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UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

**Quarterly Project Highlight Report to
the UNCCT Advisory Board**

**2nd Quarter, Year IV of the 5-Year
Programme**

1 April - 30 June 2019

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Executive Summary

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), established in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), is in the fourth year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016-2020). This report provides an update of the implementation of UNCCT capacity-building programmes, projects and activities for the 1 April-30 June 2019 reporting period. In addition to the executive summary, the report consists of five sections: (1) an overview of programme implementation under each of the four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; (2) the Centre's work on communications and visibility; (3) an update on monitoring, evaluation and oversight activities; (4) financial update of the status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, resource allocation, and programme performance; and (5) a concluding section.

Over the course of three months, UNCCT programmes and projects delivered 19 events, including trainings, workshops, conferences and expert meetings, benefiting approximately 300 participants. In addition, UNCCT staff provided their expertise and raised the profile of the Centre at 15 global, regional and national events organized by partner organizations.

In response to requests from Member States, and in light of the Secretary-General's promulgation of the Key Principles for the Protection, Repatriation, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children with Links to United Nations Listed Terrorist Groups, UNCCT led discussions with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and other relevant UN entities on the establishment of an Umbrella Programme to Support Member States in the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (SPRR) of Individuals Suspected or Convicted of Committing Terrorist Acts, their Families and Associates. While discussions on the modalities of the programme are still underway, it is part of a broader UNOCT-wide and 'all-of-UN' approach on the issue. Discussions on this programme will continue through the remainder of 2019.

UNCCT continued efforts to address audit recommendations made in the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) as a result of the 2018 audit of UNCCT. These efforts, aligned with the ongoing change management process for UNOCT overall, aim to upscale expertise available to the Centre and improve programme and project planning, resource allocation, implementation, monitoring, and quality assurance and control. These efforts will continue throughout 2019.

Finally, UNCCT provided a detailed briefing to the UNCCT Advisory Board on the 2018 Annual Report during its 18th Ambassadorial-level Meeting on 29 May. The Annual Report was also made available on the UNCCT website.

Part I: Overview of Programme Implementation

Pillar I: Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism

In the reporting period, UNCCT continued implementation of the **“PVE through Strategic Communications”** project, which focuses on implementing tailored capacity-building workshops in the Middle East, East Africa and South-East Asia. On 5 May, UNCCT conducted the project’s first PVE through Strategic Communications workshop in Amman, Jordan, which focused on supporting national-level and grassroots civil society organizations (CSOs) working with vulnerable young people. The workshop provided knowledge sharing on ‘StratCom101’ and behaviour change through communications theory, and co-designed future capacity support needs for CSOs in both Amman and the region.

UNCCT commenced its new partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) International Centre of Excellence on PCVE through a co-design workshop, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27-28 May, within the broader framework of UNCCT’s support to the implementation of the IGAD regional strategy on preventing and countering violent extremism in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. The workshop covered key PVE StratCom methodologies and theoretical approaches, for the purposes of co-designing a regional capacity-building workshop with all eight IGAD Member States, which will take place in October 2019.

Capitalizing on the well-established and continued relationship with the Government of the Philippines, UNCCT piloted and tested a holistic and integrated model of PVE StratCom capacity building in Manila, and conducted three workshops from 17 to 21 June. The first workshop was held with a diverse range of government representatives from law enforcement and security, community and education sectors in line with the whole-of-government approach, and the second and third workshops were held with the UN country team. All three workshops focused on supporting the launch and implementation of the Government’s National Action Plan for PCVE, while the third workshop also supported upskilling staff and building PVE through Strategic Communications capacity within the UN Country Team. These workshops built on earlier activities in Tagaytay and Manila in March 2019.

From 3 to 4 April in New York, UNCCT held a learning exchange with Hedayah which focused, in part, on information sharing on each entity’s work on countering terrorist narratives. UNCCT and Hedayah agreed to conduct further consultations to ensure complementarity on global capacity-building support on Counter and Alternative Narratives. UNCCT also consulted with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) in New York on 28 June, to discuss potential

knowledge sharing between the implementation of the PVE through Strategic Communications project and ISD's Strong Cities Network and its work in countering terrorist narratives.

From 10 to 14 June, the joint UNCCT, UNODC and CTED project on **“Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons”** conducted a scoping mission to Uganda, the project's third pilot country (in addition to Tunisia and Kazakhstan). The scoping mission met with stakeholders from relevant governmental bodies and civil society organizations to assess the capacity of the Ugandan Prison Service (UPS), with a consistent focus on the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons and, on this basis, to develop a Country Workplan carefully tailored to the local context. The project is due to formally launch with a High-level Roundtable in Kampala in the third quarter.

A full-time staff member commenced work in late April on the development of a **Civil Society Engagement Strategy** to strengthen the UNOCT engagement with civil society in a more structured and systematic manner. Consultations with Member States, other UN entities and civil society organizations worldwide are ongoing, and introductions and initial consultations were held with seven civil society organizations, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and UN Women. The Strategy will be finalized during the third quarter.

In the context of the project **“Enhancing Member States Capacities to Exploit Social Media in relation to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)”**, UNCCT drafted the handbook **“Using the Internet and Social Media for Counter-Terrorism Investigations”** together with its implementing partner INTERPOL. The handbook is the final output of the project and builds on expert presentations at the workshops organized under this project. CTED, UNODC, UN WOMEN, and the International Association of Prosecutors made valuable contributions.

A number of activities were held during this quarter within the scope of UNCCT's four-year "**Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme**", which provides the framework for a broad range of capacity-building projects and activities aimed at strengthening the Member State capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and stem the flow of FTFs through improved border security and management.

From 11 to 12 April, UNCCT provided expertise at the "ID@borders" conference in Vienna, jointly organized by the Biometrics Institute and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The conference, attended by more than 250 participants from OSCE Member States, private industry and UN partners, such as UNDP, INTERPOL, UNODC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), focused on Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) and the use of biometrics at borders. UNCCT delivered a presentation focusing on the responsible collection, use and sharing of biometrics to counter terrorism and enhance border management, and supported the Biometrics Institute in the delivery of a half-day training course 'Introduction to Biometrics at Borders' which utilized the UN Compendium of Recommended Practices as a practical tool for training.

From 30 April to 1 May, working meetings were held in Bangkok with partners from UNODC and IOM to further the development of joint projects on enhancing cross-border cooperation to counter terrorism in the ASEAN region and to advance the planning and organization of a joint regional training on best practices in BSM in the third quarter. On 2-3 May, UNCCT provided expertise at the Second Regional Workshop of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) 'Initiative on Improving Capabilities for Detecting and Interdicting Terrorist Travel through Enhanced Terrorist Screening and Information Sharing' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The regional workshop, co-led by the United States and Morocco, was attended by approximately 90 participants from GCTF Member States, security and border authorities from the region, as well as regional and international bodies.

From 13-17 May, a national level pilot training was launched in Nairobi, Kenya to build the capacity of frontline officers at international airports to address threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTF). The training, jointly implemented with UNODC-Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP), covered key principles and challenges of border security, good practices in the area of BSM in the context of counter-terrorism, the FTF phenomenon and criminalization of FTFs, human rights for frontline officers, use of behavioural science for passenger screening, and travel document control and forgery. On the sidelines of the training, UNCCT engaged with

regional and international counterparts (UNODC and IOM) to implement additional BSM related activities in the region.

UNCCT also provided expertise at the training of trainers on human rights at international borders on 14-17 May in Geneva. The training was organized by the Migration Team of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in collaboration with UNCCT, and used the human rights training modules 'Ensuring human rights at international borders including in the context of counter-terrorism' jointly developed by UNCCT-OHCHR for border security officials. The training aimed at familiarizing OHCHR officials with the training materials and methodologies and provided them with the capacity to deliver trainings for border officials in their national or regional context.

On 28-30 May, UNCCT spoke at the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Asia/Pacific Security Conference held in Kyoto, Japan. The conference, attended by 65 participants from 27 countries and international organizations, was part of the WCO project to enhance the capacities of customs authorities to counter terrorist threats in the region. UNCCT delivered a presentation on the 'Global Security Environment', providing an update of global security threats related to the cross-border movement of terrorists.

On 6 June in Brussels, UNCCT participated as a panelist in 'The Great Debate: Responsible & Ethical Use of Biometrics', an event co-hosted by Microsoft and the Biometrics Institute, which focused on how to ensure the responsible and ethical use of new technologies such as biometrics and facial recognition. The Debate brought together a broad range of officials from international organizations, European governmental institutions, civil society and biometrics and industry experts. Held under Chatham House Rules, conference sessions included views from the industry on the importance of the responsible use of biometrics and ethical principles for biometrics.

From 13 to 14 June, UNCCT attended and delivered a presentation at the third and final regional GCTF 'Terrorist Travel Initiative' workshop held in Rabat, Morocco. The final workshop brought together more than 60 participants from Africa and the Middle East, as well as regional and international organizations including the G5 Sahel, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The workshop highlighted the challenges of land border management in the region, underscoring the need for international assistance to strengthen border law enforcement capacities.

From 17 to 19 June, UNCCT provided expertise at a European Union/Frontex workshop on traveler risk assessment to better address the threats from cross-border crime and terrorism in air travel held at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. The workshop brought together representatives of border control authorities from Arab countries, EU Member States, EU bodies and the United Nations to discuss and present a range of methods, tools and practices aimed at

countering cross-border crime and terrorism when conducting border checks at airports. The workshop was organized by Frontex in cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and the EU-funded CT-MENA project.

As part of the joint action plan with OSCE, UNCCT supported the delivery of an OSCE Advanced Train-the-Trainer Course held in Istanbul, Turkey on 24-29 June on addressing cross-border challenges in the identification of potential FTFs. The training benefitted 15 government officers from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine who will serve as trainers in their respective home countries. The training covered various sessions on border management in the context of counter-terrorism including international and regional legal frameworks, modern challenges in border management and BSM good practices, API/PNR and INTERPOL databases, Train the Trainer methodology, document security and techniques for examining travel documents (passport/visa and others), and visual arts training tools development. It also included an official visit to the new Istanbul international airport with a briefing from Turkish counter-terrorism officers on techniques to identify potential FTFs.

During the reporting period, UNCCT continued implementation of its **“Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism”**, focusing on increasing its visibility in this field, strengthening strategic partnerships, working on engagement with INTERPOL on CBRN threat assessment, implementing capacity-building projects, and improving international interagency coordination.

As a part of its increased visibility and strengthened partnership efforts, UNCCT attended and supported the organization of several international events. In April, UNCCT co-hosted a table-top exercise entitled ‘Valiant Eagle: Response Coordination and Legal Framework Workshop’, organized with the Government of Nigeria and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) for countries in Africa. Upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, UNCCT participated in the meeting of the Nuclear Security Contact Group in Budapest in May and presented UNCCT capacity-building activities. UNCCT’s active engagement was recognized and commended by the United States, co-chair of the Initiative, during the 11th Plenary Meeting of the GICNT held in Buenos Aires, which UNOCT/UNCCT was invited to attend for the first time.

UNCCT continued its dialogue with INTERPOL on the preparation of a study on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) threats assessment, with Phase I focusing on the Middle East and North Africa, and agreed on the roles of both entities.

In May, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland contributed funds to the WMD/CBRN programme to support 2019 activities of the GICNT. The activities will target different regions of the world and different disciplines such as nuclear forensics, nuclear detection, and border security.

Under the capacity-building component of the programme, UNCCT organized an event at the UN Headquarters on 25 April where it launched the joint UNCCT-UNODC-EU project **“Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)”**. The event was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, the Deputy Secretary-General for Common Security and Defense Policy and Crisis Response, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Chief of TPB/UNODC, and attended by numerous Member States and relevant international organizations and initiatives (GICNT, IAEA, IPU, UNODA, UN/OLA). A similar launching event, organized by UNODC, was held in Vienna on 27 May to present the project to representatives based there.

Within the scope of its capacity-building project on **“Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan”**, UNCCT continued preparations for the first self-assessment workshop on Jordan CBRN resilience in collaboration with NATO and the Jordanian Armed Forces scheduled for August 2019.

As part of its efforts to improve international interagency coordination, UNCCT presented its WMD/CBRN activities at the first substantive meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection on 20 May. UNCCT continued the implementation of the Global Compact Working Group Project on **“Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism”**. The first scenarios, developed by UNICRI and submitted to the Working Group for validation, focus on possible misuse of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones).

Under the project on **“Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) through Effective National and Regional Action”**, UNCCT, with the substantive engagement of CTED and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, organized and facilitated a national capacity-building workshop on 25-26 April in the country on **“Addressing Terrorist Financing through the Implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions and Protecting the NPO Sector from Terrorist Abuse”**. Thirty (30) officials from the Mongolian Central Bank’s Financial Information Center, the Financial Regulatory Commission, Ministries of Finance, Justice and Home Affairs, the General Prosecutor’s Office, National Police Agency, Customs, Judicial Council and other relevant intelligence and regulatory institutions took part in the training. The delivery team also included a representative from the Canada Revenue Agency and Italy’s Guardia di Finanza. The workshop

enabled UNCCT to work with the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to explore further trainings to select Mongolian officials at Guardia di Finanza training centers in Italy.

UNCCT continued its work on developing an expanded and more holistic capacity-building programme on countering the financing of terrorism in response to Security Council resolution 2462 (2019), which aims to address the new terrorism financing-related risks in a more comprehensive and robust manner. In this regard, from 20 to 21 June, UNCCT organized a regional conference in Moscow, Russia, in partnership with the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation, known as Rosfinmonitoring, the Moscow State Lomonosov University (MSLU) and the Eurasian Group (EAG) on Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, on 'Counter-Terrorism Financing: Enhancing Financial Investigations through the Use of Financial Intelligence and Blockchain Assets'. The Conference brought together two officials from each of the member jurisdictions of the EAG (Belarus, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Russian Federation). The objective of the two-day conference was to discuss innovative IT solutions to collect, analyze and disseminate exponential amount of heterogeneous data and exchange on new terrorist financing typologies. This meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss challenges and vulnerabilities presented by the terrorist exploitation of the internet through cyber-enabled technologies in the context of the financing of terrorism.

This conference constituted the first-of-its-kind event organized under the CFT project that combined key input from the public sector, the financial technology industry (identified as the FinTech industry), the financial sector and the academic world to discuss intersection of technologies and combatting terrorism and its financing through an inclusive approach. The conference considered ways to (1) monitor linkages between drug trafficking and financing of terrorism, especially in how those linkages play out in countries of the Central Asian region; (2) encourage the promotion of innovative technological tools that balance the freedom of financial markets, without compromising the right to privacy and property; (3) explore and acquire capacity-building support and regular training among member jurisdictions on innovative technologies, their opportunities, challenges and vulnerabilities, and good practices related to handling them with effectiveness; and (4) identify and promote platforms for engagement between national agencies, academic institutions and the private sector in order to better understand the terrorist financing trends and their evolution, the challenges presented by new technologies and their impact on countering the financing of terrorism.

UNCCT made preparations for the initial capacity-building workshops of the project **“Enhancing the Capacity of Member States to Prevent Cyber Attacks Perpetrated by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate their Impact”**. The team engaged with beneficiary Member States, identified the target audience and focus areas of the workshops, which will be held during the course of

the third quarter. Efforts also included the development of the substantive elements such as workshop programmes, background notes, and presentations. Experts were also identified to speak at the workshop.

Pillar III: Building States' Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations

UNCCT, through **the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Framework**, continued to provide capacity-building assistance to the G5 Sahel region in counter-terrorism and PCVE through its support to various regional projects implemented by UN entities, including UN Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNODC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat.

From 7 to 9 May, under the project aimed at **“Supporting the Regional Efforts of G5 Sahel Countries to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism”**, the Centre organized a regional workshop in Nouakchott, Mauritania to validate the draft handbook of good practices in community resilience to radicalization and violent extremism in the G5 Sahel countries. This validation workshop followed a regional technical workshop held in March, which aimed at collecting shared experiences, lessons learned and good practices in community resilience, with a view to developing the handbook on good practices. The validation workshop provided participants with the opportunity to put forward suggestions on the content of the draft handbook, which covers several topics such as community dialogue, counter-narratives and alternative messaging to violent extremism, youth and women’s role in building and strengthening community resilience to violent extremism, as well as initiatives developed by cross-border communities.

The handbook is being finalized and will be translated in the six UN official languages for further dissemination to relevant stakeholders. The active participation of civil society, religious and traditional leaders, youth and women’s representatives, as well as State actors involved in the prevention of violent extremism and the fight against terrorism made the development of this handbook an inclusive process, which enabled the identification of relevant good practices in the region, including in cross-border areas. These good practices – categorized into six thematic axes – directly come from local communities who have thoroughly selected, analyzed and listed them according to their relevance. The development of this handbook was made possible thanks to the close collaboration between UNCCT, the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat and its Member States.

Also under I-ACT, UNCCT and UNODC continued to implement the project **“Strengthening Rule of Law-Based Criminal Justice Measures and Related Operational Measures against Terrorism and Violent Extremism”** aimed at (1) strengthening judicial cooperation among the G5 Sahel countries; (2) enhancing capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to address legal and criminal justice challenges related to FTF and violent extremism; (3) enhancing national capacity for human rights compliance in criminal justice responses to terrorism and violent extremism; (4) strengthening operational cooperation among the G5 Sahel law enforcement and intelligence authorities; and (5) enhancing operational capacity to conduct complex investigations and applying special investigation techniques on the investigation of terrorism and related cases. During the reporting period, future activities were planned, including the organization of a high-level meeting aimed at the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sahel Platform and the G5 Sahel to support the operationalization of judicial cooperation within G5 countries through a partnership with the Sahel Platform.

During the reporting period, UNCCT and UNESCO completed the project aimed **“Promoting sustainable peace and development through strengthening youth competencies for life and work”** in the Sahel in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and Sustainable Development Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. In Mauritania, the project completed a study on school violence. The project also developed the methodology and data collection tools as a preparatory step to conduct research on teachers’ perceptions and knowledge of violence in school in Burkina Faso and Niger. Additional funding will be mobilized to conduct these studies.

Guidance was also provided to technical teams of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger on how to adapt forthcoming **“Teacher’s Guide on Youth Empowerment for Resilience, Peacebuilding and the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education in the Sahel”** to their national context. Contextualization is the first step of the countries’ action plans on PVE-E. Two videos on the role of teachers in peacebuilding and the alternatives to violence in children’s education were produced in Niger. They will be made available as awareness-raising tools during the teacher training process on PVE in the country. Furthermore, about 50 basic education teachers (10% women) in the city of Timbuktu, Mali, were trained on PVE, building on the case of the 2012 crisis. Also, the web platform Learning to Live Together Sustainably (LTLT) was successfully launched by UNESCO and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), with UNCCT’s support, on social media on 2 April 2019. In this connection, the PVE focal points nominated by the Ministries of Education of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger were trained on the use of the LTLT platform. Separately, in Timbuktu, Mali, a conference on **“living together,”** tolerance and the fight against violent extremism was organized by the Municipal Youth Council and attended by about 200 young people (30% women) during the month of culture. This project ended on 27 May 2019 – a

second phase of this project has been submitted in the first United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Consolidated Multi-Year Appeal for 2019-2020.

The Centre, together with UN Women, worked towards the implementation of the project **“Security Sector Reform in an Era of Terrorism/ Violent Extremism: Women’s Rights in the Sahel Region”** that seeks to ensure that the security sector in the Sahel region is able to protect and promote women’s rights while preventing and countering terrorism. In this context., a study to ascertain the level of mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality in the security sector in the context of the fight against terrorism and violent extremism was initiated in the G5 Sahel member states.

UNCCT, after launching its global initiative to promote **“South-South Cooperation in counter-terrorism and PCVE”** in March, initiated the scoping phase of the project. UNCCT held consultations with interested countries and international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, and conducted scoping missions and research to identify relevant good practices in CT/PCVE, experts who could act as Focal Points as well as Centers of Excellence in the Global South. The Center continued to promote the programme, define its activities with national authorities and lay the ground for the implementation phase.

Under its project **“Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Child Returnees”**, UNCCT organized an expert meeting on 11-12 April 2019 in New York with the participation of relevant UN entities, civil society organisations, and representatives of Member States, where the experts reviewed, validated and finalized the draft Handbook the Centre had developed in close cooperation with UNODC, OHCHR, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC), UNICEF, civil society organizations and Member States to support Member States to take a child rights-based approach with regard to children affected by the foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) phenomenon, including those who accompanied their parents or were born in conflict affected areas. The Handbook elaborates key international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law principles and standards Member States are obligated to consider when developing policies and measures concerning such children, especially in relation to Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) as well as the Addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles (2018). UNCCT will launch the Handbook on the margins of the General Assembly in September 2019. In preparation for the next stage, the Centre is recruiting a consultant for a six-month assignment, starting in September 2019, to analyse and document current approaches of Member States to the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (SPRR) of children of suspected terrorists.

During the reporting period, UNCCT continued to implement jointly with OHCHR the project, **“Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism”**. During the reporting period, UNCCT submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for review and publication the human rights training module for border officials, which the Centre together with OHCHR and a gender consultant recruited by the two institutions had finalized in the first quarter, reflecting gender considerations and incorporating inputs from the four (4) regional pilot trainings held for South-East Asia, Southern Africa, the G5 Sahel, and North Africa in the third and fourth quarters of 2018. The training module is currently under internal review by the OHCHR publication committee. It is expected that, in the fourth quarter, the module will be published in English and translated into French, Arabic, Spanish and Russian. UNCCT and OHCHR are already finalizing a project concept for Phase-II, proposing the expansion of the project coverage to Central/South America, focusing on awareness-raising for policy makers with a regional training and national level activities. As the project is also implemented as part of UNCCT’s Border Security and Management (BSM) programme, the Centre envisages for Phase-II the recruitment of a consultant to provide human rights expertise for trainings organised under the BSM programme.

During the second quarter, UNCCT continued to implement its project on **“Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism”**. UNCCT engaged with OHCHR Geneva and New York and UN country teams in Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia to agree appropriate implementation approaches and timelines for the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme and for the Iraq-specific bespoke training to ensure greater sustainability and impact. With UNCCT guidance and approval, the two consultants engaged by the Centre are arranging preparation visits to the targeted countries to consult with interlocutors on the ground and finalize the training agenda, adapted to the contexts in each country. The trainings are expected to be conducted in the fourth quarter.

Under the **“Global Human Rights Capacity Building Programme”**, UNCCT reached out to national stakeholders on the ground in Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia to further explore and discuss implementation of Phase III, including developing a Training of Trainers programme. In Iraq, the programme will also seek to hold national trainings for border officials based on the modules developed in Phase I and Phase II. This training will target border officials who are handling matters related to returning FTFs and their families. Over the reporting period, the modules for the Training of Trainers were further developed in collaboration with national stakeholders. In Tunisia, the programme also completed research on gender, which will be integrated into the Training of Trainers programme there. These gender elements will also be mainstreamed into the other Training of Trainers programmes, as they are developed. The Training of Trainers programme will be further implemented in the third and fourth quarters of 2019. The Centre has also worked on developing other multi-media products, including audio podcasts, slideshows, picture stories and social media video posts.

UNCCT continued to deliver support under the **Victims of Terrorism Programme**, launched in July 2018, including through developing handbooks of good practices for civil society organizations on how to support victims of terrorism, maintaining the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, and raising awareness and advocacy on the rights of victims.

From 18 to 20 June, the third Expert Group Meeting for the development of ‘Guidelines and Principles to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism in Asia Pacific’ (the Guidelines) took place in Singapore. It was focused on strengthening the collaboration between civil society organizations and national authorities on victims of terrorism. Issues discussed included recognition, support, protection, access to justice and compensation for victims of terrorism. The meeting was attended by 19 civil society representatives from Afghanistan, Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea and Sri Lanka, who used the platform to present and discuss the situation of victims of terrorism in their respective countries. The meeting was also attended by UNODC and UN Women. The Guidelines are currently being

drafted and a validation conference will be held in the fourth quarter of 2019 to finalize the document, which is expected to be launched in early 2020.

As part of its capacity-building of Member States, the UNCCT, on 8-9 May, participated in an inter-agency retreat organized by the Resident Coordinator's Office in Tunisia, under the UN Joint Programme on Preventing Violent Extremism, to explore how to assist the Tunisian Government in their efforts to better support victims of terrorism. Bilateral meetings with the National Commission for Counter-Terrorism were held on 10 May to further explore this support. The mission allowed UNCCT to support the planning for the Tunisian national authority PCVE plan with a focus on victims of terrorism and may lead to further activities in the future as the UN Joint Programme on PVE develops its action plan.

UNCCT also attended several conferences and meetings in Europe addressing the victims issue. This included participation in an international conference on providing support to victims of terrorism in the 21st century in Madrid on 7 May and meetings with Member States, including representatives from the Home Office, Justice and Interior Ministries, as well as civil society organizations working on victims in Spain, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom from 8 to 10 May.

On 3 June, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov met with a group of youth victims of terrorism from around the world at the UN Headquarters and listened to their experiences and ideas on what the United Nations can do to better support victims of terrorism and to counter and prevent terrorism. Mr. Voronkov outlined the activities of the UN on victims of terrorism, including the Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, the International Day for Victims of Terrorism and the Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism that will be held in 2020. The meeting included a Q&A session with the young victims on such issues including victims' rights, recognition, supporting their needs and combatting the financing of terrorism. Mr. Voronkov emphasized the importance of listening to youth victims and how their voices can help stop terrorism.

UNCCT attended two conferences in Strasbourg, France on victims: the International Network for Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence (INVICTM) International Symposium on 11 June that focused on international cooperation to better support victims of terrorism and mass violence; and the Victim Support Europe Conference on 12-13 June which focused on recovery for victims of all crimes. At the platform, UNCCT highlighted its ongoing activities, and networked and exchanged information on victims of terrorism.

During the last week of June, UNCCT supported a number of activities taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York focused on victims of terrorism. On 24 June, Mr. Voronkov

delivered a keynote speech¹ at the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) bombing in Argentina, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations. On 25 June, the Secretary-General launched **the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism**, which brings together like-minded Member States to work on upholding victims' rights and to advocate for their needs. Co-Chaired by Afghanistan and Spain, the Group of Friends consists of 26 Member States, two regional organizations, and UNOCT and UNODC as observers.

On 28 June, the UN General Assembly resolution 73/305 on enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism was adopted by consensus. This is the second resolution dedicated to victims of terrorism, after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/165 on 19 December 2017 which established the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The adoption of this resolution is a major step forward on the rights of victims of terrorism. The new resolution welcomes the UNCCT Victims of Terrorism Support Programme for the period 2018-2020 and calls upon UNOCT to further enhance coordination and coherence across the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities on raising awareness of victims issues and the delivery of United Nations capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States. The resolution calls upon UNOCT, in particular UNCCT, to assist requesting Member States in developing their comprehensive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and in building their capacity to assist victims of terrorism. It also notes the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and urges the provision of relevant information for victims, their families and communities.²

During the second quarter, the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal attracted 27,476 page views, an increase of 5,157 views, which is a 23% increase from the previous quarter. During this period, a spike of users was registered after bombings, shootings, and suicide bombing attacks in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal in April and May 2019.

¹ USG Voronkov's statement can be accessed at: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctif/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctif/files/190624_USG_remarks_Argentina_VOT_event.pdf

² For further information, visit <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/305>

Part II: Communications and Visibility

 United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism @UN_OCT

UN Global #CTCompact Entities @UN_CTED, @UNDP, @UNODC, @Refugees, @UN_Women, @INTERPOL_HQ briefed Member States on the work of the inter-agency Working Groups during @UN_OCT #UNCCT Quarterly Briefing

#UNitetoCounterTerrorism

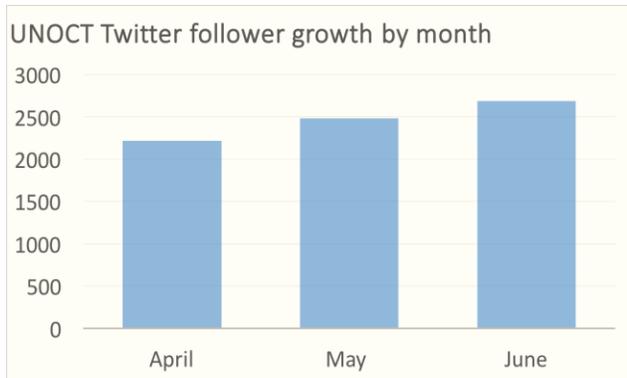
Check: bit.ly/OCT_speech



During the second quarter, four events were organized to raise the visibility of UNCCT, including the launch of the project 'Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism' (ICSANT) in New York on 25 April and in Vienna on 27 May with UNODC and the European Union; an event and a survey on youth engagement in Baku, Azerbaijan with UNESCO and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on the margins of the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 2-3 May; and a side event on the margins of the High-level Conference on Countering the Financing of Terrorism on 16-17 May in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in partnership with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). In addition to these key events, the UNCCT Annual Report 2018 was released on the occasion of the UNCCT Advisory Board on 29 May. All of these high-level events were promoted through the website and social media platforms, furthering UNCCT visibility with Member States and other key stakeholders.

The Centre intensified the implementation of its communications and visibility plan aimed at bringing greater visibility to UNCCT work and its donors and ensuring transparency of all activities, projects and resources. During the 1 April-30 June reporting period, 17,471 page views were recorded showing a 47 per cent increase compared to the same period last year (11,885) and a 47,47 per cent increase compared to the first quarter 2019 (11,847). Among the most popular UNCCT pages are the Arabic Thematic Priorities page, the Spanish Main Projects (Principales proyectos) page and the Youth Engagement page in English.





With regard to social media, the number of UNOCT Twitter account (@UN_OCT) followers reached 2,685, with 758 new followers, showing an increase of 39 per cent. From April onwards, the use of the UNCCT hashtag (#UNCCT) was systematized to promote the activities of the Centre through the UNOCT Twitter handle. Close to 40 per cent, (37 out of 94) of the posted tweets

included #UNCCT, which generated 72,932 impressions (potential views). The graphic on the left shows the monthly growth of UNOCT followers in Twitter for the second quarter of 2019.

The most popular #UNCCT tweet was related to the Quarterly Briefing to Member States with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities on 6 May, with 9,859 impressions. Specific tweets on UNCCT activities included the UNCCT Advisory Board meeting and the UNCCT Annual Report 2018 on 29 May; the launch of the ICSANT project in New York on 25 April and in Vienna on 27 May; the regional training on Nuclear Terrorism on 14 April in Abuja, Nigeria; a side event to the Baku Conference on Youth Engagement and Vocational Training on 3 May; and the OHCHR-UNCCT training on ensuring human rights at international borders in Geneva on 16 May.



Information on the architecture of UNOCT, including the role of UNCCT, was systematically included in the press releases. Furthermore, among the eight press releases issued during the reporting period, three were specifically related to UNCCT activities: (1) the Plenary Meeting for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT); (2) the 18th Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board; and (3) a dedicated presentation on UNCCT during the the Quarterly Briefing to Member States.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov continued to present the programmes and projects of UNCCT during regional events, country visits, bilateral meetings with Member States, events and public statements. On the occasion of the launch of the United Nations Countering Terrorist

Travel Programme on 7 May, the Secretary-General made explicit reference to UNCCT: *“...the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre has also stepped up its efforts to meet the growing expectations and demands from countries most affected by terrorism. I am grateful to Ambassador Al-Mouallimi of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for his able chairmanship of the Centre’s Advisory Board. Let us all pledge to continue to work together in pragmatic and innovative ways to address serious threats to international peace and security.”*

During the second quarter, UNCCT 2018 Annual Report was finalized for publication and subsequently released on 29 May. In addition to this Report, other UNCCT promotional materials and project banners were produced and distributed at events and workshops to ensure the visibility of UNCCT and its important work. UNOCT continued to work in close collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) and the Office of Information and Communication Technologies (OICT) on revamping the new website and UNCCT’s new dedicated webpage and content, which will be launched in the third quarter of 2019.

Part III: Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight

UNCCT Advisory Board

The 18th Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board was held in New York on 29 May 2019 with the participation of Permanent Representatives, Deputy Permanent Representatives and other senior representatives from the Permanent Missions. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board, and attended by the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT and the Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov. Following opening remarks by Ambassador Al-Mouallimi and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Dr. Khan provided a synopsis of the 2018 UNCCT Annual Report and an overview of the Centre's priorities and focus areas going forward. Substantive discussions focused on the review of the UNCCT's 5-Year Programme of Work and future priorities, the future role and composition of the UNCCT Advisory Board, the change management process and the work undertaken to further develop UNCCT into a Centre of Excellence, and the need to ensure predictable funding and enhanced visibility.

In his opening statement, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed his commitment to further develop UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence equipped with subject matter counter-terrorism and PCVE expertise, and laid down the Centre's strategic priorities including enhanced implementation, visibility, monitoring and evaluation capacity and collaboration with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and diverse set of beneficiaries. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi highlighted the close cooperation with Under-Secretary-General Voronkov on the evaluation of the current status and future strategy of UNCCT and its relationship with other players within the UN system to ensure efficient and effective structure and activities.

Members of the Advisory Board thanked the UNCCT team for producing the 2018 Annual Report in a timely and quality manner and welcomed the Centre's efforts to increase transparency and implementation. Most members expressed interest in advancing discussions at expert level on the future role and composition of the Advisory Board based on concrete proposals. They welcomed the restructuring of the Office, including the establishment of a Task Force by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov to implement OIOS audit recommendations, as well as efforts to improve transparency, accountability and delivery. Members expressed interest in contributing to discussions on the review and update of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, and emphasized the need to enhance national and regional capacities and partnerships as well as to ensure balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

UNOCT Programme Review Board

During the second quarter of 2019, the UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB) held three meetings, in which nine (9) agenda items were considered. The total value of activities recommended for approval during the second quarter amounted to US\$4.28 million. Programmes or projects approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov as a result of PRB recommendations during the second quarter included project documents entitled, “Enhancing the Skills of Indonesian, Malaysian and Filipino Officials in Relation to the Exploitation of Social Media to Counter the FTF Phenomenon and Violent Extremism” and “UNOCT Activities in Iraq and Draft Financial Agreement with UNOPS”; and concept notes entitled, “Youth Programme: Phase I – Programme Development”, “Child Returnee Project: Phase II – Capacity Building, through UNODC”, and “Phase II of the UNCCT CTED Biometrics Initiative”. During this period, the PRB also recommended approval for revisions to existing programmes or projects, including “Nuclear Safety Activities in Partnership with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism under the WMD/CBRN Programme” and an activity entitled, “Guidance on the Role of Military in Collection of Evidence”, among others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, the Terms of Reference for conducting the mid-term review of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme was developed to facilitate the engagement of consultancy firms to undertake this task. Also in this quarter, UNOCT continued to work on improving internal capacity to undertake effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of capacity-building programmes and projects. Following the development of a plan/timetable for the delivery of the M&E training programme, the first training was conducted in June 2019 for seven staff members.

The consultation process for the development of the Evaluation Policy for UNOCT continued in the second quarter. The M&E Officer worked on designing a consultative framework to solicit inputs from both internal and external stakeholders for the Policy. Separately, from 13-17 May, the M&E Officer travelled to Nairobi, Kenya to attend the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) evaluation week and sought UNOCT membership to UNEG, which was granted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). UNEG is a voluntary network that brings together the central offices responsible for evaluation in the United Nations system. Following its membership to UNEG, UNOCT joined relevant working groups/interest groups that would support its evaluation function, provide peer review and share best practices. UNOCT is now a member of the working groups/interest groups on: 1) Ethics and Code of Conduct; 2) Gender Equality and Human Rights; 3) Evaluating Policy Influence, and 4) the Joint Evaluation Interest Group.

Internal Audit of UNCCT

During the second quarter, UNCCT made progress toward implementing the recommendations contained in the audit of UNCCT issued in November 2018 by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). Notable steps taken pursuant to these audit recommendations including strengthening the structure of UNCCT. The newly-established operating units have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for their respective portfolios: a branch headed by a Deputy Director at the D-1 level with responsibility for Pillars I and IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and two sections, each headed by Chief at the P-5 level, with responsibility for Pillars II and III of the Global Strategy. In addition, a Programme Management Unit (PMU) was established, reporting to the UNCCT Director, which provides programme management support to UNCCT, in close coordination with the Strategic Planning and other parts of UNOCT.

In response to OIOS recommendations, UNOCT launched a process of developing a series of SOPs to regularize, harmonize and strengthen the working processes and procedures of UNOCT Units/Sections/Branch and Divisions. As part of this work, SOPs concerning various aspects of programme/project development, review and approval processes and related roles and responsibilities, were promulgated following review by UNOCT Senior Management and subsequent approval of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT. In June, work initiated on the development of a set of SOPs on project management processes, the roles and responsibilities of programme/project managers and their supervisors, and required project documentation. Further to the delegation of authority granted to the Under-Secretary-General as Head of UNOCT by the Secretary-General, a revised framework of the sub-delegation of authority was finalized with the aim of delegating decision making closer to the point of service delivery, aligning authority with responsibilities, and strengthening accountability. Additionally, the management of the UNCCT participated in the drafting of a Secretary-General's Bulletin (SGB) on the Organization of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Part IV: Financial Overview

Resource Mobilization

UNCCT continued to actively engage with donors to mobilize extra-budgetary funding to support the implementation of its programmatic activities outlined in the UNOCT mandate and the UNCCT 5-Year Programme. Donors continued showing their interest in funding UNOCT mandated activities. Finland contributed an amount of \$87,854 to support the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) for the implementation of capacity-building activities in the area of nuclear detection, forensics, response and mitigation, and legal frameworks. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deposited the amount of \$45,825 as its second tranche for the Strategic Communications project.

As of 30 June, the total value of contributions in the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since its establishment in 2009 was \$238.1 million, of which \$158.7 million has been received, with a further \$67.9 million in receivables where agreements have been signed but contributions will be received in future periods, as well as in-kind contribution. Of the contributions received, the amount of \$145.8 million was earmarked for projects and programmes implemented by UNCCT and programme support activities in line with the United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. The generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided 75 per cent of the total cash contributions and receivables in support of UNCCT projects and activities into the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since its inception in 2009.

Table 1: Income to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since its inception in 2009, and distribution of resources to programme of work
(in United States dollars, as of 30 June 2019)

No	Donors	Total	Cash Contributions	Accounts Receivable	In-Kind contribution
1	Saudi Arabia	110,000,000	110,000,000	-	-
2	Qatar	75,250,000	15,250,000	60,000,000	-
3	Netherlands	17,812,273	6,312,273	-	11,500,000
4	European Commission	10,015,124	3,299,680	6,715,443	-
5	United States	5,458,903	5,458,903	-	-
6	Norway	3,879,942	2,937,064	942,878	-
7	Japan	3,446,612	3,446,612	-	-
8	Spain	2,259,038	2,259,038	-	-
9	Russia	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
10	United Kingdom	1,449,193	1,434,721	14,472	-
11	Canada	1,221,253	1,161,040	60,213	-
12	Denmark	683,858	683,858	-	-
13	Sweden	677,040	677,040	-	-
14	Switzerland	583,621	548,621	35,000	-
15	Germany	555,745	555,745	-	-
16	India	550,000	550,000	-	-
17	Rep. of Korea	720,000	720,000	-	-
18	United Arab Emirates	350,000	350,000	-	-
19	Kazakhstan	328,522	300,000	28,522	-
20	Belgium	284,824	188,280	96,544	-
21	Italy	166,400	166,400	-	-
22	Colombia	125,000	125,000	-	-
23	Finland	87,854	87,854	-	-
24	Turkey	60,000	60,000	-	-
25	Liechtenstein	40,000	40,000	-	-
26	Australia	30,058	30,058	-	-
27	Morocco	30,000	30,000	-	-
28	Algeria	22,500	22,500	-	-
29	Nigeria	10,000	10,000	-	-
30	Kenya	5,000	5,000	-	-
Total to Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism		238,102,760	158,709,688	67,893,072	11,500,000
Allocation from the UN Peace and Development Fund					
31	China	2,068,080			
Total voluntary contributions and allocations for UNOCT		240,170,840			
	<i>For UNCCT</i>	145,802,000			
	<i>For other UNOCT</i>	94,368,840			

Financial Overview

As of 30 June, under the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, utilization against the released budget of US\$46.2 million was US\$11.8 million or 26 per cent of the total released budget which represents the budget of projects initiated in the course of the first half of 2019.

Table 2: Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, total budget and expenditure for 2019 and expenditure distribution by pillar, to June 2019

Pillar	Pillar Description	2019 Budget (US\$) (a)	2019 Expenditures (US\$) (b)	Utilization Rate (%) (c) = b/a	Expenditure distribution (%) (d)
I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	12,869,264	3,083,005	24%	26%
II	Combatting Terrorism	20,787,996	4,198,594	20%	36%
III	Supporting International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism	7,491,952	2,582,762	34%	22%
IV	Human Rights and Victims	5,091,561	1,944,540	38%	16%
TOTAL		46,240,773	11,808,901	26%	100%

Part V: Conclusion

As illustrated in this report, UNCCT continued to expand its programming during the second quarter. UNCCT expertise is increasingly sought by institutions inside and outside the UN system. This is a testament to its growing reputation as a Centre of Excellence on core counter-terrorism and PCVE issues, such as border security and management, support for victims of terrorism, strategic communications, South-South Cooperation, and countering the financing of terrorism. As part of its ongoing review and updating of the 5-Year Programme, the Executive Director will seek to leverage these experiences to ensure the continued development of the Centre.

In this regard, Mr. Voronkov looks forward to continued engagement with the UNCCT Advisory Board and Member States on how best to ensure that UNCCT is responsive to their needs. The UNOCT is co-hosting a range of Regional High-Level Counter-Terrorism Conferences during the course of 2019 and 2020 which help identify key counter-terrorism and PCVE concerns of Member States in priority regions, such as Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East and to which UNCCT is lending technical expertise.

It is expected that the third quarter will see continued growth of UNCCT programming and implementation, including the organization of milestone events such as the Second International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The Centre will continue to work closely with Member States to ensure the effective delivery of its capacity-building programmes and projects.

UNCCT will continue to work on addressing the OIOS audit recommendations and implement standard operating procedures in line with best industry practices for programme and project management.