials on the application of behavioural insights to the protection of vulnerable targets building on the respective expertise of and innovative partnerships between the three UNOCT Programme Offices based in Madrid, Rabat and Doha.

3.1.5 Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations

The Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (hereby referred as “the Global CT Investigations Programme”), a three-year programme co-funded by the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the United Kingdom, was launched in the second quarter of 2021, with an initial focus on Africa. The programme helps selected Member States to develop and implement comprehensive investigative strategies in order to address crime and counter terrorism. It assists in the development of a National Counter Terrorism Policing curriculum as well as the establishment of Counter-Terrorism Training Centres and partnerships with national and regional law enforcement training institutions, international law enforcement training establishments, and universities.

The programme also supports Member States in building capacities to prevent, investigate, manage and counter kidnapping for ransom (KFR), including maritime KFR. This pillar is implemented jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Middle East and North Africa region (Libya and Sudan), the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger), West Africa (Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea), and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines).

Progress in 2021

In 2021, the Global CT Investigations Programme produced multiple knowledge and training products to improve the national capabilities of beneficiary countries to professionally investigate offences of crime and terrorism. This includes the report on *Understanding the Need in Africa and Southeast Asia* which maps the capacity-building needs across these regions through

individual country profiles for priority countries and provides an Action Plan to address key threat levels and capacities gaps. In 2021, the programme completed the development of a professional investigator training programme through extensive desk research and analysis of national and international training materials, in collaboration with national, regional and internationally recognized law enforcement agencies. The training programmes focusses on developing leadership and problem-solving capacities and professionalizes all aspects of the investigation process. It includes lesson plans, teaching aids, exercises, monitoring, assessment and evaluation process, and relevant accreditation. In addition, on 15 September 2021, the programme launched a new edition of the *United Nations Counter-Kidnap Manual* to include criminal and terrorist kidnappings. The Manual will support Member States and student learning and has been translated into the United Nations official languages.

UNOCT held several technical meetings to provide comprehensive updates to partners and stakeholders in Africa and provide donor visibility. Additionally, communications materials have been developed such as a brochure and newsletter, which were disseminated and shared with relevant stakeholders, Member States and potential beneficiary countries.

The programme has made efforts to mainstream gender in all activities, to empower women and encourage and promote their roles in all aspects of counter-terrorism efforts. It has mainstreamed human rights to ensure the protection of the right to life and security of persons, as well as to ensure adequate standard of health of persons. The programme has regularly

engaged with the UNOCT Gender Advisor and recruited gender and human rights expert consultants to ensure all programme activities are in line with UNOCT gender and human rights mainstreaming standards. Looking forward, gender and human rights will be integrated into the CT Investigations training and will include topics around the human rights and the complex and various roles of women in violent extremism. During the programme's technical meetings, activities and events, women's representation was highly encouraged to seek a balanced representation.

Priorities for 2022

In 2022, the CT Investigations Programme will further expand its programmatic support. The key deliverables will include technical assistance and capacity-building for beneficiary countries that requested support, which currently include Benin, Ghana, Mali,

Niger, Nigeria and Togo. The following trainings will be delivered to beneficiaries: (1) one-week investigator training course that includes methodology to proactively prevent, detect, manage, investigate and prosecute cases; (2) two-week negotiator training course in each beneficiary country; and (3) one-week train the trainer course.

UNOCT will organize an EGM in New York in March 2022 to enable participating Heads of Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies to have operational and practical exchange on counter-terrorism training needs in order to identify the most critical areas of knowledge and expertise needed to better equip law enforcement and intelligence units.

Looking forward, gender and human rights will be integrated into CT Investigations trainings and will include topics around human rights and the complex and various roles of women in violent extremism.



Image / UNOCT: Launch of the United Nations Manual of Guidance for Countering Kidnapping and Extortion, Rabat, Morocco.

3.1.6 Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Unmanned Aircraft Systems



In January 2021, UNOCT launched the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Unmanned Aircraft Systems ("UAS Programme") funded by the State of Qatar. The three-year (2021-2023) programme seeks to promote coordination, good practices and guidance on UAS-related terrorist threats, and enhance the capacity of Member States to counter UAS-related threats and to use UAS for non-lethal/non-kinetic human rights compliant purposes. It also seeks to enhance the preparedness of Member States to mitigate UAS-related threats.

Progress in 2021

In its first year of implementation, the programme focused on understanding existing challenges, needs, and priorities identified by United Nations entities, Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and civil society. It completed over 45 assessments and engaged with more than 30 different partners. Joint implementation roadmaps have been developed with the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC), and Conflict Armament Research, in partnership with CTED, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and INTERPOL. The programme is currently developing its implementation

roadmap with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The UAS programme also integrated the United Nations joint UAS Cell, and regularly contributes to the development and implementation of all-of-UN UAS-related strategies, guidances and training.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme adjusted to virtual delivery of assistance. On 29 June, on the margins of the 2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, the Programme organized a side event on "*UAS in counter-terrorism contexts: the benefits, threats and human rights implications*". The event was moderated by





the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Gregorian and convened over 175 participants with speakers from the State of Qatar, the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States (Department of State), the Kingdom of Spain, Conflict Armament Research, the Department of Operational Support (DOS), DPO, and Tekever. The event provided an opportunity to raise awareness on UAS-related threats and benefits, identify potential partners and beneficiaries and established the basis of the programme's upcoming trend report on the use of UAS for terrorism-related purposes. In addition, it helped provide guidance to adjust and redefine programmatic priorities for 2022. A number of specialized technical assistance and awareness-raising events will be conducted based on the information collected during and after the side event.



The UAS programme successfully integrated the latest human rights, humanitarian law and international humanitarian law regulations into programme activities following consultation with a human rights expert. At the cross-section of innovation and human rights requirements, rapid technological advancement in UAS modernization ushers in an increased opportunity for the spread of misinformation of appropriate standards of care relating to privacy. These potential risks have been thoroughly integrated into planned programmatic activities.

Similarly, the programme has ensured gender mainstreaming, sought gender parity in its activities and used disaggregated data where applicable. For example, the programme held over 45 different engagement events with Member States, the private sector, civil society and global compact entities to help define the framework of our 2022 trend report. The report's development started in 2021 in partnership with Conflict Armament Research and will provide global and/or regional trend reviews to raise awareness and inform Member States on the use of autonomous and remotely operated systems, including UAS-related threats for terrorism-related purposes.

In December 2021, the UAS Programme expanded its focus from airborne autonomous systems to include ground and underwater devices and operating systems. As a reflection of this change, the programme was renamed to the Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS) Programme.

Priorities for 2022

In 2022, the programme will finalize a service-level agreement with UNGSC to enable the provision of joint UAS training for operators and UAS train-the-trainers operator training courses. At least four of these 2-week courses will be provided in 2022 depending

on COVID-19 restrictions. The current list of potential beneficiaries for these trainings includes Burkina Faso, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mozambique, Niger and the Philippines.

In addition, the programme will coordinate a regional event for Central Asian Member States on the use and threats associated with UAS in relation to organized crime, terrorism and humanitarian efforts, in partnership with a number of UN entities, Member States, Global Compact entities and the private sector. The event is scheduled to take place in May 2022.

This will be preceded and followed by virtual EGMs on challenges, threats, benefits and human rights implications related to autonomous and remotely operated systems. The first event is scheduled to take place in Q1 2022 and the second one in Q3 2022. Should travel restrictions permit, a high-level conference will take place in Q4 2022 on the

following themes: international governance, international regulation and coordination, the private sector, civil society, human rights, UAS use by terrorist/non-state armed groups, counter-UAS, and UAS in support of peace and CT operations (i.e., intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection, border security).

The programme will also develop a global trend report in partnership with Conflict Armament Research which will highlight two years of field-based research on UAS to raise awareness and knowledge on UAS-related threats.

Finally, the programme will develop model Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to integrate UAS in counter-terrorism SOPs, and deliver operational training on operating UAS, train-the trainers, and exploiting digital forensics associated with UAS.

3.1.7 National Interagency Coordination Mechanisms (“Fusions Cells”) Programme



The three-year Fusion Cells Programme was launched in January 2020 thanks to the support from the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (China) and co-funding from the State of Qatar. The programme is implemented by UNOCT/SPIB in cooperation with CTED, the UN Police (UNPOL), the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT)

and INTERPOL, and responds directly to CTED assessments and Security Council resolutions. It focuses on strengthening existing national counter-terrorism structures (fusion cells or centres) that engage in collecting all-source, all-threat reporting and provide support through specialist technical assistance. It aims to improve at national level Member States’

production of strategic and operational level outputs, such as the strategic threat assessments, and where possible, support Member States' capacity to develop and maintain "terrorist watchlists".

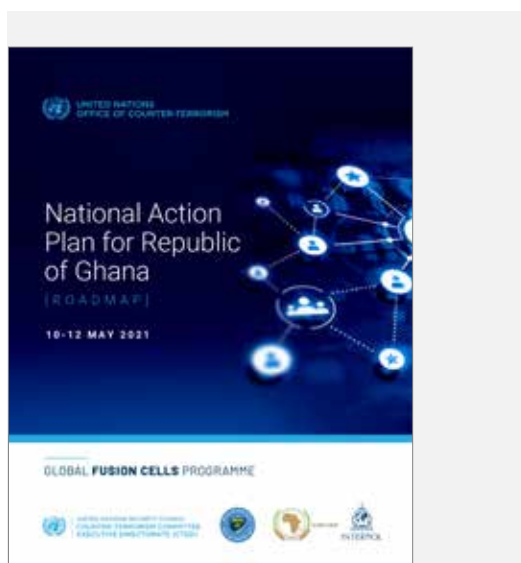
Progress in 2021

In 2021, the programme's beneficiaries included Ghana, Botswana, Uganda, Togo, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with whom the programme will initiate collaboration in 2022.

In September 2021, in response to Member States request relating to good practices on human rights and gender in the intelligence space, the programme implemented an independent review by a gender expert, and subsequently by a human rights expert, both of whom made tangible suggestions for changes to the programme to reflect adherence to HRDDP and gender mainstreaming.

The programme produces a pre-implementation report before each country's virtual deep dive mission, which includes in-depth desk research into the beneficiary countries' national security framework and leads to the identification

of gaps to be addressed during the deep dive assessments. The pre-implementation reports for Ghana and SADC were completed in Q2 2021, and the pre-implementation report for Mozambique was produced following UNOCT's mission to Maputo in Q3 2021. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, the programme had to adapt its delivery methods towards virtual means. Hence, the scoping/deep dive missions conducted for Ghana and SADC in 2021 were held virtually. The deep dive mission to Ghana uncovered gaps that were identified across legal, operational, institutional, and administrative areas, as well as in technical pillars. It provided detailed information on Ghana's national fusion cell's (NCTFC) current stage of development and the areas where it requires further guidance, and resulted in the production of a National Action Plan or "Roadmap" for Ghana in Q2 2021.



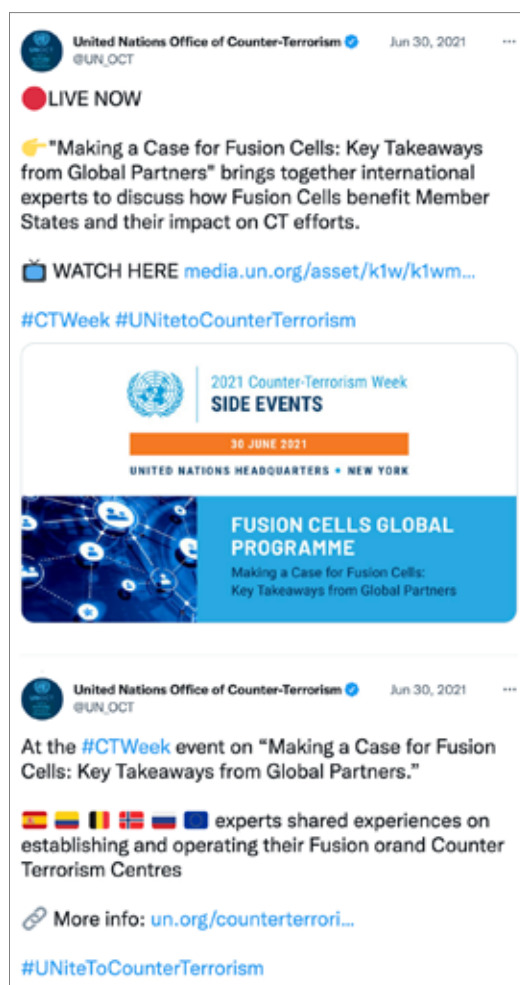
In 2021, the Global Fusion Cells Programme held seven virtual study visits. Each study visit consisted of an online seminar and a live peer-to-peer discussion, with the participation of fusion centre experts from Belgium, Spain, Norway, Russia, and Colombia, and entities such as the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Norwegian

Centre for Human Rights. The study visits provided the opportunity for Member States to share lessons learned and key challenges in developing and operationalizing fusion centres. The event was attended by the programme's beneficiaries and relevant agencies from Tanzania, Namibia, and Lesotho. The use of virtual study visits sponsored and delivered by Member States' experts, in coordination with UNOCT experts proved to be an innovative way of delivering South-South cooperation whilst enhancing Member States' understanding and knowledge of the programme's technical aspects.

Building upon the success of the seven virtual study visits, UNOCT co-organized with CTED and Norway the side event *"Making a Case for Fusion Cells: Key Takeaways from Global Partners,"* on 30 June 2021 on the margins of the 2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism

Week. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Gregorian, UNPOL and ACSRT/CAERT provided opening remarks, followed by presentations from fusion cells and counter-terrorism experts from Spain, Colombia, the Russian Federation, Norway, Belgium, and Europol. The closed event was attended by more than 120 representatives of Member States, United Nations partners, counter-terrorism and fusion centres, and the intelligence community. Experts delivered presentations on lessons learned, best practices, and challenges in developing and operationalizing their respective fusion cells. Speakers highlighted the benefits that fusion cells bring to national and international counter-terrorism efforts through the enhanced coordination and information sharing between various intelligence and law enforcement agencies. It also raised awareness about the programme to potential programme beneficiaries for the next programme cycle in 2023. UNOCT developed a knowledge report in Q4 2021 on the key findings and lessons learned on developing and operationalizing a fusion cell. This report collates all material and information shared by experts in presentations delivered during the seven virtual study visits and the side event for the use and benefit of programme beneficiaries, which are at the earlier stages of their fusion centre development.

In 2021, the UNOCT Programme team developed with in-house capacity all relevant training materials, including handbooks, for the provision of the following courses: Introduction to Fusion Cells, Analyst, Threat and Risk Assessment and Report Writing, Effective Intelligence Writing, Ethical Decision-Making, and Human Rights and Gender modules. These courses will be tailored to the specific needs of each beneficiary country. The programme delivered the first of its training courses, "Introduction to Fusion Cells" course, in two separate one-day training sessions to its beneficiaries in December 2021.



Priorities for 2022

The Global Fusion Cells programme will continue the ongoing review of national legal frameworks and other SOPs of its beneficiaries. The remaining deep dive missions will be conducted virtually to Togo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique. UNOCT's dialogue with SADC will continue in Q1 2022, upon the progression of SADC's internal discussions with its Member States about the status and institutional framework of the SADC Regional Fusion Centre.



The Compendium of Good Practices and Related Guidelines will be published in Q1 2022 and officially launched at a hybrid launch event hosted by the UNOCT Programme

Training Office in Rabat, Morocco, planned to take place in March or April 2022.

Training delivery will continue in a virtual format with prospects for in-person physical events, meetings, and trainings to take place starting from Q3 2022, depending on the pandemic situation in beneficiary countries. The full list of courses taking place for each programme beneficiary in 2022 include: a two-week Analyst Course; a one-week Threat and Risk Assessment and Report Writing course; a one-day Effective Intelligence Writing course; a one-week Ethical Decision-Making course; a one three-day-week Fusion Cells Managers course; a one-week Ethical Questioning and Elicitation Techniques course; and a two-day Briefing and Debriefing course. UNPOL is set to deliver a one-week Train-the-Trainer course for programme beneficiaries in 2022. The development of supporting training materials for the Fusion Cells Managers course, the Briefing and Debriefing Course, and the Ethical Questioning and Elicitation Techniques course will be completed in Q2 2022.

In 2022, the Programme will also redouble its resource mobilization efforts to secure funding for phase II (2023-2025) and conduct an external evaluation of the phase I cycle to gather lessons learned and inform the development of the next phase.

3.2

UNITED NATIONS COUNTERING TERRORIST TRAVEL PROGRAMME

The United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme ("CT Travel") is supported by the State of Qatar and co-funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States of America, Australia, Germany, Republic of India, Japan, and with in-kind support provided by

Hungary. CT Travel, led by UNOCT, seeks to build Member States capabilities to prevent, detect, investigate and bring to justice individuals suspected of terrorism or other serious crimes by using travel information, both advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data, to

improve the use of international databases and enhance information exchange, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019), international standards and recommended practices, and human rights principles. The Programme helps beneficiaries establish Passenger Information Units (PIUs) that can analyze and process API and PNR data provided by the transport industry through the United Nations-provided goTravel software system, based on solid, human rights-compliant legislation and regulations prepared with the Programme's assistance.

UNOCT implements the Programme in partnership with CTED, UNODC, ICAO, OICT, and INTERPOL.

Progress in 2021

CT Travel continues to attract interest from Member States and the rising number of beneficiary countries exemplifies this upward trend. The Programme's mandate remains highly relevant in the current ever-changing international threat landscape, and its contribution to support the prevention

of serious crime and terrorism has been duly recognized by Member States and the international community.

CT Travel has global coverage and seeks to support all requesting Member States to enhance their detection capabilities. As of 31 December 2021, a total of 49 Member States have officially joined the Programme since its launch in 2019, including the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) on behalf of its 15 Member States. This includes the 12 new beneficiaries joining the programme in 2021: Moldova, Nigeria, South Africa, Norway, Kenya, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Switzerland, France, Tajikistan, and Vietnam. In addition, the Programme has initiated pre-production of the goTravel software and deployment in a testing environment for 21 beneficiaries.

This significant increase in the number of beneficiary Member States and the transition to pre-deployment stage demonstrates the continued appeal and strength of the programme and high interest of Member States to receive capacity-building and technical assistance to meet their obligations

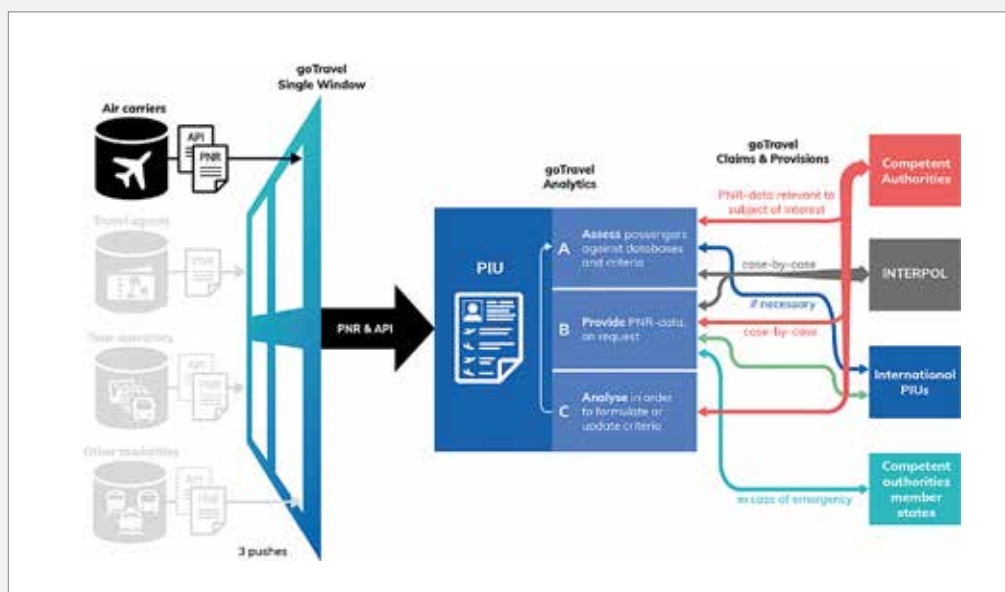
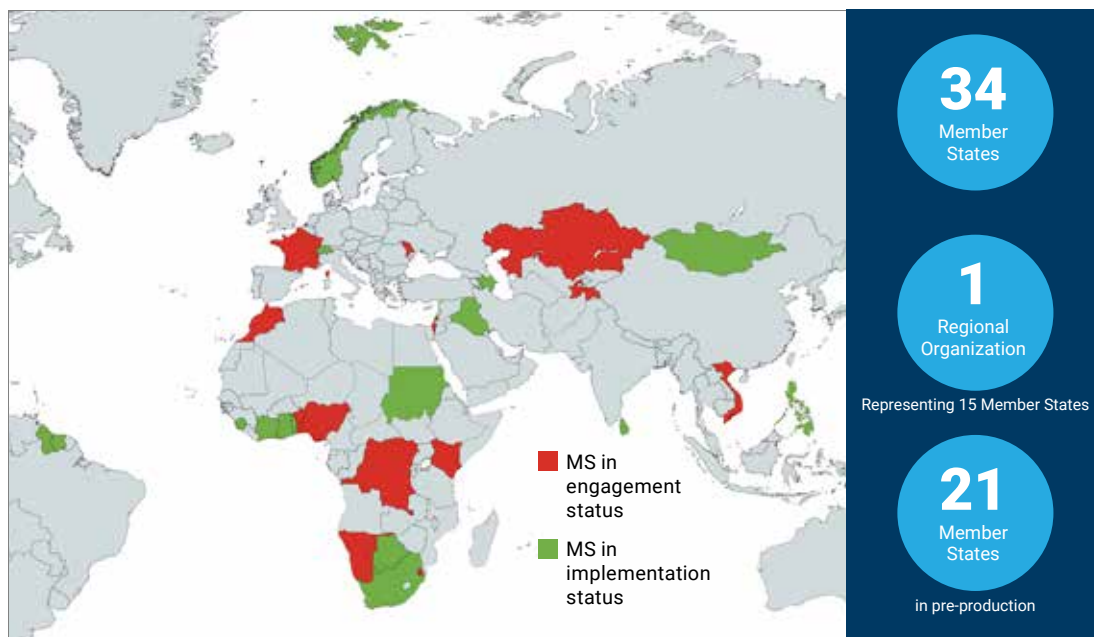


Image / UNOCT: CT Travel Programme PIU Process Support Model

The map below illustrates the current geographical reach of the Programme:



related to passenger data under Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019).

The Programme integrates a robust framework for safeguarding human rights that ensures human rights considerations are mainstreamed at all stages of implementation: from the initial assessment of the beneficiary Member State, during the provision of legislative assistance, within the capacity and institution-building activities, in the provision of an ICT system that safeguards the future use of the software through the signing of memoranda of agreement, and finally, through the potential withdrawal of support should a beneficiary State not adhere to its obligations under the Programme.

The global approach, combined with the requirement of beneficiaries to formally commit to the programme via the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and memorandum of agreement (MoA) to initiate cooperation, is important as it signifies that the support provided by CT Travel is a medium to long-term endeavour. Establishing an API and PNR system is complex process

dependent on each beneficiary Member State's resources, legislative capacity, and governance structures, and it is estimated to take anywhere between 2-10 years. In 2021, the Programme concluded six MoUs with CARICOM, Cote d'Ivoire, Botswana, the Philippines, Mongolia, and France, bringing the total number to seven since the launch of the Programme, through virtual and in-person signing ceremonies with Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and high-level representatives from signatory Member States. Additionally, CT Travel concluded two MoAs with CARICOM IMPACS and Botswana providing a framework for the use of the software.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, the CT Travel continued to deliver on the planned activities mainly through virtually modalities. CT Travel participated in a total of 67 introductory briefings and visibility events, which raised awareness of the programme among potential future beneficiary Member States and emphasized the need for countries to assume responsibility for API/PNR capabilities. These events brought together experts and interested Member States and showcased the programme's

The Programme concluded six MoUs with CARICOM, Cote d'Ivoire, Botswana, the Philippines, Mongolia, and France.



support to enhance Member States' capabilities to collect and analyze data related to known and suspected terrorists and serious criminals.

CT Travel conducted seven national consultations on API and PNR in Djibouti, Mongolia, South Africa, Norway, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Switzerland, bringing the total number of consultations conducted since the start of the Programme to 17 and leading to the development and launch of 17 road maps.

In addition, CT Travel launched and supported the establishment of two new regional Informal Working Groups (IWGs) on API and PNR, one for Eastern Europe in cooperation with OSCE and one for Western Africa, covering a total of 34 Member States. The IWGs are considered highly beneficial for the sharing of lessons learned and good practices and in building trust among Member States' law enforcement. These IWGs will be one of the long-term sustainable impacts of the Programme that will continue to benefit Member States long after they have established their PIUs.





In 2021, the Programme further developed and expanded the scope of the Cooperative Online Platform (COP) which is now fully functional and embedded in the Programme's website (<https://www.un.org/cttravel>). This secure digital platform enables the sharing of information among participating Member States at the global, regional and national levels, as well as sharing of best practices and lessons learned from Member States with advanced API/PNR systems, providing valuable insights for other Member States that are in the process of building API and PNR capability. The COP also hosts a pool of 46 experts, 402 guest users, 6 regional IWG pages, as well as 48 national implementation pages accessible by beneficiary countries.

The programme delivered four interactive online training courses based on the training

syllabus developed in 2020, with a new module on maritime developed in 2021. The training courses were held for Sierra Leone, The Gambia, the SADC, and CARICOM IMPACS and all 15 Member States. The SADC and CARICOM interactive training courses took place as regional courses. In total, 594 participants (146 female and 278 male) participated. CT Travel is in the process of developing four self-paced eLearning

modules (in all United Nations languages) which are the enhanced version of the self-paced foundational course training materials, as part of the Programme's training strategy, including a module dedicated to human rights and gender mainstreaming considerations.

Comprehensive, yet tailored capacity-building support and technical assistance are provided under four key pillars:

 Pillar 1 LEGISLATION	 Pillar 2 OPERATIONAL	 Pillar 3 TRANSPORT INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT	 Pillar 4 goTravel SOFTWARE
<p>CT Travel provides legislative assistance to establish a legal framework or update existing legislation governing the PIU. In 2021, the Programme conducted legislative reviews of 13 pieces of legislation from the Philippines, Azerbaijan, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, The Gambia and Botswana, pertaining to civil aviation law, air and maritime laws, and different types of regulations on both air and maritime passenger data.</p>	<p>The programme provides guidance and tools to set up carrier engagement and connectivity, including best practices in coordinating with airlines. In 2021, CT Travel supported Member States to establish PIUs by training staff on the use of an intelligence-led risk-based approach to conduct risk assessments, implement appropriate targeting measures, in order to identify, detect and intercept terrorists and other serious criminals based on the systematic collection, analysis, use and sharing of passenger data. In 2021, CT Travel Programme developed and offered guidance material and recommendations on the establishment of PIUs in 11 Member States.</p>	<p>CT Travel provides guidance and tools to set up carrier engagement and connectivity, including best practices in coordinating with airlines, and allowing for sufficient time for testing and connectivity with the Passenger Data Single Window. In 2021, the Programme started the drafting process for National Implementation Guides in three Member States – Botswana, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines. CT Travel is also working on test connectivity in two Member States – Botswana and the Philippines. National Implementation Guides seek to provide direct assistance to the industry and allow for better cooperation between Member States and airlines.</p>	<p>CT Travel provides technical support and expertise to deploy, install and provide maintenance support of 'goTravel'. In 2021, the Programme initiated pre-production of the software and deployment in a testing environment for 21 beneficiaries: CARICOM on behalf of its 15 Member States, plus Azerbaijan, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Norway, the Philippines, and Switzerland. Furthermore, the programme developed the INTERPOL migration module, which is now fully operational. With regard to the maritime component, CT Travel started the design of ingestion/maritime modules, which are currently under development.</p>

Priorities for 2022

In 2022, the programme will continue to develop new partnerships with regional organizations, private sector, academia, as well as international organizations such as IOM and WCO to leverage their field presence and support the development of passenger data collection within the maritime domain.

CT Travel will continue to promote the exchange of information at national, regional, international levels through the expansion of the COP, the pool of experts, and the launch of additional regional IWGs with Secretariat and logistical support of regional organizations. The programme will develop a comprehensive training strategy, including a suite of learning tools such as online modules, training-of-trainers, table-top/simulation exercises, mentoring, and apps for information sharing. The strategy will be supported by the establishment of API and PNR Centre(s) of Excellence which will serve as the central component of the Programme's training strategy, enabling

coordination of activities across the programme's four pillars of work.

The programme will expand its scope to support comprehensive border management that integrates API-PNR for air, maritime, rail and road/bus travel and will continue its technical development (i.e., compatibility with external solutions, iAPI, biometrics, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning).

It will also develop a comprehensive long-term strategy to further include human rights considerations as an integral part of the overall assistance package within the road map for implementation while also ensuring safeguards and monitoring mechanisms are in place once the software is donated.

Finally, UNOCT will conduct a mid-term review and evaluation in 2022 to measure achievements, and the overall impact of the programme so far so that lessons can be learned and serve as the basis for improving programme planning, design and management.

3.3

PROGRAMME ON THREAT ASSESSMENT MODELS FOR AVIATION SECURITY



The Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security ("TAM Programme") was established to support Member States enhance national inter-agency cooperation and coordination on matters of aviation security. The TAM Programme works with Member States to develop and operationalize a national inter-agency communication framework that enables coordination and transmission of relevant terrorist threat information from information holders (national counter-

terrorism agencies) to the aviation security decision makers (aviation security agencies). The objective of the new framework is to enhance inter-agency cooperation to enable Member States to efficiently and effectively address terrorism related threats to civil aviation infrastructures through the implementation of risk-based aviation security measures, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution [2309](#) (2016) and ICAO Annex 17 provisions on aviation security. It is implemented in partnership with ICAO and integrates expertise from UNODC and INTERPOL. The TAM Programme is



funded by the State of Qatar, the Government of the United States and the Government of Hungary. It has a three-year timescale and is currently structured to support a total of five Member States.

Progress in 2021

The TAM programme's launch in September 2021 gathered more than 250 representatives from across the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, Member States, international and regional organizations, as well as aviation industry representatives.

On 19-20 October, UNOCT jointly organized a regional workshop with the SADC Secretariat for 90 operational-level personnel from 13 SADC Member States representing national government agencies with mandates for civil aviation security, counter-terrorism, intelligence services, and law enforcement. The workshop allowed participants to gain understanding of key inter-agency coordination principles and best practices on how to enable threat information exchange in a way that can be translated into actionable security decisions.

The TAM Programme started implementation under a proof-of-concept mode with Botswana. Programmatic activities with Botswana are now 80% completed and have

led to the successful creation of a customized inter-agency coordination framework which is being consolidated into a standard operating procedure to inform national coordination on terrorist threats to aviation. The delivery of training and technical assistance activities in November and December 2021 have also helped participating agencies in Botswana to understand the requirements and operationalize the day-to-day implementation of the new framework.

Additionally, the TAM Programme launched its initial engagement phase with Nigeria and the Philippines, and received a request for participation from the Government of Vietnam. The fifth beneficiary Member State will be selected in 2022.

The Programme also established a pool of national experts from governmental agencies around the world to provide subject matter expertise. These engagements have resulted in the collection of best practice models for inter-agency coordination that serve as a reference point for the programme.

Throughout 2021, the TAM Programme also briefed at several international and regional forums on aviation security which raised its visibility and increased awareness of the importance of inter-agency coordination in support of aviation security.

Photo / UNOCT: Botswana's Integrated Project Team building the new inter-agency coordination framework requirements



Priorities for 2022

In 2022, the TAM Programme will focus on advancing implementation in Nigeria, the Philippines and Vietnam, and also work to identify its fifth beneficiary Member State. While the programme is currently

structured to support five Member States, it has received additional expressions of interest and request for support from several prospective beneficiaries.

The TAM Programme will mobilize resources to support the review and adjustment of its methodology in line with international human rights considerations and gender mainstreaming priorities.

As the global aviation community prepares for strong post-pandemic traffic growth in 2022, the TAM Programme also intends to continue building partnerships and contributing expertise in various specialized forums, as well as to further develop synergies with sister programmes such as the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and the UNOCT Fusion Cells Programme.

3.4

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

UNOCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme ("VoT Programme") seeks to stand in solidarity with victims, and strengthen the capacity of Member States and civil society organizations to assist and support victims of terrorism in protecting and promoting their rights and supporting their needs. It also advocates for stronger mechanisms to provide practical resources to victims and strengthen victims' voices and their role in preventing and countering violent

extremism. In addition to the advocacy and solidarity work, the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme aims to strengthen coordination, policies, good practices, and efforts of Member States, United Nations entities, and civil society on victims of terrorism issues by enhancing their knowledge and understanding of and capacity to uphold the rights and meet the needs of victims of terrorism.

Progress in 2021

Legislative and Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

In 2021, UNOCT/UNCCT advanced preparations for the development of two key normative and technical products to

strengthen the capacities of Member States, in particular national parliaments and civil society to better support victims of terrorism:

- **Model legislative provisions for victims** of terrorism in partnership with UNODC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) planned to be launched in February 2022. It will serve as a model for the review and modernization of existing laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism, to provide legal provisions where there are none, to systematize existing good practices, and to promote the harmonization of legislation to support and protect victims of terrorism. The model legislative provisions has a strong gender focus and focuses on thematic areas such as assistance and protection, remembrance and recognition, compensation, access to justice and sexual violence committed by terrorist groups.
- **Guidelines and Principles to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism Associations in Asia Pacific**

is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2022. It highlights standards and practices that can assist civil society organizations, particularly victims' associations, in providing victims with better quality assistance, support, and protection of their rights. Notably, four virtual EGMs were held in 2021 (18 January, 25 January, 1 February, 8 February) to discuss key issues affecting victims of terrorism in relation to assistance and support, access to justice and compensation, and protection and explore some of the additional vulnerabilities that some victims face (e.g., cross border victims, gender- and age-sensitivities). Discussions also included how civil society organizations should seek to collaborate with national authorities, including how to develop laws and policies that improve outcomes for victims.

Advocacy and Visibility



Photo / UNOCT: A special tribute ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 was held at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York, 20 September 2021

Box 3: 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

On 20 September, UNOCT, on behalf of the United Nations, held a special tribute ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist

attacks of September 11, 2001 at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York. Over 300 dignitaries attended from over 90 Member States and international

organizations, including six Heads of State (Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Guyana, Lithuania and Sri Lanka) and 30 Ministers. The ceremony included a minute of silence and concluded with laying wreaths in memory of victims of the September 11 attacks, and all victims of terrorism worldwide.

It was a dignified and meaningful tribute to the lives lost and for the families of the victims, providing an opportunity for the international community to highlight the rights and needs of victims in a place symbolic of peace and mutual understanding. Remembrance, commemoration, and memorialization have long been seen as essential to stand in solidarity and recognize victims of terrorism. Through this event, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to support all victims of terrorism around the world, to stand in unity with them and

to work together to uphold their rights and needs. A placard paying tribute to the victims from the United Nations was placed by the two wreaths by the Survivors Tree.



Photo / UNOCT: USG Voronkov at the ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 – 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York, 20 September 2021

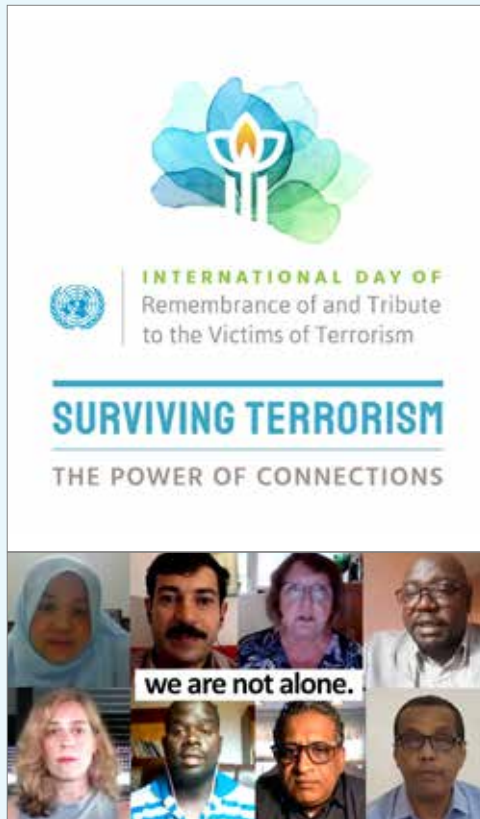
In addition, UNOCT/UNCCT organized and participated in several events to raise solidarity and awareness and advocate for victims' rights in international fora, such as:

- **Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism in Cross-Border Situations** organized in April by the Council of Europe and the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection under Germany's Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. It provided a forum to discuss the challenges faced by victims in cross-border situations whilst exploring good comparative practices of possible support services from national experiences. The meeting highlighted the establishment of a network of single contact points for the exchange of procedural information regarding the legal standing of victims of terrorism.
- **International Parliamentary Conference on "Global Challenges and Threats in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Terrorism and Violent Extremism"** held in April. UNCCT/UNOCT organized a session on victims of terrorism together with the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. The victims session on *"Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Victims of Terrorism and Addressing Their Needs"* focused on the importance of national legislation to protect the rights and needs of victims of terrorism and the critical collaboration between parliaments and civil society organizations, and included a presentation by representatives of victims support agencies from France and Indonesia. UNOCT/UNCCT briefed

parliamentarians on existing United Nations frameworks and guidance related to victims support and presented its Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, including with recommendations on how parliamentarians can promote victim-centric policies and legislation at the national level.

- **Side event during the 2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week "The importance of model legal provisions to develop and strengthen comprehensive national assistance plans for victims of terrorism"** held in June in partnership with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, UNODC, IPU and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedom while countering terrorism. The event gathered more than 150 participants from Member States, Members of Parliament, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, including victims' associations and victims themselves and highlighted the importance of the model legislative provisions to strengthen comprehensive national assistance plans for victims of terrorism in order to provide holistic support to victims of terrorism. The event underscored the critical aspect of assistance and support, remembrance, and recognition for victims of terrorism, the needs of women victims of terrorism, and the importance of providing psychosocial support to victims not only in the aftermath of the attack but also in the medium and long term. It also brought to the attention of Member States the importance of developing national comprehensive assistance plans anchored in legal frameworks to better support the rights and needs of victims.

Box 4: International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism



In August, UNOCT/UNCCT organized the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. UNOCT launched the film *“Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Connections”* which featured eight victims and survivors of terrorist attacks from across the world highlighting the importance of

connections. With the participation of the Secretary-General during the opening high-level session, the commemoration launched a call to action to strengthen national and international frameworks to protect and support victims of terrorism. During the interactive discussion with victims, victims’ associations and Member States, the development and effective implementation of national and international legislation and action plans was highlighted as essential in promoting and protecting the rights and supporting the needs of victims. This included attention to the specific needs of women and child victims, including psychological and mental health needs, in addition to financial support and access to justice. The event also contributed to renew the commitment by Member States and the international community to promote and protect the rights and needs of victims, by further enhancing collaboration at national, regional and international level, whilst reaffirming the crucial role played by the United Nations in ensuring that the rights of victims are upheld and that all counter-terrorism efforts remain victim-centric.



Priorities for 2022

2022 will be particularly important for victims of terrorism, with the implementation of the Model Legislative Provisions, the third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the Málaga Conference on Human Rights and Civil Society Organizations, the fifth Commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the

Victims of Terrorism, and the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, among other activities and initiatives. In particular, the Global Victims Congress will promote dialogue and engagement between different stakeholders on the rights and needs of victims and provide victims with a platform to raise their voices.

3.5

SPIB "SURGE CAPACITY"

In 2021, the Special Projects Section within SPIB established the UNOCT 'surge capacity' to provide rapid response and tailored projects to support Member States requesting technical assistance when facing an increasing terrorist threat or a political crisis.

Progress in 2021

The 'surge capacity' coordinated the implementation of the UN-EU Counter-Terrorism Partnership for Sudan², an 18-month project funded by the European Union to support Sudan's transitional authorities to strengthen their counter-terrorism capacity and meet international obligations, in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law.



In addition, the Surge Capacity provided support to SADC in the review of its Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan to ensure alignment with the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

2 <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/UN-EU-Counter-Terrorism-Partnership-Sudan>



The Surge Capacity was invited to participate in the implementation mechanism of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes region (United Nations Strategy for the Great Lakes). Under the lead of the Office of Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes, UNOCT contributes to the operationalization of the Strategy as regards the threat posed by armed (terrorist) groups and violent extremism.

Priorities for 2022

The 'surge capacity' will further develop its ability to provide rapid, flexible and tailored assistance to address requests from Member States and partner organizations, drawing on CTED recommendations where available:

- **In the Democratic Republic of the Congo,** it will develop a coordinated support package in response to the formal request addressed by the national authorities. This tailored project will be developed with existing UNOCT Global Programmes and explore opportunities for cooperation with MONUSCO and other UN entities.
- **In the Great Lakes region,** it will design tailored projects supporting the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for the Great Lakes to address the growing terrorist threat in the region.
- **In Southern Africa,** it will support UNOCT's engagement with SADC to strengthen regional cooperation and provide tailored assistance, notably in Mozambique.

4 INTERNATIONAL HUB ON BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN DOHA, QATAR



The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha ("BI Hub") was formally launched on 7 December 2020 in partnership with the State of Qatar, following the virtual signing ceremony of the Contribution Agreement for the BI Hub on 28 September 2020. The Contribution Agreement entered into force on 17 February 2021. The first full-time staff member was deployed to Doha in January 2021, followed by the recruitment of the Head of the Programme Office in March 2021.



The BI Hub in Doha performs **three core functions**:

- i. Conduct and advance research on behavioural sciences to better understand the drivers and factors contributing to radicalization leading to violent extremism and terrorism (**Research and Knowledge Management**).
- ii. Provide capacity-building assistance to Member States, regional organizations, and civil society partners to develop and implement innovative programmes, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioural insights to counter terrorism (**Capacity-Building**).
- iii. Carry out advocacy and promote communication, outreach, and partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, experiences, and lessons learned on behaviourally informed counter-terrorism interventions (**Advocacy and Partnership**).

Key beneficiaries and stakeholders of the BI Hub include Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, United Nations entities, research, and academic institutions, think tanks, the private sector, and the media. The work of the Programme Office is overseen and supported by UNOCT Headquarters in New York and carried out in close collaboration with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and the United Nations Country Team in line with the “whole-of-UN” approach.

Progress in 2021

2021 was an eventful year for the BI Hub. The Programme Office became fully operational and started to serve the requirements of practitioners and researchers in knowledge products and capabilities on the application of behavioural insights in PVE/CT programming and policy, while building its own capacity and expanding its expert and partner base. Five out of the six foreseen positions were filled in 2021, with additional support provided by consultants for communication, outreach, and partnerships work. Discussions are ongoing between the Doha BI Hub and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the relocation of the Doha Programme Office to the United Nations House to take place in the first quarter of 2022. Furthermore, constructive dialogue

and working relationships have been established with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including its relevant departments (Protocol, International Cooperation, Public Information, etc.).

Over the last year, the BI Hub has succeeded in creating and implementing an outreach and communication plan for engagement with local partners to ensure that the BI Hub’s initiatives and programmes reflect the expectations of the host country, support the establishment of professional networks, facilitate information and knowledge sharing, and promote the visibility of the Programme Office. This plan seeks to leverage the capabilities among three main groups: **(1)** Local Partners, public bodies, and organizations, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Ministry of Youth, and the Ministry of Education; **(2)** Educational and research Institutes, such as Qatar University, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Georgetown University Qatar, and the Doha Institute; and **(3)** Civil society representatives such as Education Above All, Silatech, and B4Development Foundation (B4D).

In 2021, the BI Hub established new processes, such as UNOCT-wide cluster (thematic area and geography focused) consultations with UNOCT Global Programmes, and created a platform for



Photo / UNOCT: Workshop in Qatar for African diplomatic missions on behavioural insights to counter terrorism, 20 September 2021



Photo / UNOCT: Workshop in Qatar for African diplomatic missions on behavioural insights to counter terrorism, 20 September 2021



interaction with external partners through regular meetings with behavioural insights and PVE/CT experts. The Hub increased its efficiency, and held a number of in-person, hybrid and online workshops, consultations and brainstorming sessions where important and impactful work, conclusions and steps forward were shared with a larger audience.

Since its launch, the BI Hub established a professional network of experts who specialize in the programmatic application of behavioural insights, neuroscience, social sciences and behavioural economics in public policy, as well as of Qatari institutions with subject matter expertise in multiple overlapping academic disciplines. It developed a comprehensive list of 178 academic and research institutions, think tanks, networks, governmental and non-governmental research centers, independent researchers and subject matter experts with recognized experience in conducting research and analysis on preventing and countering violent extremism, the application of behavioural sciences and monitoring and evaluation expertise. The BI Hub has also finalized a comprehensive list of providers and recipients of technical and capacity-building assistance for behavioural insights.

The BI Hub held several outreach meetings and activities with programme beneficiaries and stakeholders, including diplomatic missions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, which raised awareness of UNOCT's mandate and the BI Hub's programmatic priorities. Specifically, the Hub sought to ascertain how a behavioural insights approach could be implemented in different geographical contexts. Due to the increasing terrorism threat in parts of Africa, the BI Hub focused its mid to late 2021 outreach efforts on African countries. On 20 September 2021, the BI Hub held an awareness raising workshop on behavioural insights to counter-terrorism in Doha for African Diplomatic Missions. The event gathered over 40 participants from 22 African Member States based in Doha, and provided an opportunity to discuss the main challenges and opportunities in PVE/CT in the African continent from a behavioural insights lens, as well as context-specific barriers and potential capacity-building initiatives. Attendees expressed interest in receiving training seminars and toolkits for diplomats engaging with grassroots organizations. They also expressed their appreciation for the local-cultural mechanisms which undergird the

behavioural insights approaches well as the impact-centricity of the approach. Following this, the Hub commenced discussions with DPPA regarding applying Behavioural Insights for Preventative Diplomacy efforts.

The BI Hub also co-organized with the State of Qatar a virtual high-level side event during the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week on *Programming for the Future: Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in the Digital Decade*, that gathered more than 260 attendees representing Member States, diplomatic missions, international and regional organizations, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and civil society organizations. The side event demonstrated the potential of behavioural insights in addressing new and evolving threats related to counter-terrorism. It underlined that digital technologies will play an increasingly important role in terrorist planning in line with the transformative technology theme of the Counter-Terrorism Week.



In addition, the BI Hub worked with the UNOCT Sports Programme on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy to extend the application of behavioural insights in counter-terrorism

efforts and create a better understanding of the terrorist threat from a behavioural level. This will allow us to better strengthen our cooperation as well as to implement joint projects in the context of the upcoming FIFA World Cup. The signing of the MoU will take place at the margins of the Beneficiary Forum in March 2022.

In 2021, the BI Hub worked on raising awareness of available behavioural insights approaches and tools, supporting UNOCT staff to apply behavioural insights in respective capacity-building programmes, and increasing their understanding of its potential in programme planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation. In this regard, the BI Hub organized the first in-house consultation with UNOCT staff attended by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and H.E. Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani. The meeting allowed participants to get acquainted with the work of the Hub and the use of behavioural insights as a tool in the implementation of CT/PVE projects. It also created an opportunity to identify key potential areas for further collaboration between the BI Hub and ongoing UNOCT Global Programmes. Given the centrality of integrity, ethics and human rights when engaging in behavioural change initiatives, further discussions revealed the necessity for a code of conduct in line with Commitment 6 of the Secretary General's 'Our Common Agenda'. To kickstart this work, the Hub has engaged a United Nations Volunteer specialized in ethics and is in process of selecting a legal scholar to develop a code of conduct when engaging in behaviour change, planned to be released in 2022.

Risks and challenges



When transitioning from the operationalization into the implementation phase of the BI Hub's programme, it

is essential to strengthen its programme management capacity. Due to the pandemic, the Hub was able to onboard key programmatic staff only in late 2021 which greatly hampered its ability to deliver to its full potential. Nonetheless, and with gratitude to the State of Qatar's support, the Hub will continue building its technical and programmatic capacity necessary for effective and timely delivery of planned activities for 2022.

A key challenge within the capacity-building portfolio of the Hub is to ensure that the knowledge and expertise is used responsibly and in a strategic and sustainable manner, particularly during periods of turmoil and crises. To manage this risk, the BI Hub is in the process of drafting a code of conduct to ensure and promote integrity in behavioural change initiatives to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The planning and designing of interventions based on behavioural insights requires an adequate financing framework and cooperation at all levels, including local communities and civil society. The challenge for policymakers in this context is related to looking beyond national borders in order to analyze the scope, purpose and impact of radicalization leading to acts of terrorism. Given this, along with the understanding that terrorism is not limited to a single country but has a transnational reach, the BI Hub will focus on addressing these challenges on a regional and global level, using appropriate expertise and behavioural insights tools.

Gender Mainstreaming



The BI Hub programme promotes gender mainstreaming into its knowledge sharing, and capacity-building initiatives as well as in regular interactions and meetings with beneficiaries and partners. The Hub conducted several

meetings and brainstorming sessions with UNOCT's Gender Advisor to explore how pioneering global approaches in behavioural insights can be translated into practical strategies and programme approaches to drive gender equality in UNOCT and its programmatic activities. The newly appointed BI Hub's gender focal point will continue working closely with UNOCT's Gender Advisor to strengthen gender mainstreaming in BI Hub's initiatives. Specifically, the BI Hub incorporates gender components into training initiatives and meetings with beneficiaries. Doing so is critical to ensure that behavioural insights is used to strengthen gender commitments in the activities of both the UNOCT and our beneficiaries. The code of conduct will also integrate a strong gender and human rights component on the use of behavioural insights in the CT/PCVE context.

Human Rights Mainstreaming



Premised upon the understanding that fostering human rights is significantly enhanced when its principles are absorbed into institutional structures, the BI Hub collaborated with global, national and local level actors to ensure that behavioural insights are applied for precisely this purpose within institutions. As such, and in cooperation with various ongoing UNOCT programmes, the BI Hub is working to ensure that behavioural insights is brought to bear for purposes of strengthening institutional cohesion of human rights. For example, in 2021, the BI Hub team delivered presentations at different events within the scope of the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners Project and partnered with the Uganda Prisons Service to present the application of behavioural insights to change the behaviour of institutions to make sure that human rights are respected. The BI Hub integrates human rights considerations

into training initiatives and meetings with beneficiaries to ensure that behavioural insights is used to strengthen human rights commitments and that its application is not used for purposes which run contrary to human rights principles.

Partnerships



The Doha BI Hub is exploring partnership opportunities with several institutions and organizations to streamline and enhance its communication portfolio. Qatar's Education City, with its modern learning environments and advanced technological capabilities, can provide the space where youth and students could benefit from the knowledge and training programmes developed by the BI Hub programme, in partnership with Qatar-based research and educational institutions.

The Hub has also initiated research-oriented discussions with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar University to extend the application of behavioural insights in the counter-terrorism context and create a better understanding of the terrorist threat at a behavioural level. The office will work together with these research institutes to conduct evidence-based research and scientific breakdown of the factors that might be conducive to violent extremist action.

Through meetings and trainings that took place in 2021, the Hub initiated working relationships with a number of United Nations entities including UNDP, UNICEF, UNRCCA, and UNODC, as well as with regional organizations such as OSCE, EU and the League of Arab States. The Hub will continue to build and strengthen partnerships, which will translate into activities and promote using BI as a tool in CT/PVE programmes.

On social media, the BI Hub has promoted its work and given recognition to the invaluable

support provided by the State of Qatar through UNOCT's official Twitter account with multiple tweets featuring photos.



Priorities for 2022

In 2021, the BI Hub conducted a programme review assessment of recent activities which concluded that focused project design, specialized recruitment, and tailored course content that adequately covers behavioural insights approaches and tools across the spectrum of preventing to countering terrorism are critical to effectively deliver on expectations of the BI Hub. The Hub prepared three assessment reports that present concrete actions and project proposals to be implemented during the coming year.

In 2022, the BI Hub intends to continue the brainstorming and training format, with a series of events dedicated to Central Asia, Middle East, the Sahel, and Europe, and behavioural insights seminars for international and national NGOs on how to engage with local communities and non-governmental actors in developing tailored and behaviourally informed strategies and interventions to counter violent extremism narratives.

The BI Hub is planning to launch the first Behavioural Insights Academy to facilitate continuous learning and exchange of experiences and expertise regarding the practical application of behavioural sciences in CT/PCVE. It will include several courses on core behavioural science disciplines, a master class for programme practitioners from national and regional counter-terrorism institutions, police and security officers, national research institutions that work in the CT/PVE field, members of national counter-terrorism entities, NGOs and CSOs, as well as a mentoring programme.

The BI Hub will expand cooperation with other UNOCT programmes and facilitate regular and smaller working group discussions based on geography or thematic areas to strengthen coordination, build synergies and complementarities, avoid duplication of efforts, enhance productivity and

transparency, and maximize the results of a number of programmes being implemented in the same country/region.

The BI Hub will continue to enhance communications and visibility outreach and partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, experiences and lessons learned on behaviourally informed counter-terrorism interventions. As such, the BI Hub plans to develop a behavioural insights podcast to provide practitioners with the latest knowledge. The podcast will bridge the gap between theoretical and practical application of behavioural insights to PCVE/CT, and regular episodes are expected to be released throughout 2022 and into 2023.

In 2022, the Hub intends to develop tailored M&E frameworks for its various projects. These context-specific M&E frameworks will expand upon the Hub's logframe to accurately gauge its direct and indirect impact on the targeted beneficiaries. The field of behavioural insights is necessarily data-driven and academic, requiring precise, detailed criteria for evaluating the first and second-order effects of interventions. By embracing this approach, the Hub will conduct M&E at a standard on par with other prominent BI research institutions. Additionally, the data collected will inform lessons learned and allow for continuous project improvement.

Finally, the BI Hub will develop a code of conduct that outlines the values and ethical guidelines to guide its daily decision-making processes. Because behavioural insights can potentially be misused by actors with unethical intentions, it is of utmost importance that the Hub clearly articulates the boundaries delineating its responsible use. This document will clarify the Hub's right to refuse services to actors that arouse reasonable suspicion of future misuse of behavioural insights to the detriment of its targets.

5 PROGRAMME OFFICE ON PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT IN QATAR



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
Programme Office in Doha

Parliamentary Engagement
in Preventing and Countering Terrorism

FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT TERRORISM



Terrorism has been a primary concern for the international community, both governments and parliaments, and increasingly so in the past two decades, after the terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September 2001. Addressing the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in April 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General said: *“Parliaments play vital roles as defenders of democracy, agents of accountability, and crucial links between the local and the global, bringing the concerns of people into the international arena”*. In this regard, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 17 February 2020. This was followed by an e-signing on 25 November 2020 of a contribution agreement and the exchange of letters between Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and H.E. Mr. Al Mahmoud to establish the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism in Doha. Through this agreement, the Shura Council of the State of Qatar will provide \$12.5 million contribution to UNOCT for a period of five years to fund the Programme Office and its activities aimed at strengthening the parliamentary contribution and capacities

to international efforts against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The new contribution is in addition to already existing strong support to UNOCT from the State of Qatar.

Progress in 2021

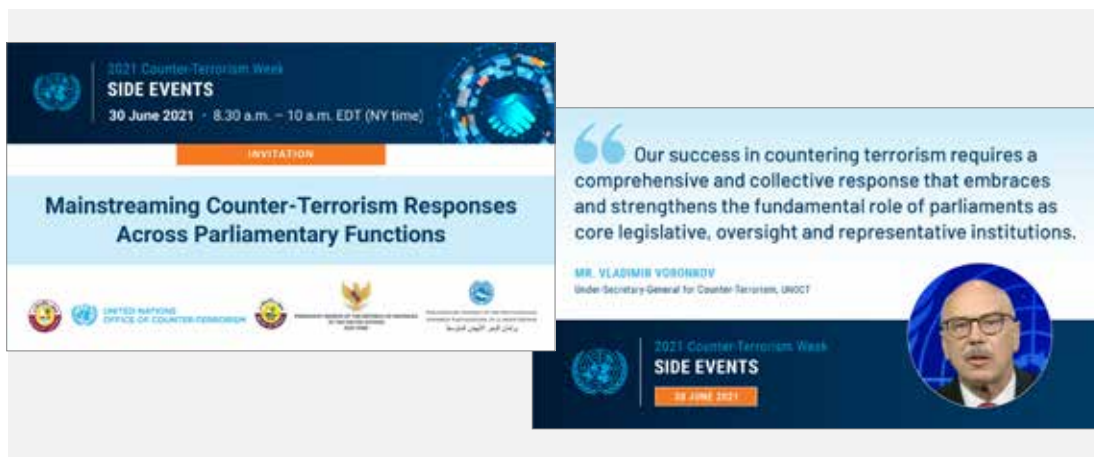
The UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism was launched on 16 June 2021 in a hybrid opening ceremony in the Shura Council in Doha, the State of Qatar, as a hub for research, knowledge, and capacity-building to enhance support to parliamentarians worldwide, leveraging on innovation and partnerships. The Programme Office performs three functions: **(1)** research, analysis and normative work including the formulation of counter-

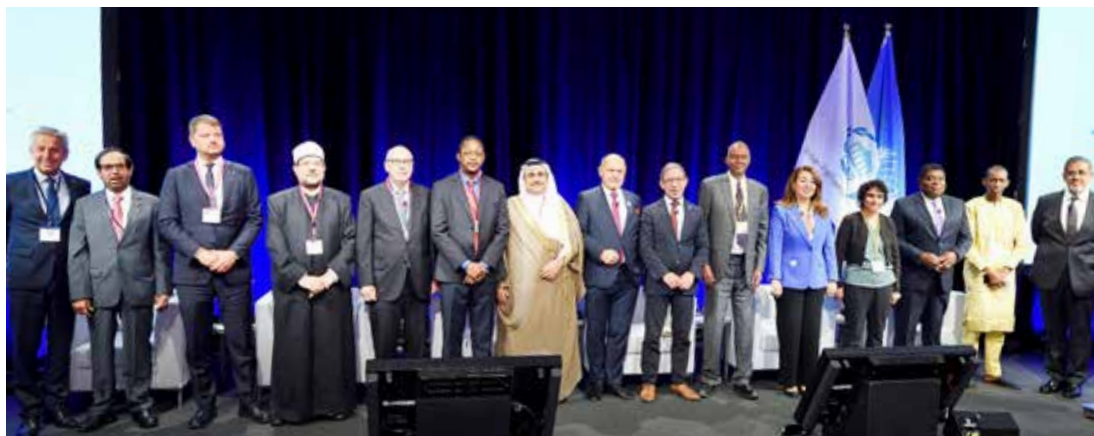


terrorism model legislation; (2) provision of technical assistance and legal consultative services to parliaments to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant General Assembly and Security Council mandates; and (3) support to establishment and functioning of a global parliamentary network and the production of resources of parliamentarians. The launch ceremony was opened by the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Al Mahmoud, and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov. The event took place in hybrid format, both online and in Doha, with the participation of Member States, including representatives of their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, parliamentary assemblies, international and regional organizations, as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

UNOCT and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar co-organized virtually a High-Level Event on *Mainstreaming Counter-Terrorism Responses across Parliamentary Functions* on 30 June 2021 on the margins of the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week and on the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism. The event was the first activity undertaken by the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement and was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Indonesia and the State of Qatar to the United Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

The high-level side event included statements by H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka, Speaker of the National Council of the Republic of Austria, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Ms. Roberta Pinotti, Chair of the Committee on Defense of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, Mr. Muhammad Farhan, Member of the Parliament at the House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia, and Ms. Paloma Valencia, President of the Commission on Human Rights and Vice-President of the First Commission of the Senate of the Republic of Colombia. During the event, UNOCT, in partnership with H.E. Ms. Alia Bouran, PAM President Emeritus and Member of the Senate of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, presented the Parliamentary Guide to Facilitate the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy planned to be released in the second quarter of 2022. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions recognize the importance of parliamentary work by specifying legislative and other measures which should be taken by Member States to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. The new tool will build upon parliamentary functions in support of governments and provide practical guidance to parliamentarians on how they can contribute to the Strategy's implementation nationally, regionally, and globally.





Box 5: First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism

UNOCT, together with UNODC and IPU, organized the “First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism” on 9 September 2021 in Vienna, Austria.



The Summit brought together various stakeholders, including parliamentarians from around the world, the United Nations, experts, members of regional parliamentary assemblies, victims of terrorism, representatives of civil society and community leaders, with the objective of identifying the best way for parliamentarians to address the

different causes of terrorism and violent extremism. The Summit came at a critical time, particularly as the international community and global and national economies seek to recover from the devastating pandemic, which continues to impact global counter-terrorism responses. The Summit included a presentation of the model legislative provisions to support and protect the rights and needs of victims of terrorism.

On the margins of the Summit, UNOCT, represented by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States





(IPA CIS), represented by Mr. Dmitry Kobitsky, Secretary-General of IPA CIS, signed a MoU to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. The MoU aims at promoting parliamentary engagement for a balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. UNOCT and IPA CIS committed to ensure

effective coordination of joint initiatives and cooperate on the development of legislative acts and frameworks addressing terrorism and violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism. The first joint event of UNOCT and IPA CIS is preliminary planned for the second quarter of 2022 and dedicated to the commemoration of victims of Beslan attack.



Photo / UNOCT: USG Voronkov and Mr. Dmitry Kobitsky, the Secretary-General Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), signed a MoU to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. Vienna, 9 September 2021

The UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, in cooperation with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, successfully convened the *First Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies* in Doha on 13 December 2021. H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim, Speaker of Shura Council of the State of Qatar, delivered the opening remarks along with Mr. Mauro Miedico, Chief of SPIB and Deputy Director of UNCCT. The international meeting of parliamentary assemblies was the first of its kind to be convened with a focus on counter-terrorism coordination. It facilitated a dialogue between representatives of parliamentary assemblies on addressing the scourge of terrorism through the establishment of a structured coordination mechanism and a common strategic approach for greater efficiency, policy harmonization, and coherence at the policy and capacity-building levels.



In this regard, UNOCT successfully established a joint and strategic coordination mechanism with parliamentary assemblies to improve collaboration between the United Nations and parliamentary bodies in order to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations resolutions related to terrorism. Parliamentary assemblies agreed to meet at least twice a year, once in Doha and a second meeting in the country selected by the Assembly that will lead the rotating presidency of the mechanism for a one-year term. Nine parliamentary assemblies from across the world have agreed to join the "Compact of Parliamentary Assemblies". The UNOCT Programme Office on

Parliamentary Engagement in Doha will serve as the Secretariat of this Compact.

UNOCT/UNCCT and UNRCCA held a two-day round table discussion on *The Role of Parliamentarians in the Implementation of National Action Plans for Addressing Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism* in Doha on 14 – 15 December 2021. The round table was held within the framework of the EU-UN STRIVE Asia initiative and the regional joint UNCCT and UNRCCA project entitled Towards the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. It was organized with the support of the UNOCT Programme Office in Doha on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and in cooperation with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar. The round table facilitated a dialogue among parliamentarians from the five Central Asian countries, together with parliamentary assemblies and international organizations, on the role of parliamentarians in facilitating processes related to National Action Plans. The event brought together more than 80 participants from Central Asia, including members of parliament and parliamentary assemblies, experts on preventing and countering violent extremism, United Nations agencies, and



international, regional, and specialized organizations. Participants discussed international standards and good practices, as well as challenges and opportunities, in this area and several participants from national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies have agreed to convene a follow-up discussion in 2022.

Finally, UNOCT engaged with CTED to identify priority countries and link assistance to specific CTC assessment technical assistance needs. As a result, UNODC, with UNOCT's financial support, prepared an analysis of existing counter-terrorism legislation of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, as prioritized with CTED's support and advanced on the provision of legislative assistance to Sudan and Colombia. UNOCT's financial support enabled UNODC to maintain the counter-terrorism part of the UNODC Portal on Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC), which contains databases with CT legislation, treaties, case law, strategies, and bibliography.

Gender mainstreaming



Gender mainstreaming is one of the key priorities for the Parliamentary Engagement Programme, which is fully integrated in the design and implementation of all activities, outputs, services and products across the core areas of work of the Programme and in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Programme applies the two-pronged approach to gender mainstreaming. On one hand it supports undertaking gender analysis for the rolling out of the different components of the Programme and incorporating this analysis within the various CT/PCVE thematic areas. On the other hand it ensures the creation of an enabling environment for women's effective and

meaningful participation within CT/PCVE efforts within national parliaments, as well as regional and international events. In the second quarter of 2022, the Programme plans to organise an international forum of women parliamentarians in Doha to promote a dialogue and relevant initiatives on gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE-related legislation and regulations. The event will also seek to explore the vision of women parliamentarians on the development and adoption of policies, legislation and initiatives that would help to address the structural factors conducive to radicalization, such as gender inequality, gender-based discrimination.

Human rights



The promotion of international human rights principles and standards is an absolute priority for the Parliamentary Engagement Programme, which is comprehensively integrated and thoroughly reflected at all stages of the programme cycle. Most of the programme activities aim to study and address key human rights challenges in strategies, policies and legislations that may impact counter-terrorism efforts. The programme also seeks to ensure adequate coverage of human rights dimensions in its research, capacity-building and outreach activities; and establish clear linkages with international human rights principles and standards in designing and implementing programme outputs and activities, including in developing good practices and information products. Special focus is placed on processes and measures to support parliamentarians in fulfilling their oversight functions, which is a crucial tool to achieve and enforce the respect for human rights through monitoring government adherence to international human rights norms and standards in their CT/PCVE efforts.

Priorities for 2022

2022 will see the production of a new parliamentary handbook linked to the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The tool will familiarize parliamentarians and parliamentary secretariat staff with the cornerstone resolution, its place in the United Nations framework against terrorism, and its application to and implications for parliamentary work. The handbook will also enable the United Nations to offer high-quality advisory services and build capacity of national parliaments to support the implementation of resolution 1373.

In 2020, UNOCT introduced a new initiative to propose recommended legislative provisions on collecting, using, processing, storing, and sharing data or relevance for counter-terrorism purposes as a contribution to the United Nations data protection programme developed by CTED, UNODC and UNOCT in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal responses, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism. The data protection project is now in its second phase of production and is projected to be finalized in 2022. Furthermore, UNOCT/UNCCT together with UNODC and IPU have made significant progress in the development of model legislative provisions to support and protect the rights and needs of victims. Between November 2020 and January 2021, UNOCT/UNCCT, UNODC and IPU held a series of virtual expert group meetings on specific themes to be covered by model provisions regarding victims of terrorism. The model provisions have been finalized and are expected to be presented at a virtual launch on the first quarter of 2022.

Additionally, in Q1-Q2 2022, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement is planning to convene a conference on mainstreaming counter-terrorism responses

across African national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies, and the “Second Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies”. The Programme Office will also continue the provision of counter-terrorism legislative assistance to Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Morocco, Colombia, Sudan, Yemen, and Ghana, as well as enhancing cooperation with parliamentary assemblies through the formal signature of memoranda of understanding and consequently the development of bilateral action plans. All of these activities will be carried out in consultation with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and within the framework of MoU signed between UNOCT and the Shura Council.

Risks and challenges



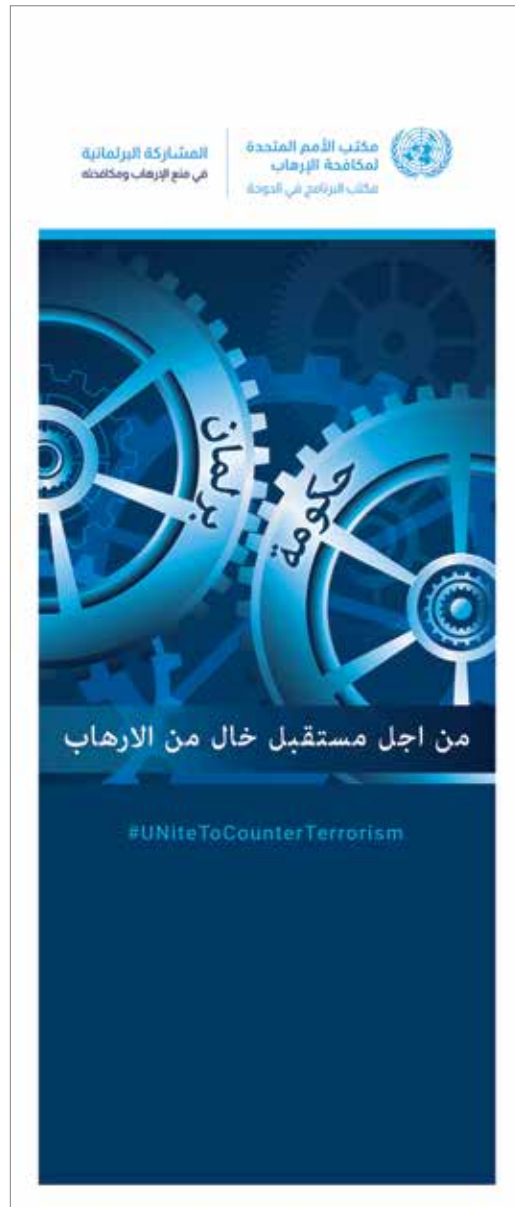
The parliamentary engagement programme was successfully managed the risks and challenges encountered during the implementation phase. In terms of implementation of activities, the most relevant challenge encountered was COVID-19. However, the programme shifted to virtual implementation making use of technological tools and providing interpretation solutions, which expanded the number of attendees. It also rescheduled some of the activities to be implemented in person until the COVID-19 situation was under control. Thus, the programme ensured appropriate number and representation of participants through virtual solutions as well as taking all specific measures related to health and COVID-19 protocols, including provision of COVID tests prior and following in-person activities. This demonstrated that the programme was able to adjust its implementation modalities based on the needs and requirements of the operating environment. The programme will continue its contingency planning to accommodate

different scenarios depending on the global pandemic situation.

In terms of the security situation, the programme opted to implement in-person activities in the State of Qatar and the Republic of Austria given their high rank in security indices, which contributed to the participation of a large number of participants and the smooth implementation of activities. However, security threats have forced the Programme Office to reconsider another date for the provision of legislative assistance to Sudan. UNOCT field presence in Sudan ensured smooth continuation of contacts with national partners.

The programme established new and strong partnerships with key counterparts which ensured there was no duplication of capacity-building assistance and a unified message to beneficiaries. Additionally, the programme has fostered partnerships with parliamentary assemblies, demonstrating the importance of such partnerships for global and regional CT/PCVE efforts. The programme further demonstrated that the establishment of a permanent coordination mechanism is an important tool to ensure a concerted and sustainable approach to CT/PVE.

Overall, activities implemented in the course of 2021, showed that parliamentarians are invested in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism and that they recognize the crucial role of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in building parliamentary capacities and cooperation. And while the programme was able to successfully implement all expected activities with a limited number of staff, going forward, the Office will advance the recruitment of additional staff to further increase its impact and deliver on its expected outcomes.



6 GENDER



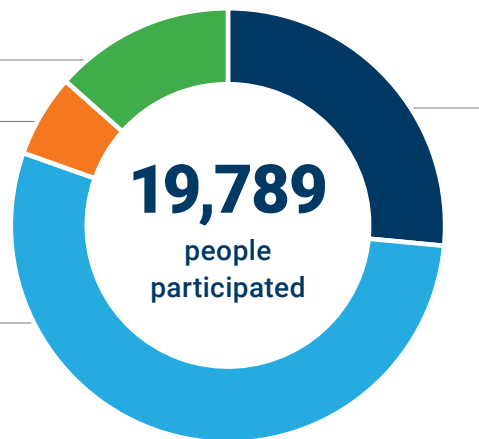
In 2021, UNOCT made steady progress in creating an organizational culture which strengthens human rights, is inclusive and supportive of all genders, and ensures that programmes and policies are human rights compliant and gender responsive. Significant advances were made, including the adoption of the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, which set out the values, priority areas and targets for mainstreaming gender across the Office's operations from 2022 to 2024.

Furthermore, the new UNOCT Strategic Programme Framework includes a high-level result on human rights and gender equality with specific indicators to track progress which demonstrates UNOCT's firm commitment to ensure all programmes mainstream and promote human rights and gender equality.

In 2021, UNOCT increased the capacity of the Gender Unit to provide specialized technical assistance to programme teams, as well as other functions of the Office. While funding for this function is through other donor contributions, mainstreaming of gender considerations is applicable to all of the work of the Office. It is important to highlight that the Gender Unit reviewed

over 50 knowledge products, programme and project documents, as well as event agendas, among other materials. As a result of recommendations provided through the internal gender assessment undertaken in 2020, which was followed by discussions with programme teams, several technical programmes and projects undertook revisions in their programme and project documents. Progress continued with the development of the UNOCT Global Gender Programme that is planned to be launched in March 2022.

In 2021, UNOCT/UNCCT systematically collected sex-disaggregated data. In total:



♀ 5,244 ▶ were women

♂ 10,669 ▶ were men

⊕ 1,218 ▶ indicated "other"

👤 2,658 ▶ "don't want to say"

Box 6: A new Human Rights and Gender Section in UNOCT

Ensuring gender equality must be an integral element in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Progress in gender sensitive analysis of the drivers of terrorism, including to understand the role of misogyny and the roles of women and girls in terrorism and prevention, is positive but insufficient. Counter-terrorism efforts have to uphold women's rights and enable their meaningful participation, while avoiding their instrumentalization. This is all the more urgent as the pandemic has led to increased levels of violence against women.

In 2021, UNOCT completed a first phase of its re-structuring process that will result in the creation of a Human Rights and Gender

Section, effective as of January 2022, which will report directly to the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of UNOCT. This structural move will enhance the required oversight and quality assurance role of the human rights and gender programmes. The new section will ensure the systematic mainstreaming of gender and human rights across all UNOCT areas of work and that UNOCT is able to provide the leadership needed to support Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Member States to effectively implement the fourth pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In order to ensure sustainability, UNOCT is seeking to include the core staff positions for this section under the United Nations Regular Budget from 2023 onwards.

Below are examples of how gender dimensions were integrated within specific projects and programmes in the design and/or implementation phase:

- **The UAS Programme** made every effort to mainstream gender in its activities, including through the provision of disaggregated data noting the participation of and taking into consideration opportunities for women and girls within the counter-terrorism sphere. It also considered the disenfranchisement placed upon men and boys in terrorism contexts.
- **The Global CT Investigations Programme** promoted a more equal representation of women in its activities and recruited gender expert consultants to ensure compliance with UNOCT gender mainstreaming standards. Looking forward, it will integrate gender

and discuss topics around the complex and various roles of women in violent extremism in its future trainings.

- **The Global Sports Programme** continued to promote sport as a major contributor to the empowerment of women and girls, as their engagement defies traditional gender stereotypes and norms, and presents women and men as equals. Sport for PCVE has the potential to prevent women and girls from engaging with violent extremist and terrorist groups, while also addressing notions about gender norms and gender inequality in communities. In fostering a more equal society, Sports for PCVE also contributes to dismantling notions of violent masculinities, which are often instrumentalised by terrorist groups in their recruitment strategies. The capacity-building activities of the Global Sport Programme included a special

section to address gender issues and speakers in panels discussed different ways of defending local communities' human rights, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and girls.

Also, a strong emphasis was placed on the inclusion of women as speakers, participants and beneficiaries, especially with regard to the grant funding initiative for civil society organizations.

Box 7: VictimA



The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme promoted a context-specific understanding of the experiences of women, men, girls, and boys by integrating a human-rights-centric and gender-responsive approach in its activities. The Victims Programme pushed for stronger recognition of victims' rights at the national level including in the model legislative provisions for victims of terrorism, and reaffirmed that women who are victims of terrorism face particular and unique challenges often a result of overarching gender inequalities, stereotypes and assumptions. The legal provisions confirmed that efforts need to be tailored and gender-sensitive to provide the services and support required for all victims and in particular for women and

girl victims. In May 2021, in the margins of the High-Level Conference on Human Rights and Civil Society Partners on Building a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter Terrorism, UNOCT/UNCT organized a session on "Victims of Terrorism and Women's Voices of Spain". UNCT premiered its short film, "VictimA" that features the voices of five women victims of terrorism from Spain over the course of several decades from the 1960s to 2017 and highlighted how the attacks impacted on them and how they have used the experience of the attacks to become agents of change. The session underlined the significance of understanding the impact of terrorism from a women's perspective and how victims' experiences have made many of them active agents of change.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS



Human rights should inform a nuanced, context-specific analysis of the conditions conducive to terrorism and guide the development, implementation, oversight, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive policies and measures to prevent and counter terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism. Similarly, promoting and protecting civic space in the context of counter-terrorism is intrinsic to the human rights-based approach provided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In 2021, UNOCT approved its Global Human Rights Programme (2022-2024) to enhance the effectiveness of its work in supporting the implementation of Pillar IV of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on PVE (A/70/674), as well as the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. The Programme responds to the recommendations of the 2019 KPMG evaluation of UNCCT, which underscored the need for a stronger focus on human rights, and aims to ensure a more robust implementation of the UN-wide HRDDP in UNOCT.

The Human Rights Unit continued to support programmes in ensuring that human rights are mainstreamed in all its projects and activities as well as conducting specific training on human rights in CT/PCVE for law enforcement officials in select countries. Below are examples of how human rights dimensions were integrated within specific projects and programmes in the design and/or implementation phase:

- **The Global Sports Programme** advocated for the protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups. The programme's activities are implemented in compliance with the UNHRDDP while safeguarding a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) based on three fundamental human rights principles: (1) equality and non-discrimination; (2) participation and inclusion; and (3) accountability and the rule of law.
- **The UAS Programme**, in consultation with human rights experts, integrated latest human rights, humanitarian law and international humanitarian law regulations into its activities. Privacy concerns prevalent in different uses of UAS are considered and recommendations of human rights bodies including those of OHCHR and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) are applied to Programme applications and recommendations. The Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme has made efforts to mainstream human rights in all its activities (including

legislative assistance and training to law enforcement) to ensure the protection of the right to life, security of persons, as well as to ensure adequate standard of health of persons. The Programme has engaged human rights advisors to ensure that the Programme and all its activities are in line with United Nations and specifically UNOCT human rights mainstreaming standards.

- **The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme** places the rights and needs of victims at the core of its work. COVID-related restrictions continued to impact victims of terrorism, creating a further sense of isolation and trauma on them and their families. UNOCT/UNCCT, in collaboration with other United Nations entities worked to ensure that victims and victims' associations continued to be given a platform and opportunities, strengthening their participation at webinars and events, so that they are able to share their experiences and advocate for their rights and needs.

- **The YEEP** applied the HRDDP to its activities, and established a comprehensive do-no-harm framework to ensure the protection of human rights and human rights mainstreaming. This included conducting a "youth-sensitive" conflict analysis and risk assessment before implementation, and assessing vulnerabilities and suitability of each individual to the programme. Young leaders were also provided with training and resources regarding boundary setting and confidentiality. Although the YEEP was not designed to be a psychosocial programme, it included support mechanisms including identification of culturally sensitive psychosocial support referral pathways and development of self-care plans. All of these resources were provided via online training and discussed with their assigned coach.

8 RISKS AND CHALLENGES



Globally, the growing interplay between terrorism, weak governance and armed conflict, coupled with inter-related 'risk multipliers' such as climate change and proliferation that can exacerbate conditions conducive to terrorism, present significant challenges in the fight against this threat. Dynamics associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing fragilities and revealed vulnerabilities to emerging forms of terrorism, such as misuse of new technologies, cyberattacks against critical infrastructure, and the threat of bioterrorism. Terrorists have sought to exploit setbacks in development and human rights agendas, polarization and hate speech, and linkages with organized crime. Recognizing the challenges that Member States face in addressing the complex and transnational threat of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, UNOCT, in collaboration with relevant United Nations System entities, has closely monitored the terrorism trends and developments around the world, while continuing to deliver on its policy, coordination and capacity-building mandates.

The continuation of the pandemic and the rise of new variants such as Delta and Omicron in 2021 forced governments to impose new travel, social and economic restrictions

which required UNOCT to constantly adapt to changes at short notice in the organization of planned events, trainings and other activities, impacting the implementation of capacity-building programmes and projects.

The Office has developed and applied lessons learned and best practices related to adjustments to and adaptation of its delivery model. Most UNOCT programmes and activities shifted from in-person to virtual or hybrid (both in-person and online) delivery model. They have used frontloaded activities that could be implemented through virtual means without impacting overall quality and impact, including by developing new guidance and tools and delivering online consultations.

UNOCT invested in optimizing the use and potential of ICT and new technologies to reach out to broader audiences and created sustainable models for the delivery of its capacity-building and coordination mandate in an efficient and effective manner. The UNOCT Connect&Learn platform is a vivid example of an innovative virtual environment designed to consolidate the Office's expertise, advocacy, and programmatic activities into a single far-reaching and easily accessible online portal. It has already transformed the Office's capacity-building model as it provides self-paced activities available anytime and anywhere, complemented with instructor-led activities featuring live trainings. In addition, the Community of Practice forums provide an interactive platform to facilitate the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and resources among relevant stakeholders on niche, developing topics.

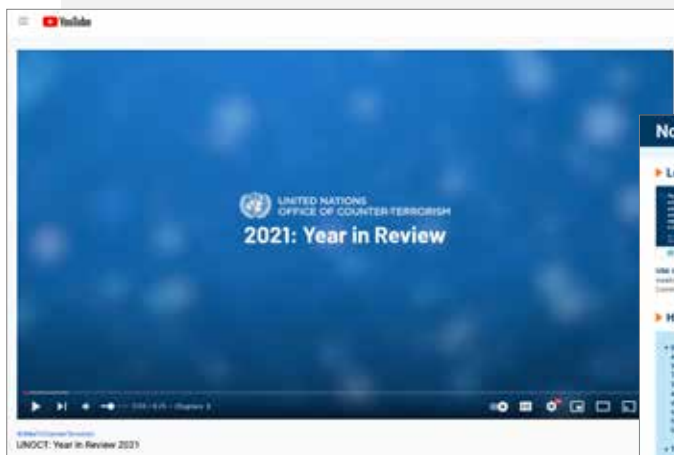
9 COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

In 2021, the Office continued the implementation of its communications strategy to raise visibility on the central role of UNOCT in the United Nations' efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism and the contribution of the State of Qatar to UNOCT in this regard. Dedicated communications plans and branded products were developed, in close collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, other United Nations entities and partners to further promote the programmes, projects and activities showcasing impact, innovation and partnerships.

While the outbreak of COVID-19 impacted the planning and delivery of some of these activities, the Office has developed contingency communications plans and tools to adapt to the evolving context, focusing more on online and digital communications.

For example, a number of events took place virtually or in hybrid format and were live-streamed on UNWebTV. The Counter-Terrorism Week and its 36 events held virtually, provided a strategic opportunity to promote the partnership with the State of Qatar. In addition, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and UNOCT senior officials continued to promote the activities of UNOCT in statements delivered at major events acknowledging the support of the State of Qatar. In order to reach out to wider audiences and ensure their participation in key outreach events despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions, UNOCT senior managers stepped up their digital diplomacy and increased the number of recorded video messages. The statements were systematically posted on UNOCT's website to maximize their reach and impact.





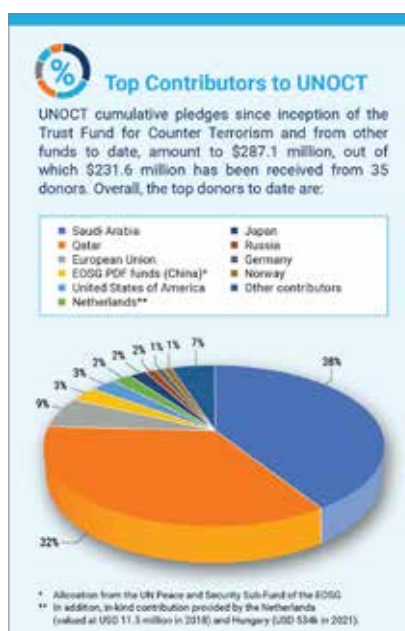
Left: UNOCT Year in Review video
Below: UNOCT monthly newsletter



The Office also increased the production of audio-visual products to promote activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner. For example, UNOCT prepared a video on the BI Hub for the Counter-Terrorism Week side event on 24 June 2021, as well as a video to wrap up 2021 entitled *UNOCT – 2021: year in review* and summarize key achievements and acknowledge donor contributions including the support provided by the State of Qatar. The video was presented by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov in the UNOCT Annual Briefing to Member States held virtually on 28 January 2022 and posted on the homepage of the UNOCT website and Youtube Channel.

In parallel, the Office also increased website content and the number of periodic newsletters for programmes and activities including the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the Global Sports Programme, the CT Travel Programme, among others.

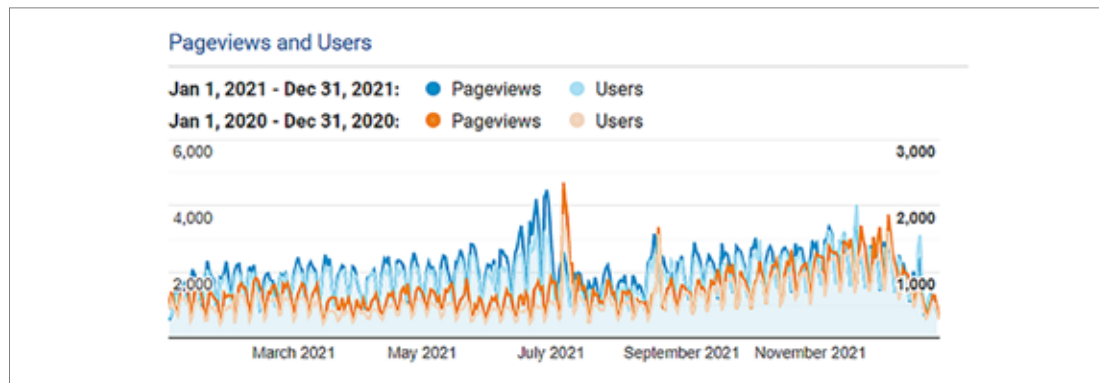
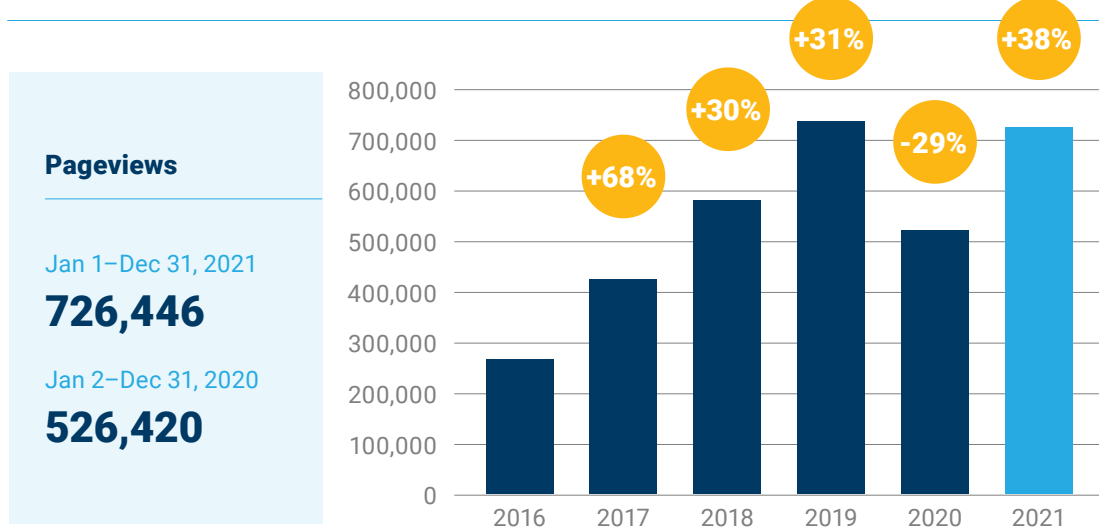
The [UNOCT Monthly Newsletter](#) continued to promote the achievements of UNOCT and the programmes and projects funded by the State of Qatar. These newsletters



included a section to highlight the top 10 donors to provide further recognition to UNOCT's partners.

The number of web stories (49) posted on the [UNOCT website](#) increased by over 300% in 2021 as well as the traffic and viewers which increased by 38%. In total, the UNOCT website recorded over 726,000 views in 2021 which demonstrates the relevance of the content and stories presented.


UNOCT Website 2021 vs 2020



UNOCT Twitter Performances

The Office boosted its support to its twitter account (@UN_OCT) which increased its number of followers by 49% in 2021 alone (from 10,000 followers by the end of 2020 to 14,200 reached in 2021). Over 750 tweets

were posted on the @UN_OCT twitter account. The total impressions @UN_OCT generated by 8,000 contributors reached 287 millions in 2021, with an increase of 52% as compared to last year.

 @UN_OCT	2020	2021	Increase
Impressions	189 million	287 million	+52%
Contributors	6,000	8,000	+33%
# of tweets	562	755	+26%
# of followers	9,500	14,200	+49%

Top Tweets

1

Top Tweet earned 75.1K impressions

Join us for **#VictimsofTerrorism** International Day

Watch live 20 August, 9am EDT on **@UNWebTV**

#UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism #UNCCT

bit.ly/INFO-VOT2021
pic.twitter.com/HdVK4UAonT



20 August 2021 • 9:00 am EDT • <http://webtv.un.org>

13 46 113

2

Top Tweet earned 54.1K impressions

JOIN US for the **#CTWeek** side event discussing returning individuals with links to terrorist groups from Syria & Iraq

Register by Friday, 18 June noon EST
bit.ly/3pEdCCC

@UN_OCT #UNCCT
#UNiteToCounterTerrorism
pic.twitter.com/VrydBZYACP



13 7 18

3

Top Tweet earned 37.4K impressions

@UN_OCT **USG Voronkov & @UN_CTED** ASG Conlinx briefed UN Security Council on rising threat posed by ISIL & reiterated UN commitment to stand by Member States in addressing the scourge of **#terrorism** amidst **#COVID19**

Statement: bit.ly/OCT-SPEECH

#UNiteToCounterTerrorism
pic.twitter.com/12nUVK0vuk



13 46 113

4

Top media Tweet earned 32.5K impressions

Intl Day of **#VictimsofTerrorism**

@UN SG @antoniouterres pays tribute to all victims and survivors of terrorism. He calls to support them in healing their trauma & bring them hope.

Check message in 6 UN languages
un.org/victimsofterro...

#UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism #UNCCT
pic.twitter.com/9qvKSGAyOK



13 25 51

5

Top media Tweet earned 24.6K impressions

Second **#CTWeek** at **@UN** from 21 to 30 June;

21 & 22 June: Review of **@UN** Global **#CounterTerrorism** Strategy by **@UNGA**

28-30 June : 2nd HLC of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States

24-30 June: 34 joint side-events

bit.ly/CTWeek21
#UNiteToCounterTerrorism
pic.twitter.com/FQTK577w98



13 46 113

6

Top Tweet earned 23.9K impressions

@UN_OCT to launch the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against **#VulnerableTargets** incl. panel on the protection of religious sites

19 Jan. 9am-12pm ET
 Live on webtv.un.org
bit.ly/OCT-VTarget

With **@UNAOC @UNICRI @UN_CTED**
 Funded by pic.twitter.com/CRAic6ZABx

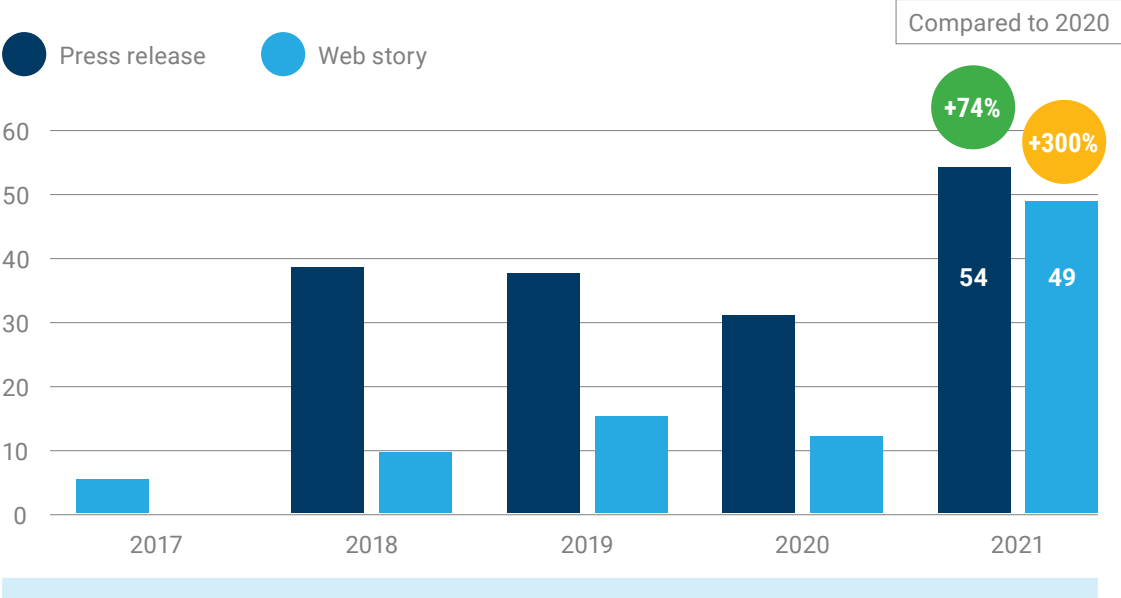


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UNOCT Press Release and Web Story

In 2021, UNOCT issued **54 press releases** which represents an increase of 74% compared to 2020. Of the total press releases

issued, **32 were dedicated** to presenting key events of programmes and projects funded by the State of Qatar.



In 2022, UNOCT will continue to promote the programmes supported by the State of Qatar through the development of tailored communications plans, impactful communications tools, and attractive

campaigns, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, United Nations entities and partners, including the State of Qatar.



10 STRATEGIC PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Since the establishment of UNOCT in 2017, the Office has made substantive improvements in the consolidation of its programmes, projects and activities to effectively respond to Member States' needs towards the implementation of relevant General Assembly and Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, while simultaneously developing and streamlining internal processes, controls, structures and mechanisms required to ensure the effective and efficient running of its mandated functions and activities. As part of these efforts, in 2021, UNOCT developed the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Programme Framework (SPPF) for 2022-2025, which provides strategic direction for the Office and its programme of work over the next four years. The SPPF provides five results-oriented strategic goals and institutional priorities that describe how UNOCT will organize itself in order to best meet its renewed vision and mission statement, as derived from its mandate entrusted by the General Assembly.

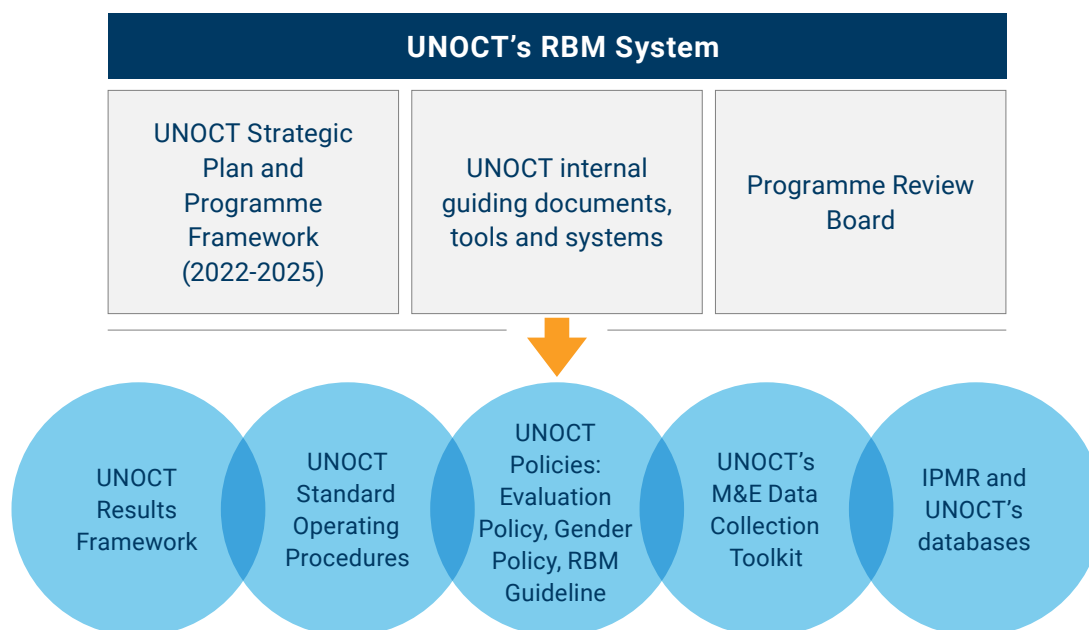
A key institutional priority for the Office, as set out in the SPPF, is delivering 'fit-for-purpose' approach by ensuring UNOCT's structure and programme delivery are and remain coherent and relevant. To support greater synergies in programme delivery, the Office has aligned UNCCT and SPIB's capacity-building activities into a coherent UNOCT capacity-building function. In 2021, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) under UNCCT, continued to provide integrated programme management

support to programmes and projects implemented by UNCCT and SPIB. PMU is also composed of both UNCCT and SPIB staff allowing for an integrated operational team capable of catering to the programmatic and financial support needs of the Office. With the aim of ensuring joint management at the senior level, the Chief of SPIB serves as Deputy Director of UNCCT. In 2021, PMU organized Quarterly Performance Review meetings with the relevant Programme Managers and Chiefs overseeing projects and programmes. The meetings resulted in key recommendations to ensure that projects continue to be implemented efficiently and effectively.

In addition, the SPPF is supported by a common Results Framework for UNOCT's programme of work guided by a theory of change, which will allow UNOCT to measure and report against its mandated functions. The monitoring of the Results Framework will support accountability and transparency, forming the basis of results-based monitoring and performance reporting.

Moving forward, UNOCT will be guided by its internal results-based programme management system consisting of:

- The UNOCT SPPF as overarching strategy and direction for the period 2021-2025.
- Internal governance and guidance materials to operationalize the SPPF (i.e., the UNOCT Results Framework, strategies, policies, SOPs, and guidelines).



- The newly adopted Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution which enables an effective monitoring and reporting system.
- UNOCT's Programme Review Board as the primary internal control and governance mechanism that enables the exercise of senior strategic guidance and oversight over programmatic activities.

In 2021, UNOCT developed a new Programme Review Board (PRB) Policy planned to be launched in 2022, which provides the purpose, scope of work, roles and responsibilities, and functioning of the PRB mechanism, as a key internal control and governance mechanism. The PRB reviews programme/project documentation; monitors implementation to ensure programmes achieve intended results; provides direction and guidance to ensure effective programme delivery; and updates and advises the Under-Secretary-General on pertinent actions.

During the reporting period, UNOCT also undertook a comprehensive review and update of existing UNOCT SOPs issued in 2019 to address the emerging programme and operational needs of a growing Office, integrate the recommendations from external

evaluations and internal assessments, and align working processes with new Secretariat directives. UNOCT issued two new SOPs on the organization, roles and functions of the OUSG, and resource mobilization and donor relations. UNOCT also launched its first Resource Mobilization Strategy to secure sustainable, diversified, flexible and predictable funding and ensure the Office has a solid financial footing to deliver on the commitments outlined in the UNOCT SPPF. In 2022, UNOCT will finalize the revision of its existing SOPs and will develop new ones to further streamline its working processes and ensure coherence of internal procedures, with a view to enhancing its ability to deliver on its mandate in an effective and efficient manner.



Box 8: Advancing the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General

UNOCT is committed to unlocking the full potential of data to enable fact-based decision making and strengthening technology and innovation capabilities of its staff. In 2021 and thanks to the support provided by the State of Qatar, UNOCT created a small dedicated information management function in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG) to conduct, in partnership with OICT, an information management assessment to identify key information

management gaps and risks. This resulted in the creation of a roadmap in four areas: improving capacities, policies and processes, technology, and production and sharing of data and information. Several information management tools have been developed to facilitate the collection, consolidation and analysis of internal and external data for effective and coordinated management of UNOCT's programme of work, including on programme/project management. Going forward, UNOCT will continue to consolidate the diverse range of reports and project management dashboards into a single information management portal to improve information sharing and management and optimize the efficiency of the Office's processes.



Example of new UNOCT information management tool – Counter-Terrorism Situation Report

Evaluation – a commitment to continuous learning

2021 saw the reorganization of the monitoring and evaluation function in UNOCT to respond to the recommendations outlined in the KPMG evaluation of UNCCT concluded in 2020. This resulted in the creation of a new Evaluation and Compliance Unit in the OUSG as the custodian of the evaluation function and best practices and a demonstration of UNOCT's commitment to ensuring and promoting transparency, learning, and accountability.

The Under-Secretary-General launched on 8 March 2021 the first Evaluation Policy to provide the overall framework for the planning and undertaking of evaluations,

to support accountability, and increase transparency, coherence and efficiency in generating and using evaluative knowledge for organizational learning and effective results-based management. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General approved UNOCT's Organizational Evaluation Plan for 2021-2022 with the selection of evaluations to be conducted in this period, namely, a final evaluation of the project "Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law" and process and outcome evaluation of the programme "Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism".

With regard to capacity development, UNOCT Evaluation focal point conducted a five-day online training in 2021 to equip UNOCT staff members with the necessary tools

and knowledge on results-based monitoring and evaluation of project/programme implementation. A total of 29 staff were trained on monitoring and evaluation methodologies and their application to programme/project design. The training also discussed M&E frameworks linking

activities to outputs/outcomes and impact with accompanying indicators to enable the measurement of progress against targets. Finally, the training discussed different data collection tools/instruments and the use of information from M&E processes to identify problems and learn lessons.

Box 9: Independent Meta-Synthesis of the Evaluations Conducted under the UN GCTS

In 2021, the Sub-Group on Evaluation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group composed of UNOCT, UNODC and UNICRI led the first system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluations under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy funded with seed funding from the State of Qatar. The sub-group first completed a comprehensive data collection and analysis of 118 oversight reports, external reviews or assessments produced since 2018. The evaluation results aimed to support Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to deliver assistance more effectively and ensure that resources are expended on strategies and initiatives that deliver positive outcomes.

Preliminary results found adequate qualitative evidence to suggest that Counter-Terrorism Compact entities were contributing to achieving the outcomes related to minimizing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (except those pertaining to human rights on which limited information was available). However not enough information was available to assess the degree to which these outcomes were being achieved. With regard to evidence for success (e.g., change in knowledge and awareness, increased international cooperation, etc.), the synthesis identified large gaps in availability of evidence that require more information to make a conclusive determination in, for instance, inculcating a culture of peace, justice, rule of law and human rights in targeted countries, social rehabilitation, and reintegration.

A key recommendation was to validate existing findings with a full-fledged evaluation to derive robust findings from the current synthesis. The synthesis also recommended the establishment of a common and harmonized M&E framework, a knowledge platform for sharing knowledge, and strengthening the evaluation capacity among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.



The synthesis also identified several best practices such as the importance of leveraging partnerships to achieve wider impact. Partnering with civil society organizations, academia, private sector, and regional bodies, and going beyond traditional partnerships with Member States and other international organizations, was found to accelerate the achievement of intended results. Some of the most successful interventions found ways to leverage youth interests – arts, sports, media, informal learning, and personal relationships – to teach peacebuilding skills.

The final report will be disseminated in 2022 and will be followed by the development of the management response with follow-up actions to implement the recommendations. To ensure the utilization of good practices and lessons identified, the meta-synthesis report will be disseminated widely among Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups and other stakeholders. The Sub-Group on Evaluation will also develop a follow-up survey to assess the usefulness of the process and the meta-synthesis to support future work of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.

Priorities for 2022

A key priority in 2022 will be to solidify a 'results-culture' in UNOCT by moving from a reliance on activity and output-based performance monitoring and reporting towards outcome and impact-based performance results. UNOCT will continue to provide support and guidance on the design and operationalization of the Office's results-based management system. This will include the development of the Office's updated consolidated standard operating procedures on programme management, to be supported and complemented by results-based management guidelines and tools, including toolkit of data collection tools. In addition, UNOCT will further strengthen its monitoring systems to track programmatic performance and financial management of projects and programmes, and gather evidence to report on the results achieved in the next programming cycle and as part of the new SPPF Results Framework.

With regards to evaluation, UNOCT will continue to strengthen the evaluation function to ensure adherence to United Nations standards. In this regard, a review of the evaluation policy will be undertaken to align with the newly published United

Nations Administrative Instructions on Evaluation, recent structural changes in the Office including alignment with the new 2021-2025 UNOCT SPPF. In addition, resource mobilization efforts will be enhanced to explore additional financing for the evaluation function in view of its expanded functions. Further, additional guidance will be provided through the development of evaluation guidelines to operationalize the evaluation policy. An evaluation handbook will also be developed to guide the design and conduct of evaluations in the Office including methodologies and tools for assessing the impact of CT/PCVE projects and programmes.

UNOCT will continue to update the Organizational Evaluation Plan through the addition of new projects, programmes and strategic evaluations while completing ongoing evaluations. Finally, UNOCT will begin to develop a web-based evaluation management and knowledge sharing application to record work plans for evaluations, manage evaluations, track implementation of evaluation recommendations, store and share evaluation reports, and provide a repository of evaluation related materials, tools and resources.

11 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

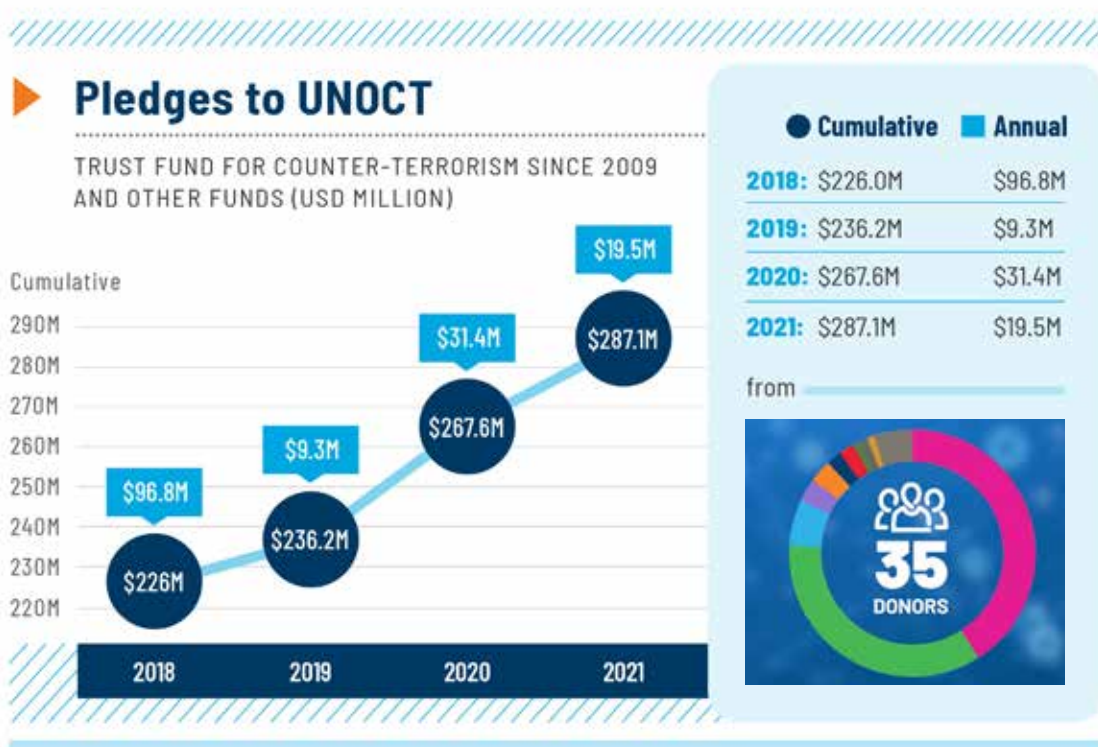
The State of Qatar is the second largest donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, with an accumulated support amounting to \$92.8 million since the establishment of the Trust Fund in 2009. This includes contributions under the three main agreements signed between the State of Qatar and UNOCT since 2018, namely:

- **Contribution agreement of \$75 million** for five years (2019-2023) to support UNOCT core staffing and operational costs, as well as capacity-building programming.
- **Contribution agreement of \$5 million** for three years (2020-2023) for the establishment and operations of the

International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha.

- **Contribution agreement of \$12.5 million** for five years (2020-2025) through the Shura Council of the State of Qatar for the Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism Programme Office in Doha.

In 2021, UNOCT programmed a total budget amounting to \$23.3 million (compared to \$16 million in 2020), and spent \$21.3 million (compared to \$12.5 million in 2020). As per standard practice in previous reporting to the State of Qatar, the cost of senior management positions to provide leadership, strategic planning and oversight,





have been apportioned among the six priority areas presented in Table 2 below. The utilization rate in 2021 averaged 91 percent of the total budget, an increase compared to

2020 utilization rate of 78 per cent. UNOCT plans to continue using the remaining funds from the State of Qatar to support ongoing programming in the first quarter of 2022.

Table 2: Financial Performance in 2021 of the contribution from the State of Qatar (US\$)

Programmatic Area*	2021 Budget	2021 Expenditures	Utilization Rate %
PRIORITY 1: Strengthen coordination, coherence and common action	9,132,315	8,567,245	94%
PRIORITY 2: Special projects and innovation	2,775,636	2,490,628	90%
PRIORITY 3: Preventing and countering violent extremism	2,713,333	2,516,489	93%
PRIORITY 4: Countering terrorist travel	5,407,026	4,768,860	88%
PRIORITY 5: Victims of Terrorism	883,765	757,236	86%
BI Insights Hub in Doha	1,477,171	1,361,868	92%
Parliamentary Programme Office in Doha	918,982	828,281	90%
Total**	23,308,228	21,290,606	91%

* The costs for functions providing political, leadership, strategic planning, managerial capacity as well as oversight, evaluation and administration support for the Office funded with the Qatari contribution have been apportioned to the programmatic areas in the table above.

** At the time of the publication of this report, the closure of the 2021 financial year is still ongoing and hence the figures provided are preliminary.

12 CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

With the generous financial contribution of the State of Qatar and its strong political and technical support to UNOCT's programme of work, UNOCT has delivered on its core functions of policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, advocacy, visibility and resource mobilization, in support of the United Nations' efforts in counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in line with the mandate entrusted to the Office by the General Assembly. As detailed in this report, UNOCT utilized the State of Qatar's annual contribution towards programmes, projects and activities in

support of the operational parameters outlined in the multi-year contribution agreement signed with the State of Qatar in December 2018. In this regard, the State of Qatar's funding has been channeled towards the implementation of key strategic initiatives and programmes to address the scourge of terrorism, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the global programme on countering terrorist travel through the use of advance passenger information and passenger name record data systems, prevention and countering violent extremism, as and when



UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe: Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani

conducive to terrorism, and supporting victims of terrorism. A key deliverable during the reporting year was the successful organization by UNOCT of the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week, including its three key components: (1) the adoption of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with UNOCT providing secretariat support to the review process; (2) the Second High-Level Conference of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States; and (3) 36 side events with the participation of the international counter-terrorism community.

Operating within the parameters of the contribution agreement, UNOCT launched and advanced the implementation of global programmes on aviation security, unmanned aircraft systems, protection of vulnerable targets, counter-terrorism investigations, sports security and prevention of violent extremism, and fusion cells, in addition to operationalizing its field-based programmes on behavioural insights

and parliamentary engagement to prevent and counter terrorism. Implementation in 2021 was supported by increased focus on innovation and partnerships through the full adaptation to hybrid and virtual modalities to respond to pandemic-induced requirements and offset related costs, the development and operationalization of the UNOCT Connect & Learn digital platform for e-learning and networking among experts and practitioners, and the organization of several external outreach initiatives with civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the private sector, and other counter-terrorism actors.

To inform and guide implementation in the coming years, UNOCT invested extensively in strengthening its institutional capacities through the development of the *2022-2025 Strategic Plan and Programme Framework*, which sets out its strategic goals and institutional priorities to implement its mandated functions, reflecting on the



Photo / UNOCT: USG Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

counter-terrorism mandate of the seventh review of the Strategy and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. In addition to ensuring greater alignment within organizational work units and initiating the first phase of re-structuring that includes the creation of a new Human Rights and Gender Section and a new Evaluation and Compliance Unit, the Office continued streamlining its internal working processes through the review and revision of existing standard operating procedures and development of new ones – a process that will continue in the new year.

Looking at the year ahead, UNOCT will continue to deliver tailored assistance to Member States using in-person, virtual and hybrid options for implementation within the scope of its global programmes. The CT Travel Programme will welcome new beneficiaries and establish new partnerships, implement comprehensive and innovative strategies related to training and learning, human rights and gender, and maritime domain awareness and technical development. The TAM Programme will expand its implementation to South-East Asia, identify and formalize partnerships with Member States, international and regional organizations, conduct an internal review to ensure outcomes-based approach, human rights compliance and gender mainstreaming, refine its training materials, and explore new programming to support greater cooperation between CT and aviation security stakeholders.

Through the understanding gained within one-year of implementation, the UAS Programme will organize expert group meetings to identify priorities, needs and challenges which will inform the provision of micro-UAS, train-the-trainer, and UAS operator training courses to beneficiary Member States. In collaboration with partners, an annual policy publication

will provide global trend reviews to raise awareness and inform Member States about autonomous and remotely operated systems, including UAS-related threats and benefits including through a gender lens. The Vulnerable Targets Programme will continue its core work of supporting Member States by delivering knowledge products, technical and capacity-building assistance, and developing synergies among experts across the world. The CT Investigations Programme will continue to strengthen capacities of national institutions on detection, response, mitigation and investigation of terrorism.

The Sports Programme will organize a high-level roundtable on the protection of major sporting events and use of sports values for the prevention of violent extremism in Doha. The Programme will also launch the *Guide for Policymakers for the Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism* in six UN languages and a campaign, focusing on messaging to strengthen resilience against violent extremism, especially among youth. The Fusion Cells Programme will continue the review of national legal frameworks, publish the *Compendium of Good Practices and Related Guidelines*, complete the development of supporting training materials, and deliver trainings and workshops for existing and new beneficiaries. In 2022, UNOCT will organize the first Global Congress for Victims of Terrorism, which intends to chart a way forward to understand how to better protect, promote and uphold the rights and needs of victims at the national, regional and international levels.

In terms of programme implementation in the field, the UNOCT Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office will produce a new parliamentary handbook linked to the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Model legislative provisions developed by UNOCT together with UNODC and IPU are

expected to be presented at a virtual launch in 2022. The Office will also convene a parliamentary summit for African Countries in Doha, among other outreach activities, and continue to provide counter-terrorism legislative assistance to Member States and strengthen cooperation with parliamentary assemblies, within the framework of the MoU signed between UNOCT and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar. The BI Hub will launch the first Behavioural Insights Academy to facilitate continuous learning and exchange of experiences and develop a code of conduct to outline the values and ethical guidelines to guide its daily decision-making processes. It will also continue to enhance communications and visibility outreach and partnerships through a series of seminars and the development of a behavioural insights podcast to provide practitioners with the latest knowledge

In support of programmatic activities, UNOCT will continue to strengthen its existing partnerships while establishing new ones through the development and implementation of various cooperation arrangements and instruments. UNOCT will finalize its 'General Partnerships Strategy' and operationalize its use by staff including in field presences, to institutionalize the Office's interactions with external partners, develop stronger relationships with academia, think tanks, the public and private sector, and civil society actors, as well as to deliver coherent messaging that complies with human rights and gender considerations. In addition, the Office will expand e-learning activities and communities of practice in the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform to reinforce the delivery of its capacity-building mandate, while enhancing its user interface. In support of providing cutting-edge responses to the evolving terrorism threat, the Office will continue to keep abreast of latest threats and develop new initiatives such as in the area of safeguarding the space of new

technologies, including augmented and virtual reality as well as gaming spaces and their adjacent platforms, from terrorists and violent extremists.

In terms of flagship events, UNOCT and the State of Qatar will hold the 4th High-Level Strategic Dialogue on the margins of the 2022 Doha Forum to discuss strategic priorities and programmatic cooperation. Further, they will jointly organize the Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance, the first in a series of annual forums that will assess the results-based performance and progress of UNOCT programmes, projects and activities funded by the State of Qatar, which will produce an outcome document with good practices and recommendations to help inform CT/PCVE programme design and delivery going forward. These and other initiatives during the week of the Beneficiaries Forum, including the Global Youth Town Hall, will further bolster the strategic partnership and practical cooperation between UNOCT and the State of Qatar in the common fight against terrorism.

As part of its role in advancing the global counter-terrorism agenda, fostering coordination and coherence among United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts, and promoting effective, inclusive and networked multilateralism in CT/PCVE, UNOCT will organize the *High-Level International Conference on Regional Cooperation among Central Asian States within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* (Tashkent, March); *High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism: For a Future Free from Terrorism, Building Resilience with Civil Society through the Rule of Law and Human Rights* (Málaga, May); and the *High-Level Regional Conference on Border Security Management, Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Social Resilience* (Dushanbe, May). All

of these events will be promoted through tailored communications plans to provide due recognition to the partnership with the State of Qatar.

UNOCT will continue to work closely with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and national and regional partners to support Member States and other beneficiaries, at their request, in their efforts to implement their counter-terrorism commitments under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the continued support and trust of the State of Qatar, as well as the contributions received from the remaining 34 donors to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. With less than 3 per cent of UNOCT's funding needs covered

by the United Nations Regular Budget, this support remains essential for the Office. Given the breadth of UNOCT's work and mandated activities, a key priority for 2022 will be to secure additional regular budget contribution from the United Nations General Assembly to cover core functions of a continuing nature, i.e., leadership, policy, coordination, gender and human rights, administration, and evaluation. If successful, this will provide UNOCT with the sustainable financial footing in implementation of the UNOCT core mandate and allow greater utilization of the unearmarked funding to be used for capacity building activities.

UNOCT counts on the continued support of the State of Qatar, as a major counter-terrorism partner of the United Nations, as we remain committed to working together for a future without terrorism.



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