



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

# UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2022 UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism

A report under the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

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“At every step, we must never forget that terrorism is not only an attack on innocent people.

It represents an all-out assault on our shared values — justice, equality, and the inherent rights and dignity of every person.

Terrorism and violent extremism are a repudiation of all that we work for, year in and year out, at the United Nations.

They are an affront to humanity.”

**António Guterres**

Secretary-General of the United Nations

## Abbreviations

<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>AIMC</b>	Arab Interior Ministers' Council
<b>AML/CFT</b>	Anti-Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism
<b>API/PNR</b>	Advanced Passenger Information / Passenger Name Records
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>BSM</b>	Border Security and Management
<b>CBRN</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
<b>CCPCJ</b>	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<b>CFT</b>	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>C/PVE</b>	Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>CSIRTS</b>	Computer Security Incident Response Team
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CT</b>	Counter-Terrorism
<b>CT/PCVE</b>	Counter-Terrorism / Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
<b>CTED</b>	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
<b>CTPN</b>	Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network
<b>EAG</b>	The Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism
<b>ESAAMLG</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FATF</b>	Financial Action Task Force
<b>FIU</b>	Financial Intelligence Unit

<b>FTF</b>	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
<b>FSRB</b>	FATF-Style Regional Body
<b>GAFILAT</b>	Financial Action Task Force of Latin America
<b>GCTF</b>	Global Counter-Terrorism Forum
<b>GCTS</b>	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
<b>GIFCT</b>	Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization
<b>ICSANT</b>	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Device
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Eastern Africa
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPMR</b>	Integrated Planning and Management Reporting
<b>IPU</b>	Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union
<b>JPoA</b>	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia Joint Plan of Action
<b>LCBC</b>	Lake Chad Basin Commission
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East North Africa
<b>MENAFATF</b>	Middle East North Africa Financial Action Task Force
<b>NATO</b>	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
<b>NATO COE-DAT</b>	NATO Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism
<b>NPO</b>	Non-Profit Organization
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

<b>OICT</b>	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
<b>OIOS</b>	Office of Internal Oversight Services
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
<b>OSINT</b>	Open-Source Intelligence
<b>PCVE</b>	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
<b>PRB</b>	Programme Review Board
<b>PRR</b>	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
<b>R/N</b>	Radiological and Nuclear
<b>RBM</b>	Results-Based Management
<b>REC</b>	African Regional Economic Commission
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>SCO</b>	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
<b>SEARCCT</b>	Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism
<b>SNA</b>	Social Network Analysis
<b>SPRF</b>	UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework
<b>SPRR</b>	Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>STRIVE</b>	Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia Programme
<b>TaT</b>	Tech against Terrorism
<b>TFS</b>	Targeted Financial Sanctions
<b>TWG</b>	UN-African Union (AU) Technical Working Group (TWG) on CT & P/ CVE
<b>UAS</b>	Unmanned Aircraft System
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

<b>UNAMA</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
<b>UNAMI</b>	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
<b>UNCCT</b>	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
<b>UNIDIR</b>	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
<b>UNOCT</b>	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOSSC</b>	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
<b>UNPDF</b>	United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund
<b>UNRCCA</b>	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council resolution
<b>VEO</b>	Violent Extremist Offender
<b>VEP</b>	Violent Extremist Prisoner
<b>VOT</b>	Victims of Terrorism
<b>VOTAN</b>	UNOCT Victims of Terrorism Association Network
<b>WMD</b>	Weapons of Mass Destruction
<b>XR</b>	Extended Reality
<b>Y2P</b>	Youth Promoting Peace
<b>YEPP</b>	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme
<b>YPS</b>	Youth, Peace and Security



UN Photo/Kim Haughton

## Executive Summary

In 2022, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), as part of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), continued to serve as the **Global Centre of Excellence** in delivering capacity-building support to requesting Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

Guided by the standing aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its delivery on Member States' requests for support, UNCCT ('the Centre') has worked to both enhance the strategic orientation of its programming as well as the depth and breadth of its resource base. In 2022, UNCCT has taken action to strengthen its focus on programme results across all areas of its support to Member States. The Centre contributed to and is guided by UNOCT's first-ever [Strategic Plan and Results Framework \(SPRF 2022 – 2025\)](#), which sets high-level strategic goals and outcomes to orient the activities of both UNCCT and the Office. This strategic plan was further supported by the UNOCT APP which provides an online and mobile platform for results reporting. Furthermore,

UNCCT enhanced its efforts to mainstream gender and human rights considerations in its programming, including through close cooperation with UNOCT's new **Human Rights and Gender Section** (HRGS) established in 2022.

In 2022, UNCCT has continued its support to Member States through its multi-year thematic Global Programmes. Through the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism ('Global Programme on PCVE'), the Centre worked closely with Member States to develop counter-terrorism and PCVE cooperation and capacities in line with international human rights norms and standards. UNCCT's Weapons Programme enhanced the capacities of Member States in countering terrorist use of weapons, including conventional and non-conventional weapons, by countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism via trainings, exercises and awareness raising events as well as preventing terrorist acquisition and use of small arms and light weapons (SALW), improvised explosive devices (IED) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), via legislative workshops, trainings and the development and dissemination of technical guidelines on UNSC resolution 2370 (2017).

UNCCT supported Member States in establishing regional and national frameworks for addressing their specific challenges related to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Centre, through its Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC) Programme, helped Arab States develop a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy that is aligned with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. This strategy, which also helps Arab States comply with their international obligations to address terrorism while complying with relevant human rights and rule of law standards, enhances Member States' responses to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and promotes regional and international cooperation in that regard. UNCCT further supported Central Asian states in developing their own strategies, while also helping to establish partnership and communication networks amongst both policy makers and practitioners in the region.

Efforts to strengthen Member State support to victims and survivors of terrorism, encourage international policy development to support victims' rights and needs, and to provide opportunities for victims to raise their voices continued through the implementation of landmark activities under each of the four workstreams of the Global Victims of Terrorism (VoT) Support Programme, particularly strengthening its outreach, international policy development, advocacy, and technical assistance efforts. The latter included development of the Model Legislative Provisions to Assist the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism launched in February 2022. UNCCT also presented its global "Memories" campaign, through a short film and a photographic exhibition that showcase the human stories that lie at the heart of each victim's experience, as well as the lasting impact a terrorist attack has on its survivors. More importantly, UNCCT organized the first-ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, a landmark event that brought together victims and survivors of terrorism, victim associations, Member States at the ministerial level and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Global Congress

enabled constructive discussions and generated practical recommendations on how to effectively strengthen and fulfil the rights and needs of victims. The Global Congress also laid the foundations for a new phase in the implementation of the international victims of terrorism agenda by embedding best global practices into its recommendations and outcome documents.

The Centre continued to help Member States strengthen their capacities to prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate individuals suspected of terrorism, including returning foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying family members. Capacity building under the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) was delivered in Africa, Central Asia, and Iraq, in cooperation with local authorities, UNODC, CTED, and other relevant agencies. In addition, capacity building on dealing with violent extremist offenders in a custodial setting continued in Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Uganda.

UNCCT continued to support Member States in countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). Positive results were achieved in helping beneficiary countries develop regional risk assessments and comply with national implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, in coordination with CTED. The year also saw significant progress in the development of the goFinTel software, which will further enhance the ability of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) to undertake critical analysis and investigations. The first operational version of goFinTel will be launched in the last quarter of 2023, in addition to the CFT Programme conducting a multi-stakeholder human rights due diligence assessment process.

On border security and management (BSM), the Centre continued to deepen engagement with the broad range of partners supporting Member States, including IOM. Support was provided to ensure that relevant counter-terrorism considerations were integrated in BSM strategies. The Centre also continued to compile, curate and disseminate good practices, including in the African context, and especially in the areas such as the responsible use of biometrics, human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive BSM, and lessons learned from BSM in the COVID-19 era.

UNCCT has further contributed to Member States' enhanced responses to the threats posed by new and emerging technologies used for terrorist purposes. In 2022, the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies launched a new initiative with INTERPOL to support 35 Member States in strengthening their law enforcement capacities to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes and to use new technologies as part of this effort. The Programme also continued to train officials in prevention and response to cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorist actors. Additionally, UNCCT has trained officials in areas related to the use of cryptocurrency to finance terrorism, and developed and piloted training on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) digital forensics. UNCCT has also developed guidance materials that increase understanding of new and emerging terrorist threats and provided potential measures to address them. These measures include improved understanding of and methods to address the intersection between gaming and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Looking to 2023 and beyond, the Centre sees further opportunities to support Member States to address the evolving threat of terrorism. This includes a particular focus on Africa in 2023 and 2024, and how to strengthen regional cooperation and institution building across the continent. It also means looking at ways that new and emerging technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), cryptocurrencies and UAS are used for terrorist purposes and how they can be countered through innovative measures and approaches, in a human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive manner.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the strong political, technical, and financial support of UNCCT's founding partner – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – and the other 31 partners who have continued to demonstrate trust in UNCCT's capacity to effectively support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS.



UN Photo/Laura Jarriel



UN Photo/Laura Jarriel

# I. UNCCT Global Centre of Excellence

## UNOCT Vision and Strategy

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### Vision

**'Together, building a world without terrorism'**

The UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) shares the vision of UNOCT **'together, building a world without terrorism'**. This vision inspires UNCCT's work and reflects the Centre's commitment to bring together a diverse range of partners, building upon the Centre's mandate and unique position in the UN Secretariat as the **Global Centre of Excellence** on counter-terrorism and preventing and combating violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

UNCCT's work recognises the fact that confronting the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is a long-term process, and it will require continued motivation and engagement by all stakeholders. It further recognises that the nature of the threat itself continues to evolve, as technologies, responses, actors, and ideologies change over time. The vision recognises that while the specific programming that UNCCT uses to support Member States will necessarily adapt and change with the evolving nature of the threat, implementation of the vision will continue to require a collaborative process based on shared responsibilities.

## Approach

UNCCT's overall approach to addressing the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is guided by the mandates given to it by Member States, through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy<sup>1</sup>. This strategy seeks to address the challenge of terrorism through four complementary pillars:

<b>Pillar I</b>	Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
<b>Pillar II</b>	Measures to prevent and combat terrorism
<b>Pillar III</b>	Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard
<b>Pillar IV</b>	Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

The United Nations General Assembly reviews this Strategy regularly, helping to ensure its relevance to the changing nature of terrorist threats, and providing valuable guidance to UNOCT in its work. In the seventh Review resolution<sup>2</sup>, which guided the work of UNCCT in 2022, United Nations Member States noted with appreciation the work of UNOCT while also calling upon the Office to stand ready to support Member States in addressing the changing nature of the challenge, particularly with regard to new and emerging technologies, the financing of terrorism, and attacks on infrastructure and 'soft targets'. It also underscored the importance of addressing the needs of victims of terrorism and to counter terrorism in compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

UNCCT further works within the framework of the [UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact](#). The Global Compact strengthens a common action approach to coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism

<sup>1</sup> A/RES/60/288

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/75/291

conducive to terrorism (CPVE) work of the United Nations system, and strengthens support to Member States, at their request, in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant United Nations resolutions and mandates. As of 31 December 2022, the Global Compact brought together 45 entities<sup>3</sup>, as either members or observers, to improve coordination, showcase CT-related efforts, and share relevant information.

## UNOCT

The General Assembly established UNOCT in its Resolution 71/291 of June 2017. As part of the UN Secretariat, UNOCT provides leadership on the counter-terrorism mandates entrusted by the General Assembly and the Security Council to the Secretary-General. The Office works to enhance coordination and coherence across the Global Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). It further helps to strengthen the provision of capacity-building support to requesting Member States, and to increase visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations efforts on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

## The Role of UNCCT within UNOCT

**“The Counter-Terrorism Centre has an important role to play in building the capacity of Member States to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.”**

—Secretary-General António Guterres (30 October 2017)

The [United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre](#) (UNCCT) was established in September 2011, through a generous voluntary contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS. The General Assembly in its resolution 66/10 adopted on 18 November 2011 welcomed the establishment of the Center at UN Headquarters.

UNCCT supports Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other global, regional, and national counter-terrorism actors in the implementation of the GCTS and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Centre, along with the former **UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office**, were incorporated into the newly formed UNOCT in 2017.

The Centre works under the broad political mandate of UNOCT and benefits from access to the Office’s diplomatic, substantive and operational support. The Centre also benefits from strategic guidance provided by the [UNCCT Advisory Board](#) consisting of 21 Members appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

3 Note that this has increased to 46 entities as of 24 May 2023

## UNCCT as a Global Centre of Excellence

UNCCT is the main provider of Counter-Terrorism capacity building within the UN system. As such, it provides expertise and capacity building support to Member States in a wide range of areas. These include:

- Preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- Supporting victims and survivors of terrorism.
- Preventing and responding to terrorist attacks using chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.
- Addressing the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their supply to terrorists.
- Border security and management in the context of counter-terrorism.
- Countering terrorist acquisition of weapons.
- Countering the financing of terrorism.
- Prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration to assess suspected individuals whom they have reasonable grounds to believe are terrorists, including suspected foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying family members.
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners.
- Cybersecurity and New Technologies.

Human rights and gender principles are critical components of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. UNCCT therefore integrates these principles across all of its capacity building support to Member States.

As the Global Centre of Excellence, UNCCT provides Member States and regional organizations with support for their implementation of all four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in a balanced manner.

With this unique position in the UN system, and significant expertise and experience in supporting Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts, the Centre aims to:

- Buttress the implementation of the pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive and integrated manner through the development of national and regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy implementation plans.
- Undertake initiatives aimed at fostering international counter-terrorism cooperation and promote collaboration between national, regional and international counter-terrorism centres and organizations.
- Perform a critical role in building capacity of Member States to strengthen their counter-terrorism efforts.

## Criteria of Excellence

UNCCT's mandate is fundamentally rooted in supporting requesting Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions, as well as relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on CT/PCVE. UNCCT understands "excellence" as a measure of consistent performance whereby the Centre's work is recognized for its specialized expertise in CT/PCVE fields. Excellence is characterized by a process of continual improvement, rather than being a single destination.

In this spirit, in 2022, UNCCT undertook a reassessment of the Centre's criteria for excellence according to its comparative advantage. Based on this assessment, the Centre has reiterated and strengthened its focus on promoting a culture of results across all of its programmes in support of Member States. This culture of results has at its core five inter-related criteria that describe how UNCCT promotes excellence in what it does:

### **1. Providing specialized expertise and technical assistance across different PCVE and CT substantive areas covering the lifecycle of terrorism.**

The Centre delivers this through its in-house know-how, presence in the field that promotes a tailored response, pioneering capacity development and innovative approaches.

### **2. Fostering meaningful collaborations through convening and leveraging capacities.**

UNCCT establishes and strengthens partnerships and networks at regional and national levels to facilitate and accelerate impact, particularly on new and emerging challenges. Acknowledging that terrorism does not respect borders, we recognize the comparative advantages of all UN entities and stakeholders and contribute to creating concerted responses based on synergy. We rely on UNOCT's unique positioning and mandate within the Global Compact and benefit from UNOCT's political and diplomatic support.

### **3. Supporting relevant, coherent, integrated, human rights-compliant and gender responsive responses through a systems-approach to capacity-building.**

The Centre's support is relevant in addressing Member States priorities including new and emerging needs in consultation with Member States and in line with CTED recommendations; coherent in creating programmatic synergies internally and externally; and integrated in supporting a balanced approach in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a human rights-compliant and gender responsive manner.

### **4. Advancing knowledge in PCVE and CT.**

The Centre strives to contribute to the body of empirical research, identification and dissemination of new and innovative methodologies, best practices and lessons learned, and embedding evidence-informed delivery as a foundation to its technical assistance work.

## 5. Enabling peer-to-peer learning.

Peer-to-peer learning occurs among Member States through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, civil society, local communities, and other counter-terrorism actors, with the aim of learning from all initiatives and expertise. Vertical and horizontal exchange and learning are encouraged in all the Centre's activities.

## UNOCT Theory of Change and new Strategic Plan and Results Framework (2022 – 2025)

In 2022, UNCCT marked a significant milestone in its work. After completing the extended 5-Year Programme (2016-2020), the Centre, as part of UNOCT, adopted a new [Strategic Plan and Results Framework](#) (SPRF 2022-2025) that is informed by the UNOCT Theory of Change and the Centre's criteria of excellence.

The **UNOCT Theory of Change** (see Figure 1 below) describes how the Office, including UNCCT, helps Member States achieve the objectives set out in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in the context of the vision of *'building a world without terrorism'*.

The Theory of Change recognises that Member States are the drivers of efforts to combat and prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and that they have given UNOCT and UNCCT specific responsibilities to help promote international collaboration and partnerships, provide capacity building and institutional support, enhance knowledge and understanding, and facilitate joint efforts.

The SPRF operationalizes the mandate given to UNOCT by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/951 and successive reviews of the GCTS. The Plan itself is necessarily flexible, foreseeing a mid-term review to adapt to the evolving environment and priorities of Member States that were articulated during the General Assembly's eighth biennial review of the GCTS in June 2023, and in recognition that as a recently established and rapidly developing entity, the Office's institutional and financial structures must remain responsive.



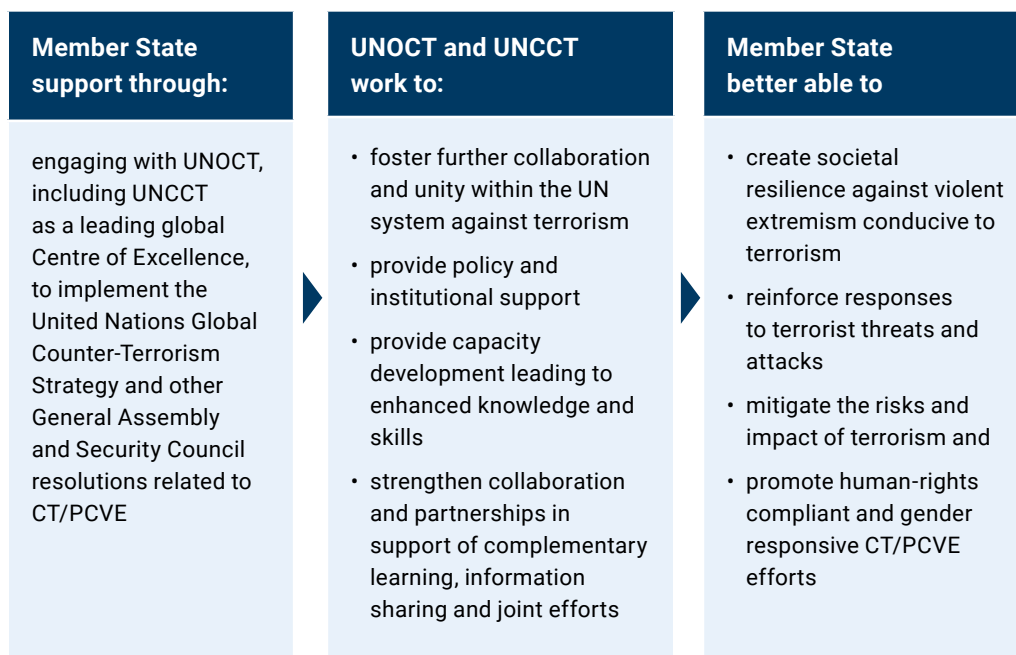
The SPRF is also responsive to the recommendations originated in the KPMG evaluation of the Centre in 2021<sup>4</sup> that was conducted to assess the performance of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme and to deliver actionable and balanced recommendations for future programme strategy and design.

The SPRF has been developed around a set of institutional priorities that describe how UNOCT will help Member States to address the evolving nature of terrorist threats.

- **Results culture.** UNOCT is committed to building an internal 'results culture', delivering programmes that are transformative, relevant, timely, impactful, and supported by governance mechanisms and strengthened monitoring and evaluation of programmes.
- **A 'fit for purpose' UNOCT.** UNOCT is working to ensure its structure and staffing are and remain fit-for-purpose. To support greater synergies in programme delivery, the Office is aligning its internal structures and processes to enhance cohesion and opportunities for efficiencies of delivery.
- **Proximity to partners.** UNOCT has refined its system of programme offices, liaison and other field presences deployed from United Nations Headquarters in New York. Establishment and operation of field presences are undertaken in agreement with host governments and in consultation and coordination with other UN entities at national and regional levels.
- **Coordination and coherence.** UNOCT is cultivating and enhancing its engagement with key stakeholders, including through the Global Compact.
- **Mainstreaming human rights and gender.** The Office is increasing its human rights compliance and gender responsive activities including in building internal capabilities and mechanisms to mainstream human rights and gender across all UNOCT policy and programming efforts.
- **Sustainable and diverse funding.** The Office is strengthening its strategic support from partners for UNOCT priorities with sustainable, predictable, and flexible funding from a broader donor base, particularly in support of its Global Programmes, including through engagement with Member States and ethical private sector partnerships.

The SPRF covers the work of all UNOCT and is structured around five Strategic Goals (see Table 1 below). As the capacity building Centre of Excellence, the work of UNCCT contributes primarily to Strategic Goals two through five. Section II of this report will report UNCCT contributions towards these goals. Individual UNCCT projects and programmes support one or more outcomes under the Strategic Goals, though the report will report results under a single main outcome.

4 KPMG, International Development Advisory Services, Evaluation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, 30 September 2020

**FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE UNOCT THEORY OF CHANGE****TABLE 1: UNOCT STRATEGIC GOALS (2022 - 2025)**

UNOCT Strategic Goals (2022 – 2025)	
Strategic Goal One	Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism
Strategic Goal Two	Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism
Strategic Goal Three	Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks
Strategic Goal Four	Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism
Strategic Goal Five	Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism efforts

## UNCCT Partnership Strategy

### Overview

UNOCT engages in partnerships with an array of counter-terrorism partners, including private sector entities, international and regional organizations, CSOs, academia, think tanks and research institutes. These partnerships bring invaluable benefits to the Office: the private sector has capabilities and resources – both technological and physical – that can amplify the Office's work; civil society actors are plugged into the grassroots level and can bring context-specific insights to programmes and projects; and academia and think tanks bring unique expertise and cutting-edge knowledge on approaches to support the Office's efforts. Capacity-building and delivery of UNOCT's mandate requires these dynamic and inclusive partnerships to address the multifaceted threat of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in an effective, human rights-compliant and gender responsive manner.



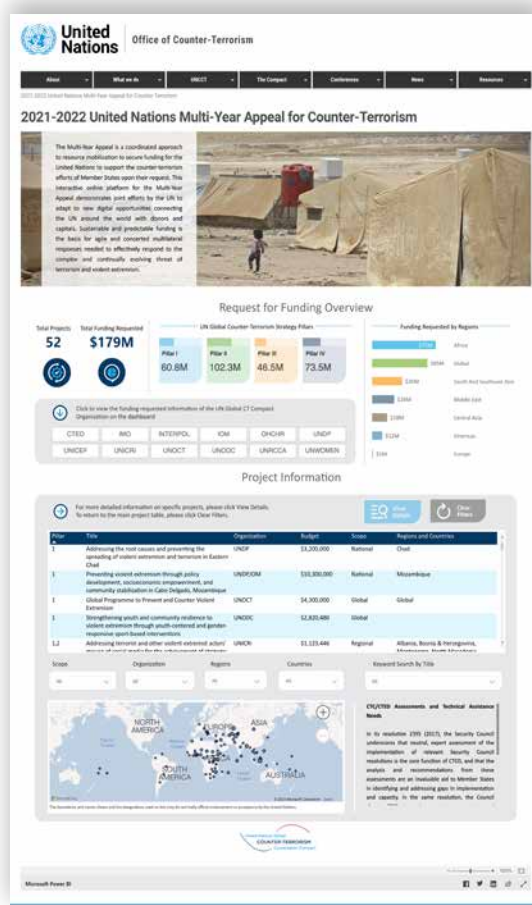
In 2022, UNCCT established nearly 100 partnerships that allowed the Centre to leverage subject matter expertise to better implement its capacity-building mandate through a whole-of-society approach.

### Developing financial partnerships

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is too complex to be tackled in isolation. It requires a coordinated response only possible through collaboration and solid partnerships both within the United Nations, and with the broader international community, including Member States, intergovernmental and regional organizations, civil society, private sector and academia.

To deliver on its mandate, UNOCT advocates for a sustainable and predictable business model that is both impactful and cost-effective. **UNOCT's Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2022–2025** is anchored on the principles of accountability, transparency and a results-focused approach for the best use of resources.

In 2022, UNOCT re-doubled its resource mobilization efforts to diversify its base of support through enhanced engagements with Member States showcasing results-based delivery and value for money. UNCCT projects were included in the **2021–2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism**, which served as a coordinated UN system-wide approach to resource mobilization. In this context, UNCCT projects were presented to potential funding partners and beneficiaries in a series of virtual and hybrid briefings tailored to geographic regions, including Africa, Central Asia, and Asia-Pacific.



Photo/UNOCT

## Partnerships with civil society

UNCCT engages with a broad range of civil society actors in line with the UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy. In 2022, UNCCT partnered with 73 CSOs who supported joint scoping exercises, participated in high-level forums and events, and received capacity-building training.



Victims of terrorism made short statements about what they would like see achieved, making a collective “Call to Action” during the United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism on 8 September 2022, New York, UNHQ. Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

UNCCT has partnered with victims’ associations, victims of terrorism, and CSOs working for and with victims. On the margins of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, organized a dedicated programme for victims and victim associations participating in the Global Congress. The Congress gathered over 400 participants, including more than 110 victims of terrorism, and sought to advance the rights and needs of victims. The Congress included a call for the inclusion of victims of terrorism and victims’ associations in all efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.



“Solidarity and support for victims of terrorism is a moral obligation and a humanitarian and human rights imperative.”



**H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations at the 1st UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism

In September, UNCCT co-hosted a Regional Forum on the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Central Asia in the implementation of P/CVE National Action Plans with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), which brought together more than 40 participants from civil society, Member States, and academia to discuss best practices in civil society engagement and develop a set of recommendations for government and civil society.

UNCCT also engaged in dialogue with civil society through participation in the revamped UNOCT Civil Society Roundtable Series, which brought together 120 civil society participants representing 76 CSOs from 42 countries, with a focus on women-led organizations, to engage in open and honest dialogue with senior and working-level Office officials. Through this series, civil society representatives provided valuable, context-specific insights that contributed to UNCCT's work.



Photo/UNCCT

The Centre also continued its engagement with youth and youth organizations in 2022. The Centre's Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP), under UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme, provided youth organizations with an opportunity to engage with national policymakers and the UN on how to improve frameworks and develop youth-centric initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism in South and Southeast Asia. In Central Asia, the Centre, under EU-UN STRIVE Asia initiative, conducted the first regional engagement of youth with the private sector and CSOs to encourage stronger youth engagement in prevention of violent extremism, with a particular focus on employment and job opportunities.

UNOCT, jointly with Spain, organized the first-ever UN High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism in Málaga, 9-11 May 2022. Photo/FYCMA



Lastly, on the margins of the first United Nations High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society, and Counter-Terrorism that took place in May 2022 in Málaga, Spain, UNCCT hosted two side events featuring CSO speakers that highlighted the important role of civil society organizations in countering terrorism in Central Asia and in rehabilitating and reintegrating foreign terrorist fighters. UNCCT's close and regular engagement with civil society represents a step forward in the Office's goal to implement a whole-of-society approach to CT and PCVE.

## Partnerships with the private sector

The private sector is a key partner in fostering innovation and addressing new and emerging threats to countering terrorism, including terrorist financing and terrorist use of information and communications technology and other new technologies. In preventing terrorist exploitation of digital platforms, UNCCT benefits from Office-wide partnerships with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, where the Office participates in three working groups, and the Tech against Terrorism initiative. Office-wide partnerships with these and other technology companies and public-private entities have raised awareness of UNCCT's programmes and priorities, garnered good practices, and enabled UNCCT to benefit from private sector expertise.



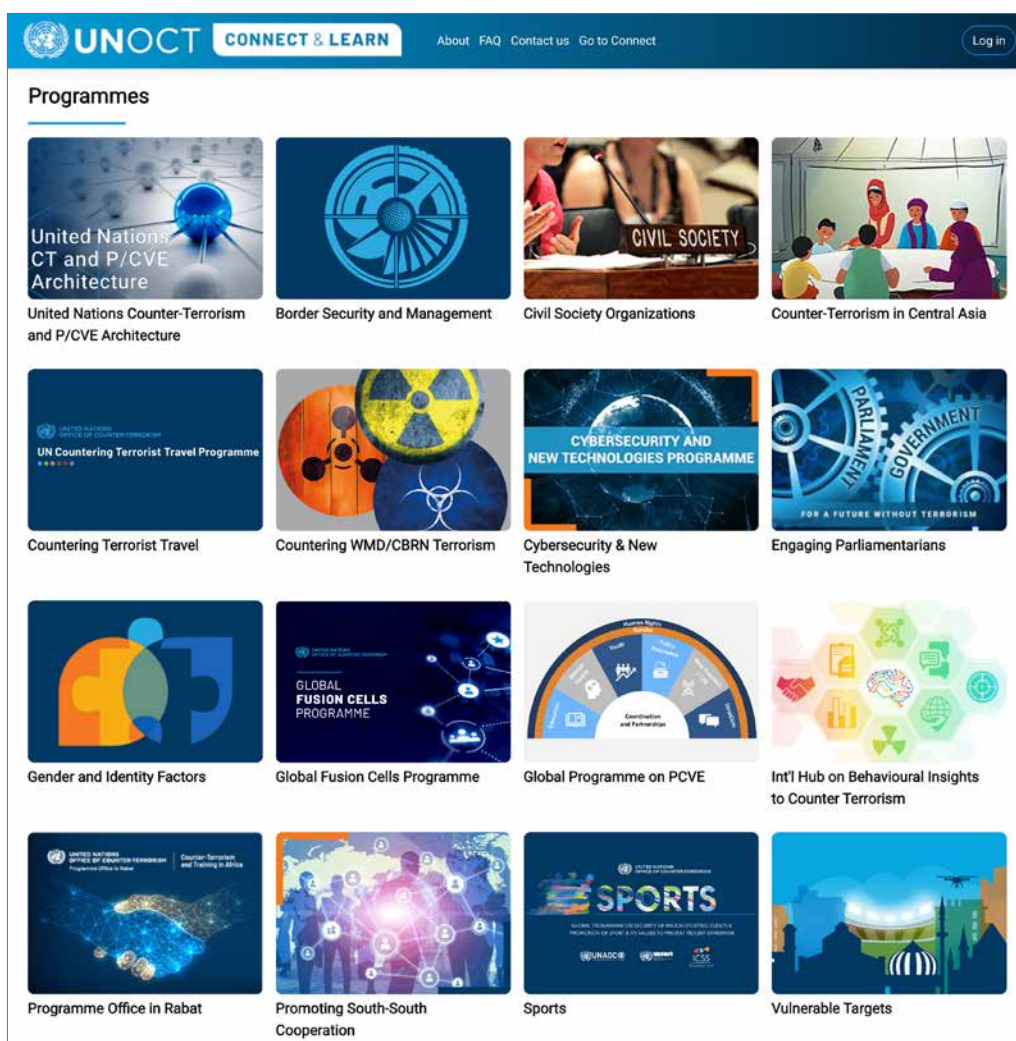
## Partnerships with Academia, Think Tanks, and Research Institutions

UNCCT partners with academia, think tanks, and research institutions to facilitate the exchange of ideas, the development of evidence-based approaches, and the generation of new insights to advance counter-terrorism efforts. In 2022, the Centre engaged 23 academic institutes, think tanks, and research institutions. Experts from these partner institutions provided interdisciplinary and empirically driven insights to high-level forums and events on key issues such as addressing terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Africa and human rights in countering terrorism in Central Asia.

Furthermore, in September 2022 UNCCT partnered with the Union of Arab Banks alongside the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences to co-host a regional forum on “Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing,” which highlighted the relationship of terrorist financing and money laundering to the banking sector and explored advanced techniques and best practices in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

## Facilitating Partner Engagement through the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform

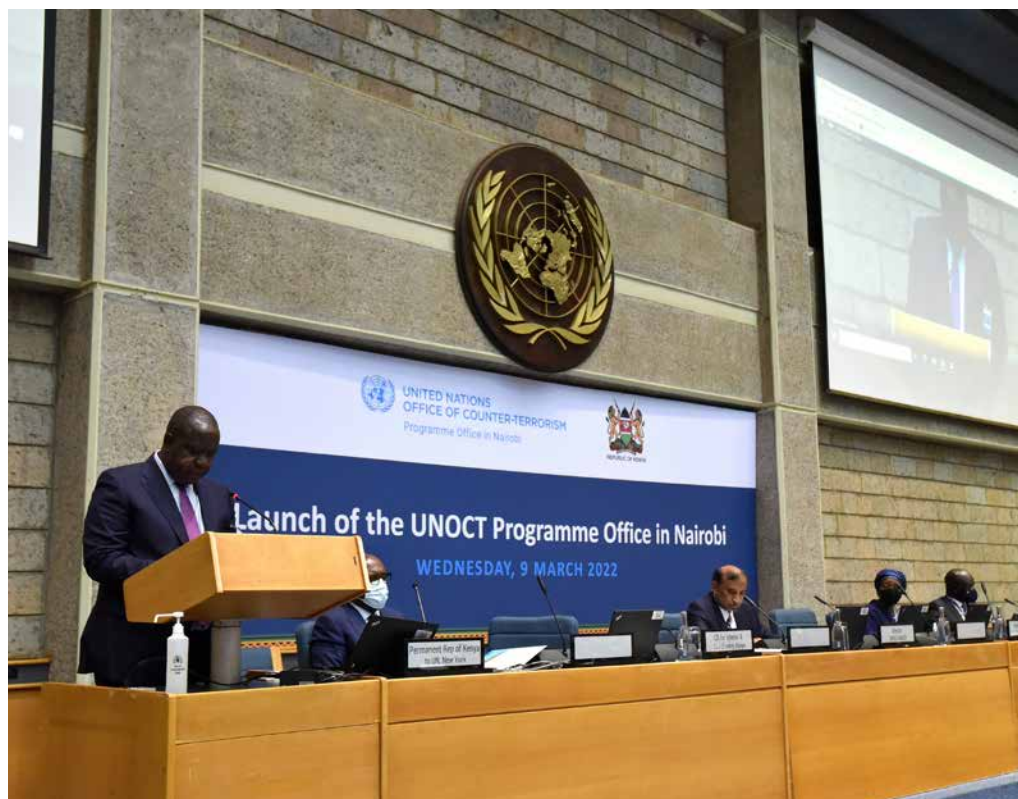
Since its launch in October 2021, the [Connect & Learn](#) platform has strengthened UNCCT's capacity-building and coordination efforts by bringing users from Member States, private sector, civil society, academia and the UN together in an online forum to learn, connect, share knowledge, and coordinate activities. In 2022, the platform benefitted more than 2,000 beneficiaries from 144 Member States through 46 courses and 22 communities of practice. The Connect & Learn platform has proven to be an effective tool to complement UNCCT's in-person capacity-building initiatives and augment continuous support to beneficiaries.



## Engaging more closely with Member States

In recent years, UNCCT has been working to facilitate the delivery of programmes closer to beneficiaries, enhancing their impact and cost-effectiveness, and strengthening cooperation with national and local counter-terrorism actors, as well as regional bodies and other providers and recipients of assistance.

To this end, UNOCT has established '*Programme Offices*' outside of Headquarters in New York, in countries and regions where they are most effective. These Programme Offices allow the Centre to deliver its Headquarters-based thematic Global Programmes that the Centre has developed over the past five years in a more context-specific and coordinated manner in-country and throughout regions. The Programme Offices outside of New York are designed to be temporary offices established to deliver on the counter-terrorism capacity-building goals of Member States within a prescribed budget and time-period for delivery of measurable results. In this context, UNOCT/UNCCT aims to be flexible, responsive and to enhance its effectiveness in delivery to Member States, while also being open to respond to the changing and dynamic nature of terrorist threats and Member State needs (see also Launch of the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi on [page 31](#)).



Photo/UNCCT



Secretary-General António Guterres (right) meets with Prince Faisal bin Farhan A.F. Al Furhan Al-Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 23 September 2022. UN Photo/Ariana Lindquist

## II. UNCCT Achievements 2022

### **Strategic Goal One:** **Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism**

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#### **Overview**

UNCCT fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on CT/PCVE among all stakeholders. In its capacity-building role, UNCCT works to ensure that the United Nations system is further unified in its focus and support to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that Member

States recognize the importance of tackling terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and that CT/PCVE programmes are coherent, duplications of intervention are avoided, and comparative advantages of different entities are fully leveraged, including through the Global Compact, in line with human rights and gender principles. UNCCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for, United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

#### UNOCT SPRF Impacts by 2025<sup>5</sup>

- Member States, international and regional organizations recognize and accept UNOCT's role in leading on all counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly.
- Member States and international partners reaffirm the importance of preventing and responding to terrorism under the auspices of the UN.
- Member States and the international community recognize UNCCT as the leading Global Centre of Excellence in supporting the capacity building of Member States in the implementation of the GCTS.
- Impactful and sustainable partnerships leveraged within the UN system including, through the Global Compact, which build on mandates and comparative advantages and avoid duplication.
- International and multisectoral collaboration and cooperation against terrorism fostered in an effective and sustainable manner including by strengthening meaningful, inclusive and safe engagement with CSOs.
- Sustained funding generated towards UN support to Member States' CT/PCVE efforts.

## How UNCCT supports Strategic Goal One

UNCCT works as the **Global Centre of Excellence** supporting Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other General Assembly and Security Council resolution related to counter-terrorism and preventing and combatting violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE).

In this role, UNCCT supports countries with developing the necessary strategic, institutional, human and policy capacity to pursue multilateral and multisectoral collaboration and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It further helps Member States to ensure that these efforts are coherent, effective, and undertaken in a human rights-compliant and gender-responsive manner.

Through its institutional position as an integral part of UNOCT and the UN Secretariat, the Centre helps ensure that the Office and the UN as a whole are able to deliver on the

commitment to Member States to pursue an *all-of-UN* and *whole-of-society* approach to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. To this end, UNCCT works together with other UN entities and international organizations in the context of the GCTS. For example, UNCCT has worked with UNODC on a range of different topics, from terrorism and youth (p. 36), ratification of international treaties (p. 49), prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and the trafficking of small arms and light weapons (p. 53). Further initiatives have been implemented with other UN entities, such as CTED, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNIDIR, OICT and UNESCO. The Centre has further worked with other relevant international and regional organizations such as OSCE, OPCW, ICAO, INTERPOL, CEPOL and IPU.

### Launch of the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi

On 9 March 2022, UNOCT launched its Programme Office in Nairobi, together with the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of the Republic of Kenya. The Programme Office's mandate is to serve Member States in East and Southern Africa, including through close collaboration with Global Compact entities to jointly prioritize, plan and mobilize resources for efforts to support Member States in priority areas. In its first year of operation, the Programme Office in Nairobi delivered important work at the regional level, including through the identification and execution of priority capacity-building and policy interventions on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, strategic partnerships with Member States, enhanced collaboration and coordination among Global Compact entities, and promoting United Nations leadership at country-level within the region.



Photo/UNCCT



Photo/UNCCT

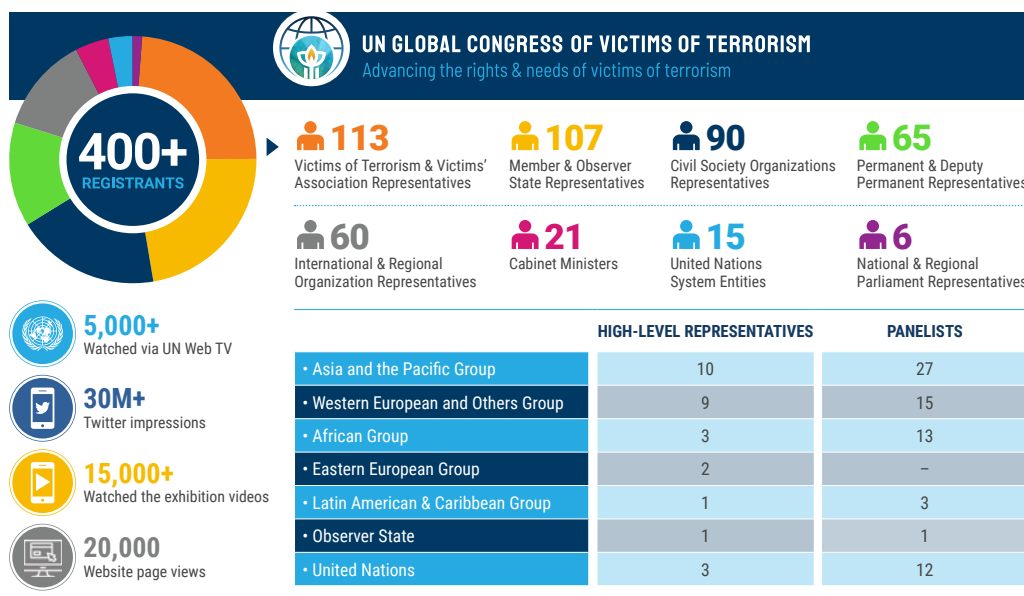
The Programme Office has been instrumental in further refining and aligning the work of UNCCT to local, national, and regional priorities. In 2022, the Programme Office supported activities such as efforts at mobilizing South-South Cooperation (SSC) in support of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as working with IGAD in Kenya on capacity building for improved strategic and crisis communications.

*The UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi is funded through contributions by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*

#### UNCCT Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

The first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, organized by the UNOCT Global Victims of Terrorism Programme, was held on 8-9 September 2022 at UNHQ. The Global Congress, a high-level event with, for and by victims, highlighted the commitment of the international community towards strengthened global solidarity and unity in support of the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. It offered a platform for victims of terrorism to share their experiences, stories of resilience, and to advocate for the upholding of their rights and fulfilment of their needs. More than 400 participants attended the event, including the UN Deputy Secretary-General on behalf of the UN Secretary-General, the President of the UN General Assembly, the Co-Chairs and Members of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, 107 Member and Observer States and 113 victims of terrorism and victims' associations. The event's culmination was marked by a Chair's summary that offered a strategic roadmap for strengthened action to support victims of terrorism.

Photos/Paulo Filgueiras



## Strategic Goal Two: Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism

### Overview

UNCCT supports Member States through policy and, capacity development and strengthened collaboration in support of complementary learning and information-sharing to create societal resilience to terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Global Programmes and projects are offered across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars of the United Nations, and through interventions that support in particular the realization of **Sustainable Development Goal 16** on “*promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”. Through an evidence-informed, gender-sensitive, human rights-compliant and context-specific approach, interventions to build community resilience and cohesion, are designed and prioritized, including in consultation with local stakeholders.

### UNOCT SPRF Impacts by 2025<sup>6</sup>

- Member States and a diversity of actors, including civil society, private sector, youth, and women actively participate and engage in programmes for the prevention and countering of violent extremism conducive to terrorism including through the promotion of inclusion.
- Greater evidence-base, sharing of knowledge and experience on emerging PCVE challenges and effective approaches for PCVE
- Strengthening of protective factors that mitigate susceptibility to the appeal of terrorism and allow individuals and communities to reject terrorist groups and activities

### Key UNCCT deliverables in support of Member States

- Support to the development of National PCVE Action Plans and strategies.
- Support to integrating youth engagement and empowerment in PCVE policies and strategies.
- Development of strategic and crisis communications capacities and strategies.
- Toolkits to monitor, evaluate, and learn from implementation of National PCVE Action Plans.
- Developing the evidence for interventions on emerging challenges in radicalisation to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, including on gaming and gaming-adjacent platforms.
- Strategies for developing 'whole-of-government' and collaborative approaches to PCVE.

### Key partnerships in support of the Strategic Goal

#### Regional centres:

- Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT).
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

#### Regional and economic associations:

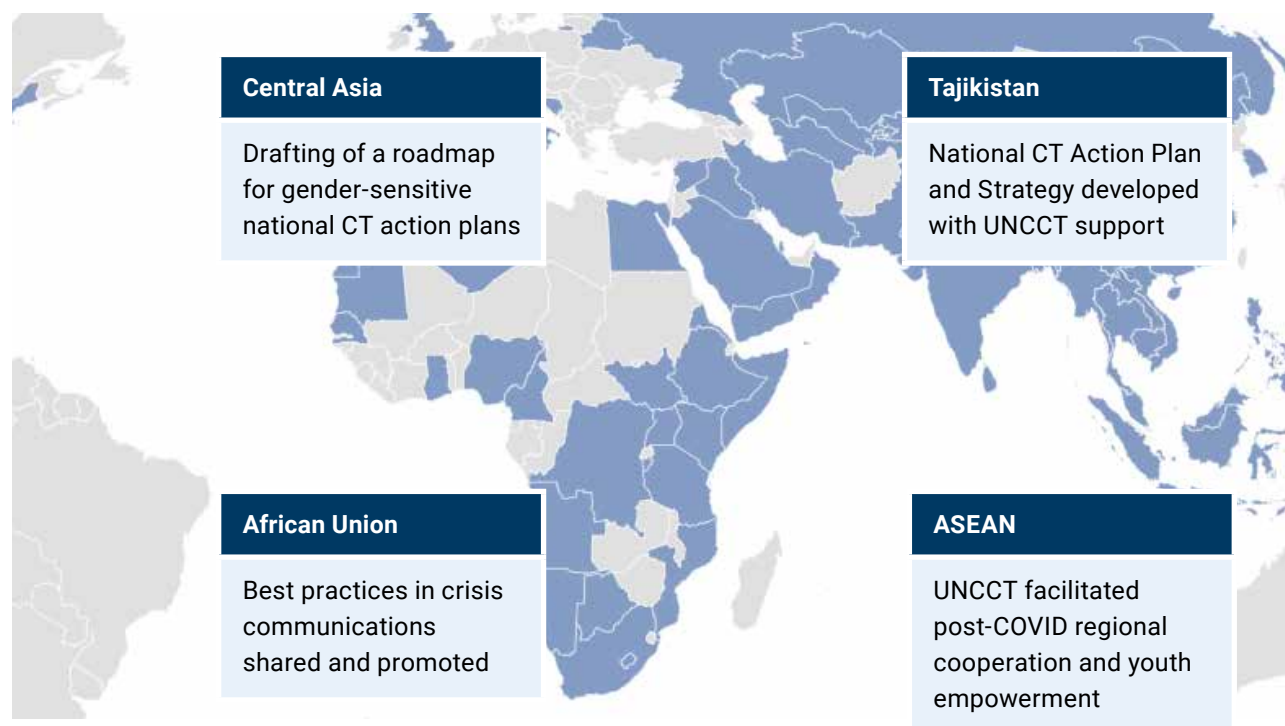
- African Union (AU).

#### Private sector and non-profit entities:

- Online gaming industry, Extremism Research and Gaming Network, CSOs

#### International Organizations:

- UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, CTED, and OSCE.

**Strategic Goal Two:****Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism****Key highlights**

- Youth in South and Southeast Asia take active roles in national and regional PCVE policies and programmes.
- Crisis communications plans and partnerships developed in East Africa and Southeast Asia.
- Increased evidence-base for addressing potential risks of radicalization to violent extremism among migrant workers and related to online gaming.

**493****Participants trained under SG 2****36%****Women trainees under SG 2****150****Youth leaders empowered to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism****292****Participants in PCVE knowledge building initiatives**

## Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

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**SPRF Outcome 2.1:** Member States engaged and supported to effectively develop, implement and monitor their own PCVE strategies and action plans in human rights compliant and gender responsive approaches.

### Learning and experience is shared with Member States and integrated into future UNCCT PCVE programming

UNCCT has continued to support Member States in understanding, sharing, and learning from experiences in PCVE. In August, UNCCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) showcased the Centre's leadership and capacity building roles during the regional workshop for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries '*ASEAN-US Regional Workshop on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism*', that helped Member States to share challenges, good practices and lessons learned on thematic issues addressed in the Bali Work Plan ('*Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2019 - 2025)*'). This included rehabilitation and reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and affiliated women and children, the role of community leaders, including youth, in PCVE, and the role of the media in countering the radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In supporting the Bali Work Plan, UNCCT has noted the PCVE challenges associated with the post-pandemic environment, stressing the need for reinvigorating the policy and programmatic frameworks that can tackle the conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism through a "*whole-of-society*" approach, one that is gender and age sensitive and rooted in human rights and the rule of law. As a result, several ASEAN member states noted with appreciation UNCCT's on-going technical assistance initiatives and support to overall regional coordination.

### Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)

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Youth and CSOs take active roles in national and regional policies and programmes '*whole-of-society*' approach to countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism

In coordination with UNCCT's *Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)*, in South and Southeast Asia, UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme provided regional youth representatives with an understanding of how policies are created, established and influenced, particularly in the fields of Youth, Peace and Security and PCVE, through the Peer-to-Peer model that has been successfully utilized in Africa, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. Through these initiatives, young civil society leaders have strengthened

abilities to draft policy and programmatic recommendations along thematic areas, tailored to specific target audiences and relevant to their national or regional contexts. They learned practical tips and recommendations that they were encouraged to integrate when engaging with decision makers, culminating in a Policy Dialogue Event on 12 October in Bangkok where they engaged with Member States of the region. Furthermore, youth representatives received coaching to deliver strong policy pitches on PCVE and six cross-cutting thematic issues: interfaith dialogue, youth representation, hate speech, governance, gender, and mental health. Through these events, youth had an opportunity to engage with other UN entities (including UNESCO, UNODC, UNDP, and UN Women) as well as non-governmental organizations, and receive training and mentoring to strengthen their engagement with UN and Member State representatives. As a result, YEEP participants shared their policy recommendations with policy makers and received constructive feedback as well as openness and offers from these stakeholders to continue discussion on how to implement some of their ideas.



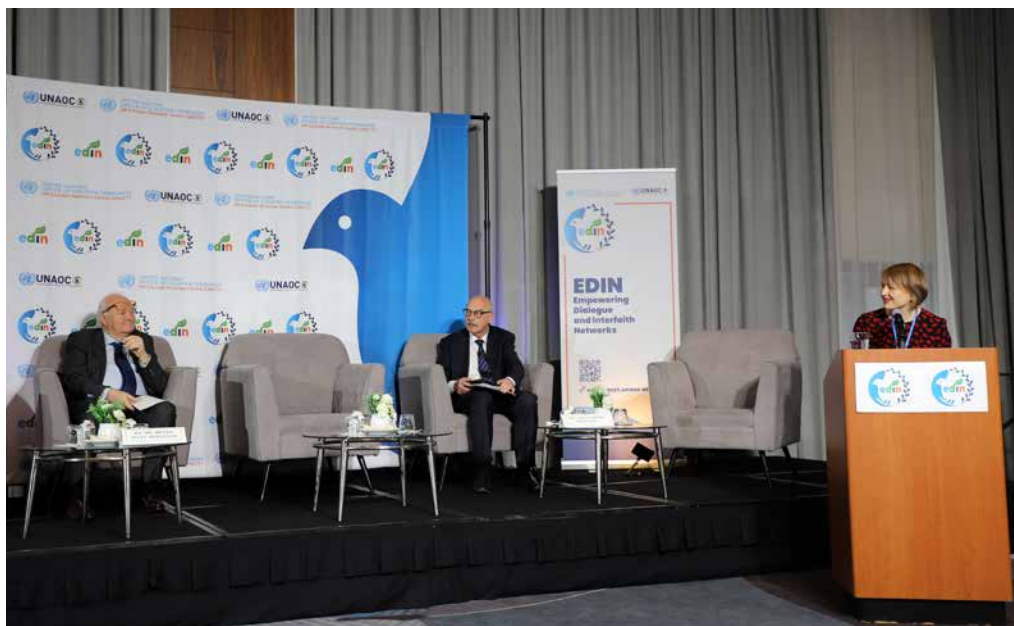
Young leaders from South and Southeast Asia in Bangkok shared their views and recommendations on the role of youth in PCVE, 10-12 October 2022. Photo/UNCCT

### EDIN Project

**‘Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Networks’ (EDIN) Pilot project brings together young faith leaders for the prevention of hate speech and violent extremism conducive to terrorism**

The EDIN project organised by UNCCT’s Global PCVE Programme, in partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), sought to engage young religious leaders, faith actors and young media makers in peer-to-peer capacity building trainings focused on using religion and interfaith dialogue on social media to defuse sectarian tensions, to counter terrorist narratives and to promote social cohesion. The project developed a training toolkit and guide for young religious leaders and media makers to develop

impactful communication campaigns, as well as producing 17 unique communication campaigns developed on platforms including Facebook, Spotify, Instagram, and Twitter on issues related to interreligious dialogue, PCVE and countering hate speech. As a result of the project, EDIN alumni presented their campaigns at a range of government and academic forums, including meeting at the United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office at 10 Downing Street, presenting at a global conference on spiritual abuse, and speaking at several UN conferences and side events.



Photo/UNCCT

## PCVE and Crisis Communications

### Strategic and crisis communications are strengthened and integrated into national PCVE strategies

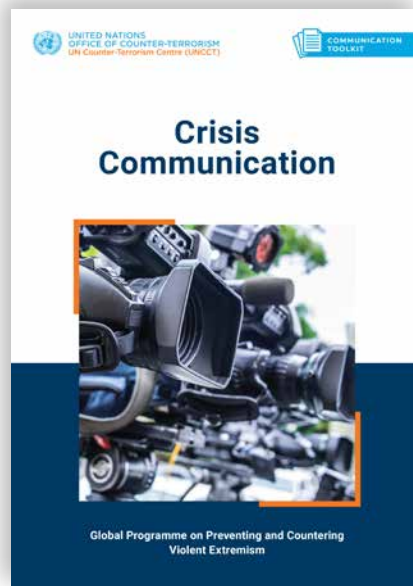
In 2022, UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme supported Member States in the development of effective communication strategies for their national action plans to address PCVE, in addition to providing strategic communication support for relevant initiatives outlined in the plans. In the Philippines and Malaysia, UNCCT supported officials in developing effective strategic communication initiatives related to their PCVE activities in the national action plan, particularly to strengthen crisis communications, and completed a live crisis scenario exercise to further test their skills in a simulated terrorist attack. This work was co-funded by the European Union.

In Africa, UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme brought together African Union member states and African Regional Economic Commissions, to share and promote national and regional best practices on PCVE strategic and crisis communications. UNCCT presented global best practice in PCVE strategic and crisis communications while supporting Member States in developing and implementing effective strategic communications activities,

and specifically on crisis communications. In the Republic of Korea, UNCCT introduced strategic and crisis communications on PCVE to officials within the military of the Republic of Korea, and as a result received further requests to develop a train-the-trainer programme for local recruits.

The UNCCT Crisis Communications Toolkit developed by the Global PCVE Programme, was launched to support officials and civil society organizations from Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and to develop skills in strategic and crisis communications. This support covered three sessions, including strategic communications for PCVE, building and testing a narrative, and an interactive crisis simulation. As a result, participants indicated a desire for more advanced training to continue to build on their knowledge and recommended the training be expanded to also include more senior-level officials.

UNCCT further supported Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen their reintegration communications to understand the PRR global framework. The participants were guided through the development of a core narrative to communicate effectively to target audiences about their new FTF reintegration policy.



## **SPRF Outcome 2.2: Increased implementation of evidence-informed, coherent, context specific, human rights-compliant and gender responsive PCVE initiatives by partners engaged and supported**

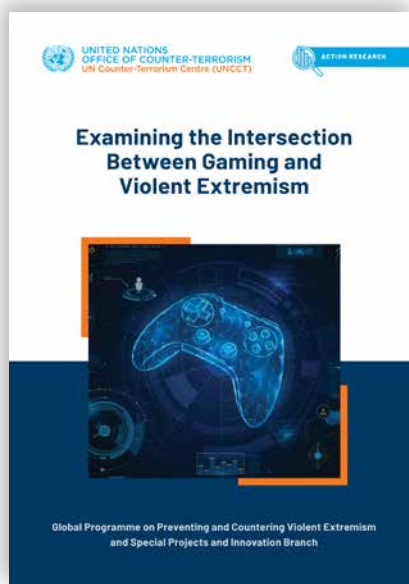
### **Increased evidence base for programmes and policies on potential radicalisation among migrant workers to violent extremism conducive to terrorism**

In June, UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme presented the findings of its study on the relationship between violent radicalisation and migrant workers in Southeast Asia. The objectives of this study were to understand the extent and nature of violent radicalization of migrant workers in ASEAN member states, including the potential link between their working conditions and their vulnerability to recruitment by violent extremist organizations. Taking a 'whole-of-society' approach, these initial findings were discussed, and although it was agreed that more research is required to understand this nexus, perspectives were shared from CSOs, academics, and other experts on the issue. The presentation of the study findings allowed for discussion of measures to safeguard migrant workers

and increase their resilience to violent extremism conducive to terrorism, as well as of the particular role that women could play. This study was presented in support of the implementation of the ASEAN Bali Work Plan and marked the first attempt in the region to revive engagement of the PCVE agenda at a multilateral level. As a result of this work, UNCCT has helped to restart cooperation in PCVE in the ASEAN region due to disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outcomes and recommendations from the discussions will help inform the development of policy and programming and contribute to shaping discussions with policymakers and law enforcement officials from the region.

### Increased evidence-base for understanding and addressing the linkages between gaming and violent extremism conducive to terrorism

The research report, *'Examining the Intersection between Gaming and Violent Extremism'*, supported by UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme, was presented in October, showcasing inputs from experts, practitioners and from over 600 survey responses from gamers. The report sets out how gaming and violent extremism conducive to terrorism intersect, including addressing the issue of exploitation of gaming spaces by terrorists and violent extremists and potential vulnerabilities to violent radicalisation among gaming communities. The report also sets out the prosocial benefits of gaming, and the potential for the use of gaming in PCVE. The launch event was attended by over 200 participants, including distinguished speakers from Member States, UN entities, civil society, academia and experts from the gaming industry. As a result of the report, Member States and stakeholders applauded UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme as a "go-to resource" for assistance in the online gaming space, as it relates to countering violent extremist narratives.



### SPRF Outcome 2.3: Fostered collaborations, partnerships and networks in support of complementary peer learning and joint efforts on PCVE at global, regional and national levels

#### PCVE and Crisis Communications

##### Strengthened 'whole-of-government' coordination and communication in responding to violent extremism conducive to terrorism

UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme has worked with authorities in the Philippines and Malaysia to improve the coordination and communication between government

departments working on PCVE, in partnership with SEARCCT and the European Union. The participating government departments developed a shared PCVE narrative and tested this in a live crisis simulation, in order to develop and test skills in implementing strategic and crisis communications. The approach takes a whole-of-government approach to strengthen coordination and communication across government with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of their crisis response. As a result, participants were able to share lessons and practical applications from the training and build upon existing skills.

**The Global PCVE Programme is co-funded by Australia, Norway, the European Union, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations Peace and Development (China)**

## STRIVE Asia Project

**SPRF Outcome 2.1:** Member States engaged and supported to effectively develop, implement and monitor their own PCVE strategies and action plans in human rights compliant and gender responsive approaches

Implementation of National Action Plans against violent extremism conducive to terrorism in Central Asia



Photo/UNCCT

UNCCT organised a High-Level Briefing that highlighted the progress of Tajikistan and its efforts to implement a new National Action Plan (“National Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Tajikistan on Countering Terrorism and Extremism for 2021 - 2025”) to address the challenge of radicalization to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism while supporting international standards and good practices. The purpose of the High-Level Briefing was to promote the balanced implementation of this action plan, highlight the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms articulated within the plan, potential challenges and opportunities, and fundraise for the plan’s implementation. As a result, discussions were launched with counterparts on implementation according to international standards and good practices.



Photo/UNCCT

UNCCT also convened a High-Level Forum aimed at increasing participation of Central Asian Women Parliamentarians in CT/PCVE efforts. The forum offered them opportunities for initiating discussions, networking and cooperation, and promoting balanced implementation of their respective National Action Plans (NAPs) to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism, while fostering gender equality and women’s empowerment. The forum promoted a better understanding of the gender aspects of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and how integrating gender perspectives help address the structural factors that may contribute to radicalization towards terrorism, recognizing the important role that women can play providing knowledge, expertise and experiences in the PCVE domain. As a result, women parliamentarians had the opportunity to discuss key opportunities and challenges in the implementation of national action plans on PCVE in Central Asia, and UNCCT initiated the drafting of a roadmap for gender-responsive national action plans in Central Asia.

UNCCT worked with youth organizations in Central Asia to encourage stronger youth engagement in prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the framework of a whole-of-society approach. The Centre organized a regional forum “Youth Employment and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia” in December. The regional forum empowered Central Asian youth by offering an opportunity for them to improve strategic labour policies endorsed by national governments, promote resiliency and new ways of thinking to create job opportunities for youth that stimulate entrepreneurship and encourage investments into youth-led small and medium sized businesses. It

brought together 50 participants from Central Asian youth and organizations, specialists on PCVE, UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector. The forum discussed key challenges and gaps in the NAPs implementation in Central Asia and ways of enhancing youth engagement. As a result, recommendations were drafted for a roadmap with actions to be taken to improve youth engagement in NAP implementation, and the establishment of a network of young leaders of Central Asia (a 'Community of Practice') was initiated, connecting global, regional, national and local youth-oriented and youth-led organizations that are active on the issues of counter-terrorism and PVE and its connection to policies that support youth, and to the promotion of human rights and gender principles.



*The STRIVE Asia Project is co-funded by the European Union and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

## Strategic Goal Three: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

### Overview

UNCCT provided support to enhance Member States' capacities to prevent, manage and respond to terrorist attacks. Through strengthened regulatory, security, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, operating in accordance with international standards and in compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, Member States' abilities to deter, detect, disrupt, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorist cases are significantly, and demonstrably improved. This includes addressing the full spectrum of terrorism-related offenses including its financing, from the acquisition and use by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), small arms and light weapons (SALWs), improved explosive devices (IEDs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), to addressing the evolving linkages between terrorism and organized crime or the use of Internet and other information and communications technologies. This support is delivered through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaborations in support of complementary learning and information-sharing.

### UNOCT SPRF Impacts by 2025

- Supported Member States report a decreased proportion of terrorist acts (prevented, failed and foiled)
- Supported Member States report an increased proportion of terrorism-related offenses including terrorist financing being detected, investigated, prosecuted and adjudicated in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights obligations
- Enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation mechanisms allowing for effective, proactive, regular and sustainable coordination and the exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices

### Key UNCCT deliverables in support of Member States

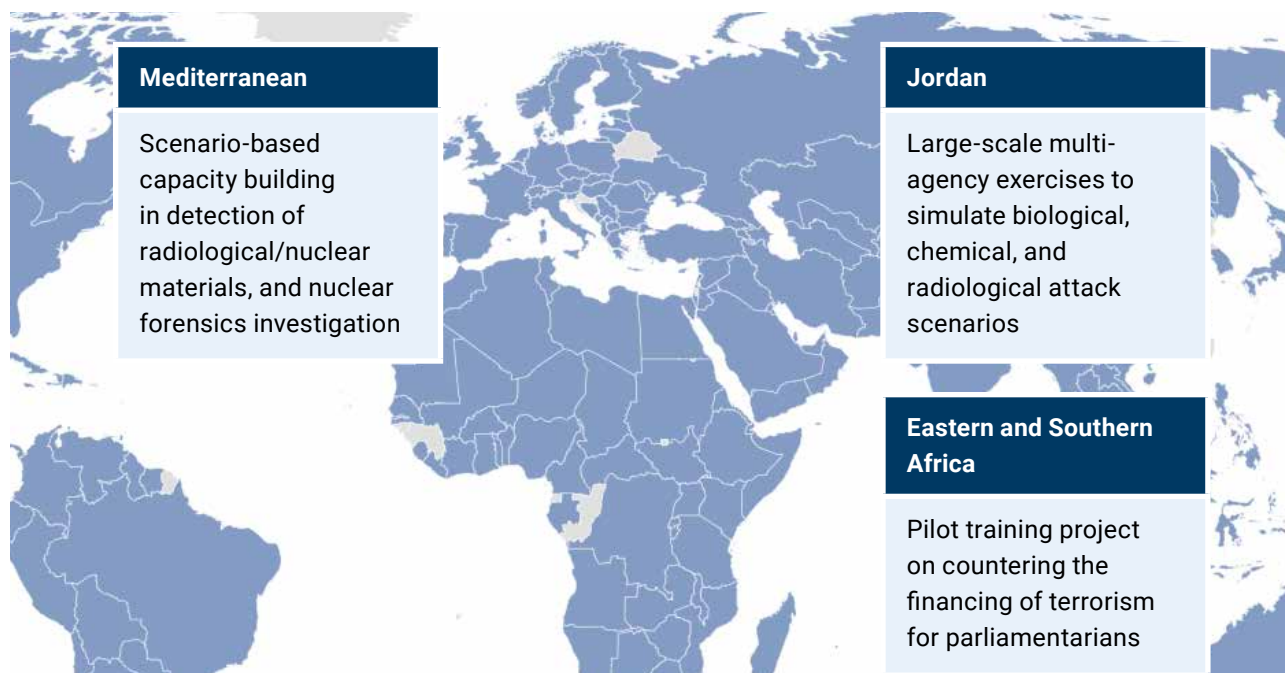
- Senior-level political and legislative advocacy, engagement and support.
- Development of national CT and PCVE strategies and action plans.
- High- and operational-level simulations and exercises in counter-terrorism (capacity building and testing of institutional effectiveness).
- Trust and cooperation building support at national, regional and international levels.
- Capacity building for border security and management, CFT, countering WMD / CBRN terrorism, preventing terrorism acquisition of SALW, IEDs and UAS, and effective data sharing.
- Awareness-raising for Parliamentarians on CFT.

### Key partnerships in support of the Strategic Goal

#### UN and international organizations

- UN and international organizations
- INTERPOL
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) [goFintel/CFT]
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- European Union
- FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs)

### Strategic Goal Three: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks



### Key highlights

- Adoption of regional counter-terrorism strategy in Arab countries
- Development and testing of Jordan's National Crisis Plan on CBRN attacks
- Strengthened human rights-compliant border security management practices in Iraq and in coastal African countries
- Development of a national strategy and action plan in Iraq on responses to biological terrorist attacks
- Development of new global technical guidelines on UNSCR 2370 on preventing terrorists acquiring weapons
- Enhanced capacities to respond to cyber-attacks and to use new technologies to counter terrorism,
- Piloting of a new awareness-raising programme on CFT for ESAAMLG parliamentarians in the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money

**9,088**

**Persons trained in projects under SG 3**

**11%**

**Women trainees under SG 3**

**1,162**

**Persons in UNCCT high-level events on counter-terrorism**

**86%**

**Online trainees will apply new knowledge of terrorism and technology**

## Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme



Photo/UNCCT

**SPRF Outcome 3.1:** Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality norms and standards

### Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Cities in North America and Europe work to improve preparedness and response to the threat posed by radiological weapons and devices used for terrorism

Through the *UNCCT and CTPN Strategic CBRN Table-Top Exercise (TTX) on radiological attack*, UNCCT's Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme (Weapons Programme) supported work with the Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network of cities to help

enhance multi-agency preparedness and responses arrangements, and develop resilience, in the scenario of a terrorist attack using radiological weapons and devices. Officials from eight cities across North America and Europe (Barcelona, Boston, Greater Manchester, London, Montreal, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Washington DC), worked together through scenario-based workshops to understand potential consequences and cascading effects of a radiological attack, discuss strategic objectives and actions for the protection of people and premises, and enable the transference of knowledge between domestic and international partners. As a result, UNCCT helped to inform the arrangements of cities and organizations in preparing for and responding to a radiological attack.

### Project on Enhancing CBRN capabilities in Jordan

#### UNCCT and NATO partner in a major exercise to support Jordan in practicing effective responses to CBRN attacks

UNCCT's Weapons Programme, in partnership with NATO's Defence Policy and Planning Division, conducted a national-level exercise, as part of a four-year project focused on enhancing the national capabilities of Jordan in the areas of preparedness and response to terrorist attacks involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) weapons or materials. The exercise was comprised of three CBRN terrorism scenarios; a biological table-top exercise in Amman, a radiological field exercise in Zarqa and a chemical field exercise in Aqaba. 2,500 participants from 35 national entities attended the field exercises. The exercises covered several dimensions of CBRN response. Jordanian participants further demonstrated mass decontamination capabilities as well as working within a 'common operating picture' (i.e., a shared overview of the crisis situation and operations among the many actors, helping to facilitate effective communications and responses).



Photo/UNCCT



Photo/UNCCT

As a result, participants tested the National Crisis Plan developed within the framework of the project and developed lessons learned and recommendations for further improvement to the Plan. The resulting strategic and tactical observations and recommendations were presented to high-level representatives of national entities and officials from Jordan's National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM).

See also story on [page 50](#) below.



Photo/UNCCT



## Project on universalisation and effective implementation of the ICSANT

### Promotion of the universalisation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)

UNCCT's Weapons Programme continued high level advocacy with officials in Albania for the ratification of the ICSANT (see Table 2 below). Following advocacy and informational meetings organized jointly between UNOCT/UNCCT and UNODC, Members of the Albanian Parliament proposed to form a bipartisan group to ensure ratification. Responding to a request from the Deputy Speaker of the Albanian parliament and in order to provide further support to this process, letters on ICSANT ratification were sent from UNOCT to the Albanian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, and Justice.



UNCCT's Weapons Programme has also worked to further promote universalisation and effective implementation of ICSANT, in close collaboration with UNODC and other international agencies. This includes a high-level event on the margins of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons attended by 230 Member State representatives, where States Parties exchanged views and shared experience on the adherence to and the effective implementation of ICSANT and how nuclear security contributes to the overall nuclear non-proliferation regime. Iraq, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America shared their countries perspectives and expressed their continuous commitment to the universalisation of ICSANT.

### International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)

*The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2005 and has 120 Parties as of the time of this report. Its goal is to facilitate cooperation, exchange of information on nuclear security threats, and the prosecution and extradition of suspects. UNCCT has been working with Member States and UN agencies such as UNODC to promote the universalisation of this Convention and thereby the strengthening of the global nuclear security and anti-terrorism architecture.*

## Project on Preventing and Responding to Chemical and Biological Attacks in Iraq

### Iraq develops action plans for a national strategy on responding to biological terrorist attacks

As a conclusion to the project that has been running since 2019, 'Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq', UNCCT's Weapons Programme and the United States' Department of State, as co-implementers, continued cooperation with Iraqi authorities on developing a national strategy and action plan to respond to the threat of biological terrorist attacks. 47 participants were trained in 2022, seven or 15% of which were women (up from 10% in 2021). Participants discussed the content and necessary steps, roles, and responsibilities to gain approval as an Iraq National Strategy. As a result of this support, authorities agreed on the content of the three action plans of the National Strategy, and in particular roles and responsibilities, as well as the timeline towards the finalized strategy document.

**47**  
participants  
were trained in 2022



**15% (7)**  
were women



**up from**  
**10%**  
in 2021

### First Joint United Nations – NATO Project

In September 2022, the United Nations and NATO successfully concluded the first project jointly delivered by the two entities. Implemented by UNCCT and NATO's Defence Policy and Planning Division, the four-year project focused on enhancing the national capabilities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the areas of preparedness and response to terrorist attacks involving CBRN weapons or materials.

The results of the project were presented at a High-Level Meeting held in Amman on 14 September which was preceded by a series of table-top and field exercises following terrorist attack scenarios involving biological, chemical and nuclear weapons/materials held in Amman, Aqaba and Zarqa respectively.

The exercises aimed at testing the National Crisis Plan developed within the framework of the project and drawing lessons learned and recommendations for improvement. They were attended by 2,500 participants from 35 national entities including Jordan Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior, the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management and other competent agencies.



**SPRF Outcome 3.2:** State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists

### Project on universalisation and effective implementation of the ICSANT

Improved international cooperation and mutual confidence building in nuclear detection and forensics

UNCCT's Weapons Programme promoted regional and international cooperation in nuclear detection and forensics, notably through the Trident Tabletop Exercise for the Mediterranean Basin and South-East and Eastern Europe. For this, UNCCT collaborated with UNODC, the United States of America, Italy and the Kingdom of Morocco, with financial support from the European Union, to roll out interactive, scenario-based capacity building in detection of radiological/nuclear materials at maritime ports, crime scenes, and the coordination

of subsequent nuclear forensics investigations. These activities trained 101 participants, 30% of whom were women (up from 23% in 2021). Through these scenarios, UNCCT has promoted closer international cooperation and relationship-building among border control, customs, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies, as well as prosecutors and nuclear forensics experts.

**101**  
participants  
were trained in 2022

 **30%**  
were women

 **up from**  
**23%**  
in 2021

### Project on developing guidelines to facilitate implementation of security council resolution 2370

New technical guidelines on the problem of terrorist acquisition of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

UNCCT's Weapons Programme, in partnership with CTED and UNIDIR, developed technical guidelines to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) on preventing the terrorist acquisition of weapons, under the framework of the Global Compact. The guidelines have the objective to facilitate implementation of



the resolution, thereby contributing to the enhancement of States' national legislative, strategic, and operational capacities to prevent, detect and counter the illicit trafficking and acquisition of weapons, systems and components and the associated activities of terrorist and organized crime groups. The guidelines suggest an approach which can support Member States in eliminating the supply of SALW and associated ammunition, IEDs and their components, UAS and components to terrorists. This approach includes upstream measures and activities aimed at preventing or deterring terrorists from acquiring such weapons, as well as downstream measures and activities associated with mitigation and the response to terrorist events involving such weapon categories or systems. The guidelines form a basis for dialogue at different levels, including among regional and national stakeholders in their efforts to assess, develop, review, and refine regional and national measures to prevent terrorist acquisition of weapons. The guidelines were launched in a high-level event in New York and were presented in a workshop for the European region in Brussels from 27 – 29 April.

### Project on addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus

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#### Member States take steps towards improving response to the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Central Asia

UNCCT's Weapons Programme has built a foundation for an informal network of practitioners across Central Asia, as well as provided a common basis of understanding of approaches to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition as well as related crimes.

Throughout 2022, UNCCT's Weapons Programme implemented a series of support activities on countering firearms trafficking, terrorism, and other crimes in several countries in Central Asia. Working together with UNODC and within the framework of the project 'Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Central Asia', UNCCT has supported Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to strengthen the capacity of prosecutors, investigators, and judges to detect, interdict, investigate, prosecute and effectively handle terrorism cases involving the illegal production, circulation, and diversion of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and connect them with other serious crimes and terrorism. These activities brought together 166 total participants, 6% of whom were women.

In Turkmenistan, the Programme supported the technical evaluation of the country's capacity to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus by preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their illicit supply to terrorists, and to learn about their legislative, strategic and operational requirements for assistance as well as their readiness for implementation of measures in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions on counterterrorism, in particular resolutions 2370 (2017) and 2482 (2019) and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As a result, a roadmap including recommendations for the country is being developed as a guide for further actions to be taken.

**SPRF Outcome 3.3:** Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality standards

### Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Joint exercises held to improve domestic and international information sharing and cooperation on radiological and nuclear terrorism

In November, Norway, Finland, and the United States of America, in collaboration with UNCCT's Weapons Programme, held an exercise that demonstrated effective regional information sharing, domestic interagency coordination, and the roles that international organizations can play in the management of nuclear security incidents. This exercise, titled the *'Watchful Viking Tabletop Exercise'*, brought together 70 participants from 13 countries and promoted dialogue within and between country groups for experts from border control, customs, regulatory authorities, law enforcement, and other relevant agencies. In addition to increasing their understanding of efficient and established domestic interagency radiological/nuclear cooperation and coordination mechanisms, the responsibilities of various agencies on the domestic and regional level in responding to nuclear security incidents, and the roles of international organizations and infrastructures in the management of nuclear security incidents and the facilitation of information exchange, the exercise helped identify best practices for regional and bilateral information sharing and public messaging during nuclear security incidents.

### Project on addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus

Streamlining interinstitutional cooperation at national and international levels in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to address the challenges of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

UNCCT's Weapons Programme supported Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in developing interinstitutional cooperation at national and international levels for the countering of illicit firearms trafficking and diversion of SALW to terrorists. In both countries, UNCCT worked with officials to understand the current levels of cooperation between the national institutions, identifying gaps and loopholes that negatively impact interinstitutional cooperation. This support further provided a platform for the exchange of experiences and good practices between specialists in the criminal justice system, while helping national counterparts to improve their capacities in collection, analysis and sharing of information related to firearms topics. In Turkmenistan, UNCCT also worked together with experts from UNODC, INTERPOL, and UNAMA, as well as providing international expertise-sharing

on the topic of coordinated investigative and prosecutorial actions by representatives of specialized units from Italy, Lithuania, and Serbia. As a result, both countries officials developed an action plan to enhance interinstitutional cooperation at the national level to better counter illicit firearms trafficking and diversion of SALW to terrorists.

### **Project on inter-agency interoperability in case of chemical and/or biological attacks**

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#### **Establishment of the network of focal points for a chemical and/or biological terrorist attack**

UNCCT's Weapons Programme and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) jointly organized an event to finalize the Terms of Reference of the Network of Focal Points that facilitates communication between relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations to exchange information and coordinate activities in relation to a chemical or biological attack. Seven United Nations agencies and international organizations came together within the framework of the Global Compact Working Group project on "Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks - Phase III," to finalize the Terms of Reference of the Network of Focal Points, which will provide available resources, information, experts, best-practice exchange, and relevant contacts that can help the process of managing the chemical or biological attack. The function is to activate an emergency procedure and decision-making, liaise with the network during the process to coordinate preparedness activities. The meeting also served as an opportunity to discuss next steps of the project including three workshops on joint deployment, emergency response and information sharing. This project of the working group is led by the OPCW and UNCCT and aims to improve the interagency preparedness and response of international agencies across the humanitarian, health, and security sectors to support Member States request for assistance, relief operations, and victim support as a result of a chemical and/or biological weapons attack.

***The Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme is co-funded by Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America***

## Border Security and Management Programme

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

### BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT (BSM)

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**SPRF Outcome 3.1:** Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality norms and standards

#### **Strengthened border security and management while respecting human rights**

UNCCT's Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme has worked with partners in 2022 to ensure strong border management regimes that are compliant with human rights standards. In Iraq, UNCCT worked together with OHCHR, IOM and UNAMI to deliver training to officials on human rights at international borders in the context of counter-terrorism. This resulted in the adoption of a set of recommendations for the effective implementation of human rights-compliant and gender-responsive border management strategies and action plans. As a further result, the Government of Iraq has requested UNCCT's continued support in the implementation of border measures which are compliant with international human rights norms and standards, to respond to the potential movement of terrorists, FTFs and serious criminals across borders.

In Mauritania, UNCCT's BSM Programme worked together with OHCHR to deliver training to frontline border officials to identify and apply relevant human rights standards to different aspects of border security and management, including in the context of counter-terrorism. This included officials from police, immigration, and coastal and port authorities. As a result, action points were identified for practical and concrete measures to be adopted

in the short-, mid- and long-terms within the trainees' respective areas of work to achieve institutional change.

During the World Border Security Congress, from 25 – 27 April, UNCCT's BSM Programme discussed the gender dimensions of the crime-terror nexus, and the importance of gender-responsive approaches to border security and management, within the counter-terrorism context. The event, which included officials from the Kenya Airports Authority, IOM, UN Women and the OSCE, also highlighted the importance of a comprehensive gender analysis to inform border strategies and action plans which are inclusive of counter-terrorism elements.

**SPRF Outcome 3.2: State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists**

### **Application of technologies and best practices for biometric data collection, in line with international human rights norms and standards**

UNCCT's BSM Programme has been working closely with CTED on the responsible use and sharing of biometric data for counter-terrorism efforts. In 2018, together with the Biometrics Institute, they published a Compendium of technologies and best practices for Member States with little or no experience of biometric applications. In 2022, building upon this previous work, UNCCT delivered tailored training and practical exercises, in cooperation with UNODC, IOM, ICAO and INTERPOL, to officials in Southeast Asian countries on the Compendium and its application in the context of their national practices, and its use as a tool to support the establishment of effective frameworks and operational procedures. As a result, countries have greater capacity to implement advanced verification of travel documents and screening procedures, in compliance with international human rights norms and standards, through the collection and processing of biometrics, as well as address measures needed to effectively implement the requirements of UN Security Council resolution 2396 (2017).

In Tajikistan, UNCCT's BSM Programme continued its engagement with the government on the responsible use and sharing of biometric data for counter-terrorism purposes, with a particular focus on more impactful screening procedures for that country's border with Afghanistan. Building on the Compendium as a guidance document, UNCCT helped officials understand international standards as well as the requirements in the responsible use of biometrics, particularly in light of UN Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). As a result, the Office of the General Prosecutor requested to continue the cooperation in the

field of the responsible use of biometrics at borders, to counter terrorism. The national police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs further welcomed the possibility of running a practical operation, such as INTERPOL's HOTSPOT Project, at the border with Afghanistan.

### **New guidance and best practices for Member States in maritime border security, taking into account security threats and challenges in Africa**

African Member States have been struggling to keep up with the development and implementation of the technological solutions to the security of the maritime borders, often lacking adequate surveillance equipment, cybersecurity measures, or effective screening technologies. At the same time, terrorist groups in Africa are using the technological deficit of states' infrastructures and progressively improving their own technological capabilities, such as the use of armed drones and attacks on cyber infrastructure. UNCCT organised an online forum on 22 February for 290 participants from 85 countries to exchange information on the current state of the technological race in the maritime domain in Africa and the different ways in which new technologies are crucial to understand the current and future dynamics of regional maritime security. As a result of these discussions, UNCCT's BSM Programme has produced a guidance document for Member States on Border Security and Management Maritime Best Practices in Eastern and Southern Africa, that reflects maritime security threats and challenges in the context of counter-terrorism in the region.

**SPRF Outcome 3.3: Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality standards**

### **Expansion of list of good practices for Member States in Border Security and Management taking into account the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Working together with the Republic of Korea, UNCCT's BSM Programme identified and collated 'good practices' for border management globally in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health response measures to understand how measures to contain this evolving health threat may intersect with measures to prevent and counter terrorism. This achievement marked the conclusion of phase I of the Joint Initiative to expand the UNCCT Border Security and Management Good Practices in response to the COVID 19 pandemic.



Following the launch of the expanded list of good practices, UNCCT worked with the Republic of Korea to present the good practices and facilitate experience sharing amongst border law enforcement agencies in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam). As a result of this support, the countries shared a set of new recommendations for action in areas specifically tailored to the region and reiterated their commitment to continue effective cooperation.

### **Regional approach for Border Security and Management in Africa developed, in the context of the expanded list of good practices**

Under the UNCCT BSM Programme, and with the support of the Programme Office in Nairobi, UNCCT supported 16 African countries and other relevant national and international partners in addressing the enduring and emerging challenges to security of the maritime domain in the Eastern and Southern African region. Events under this Programme gathered together state officials (representatives of coastguard, navies, maritime authorities, information-sharing centres) and national counter-terrorism centres from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. The aim was to reinforce the security knowledge and develop a common understanding of evolving terrorist threats in the maritime domain through the exchange of operational information and research findings between the delegations, agencies and researchers, while promoting the respect for and protection of human rights as well as the conduct of due diligence in efforts to counter terrorism. As a result, countries identified the priority needs of the governmental agencies, security forces and coastal communities to secure the maritime domain from these terrorist threats, while also contributing to the draft Compendium of Good Practices for Maritime Border Management in the Context of Counter-Terrorism, and complementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum's 2021



A five-day regional workshop on Good Practices in Border Security Management to strengthen coordination and capacities to counter terrorism. 13 May 2022, Rabat, Morocco. Photo/UNCCT

Maritime Security paper with a more regional specific approach and more detailed good practices.

In further support to the region, UNCCT's BSM Programme worked together with UNOCT Programme Office and Regional Training Centre in Rabat to enhance the responses of Member States from North Africa and the Sahel region in preventing the cross-border movement of suspected terrorists and stemming the flow of FTFs. Expert contributions were provided by UNOCT CT Travel Programme, IOM, UNODC, INTERPOL and the OHCHR, who discussed the development and implementation of the national and regional border management strategies and national action plans inclusive of counter-terrorism elements, in accordance with international human rights law, international refugee law, and the rule of law. This also allowed for development of linkages for improved cooperation between Member States, as well as the exchange of information, good practices, and experiences. As a result, participants identified a set of agreed recommendations and follow-up actions for the development and implementation of comprehensive border management strategies and action plans inclusive of counter-terrorism elements.

### **Improved the detection and prevention of the movement of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters in Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Turkey**

UNCCT's BSM Programme, in partnership with the Jordanian Armed Forces and IMO, and in cooperation with NATO COE-DAT and the OHCHR, have been working to enhance inter-agency and regional cooperation among countries in the region, including through exchange of information and through participation in scenario-based exercises. The aim was to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and stem the flow of FTFs, including returnees, as well as related transnational crimes through improved border security and management strategies, with a focus on land borders. Following this support, countries have agreed to a set of recommendations and actions for the effective implementation of comprehensive border management strategies and action plans inclusive of counter-terrorism elements. Furthermore, upon a formal request presented by the Iraqi authorities, it was agreed that UNCCT will further engage with Iraq and conduct a mission to help further strengthen that country's border regime.

### Good Practices in the area of Border Security and Management in the context of Counter-Terrorism: The Republic of Korea Model

In June 2022, based on the outcome of two missions and national consultations held with key stakeholders within the Republic of Korea (ROK) Government border-related authorities in 2021, the UNCCT BSM Programme launched the Good Practices in the area of Border Security and Management in the context of Counter-Terrorism: The Republic of Korea Model. Given the successful approach of the ROK border authority in preventing the spread of the virus while maintaining the security apparatus fully functional, the UNCCT-ROK Joint project identified and collated 'good practices' for border management in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic and public health response measures to understand how this evolving health threat and measures to contain it intersect with terrorism. This document complements the "BSM Good Practices in the context of counter terrorism and stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)" document that was produced by UNCCT and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) in 2017. This supplementary tool enhances the aforementioned document adding to the border security and management practices the public health and hygiene standards. The publication was made possible through the collaboration with WCO, IOM, and the Stimson Centre, in cooperation with the Migration Research and Training Centre and the Institution for National Security Strategy of the Republic of Korea.



Launch event of the Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counter-Terrorism: The Republic of Korea Model, UNHQ ECOSOC Chamber, New York, 30 June 2022. Photo/UNCCT

*The Border Security and Management Programme is co-funded by Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (China)*

## Countering the Financing of Terrorism Programme

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**SPRF Outcome 3.1:** Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality norms and standards

### UNCCT pilots a new awareness-raising programme on CFT for Parliamentarians of ESAAMLG

In Tanzania, UNCCT's Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism ('CFT Programme') launched a pilot training project on countering the financing of terrorism for parliamentarians in the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), a FATF-Style Regional Body (FSRB) with 20 member countries. This helped lawmakers and government officials understand the risks of terrorism financing and international best practices in countering the financing of terrorism. Following the successful pilot in Tanzania, a second training was organised for officials on Rwanda's Parliamentary Committee on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. This training methodology has proven to be effective in raising awareness of members of parliament and government officials to address their CFT international obligations. Based on these experiences, virtual events with parliamentarians are expected to continue to in other ESAAMLG member jurisdictions as well as with other FSRBs, some of which have shown interest in conducting similar exercise within their respective jurisdictions such as the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force or the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

### Providing support to Ugandan authorities to improve compliance against FATF standards

The CFT Programme engaged with Uganda on the delivery of technical assistance following the national targeted needs identification process achieved in March 2022 led by CTED, in collaboration with UNCCT. The process focused on three priority areas:

1. domestic terrorist asset freezing mechanisms
2. protection of non-profit organizations (NPOs) from terrorist financing abuse; and
3. investigation/ prosecution of terrorist financing offenses.



Workshop for the Republic of Uganda on "Targeted Financial Sanctions pertaining to UNSCR 1373 (2001), in collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) of Uganda, 12-13 September 2022. Photo/UNCCT

Following the conclusion of the process, the UNCCT CFT Programme, supported by CTED, developed a national action plan with Uganda to provide tailored technical assistance on key PNI recommended actions. The launch of the UNOCT/UNCCT-Uganda technical assistance Plan took place in September 2022 with two first workshops organized in partnership with the Ugandan Financial Intelligence Authority and the CFT Programme. UNCCT has supported Ugandan officials in implementing a risk-based approach to monitoring the non-profit sector, while facilitating experience sharing with civil society and South-South cooperation through the support provided by experts from Mauritius, which recently exited the FATF grey list. UNCCT also provided guidance and support to implementing Uganda's national asset freezing mechanism. As a result, Uganda developed an agreed set of actions to implement the mechanism, including the review of members of the national Targeted Financial Sanctions Committee. Specific attention was placed on unintended consequences of CFT measures on vulnerable groups and civil society.

### **Tajikistan develops an action plan for risk assessment of the non-profit sector in the context of countering the financing of terrorism**

Through its CFT Programme, UNCCT advanced the efforts of Tajikistan to develop a national action plan for risk assessment of the non-profit sector. UNCCT brought together officials from the National Bank of Tajikistan, non-profit sector representatives and their

supervisory authorities, the Financial Monitoring Department, the General Prosecutor's Office, and the inter-ministerial working group assigned for the risk assessment of the non-profit sector and other competent authorities on how to conduct risk review of the NPO sector. As a result, the national action plan for the risk assessment and review of the non-profit sector was concluded. The country responded in April 2022 and agreed to the plan's implementation, followed by a first capacity-building workshop. Continuation of support to the implementation of the plan will resume in 2023.

**SPRF Outcome 3.2:** State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists

### **Support to the UAE in the implementation of strategic priorities for countering the financing of terrorism**

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), UNCCT's CFT Programme worked with government officials to effectively implement a risk-based approach and improve compliance with FATF preventative measures with regards to Anti-Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) efforts. UNCCT further supported UAE officials to enhance investigative capacities in the conduct of parallel financial investigations, and develop evidence to be used in criminal proceedings.

### **Iraq improves ability to conduct parallel financial investigations in terrorist cases, and develops an action plan to further enhance capacities, cooperation and information sharing on CFT**

In partnership with the Office of the National Security Advisor of Iraq, the UNCCT CFT Programme completed the first round of technical assistance for Iraqi officials between 2021 and 2022 on terrorist financing risk assessment and financial investigations. UNCCT has been closely engaged with the Office of the National Security Advisor to design a new comprehensive technical assistance Action Plan for the country. This intended Action Plan aims to assist the Government of Iraq in creating an CFT inter-agency working group to conduct financial investigations and enhance institutional cooperation and information sharing. The Action Plan will also incorporate technical assistance to Iraq on other thematic areas, including conducting terrorist financing sectorial risk assessments.

**SPRF Outcome 3.3:** Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality standards

### **Kyrgyzstan reviews updated guidance and policies on risk-based supervision of the non-profit sector, to reduce potential for misuse for terrorism financing purposes, in line with human rights obligations**

UNCCT's CFT Unit, in coordination with UNCCT's Central Asia Unit and the EAG Secretariat, developed a technical assistance plan for Kyrgyzstan. The plan was discussed and approved with the Financial Intelligence Service and other government authorities and the technical assistance activities were coordinated with the UNRCCA series of capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops held in Bishkek from April to September 2022 on the protection of the non-profit sector from terror financing abuse and implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 8 marked the culmination of the first phase of the CFT Programme's engagement with Kyrgyzstan government officials. In November 2022, the Kyrgyz Republic 4th Enhanced follow-up report by EAG recognized that Kyrgyzstan has made significant progress in addressing most of the deficiencies identified in the 2018 Mutual Evaluation Report. As a result, the FATF Recommendation 8 has been upgraded from "Non Compliant" to "Partially Compliant". A second technical assistance package should complement the first UNOCT CFT engagement with Kyrgyzstan.



Photo/UNCCT



Photo/UNCCT

## Practical examples identified on how to improve interagency cooperation in Turkmenistan for AML/CFT

Under the Programme, *Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase IV*, UNCCT has worked with national officials to develop understanding of the role of financial intelligence units and the importance of suspicious transaction reports, as well as the conduct of short financial investigations or the analysis of case studies that required active participation and the sharing of experiences and opinions of the representatives of the various state bodies. Moreover, the support allowed for the development of practical examples on how to improve the efficiency of interagency cooperation in Turkmenistan in the field of AML / CFT, in accordance with international best practices, UN instruments and the EAG mutual assessment for compliance with FATF standards.

## Latin American countries deepen understanding of threats from financing of terrorism in the region, and the role of international cooperation and domestic coordination to counter these threats

The first engagement of the CFT Programme in Latin America brought together 76 participants from 18 jurisdictions of GAFILAT (Financial Action Task Force of Latin America). With the facilitation of the government and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Mexico, the event, held in Mexico City from 24 – 25 March, highlighted the importance of international cooperation and domestic coordination to counter the financing of terrorism in Latin America especially in relation to the implementation of targeted financial sanctions pertaining to UN Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) as well as FATF Recommendation 6 (on targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and terrorist financing). Participants, from law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and financial intelligence units, found it essential to exchange over the evolving nature of the terrorist threats facing the region, as well as the many gaps in their respective

domestic systems where CFT efforts are given less priority, while advocating for more support to the region on countering the financing of terrorism.

**SPRF Outcome 3.4:** Effective response developed and implemented addressing the counter-terrorism challenges and opportunities as related to new technologies, including information and communications technologies, in accordance with the rule of law, international human rights obligations, and gender equality standards

### **Member States in the Balkans take steps to improve capabilities to detect, prevent and counter the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism**

UNCCT's CFT Programme launched a partnership with officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina on countering the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism, in cooperation with a range of international, national actors, and private sector entities. The aim of this partnership is to ensure that the country's officials have increased capabilities to detect, prevent and counter the use of crypto to finance terrorism.



Joint workshop on "Countering the use of Cryptocurrencies to Finance Terrorism", UN House Sarajevo, 25-27 May 2022. Photo/UNCCT

Additionally, the CFT Programme worked with countries from across the Western Balkans region in collaboration with CEPOL to support law enforcement and judicial officials' efforts to counter and prevent the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism, in a human rights-compliant manner, including by offering perspectives on analysis and financial intelligence exchange.

*The Countering Financing of Terrorism Programme is co-funded by France, India, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.*

## CT Travel Programme

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**SPRF Outcome 3.1:** Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality norms and standards

### UNCCT-Interpol Project on Enhancing Information Sharing in Foreign Terrorist Fighters

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Developing information sharing and regional cooperation in Central Asia for dealing effectively with foreign terrorist fighters

UNCCT, together with its partners in the UN Counter-Terrorism Travel Programme ('CT Travel Programme'), promoted regional cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus region in dealing with FTFs. Working together with INTERPOL, UNCCT shared best practices in screening procedures and use of relevant INTERPOL information systems, while promoting joint investigations at the regional level and increasing the confidence of regional actors in information sharing. Furthermore, UNCCT together with UNODC, CTED, and ICAO supported the Regional Antiterrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS), in particular through the use of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) Data in the fight against terrorism and organized crime, both within the Central Asia region and globally. As a result, countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus shared best practices and developed mutual confidence as a basis for future information sharing.

## AIMC Programme

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**SPRF Outcome 3.2:** State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and international human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists

## Adoption of the regional counter-terrorism strategy in the Arab world

Since 2019, UNCCT has been collaborating with Member States in the Middle East and North Africa region and the Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) to support the development and implementation of an Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy. The strategy was consensually adopted in 2022 by Arab Interior Ministers and aims to converge national and regional efforts to address terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism, while enhancing compliance with international human rights norms and standards and promoting the respect for rule of law principles. Following the adoption of this strategy, UNCCT continued working with the AIMC Secretariat to develop a plan to operationalize the strategy and facilitate its implementation at national and regional levels. In a high-level event, 21 AIMC member states adopted a series of recommendations to guide the joint work of UNCCT and AIMC on the development of the implementation plan with a view to submitting it to interior ministers for their adoption.

*The AIMC project is funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

## Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia

**SPRF Outcome 3.3:** Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality standards

### Adoption of the Tashkent Declaration and renewed Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia

UNCCT co-organised the '*High-Level International Conference on Regional Cooperation among Central Asian Countries*' within the framework of the JPoA, held in Tashkent from 3 – 4 March, together with the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, the UNRCCA and the OSCE. In the event, which brought together over 500 representatives of Member States, regional and international organizations, UNCCT worked with member countries to review the work done in the region in implementation of the GCTS and to discuss new challenges and threats. This resulted in the adoption of the Tashkent Declaration, confirming the commitment of the Central Asian States to further strengthen cooperation, and a new

updated action plan taking into consideration existing and emerging challenges in the region such as ones related to cybersecurity, combating the financing of terrorism, border security, return of foreign terrorist fighters and developments in Afghanistan.



Photo/UNCCT

## Launch of the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia and agreement among Central Asian countries to adopt a collective approach to the fight against terrorism, unifying policies and standards



The *Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network* brings together five Central Asian governments to enhance capacity and intensify regional coordination and collaboration to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism to respond to

the emerging security challenges and threats emanating from Afghanistan. This initiative has not only provided a more comprehensive and timely exchange of information in the current unpredictable environment, but also serves as a new platform for coordinating engagement with Afghanistan between national, regional, and international actors.

UNCCT and UNODC organised an event on 20 May in Vienna during the 31st Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) for Central Asian countries to share good practices and future objectives on issues that ranged from fighting the illicit trafficking of SALW, fighting against cybercrime and strengthening cybersecurity, enhancing cross-border cooperation, preventing radicalization to terrorism in prisons and countering the financing of terrorism. During this event, 80 participants and representatives from Central Asia agreed on the importance of unifying policies and standards. The platform offered by the side event served to further strengthen the commitment to continue in this direction.

*The Joint Plan of Action Phase IV is co-funded by Kazakhstan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (China)*

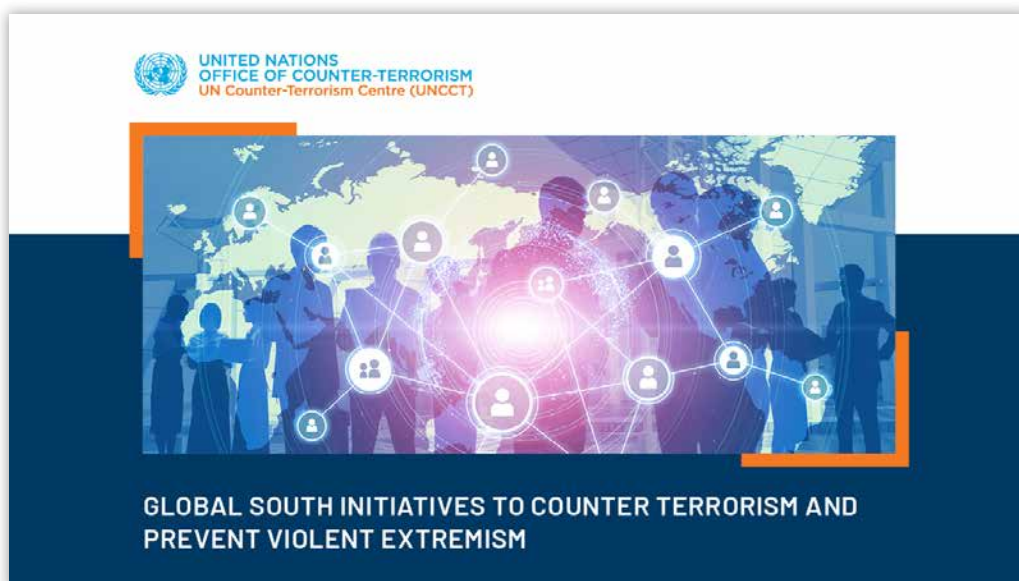
## Enhancing South-South exchange of expertise

**SPRF Outcome 3.3:** Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights, and gender equality standards

### CT / PVE experts develop and share good practices and lessons learned for improved South-South cooperation

UNCCT worked together with UNOSSC and experts from the Global South to identify and share good practices, lessons learned and challenges regarding CT / PCVE. Participants explored the role of Member States, UN entities and regional organizations and identified successful policies, good practices and experiences that could be shared and enhanced, such as combatting violent extremist narratives and drafting comprehensive national PCVE Action Plans. In further sessions, experts discussed and shared good practices in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) on countering the financing of terrorism. These sessions resulted in a list of good practices and lessons learned regarding the drafting of comprehensive national PCVE action plans, as well as regarding the implementation of resolution 2462 (2019), to be distributed among members of the Online Network of CT/PVE Experts from the Global South. The discussions also looked

at how to prevent counter-terrorism financing laws from negatively affecting women's rights organizations in ways that hinder the civic space for advocacy, the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.



*The project on Enhancing South-South exchange of expertise is co-funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations Peace and Development Fund (China)*

## Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

**SPRF Outcome 3.4:** Effective response developed and implemented addressing the counter-terrorism challenges and opportunities as related to new technologies, including information and communications technologies, in accordance with the rule of law, international human rights obligations, and gender equality standards

### Graduation of the first classes of trainees of the joint UNCCT and INTERPOL initiative on countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes 'CT TECH'

In 2022, UNCCT and INTERPOL launched a new joint initiative, 'CT TECH', to support Member States in developing effective counter-terrorism responses towards the challenges and opportunities of new technologies in countering terrorism, in full respect of human rights and the rule of law. 35 Member States will be supported to strengthen



their policy responses and increasing law enforcement and criminal justice operational capacity related to countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes.

CT TECH provided several online courses during 2022, using a blended learning methodology of recorded lectures, self-study material, live sessions, and assessment exercises. These included:

Fundamentals of Open Source Intelligence (FOSI)	Forensic Police and Data Management (FPDM) / Facial recognition technology
<p>An introduction to law enforcement from all crime areas looking to gain a better understanding of open sources investigations, both in terms of methodologies and technical skills. There were 30 course participants (23% women), 92% of whom completed the course indicated that they would be able to apply the training in their work.</p>	<p>This course, delivered together with the INTERPOL Virtual Academy, aimed to increase law enforcement investigators' awareness and ability to utilise facial recognition in an effective and responsible manner. There were two sessions with a total of 98 participants (21% women). Approximately 90% of course participants reported increased knowledge and understanding of the responsible application of facial recognition technology in their work.</p>

### Strengthened capacities of Member States to protect critical infrastructures from terrorist cyber-attacks

UNCCT continued its collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union to strengthen law enforcement and computer security incident response teams' co-ordination and co-operation while responding to terrorist cyber-attacks.

**Counter-terrorism cyber-drill for the CIS and the Arab region.** This drill focused on the use of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) techniques to investigate cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorist actors and strengthening law enforcement and national computer security incident response teams' collaboration and information sharing while responding to terrorist cyber-attacks. This resulted in improved collaboration between computer security incident response teams and law enforcement, while responding to terrorist cyber-attacks against critical infrastructures, and increased understanding of good practices for improving this collaboration. Following the cyber-drill, 93% of participants reported that the knowledge and skills acquired during the drill will lead to changes in work processes, use of new techniques, implementation of new solutions and better collaboration and information exchanges with other national agencies.

**Cyber-drill for the Americas Region.** This drill focused on the use of OSINT to investigate a ransomware attack against a national news broadcasting agency, perpetrated by a terrorist actor who was also threatening to attack more critical infrastructure including national railways and a powerplant. The drill participants had to find social media accounts attributed to the threat actor, using only QR code and an empty crypto wallet address provided in an email requesting ransom payment. Following the drill, 100% of participants attested to having achieved new skills and knowledge to use OSINT to mitigate the effects of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructures conducted by terrorist actors and that the knowledge and skills acquired during the activity would lead to changes in work processes, use of new techniques, implementation of new solutions and better collaboration and information exchanges with other national agencies while responding to terrorist cyber-attacks. A further 87% of survey participants reporting increased awareness of human rights and gender considerations when using OSINT to investigate cyber-attacks.

### **Agreement on priority areas for the Republic of Uzbekistan in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with a focus on cybersecurity and new technologies**

UNCCT worked together with UNRCCA to support Uzbekistan in identifying priorities for implementing the UNGCTS in the country and to effectively tackling issues of cybersecurity and the security implications of new technologies, in particular with the support of the UNOCT/UNCCT Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies. As a result, priority areas for capacity building support to the Uzbekistan on cybersecurity and new technologies have been identified and agreed. Moreover, a UNOCT delegation proposed that the Uzbekistan consider hosting a regional conference planned for the second half of 2023 on new technologies, to which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs replied positively.

## Expanded understanding of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and social network analysis (SNA) for counter-terrorism

**"What a fantastic event, with some great presentations and insights. The conversations that took place were relevant, valuable and I've taken away a great deal from this. One of the best events I've attended this year."**

**–Feedback from a participant of the virtual cybersecurity table-top exercise for cities, November 2022**

UNCCT's Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, working together with UNICRI, convened experts to further explore the use of AI for social network analysis (AI-SNA) in the context of counter-terrorism, expanding understanding of its application and taking stock of trends, developments and related challenges and concerns regarding its use. Discussions revolved around several guiding questions, including on how AI-SNA can play a role in countering terrorism, the challenges that hinder more prevalent use of this technology, the requirements to build capacities of counter-terrorism agencies to utilize AI-SNA capabilities, and success stories of the use of AI-SNA. This informed the development of further joint work to be undertaken by UNOCT/UNCCT and UNICRI to identify potential gaps in support to the practical needs of Member States, based on knowledge from experts in the private sector, academia, and practitioners with experience in using artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism.

## Cities in Europe, North America and Australasia work to identify opportunities for enhancing multi-agency preparedness and response arrangements for cyber-attacks, and developing resilience at city levels

UNCCT's Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies and CTPN organized a first of the kind, virtual **cybersecurity table-top exercise for cities** on 6 September in London with participation of 42 cybersecurity and counter-terrorism incident responders, including seven women. The exercise looked at how cyberspace provides a new delivery mechanism that can increase the speed, diffusion, and power of an attack, and ensure anonymity, undetectability, low price of entry for attackers and its implication to city infrastructures. The table-top exercise scenario explored cities' responses to a highly sophisticated, multi-sited ransomware attack against their transport network and health services, which was followed by an attack on an emergency service control centre. The exercise addressed the immediate impact of such events, responsibilities and priorities of responding agencies, engagement with competent national cybersecurity authorities, activation of response plans, multi-agency and cross-sector response co-ordination, communication with public and decisions on the ransom demand.

## UNCCT pilots new training programme to improve Member States' capacities in drone digital forensics

UNCCT's Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit developed training curriculum on UAS digital forensics and piloted it in regional trainings in the Republic of Korea for the MENA region, and in the Czech Republic for the Western Balkan region. The feedback expressed further interest in targeted training on UAS digital forensics, as most training participants agreed that new and emerging technology topics, such as UAS digital forensics, required frequent trainings and engagements to stay ahead of the curve in risks stemming from terrorist abuse of rapidly evolving technologies.

## UNCCT mainstreams human rights and gender into programme on cybersecurity and new technologies

Human rights and gender mainstreaming was reinforced through all programme outcomes and outputs. Each outcome had a human rights and gender mainstreaming compliance monitoring plan to assess and measure mainstreaming effectiveness. All capacity building activities integrated human rights focused training, ensuring that the human rights framework is applied to digital space, and make significant contribution to gender equality, empowerment of women and addressing their specific needs.

Mainstreaming gender across Internet investigations was also an integral part of the training delivered. UNOCT/UNCCT explained the value of including a gender perspective into investigations and looking for a context-based understanding of the experiences of



Panel Discussion on Cyber and New Technologies in the Context of Counter-Terrorism, organized jointly with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York, 8 December 2022. Photo/UNCCT

women, men, boys and girls through the planning, collection, analysis, and dissemination of criminal intelligence products and how this supports compliance with international human rights and gender equality standards.

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As a result, **98% of participants reported greater awareness of human rights and gender considerations**, relevant to cyber-threats to critical infrastructures, a 95% of participants – when using OSINT to investigate cyber-attacks, **which was substantially higher than the target of 80%**.

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#### **UNOCT / UNCCT collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) strengthens Member State capacities to protect critical infrastructure against cyber-attacks**

In 2022, UNOCT/UNCCT collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Republic of Korea to raise awareness and strengthen Member States capacities to respond to terrorist cyber-attacks against critical infrastructures, reinforcing full respect of human rights and the rule of law. Three regional counter-terrorism cyber drills for the Arab and CIS region, the Americas and Asia-Pacific brought together around 400 officials, 124 of them women, from 48 Member States to strengthen their responses to terrorist cyber-attacks through investigation of cyber-incidents and improved collaboration between national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTS) and law enforcement. 97% of participants attested to having achieved new skills and knowledge required to be better mitigate the effects of cyber-attacks by terrorist actors.

To ensure that the international human rights framework and gender considerations are applied to digital space during counter-terrorism investigations, UNOCT/UNCCT integrated human rights-focused training. As a result, 98% of participants reported greater awareness of human rights and gender considerations relevant to cyber-threats to critical infrastructures and to online investigations.

*The Programme on Cybersecurity and New technologies is co-funded by the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.*

## Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS)<sup>7</sup>



**SPRF Outcome 3.4:** Effective response developed and implemented addressing the counter-terrorism challenges and opportunities as related to new technologies, including information and communications technologies, in accordance with the rule of law, international human rights obligations, and gender equality standards

### UNCCT-SPIB AROS Programme hosts an expert meeting on “Counter-Terrorism and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Digital Forensics”

An expert meeting on 23 March brought together expert speakers from counter-terrorism, law enforcement, academia, peacekeeping and the private sector to discuss the state of the art in UAS digital forensics. They further collated best practices that support a range of in-person capacity-building workshops on UAS Digital Forensics in 2022-2023. A total of 82 attendees from NATO, INTERPOL, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in East Africa, OICT, DOS, Robot Aviation, NAUSS, C-REX at University of Oslo, Drone Guards (South Africa), and 33 Member States attended the event. In addition to best practices, Member States’ current needs, capacities, and gaps in existing knowledge in this field were identified.

### Security officials in Kyrgyzstan and Niger develop skills in the use of unmanned autonomous systems (UAS) for counter-terrorism purposes

UNCCT worked with Kyrgyzstan security officials to develop their skills and understanding of UAS. The courses provided trainees with a comprehensive theoretical and operational

<sup>7</sup> Operated jointly by UNCCT and the UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB)

Photo/UNCCT



formation on the use and the operation of UAS to support efforts aimed at preventing and countering terrorism-related activities, including international legislations, meteorology, maritime operations, night operations, overwatch, safety and security, and other key training elements. The 26 trainees passed a written examination and a practical UAS flight assessment.

In Niger, the Global Programme launched the first Micro-UAS Operator Course for Niger's Central Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Service (SCLCT/CTO), under the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of the National Police (DGPN). The 13 participants came from the SCLCT/CTO's special interventions, intelligence, and investigation units.

They were provided with a comprehensive theoretical and operational formation on the use and the operation of UAS to support efforts aimed at preventing and countering terrorism-related activities, including international legislations, meteorology, maritime operations, night operations, overwatch, safety and security, and other key training elements.

*The AROS Programme is co-funded by Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.*

## Strategic Goal Four: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

### Overview

UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims and survivors of terrorism. By engaging with victims, survivors, and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure the impact of terrorism on individuals, families and societies can be mitigated through the recognition, respect and protection of the victims' rights and needs. This includes supporting Member States to be better equipped to recover from the impact of terrorism,

to build their capacity to provide sustainable and comprehensive support for victims and survivors of terrorism and their families, and to provide tailored assistance for them to align their national legislation and operational frameworks of support to human rights-compliant, gender-sensitive, and victim-centric best international practice. UNCCT also works to support the application of empirically validated and human rights compliant, age- and gender-responsive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, with the aim of ensuring accountability and breaking the cycle of terrorism for the future.

#### UNOCT SPRF Impacts by 2025

- Victims of terrorism and victims' associations perceive that victims' human rights and needs are championed by the United Nations and better recognized, respected and protected by Member States.
- Member States and communities have improved mechanisms to support recovery from terrorist impacts.
- Individuals with alleged links to UN-listed terrorist groups are prosecuted, as appropriate, rehabilitated and reintegrated by concerned Member States, taking into account age and gender considerations, in line with their international obligations.

#### Key UNCCT deliverables in support of Member States

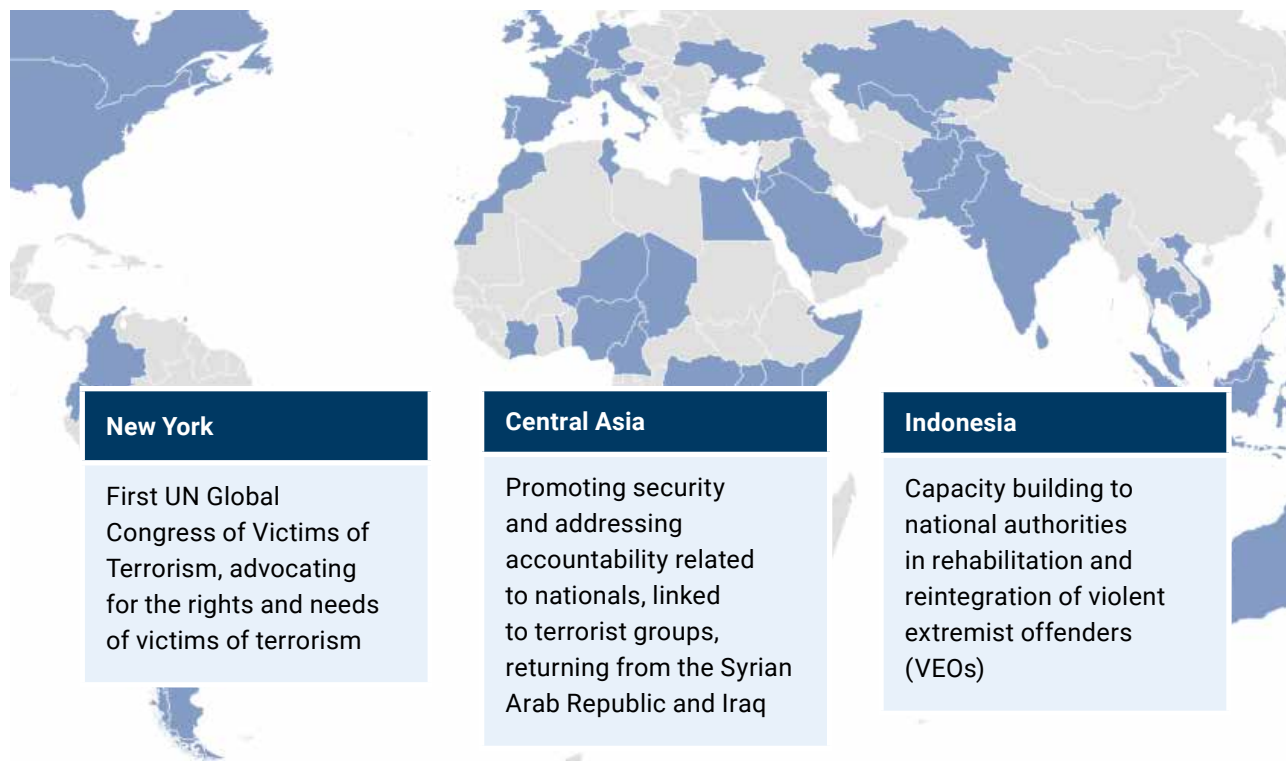
- Development and operationalisation of the Model Legislative Provisions to Assist the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism.
- Development of campaign materials and launch of public campaign.
- Advocacy and awareness-raising on the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism.
- Capacity building of Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies to assess and investigate individuals whom they have reasonable grounds to believe are terrorists, including suspected foreign terrorist fighters and their accompanying family members.

#### Key partnerships in support of the Strategic Goal

##### UN / Intergovernmental organizations:

- UN / Intergovernmental organizations
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED)

### Strategic Goal Four: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism



### Key highlights

- Launch of the Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism and introduction of parliamentarians to provisions
- Launch of campaign for remembrance for victims of terrorism
- Launch of UNCCT Crisis Communications Toolkit

**653**

**Persons trained under SG 4**

**39%**

**Women trainees under SG 4**

**600+**

**Participants in UN Global Congress on Victims of Terrorism**

**300**

**Stakeholders participating in activities to rehabilitate violent extremists**

## Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

**SPRF Outcome 4.1:** The needs and human rights of victims of terrorism are addressed and promoted including victims of sexual and gender-based violence and children affected by terrorism

### Launch of the Model Legislative Provisions to Assist the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism

UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, together with the UNOCT Parliamentary Engagement Office, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNODC, launched the Model Legislative Provisions to Assist the Needs and Protect the Rights of Victims of Terrorism (MLP) in February. The tool offers a model for the review of existing laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism, the strengthening of national legislative frameworks and the systematization and promotion of the exchange of information regarding existing good practices. The MLP is intended to enhance support for victims and survivors of terrorism at the national level, whilst supporting Member States to develop national comprehensive assistance plans. The MLP seeks to contribute to victims' access to justice, compensation and better assistance and protection in the short-, medium- and long-term through a comprehensive approach to supporting victims' needs while upholding their rights.



## Launch of the global “Memories” campaign

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme launched the “Memories” campaign, to promote solidarity with victims and survivors of terrorism, during the International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism held in Malaga, Spain, in May 2022. Through a short film and a photographic exhibition, the campaign featured the testimonies of 22 victims and survivors of terrorism, who shared their memories and how these helped them become more resilient in the face of adversity. As a result of the campaign, victims and survivors of terrorism had a platform to tell their stories and to contribute with their testimonies and counter-narratives to the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Their testimonies and experiences have been shared as a powerful tool for awareness-raising, advocacy and influencing decision makers and civil society to strengthen the support required to advance the rights and needs of victims of terrorism.



Other initiatives organised by the Victims of Terrorism Support Programme during the year included the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in August, which had the Memories campaign at the centre of its activities, as well as the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2022, see below.

## First United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and the launch of new initiatives in support of victims of terrorism

From 8 – 9 September, UNCCT’s Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme organised the first UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism (“the Global Congress”) to strengthen the commitment of the international community, stand in solidarity and advocate for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. Under the theme “Advancing the

Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism,” the Global Congress marked a critical milestone towards strengthened global solidarity and unity in support of victims of terrorism. More than 400 participants attended the event, including 113 victims of terrorism and victims’ associations from 29 Member States; over 90 civil society organization representatives; approximately 60 international and regional organization representatives; 107 Member and Observer State representatives; and more than fifteen United Nations entities.



Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

The Global Congress was designed to provide numerous opportunities for interaction amongst participants through panel sessions, interactive and multimedia products, and networking. The aims of the Global Congress were three-fold:

1. to promote dialogue and engagement between Member States, victims of terrorism, civil society, academics, experts, and the private sector;
2. to reflect on global challenges and opportunities; and
3. to chart the way forward on a victim-centric approach to promote and protect victims’ rights and support their needs.

The Global Congress concluded with seven concrete action points, outlined in a Chair’s Summary, as next steps to chart the future of the international victims of terrorism agenda, which includes a follow-up international conference on victims of terrorism to take place in 2024, enhanced technical assistance to victims of terrorism, the development of a handbook on best practice in the area of victims of terrorism for Member States and the launch of a Victims of Terrorism Association Network.

## **UNCCT develops competencies in engaging effectively with victims and survivors of terrorism**

Through a dedicated capacity-development programme developed and led by the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, UNOCT staff were trained in how to engage with victims and survivors of terrorism, including understanding the specific needs of victims of terrorism, the importance of relationship development and maintenance, interaction with victims, and an introduction to trauma, vicarious trauma and handling distress. Further training has helped staff to apply wellbeing tools to practically support victims, use trauma-informed practice for victim-centred support, and be aware of standards of trauma-aware communication and engagement. As a result, UNOCT staff are better prepared to engage effectively with victims and survivors of terrorism and to observe victim-centric processes when interacting with them.

## **Training and support for victims of terrorism participating in UNOCT/UNCCT events, including for public outreach**

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme conducted two Strategic Communications training courses for victims and survivors of terrorism participating in the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. The training aimed to develop the capacity of victim participants to have the confidence and skills to articulate their stories, to strengthen their voices, and provide victims and survivors with the skills to interact with the media and develop long-term and sustainable personal communications strategies, particularly to craft their messaging for the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. Participants identified the impact they wanted to achieve, as well as developing key messages to the relevant target audiences and recognizing the importance of sharing their experience through a cohesive and compelling narrative able to deliver effective messages and through practiced media interviewing techniques.

## **SPRF Outcome 4.2: Member States and communities are better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts**

### **The Model Legislative Provisions to Assist the Rights and Protect the Needs of Victims of Terrorism are introduced to Member States, parliamentarians, academics, and victims' associations**

The UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme has supported Member States and parliamentarians in identifying lasting solutions to global efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism with robust action to support the recovery and long-term healing and reconstruction of individuals and communities that

have been affected by terrorist acts. The launch of the Model Legislative Provisions by UNOCT / UNCCT, in collaboration with UNODC and IPU, in February 2022 was aimed at solidifying these efforts through a tool based on best practice that could



serve as a model/guidance to assist Member States strengthen their legislation to better support victims at the national level. Through the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions, participants were able to share and discuss the role of civil society groups and organizations in complementing executive and parliamentary efforts in supporting victims of terrorism, the importance of strong national frameworks to support victims and the necessity of developing national comprehensive action plans for victims.

*The Global Victims of Terrorism Programme is co-funded by Germany, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the United States of America*

## Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

**Outcome 4.3:** Increased Member State implementation of human rights based, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for individuals with alleged links to UN-listed terrorist groups taking into account age and gender considerations

### Implementation of strategies for the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of Boko Haram-associated persons

In 2022, UNCCT's Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) supported capacity building for the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration (SPRR) of persons associated with Boko Haram, in collaboration with UNODC, CTED in consultation with Lake Chad Basin Commission and other UN agencies including IOM and UNDP. This brought together the governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria to encourage greater coordination among Lake Chad Basin countries in

the SPRR of persons associated with Boko Haram in line with the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region (RSS). As a result, Lake Chad Basin countries took tangible steps to advance the implementation of SPRR approaches, including through the adoption of a National SPRR Action Plan in Chad, the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation between Niger and Nigeria, and the identification of key priority areas in the operationalisation of the SPRR sub-strategy at the national level in Cameroon, and at the regional level.

### **Implementation of social cohesion activities during rehabilitation to support the reintegration of men and women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab in Somalia**

UNCCT's Global Programme on PRR, in partnership with IOM, supported the reintegration of men and women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab through social cohesion activities during rehabilitation in Somalia. The project implemented 36 social cohesion activities, including group storytelling, Sharerow and Kabebe traditional dances for Bantu Somali men and women, traditional music and song workshops, and traditional weaving for Somali women. This allowed 270 beneficiaries (69 male and 201 female) enrolled at IOM's transitional centres participating in project activities to benefit from socio-cultural and collective psychosocial support activities.

These activities created opportunities for men and women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab to develop new personal narratives to support integration into their communities upon return. Social cohesion activities also enabled connections between disengaged male and female combatants formerly associated with Al-Shabaab with community members, thereby contributing to the reintegration process.

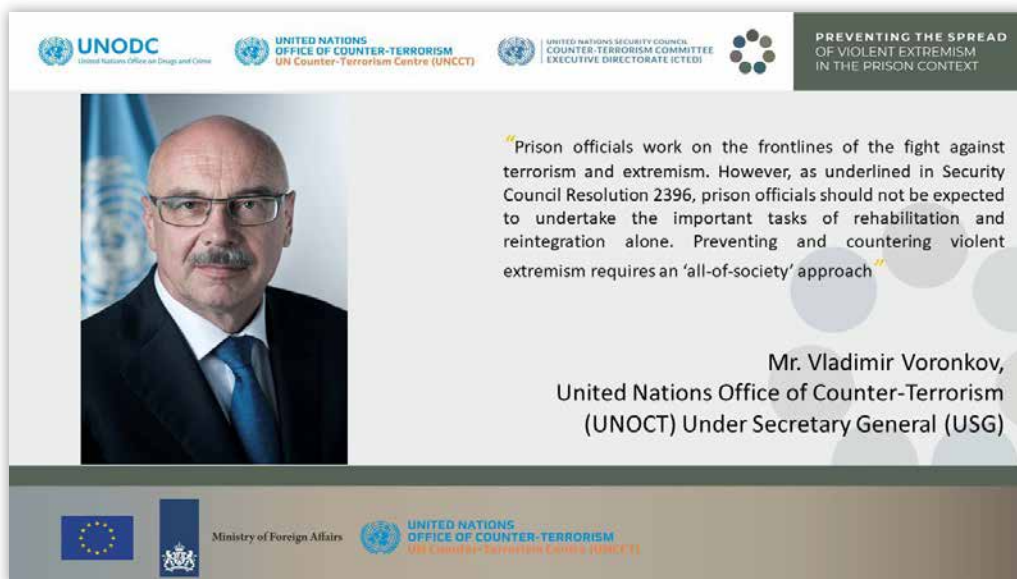
### **Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) and the Prevention of Radicalisation to Violence in Prisons**

This project was implemented by UNCCT, UNODC, and CTED, focusing on Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda.

The project's overall objective was to contribute towards strengthening the resilience of societies against violent extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalization to violence while respecting human rights norms and standards, by increasing the capacity of Member States to effectively manage VEPs and prevent radicalization to violence in their prison systems. The project was implemented through a dual approach:

1. to prevent the progression to violent extremism conducive to terrorism among prisoners who may be vulnerable, and
2. to effectively manage VEPs who have embraced violent extremism while respecting human rights norms and standards.

The project promoted good prison management and the practical application of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).



The importance of human rights was made clear by the project at every stage. The human rights situation was also a major aspect in the selection of project countries and in the baseline prison assessments and it is also integrated in each capacity-building measure. Gender equality was also emphasized by the project and both female pilot prisons as well as female prison staff were included in activities.

The project saw significant improvements in the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence across all three beneficiary countries. Impacts of the project included, but were not limited to the following:

1. improved coordination between prison administrations and other criminal justice agencies, including through the development of new cross-agency information-sharing policies;
2. enhanced capacity of training institutions to design and deliver courses on PVE in prisons, and establishing a Prison Staff Training Centre on PVE in prisons in Kazakhstan;
3. the development of tailored rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for prisoners; and
4. the development of Prisoner Classification Frameworks and Risk Assessment Tools for VEPs.

## **Enhancing coordination and collaboration on rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders (VEOs) in Indonesia**

UNCCT's Global Programme on PRR worked with Indonesian authorities to enhance national and district level coordination and collaboration on rehabilitation and reintegration assistance for violent extremist offenders (VEOs). Through this support, UNCCT helped improve participants' understanding of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and terrorism as well as best practices for rehabilitation and reintegration of former VEOs in Indonesia. The initiative enhanced the participants' understanding of the importance of a 'whole-of-society' approach to social rehabilitation and reintegration of former VEOs, while also promoting a greater understanding of the roles of different stakeholders in rehabilitation and reintegration. The project also enabled national stakeholders to identify and map roles required to provide rehabilitation and reintegration assistance, and to streamline the sharing of policies and best practices between national and district level government agencies. An outcome of the project was the development of draft work plans to ensure a holistic approach to rehabilitation and reintegration of former VEOs.

The project achieved its intended goals in enhancing knowledge and strengthening inter-agency collaboration among parole and probation officers and other relevant entities to ensure effective supervision and reintegration of former VEOs, benefitting more than 180 as direct and indirect beneficiaries from various stakeholders.

## **EU-UN Support to States in Central Asia for Their Citizens Returned from Conflict Zones, Primarily Syria and Iraq - Component 2: Security and Accountability Action**

The project – a part of the Global Framework on United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees – provides an "all-of-UN" approach that responds to the humanitarian assistance and protection needs of children and adults, and supports requesting Member States to promote security and address accountability related to third country nationals returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq who are linked to designated terrorist groups. This project constitutes the Security and Accountability Action, coordinated by UNOCT, as part of the implementation of the Global Framework in Central Asia. Collaboratively implemented by UNCCT, OHCHR, UNDP, and UNODC, in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, in 2022, the project achieved significant progress.

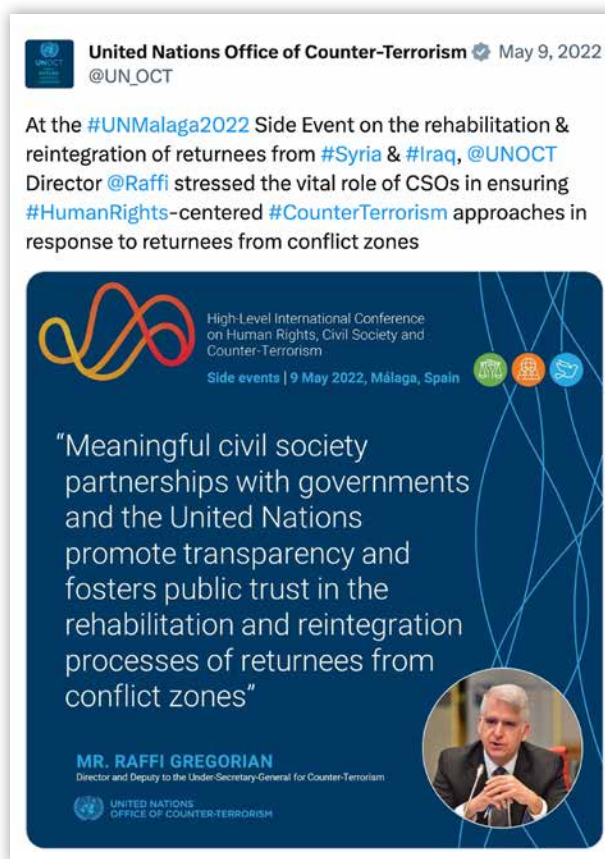
The project aimed to strengthen the capacities of the justice/rule of law sector, particularly with respect to community policing, provision of legal aid to families of returnees, probation services and related support to families of returnees, including children (Outcome 1); build the capacity of law-enforcement, prosecution and judicial bodies to integrate a human rights-based approach (Outcome 2); support national human rights institutions and civil society to respond to the needs of returnees taking a human rights-based approach (Outcome 3); provide coordinated, coherent, and tailored UN support on prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals returned from the Syrian Arab

Republic and Iraq (Outcome 4); facilitate intraregional dialogue and exchange on human rights-based age- and gender-sensitive prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration practices (Outcome 5); and strengthen community-level systems and capacities for reintegration (Outcome 6).

The project also greatly contributed to enhanced coordination and technical exchanges among the project partners and relevant stakeholders, with coordination meetings being held monthly between UNOCT, OHCHR, UNODC, and UNDP, as well as other relevant United Nations entities where appropriate, such as UN Women, UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator's Offices. The meetings progressed to more active collaboration, including through specific ad hoc meetings to discuss partnerships on activities and to ensure the relevant United Nations entities are able to contribute expertise to another's activity.

Overall, the project's capacity-building interventions, comprehensive legal, policy and practice assessments, as well as awareness-raising efforts contributed to improving the knowledge and skills of national and local actors in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to enhance the national and regional capacities to mitigate stigmatisation of returnees and increase community acceptance, enhance the availability of psychosocial support at the community-level, and strengthening the integration of the human rights-based approach to repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

The project mainstreamed gender considerations in its support to the three beneficiary Governments. All activities undertaken as part of this project were implemented in full accordance with the human rights-based approach and guided by the United Nations' Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. Human rights standards were a fundamental part of every aspect of the project's work. This also meant taking into account how the project interventions may affect the fundamental rights and freedoms of returned individuals and their communities.



## Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Project

The project, implemented under UNCCT's Global Programme on PRR is part of the overall implementation of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees in Uzbekistan ("the Global Framework"). The project was implemented in partnership with the OHCHR, UN Women, and the UNODC. The project is based on gender, human rights and age-responsive approaches developed for the Global Framework.

Under this project, key objectives included the deployment of an Expert Advisor to Tashkent to support the Government on repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration and ensure coherent implementation of the Global Framework, and the establishment of a working group to facilitate coordinated national-level efforts of the relevant United Nations entities in Uzbekistan on the repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, including FTFs and their family members.



## Implementation of the Global Framework in Iraq

From 27 February to 1 March 2022, as part of the implementation of the Global Framework in Iraq, an in-country workshop was held to validate the findings of the 'Joint Scoping Exercise' (JSE) and fill remaining information gaps in the JSE Report, as well as explore issues requiring joint deliberation, including human rights and gender considerations, risks and minimum conditions when providing support to the Government of Iraq to manage returns from the northeast Syrian Arab Republic. 32 stakeholders attended the workshop from 11 UN entities. The results of the JSE will inform the "all-of-UN" programme of work to support the Iraqi Government on returns from camps and detention centres in northeastern Syria. As well, UNOCT/UNCCT was appointed co-chair of the Security and Accountability Task Force of the Technical Working Group for Implementation of the Global Framework in Iraq, a structured interface between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq on the issue of returns.

*The Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation is co-financed by the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United States of America*

## Strategic Goal Five:

### Promote human rights- compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts

#### Overview

UNCCT strives to support Member States and other partners to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote gender equality and women's empowerment while countering terrorism, in line with their international obligations, the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and inspired by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. This is undertaken by ensuring that the overall UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as UNCCT programming and operational processes uphold human rights and gender equality standards within CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and its partners will support the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women at all levels of CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and UNOCT as a whole will also enhance its capabilities to implement the UN-wide Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to ensure respect of human rights in its support to non-UN security forces. They will ensure that its CT/PCVE efforts are informed by context specific gender analyses.

#### UNOCT SPRF Impacts by 2025

- International attention to and actions upholding the rule of law, human rights and gender equality in countering terrorism
- A greater culture among stakeholders and a diversity of actors towards the integration of human rights and gender equality in CT/PCVE programmes

#### Key UNCCT deliverables in support of Member States

- Reference materials and events for the promotion of human rights and gender equality in the context of counter-terrorism.
- Greater mainstreaming of human rights in UNCCT capacity-building activities for national officials and other stakeholders involved in counter-terrorism.
- Growing number of UNCCT programmes and projects mainstream gender in their design.
- Capacity-building events that promote gender-sensitive approaches to counter-terrorism (High-Level Forum aimed at increasing participation of Central Asian Women Parliamentarians in CT/PCVE efforts, *Understanding the Crime-Terror Nexus and the Gendered Impacts of Border Practices to Prevent Terrorist Movement* event).

### Key partnerships in support of the Strategic Goal

#### UN and international bodies:

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- UN Women

### Strategic Goal Four:

Promote human rights-compliant and gender responsive counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism efforts



UN Photo/Isaac Billy

### Key highlights

- The new UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022 – 2025 features a dedicated human rights and gender goal; human rights and gender are also integrated in the remaining four strategic goals and their outcomes.
- UNCCT convened a High-Level Forum aimed at increasing participation of Central Asian Women Parliamentarians in CT/PCVE efforts.
- At the World Border Security Congress 2022 (24 – 26 April), UNCCT promotes greater understanding of gender-sensitive impacts of border security practices

## UNCCT incorporates human rights into programming – highlights from 2022

**SPRF Outcome 5.1:** UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights in CT/PCVE efforts.

### UNCCT incorporates human rights into programming – highlights from 2022



*'Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law' form the basis of pillar IV of the GCTS and are at the centre of UNCCT's approach to supporting Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. UNCCT has worked with UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS), which was formally established in 2022, to further the integration of human rights and gender perspectives into projects and programmes with the aim of ultimately assisting Member States in upholding human rights in their counter-terrorism efforts.*

In 2022, UNCCT incorporated human rights principles and programming into a range of different activities. In the International High-Level Conference on "Regional cooperation among Central Asian countries within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", supported by the Centre along with the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, the UNRCCA and the OSCE, participants emphasized the importance of prevention, education, youth empowerment, human rights-compliant law enforcement, policies and practices, and of engaging civil society in building resilience.

Further capacity building was also undertaken in Central Asia, through e-learning for law enforcement authorities, and


**United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**
 May 13, 2022  
 @UN\_OCT

.@UNHumanRights & @UN\_OCT #UNCCT held 2 national workshops for 50 frontline border officials from 🇲🇷 #Mauritania.

Scenario-based exercises & interactive sessions helped them learn how to better apply a #HumanRights & #Gender-sensitive approach in their daily work at borders


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


 UNITED NATIONS  
 HUMAN RIGHTS  
 OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**COURS DE FORMATION SUR LES  
DROITS DE L'HOMME AUX  
FRONTIÈRES INTERNATIONALES**

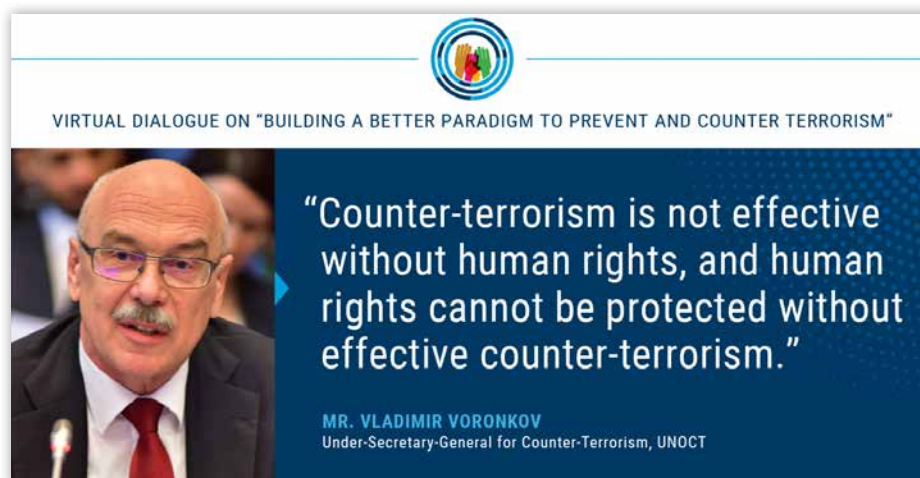
Nouakchott, Mai 2022

with an emphasis on the importance of full respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, and on the mutually reinforcing linkages between respect for human rights and the rule of law, and effective counter terrorism policies and measures.

The Border Security and Management Programme promoted a human-rights based approach to border management, including training delivered to Iraqi border officials, and a webinar as part of the 2022 World Border Security Conference (delivered in partnership with IOM, OSCE, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance). The BSM Programme together with OHCHR held workshops on human rights at international borders in Mauritania, and in North Africa and the Sahel region (together with IOM, UNODC, and INTERPOL).

UNCCT also worked together with the Online Network of Global South CT/PVE Experts, on lessons learned and good practices in the development of national PCVE action plans, including for the integration of gender, age and human-rights centred approaches into these plans. UNCCT also highlighted the importance of a “*whole-of-society*” approach to PCVE challenges – that is age-sensitive, gender-responsive and human rights-based – during the ASEAN-US Regional Workshop on P/CVE from 23 – 25 August. UNCCT further helped to raise awareness among law enforcement officials in the Balkans about human-rights compliant countering of the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism.

Prominently, the Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism, through the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, and its “*Memories*” campaign, succeeded in driving the international community, including through the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and victims of terrorism themselves, to champion a human rights-based, victim-centric agenda to guide their international and national efforts and to begin discussion for a best-practice guided agenda on victims of terrorism. Furthermore, the Global Programme worked in 2022 to support victims and survivors to advocate for their own rights and enhance their skills to present to an audience and highlight the particular issues facing them. In addition, the Global Programme built the capacity, knowledge and understanding of UNOCT staff, and general audiences, about the issues facing victims of terrorism, their needs, and the wider impact of terrorism on their families and affected communities.



## UNCCT incorporates gender into programming – highlights from 2022

**SPRF Outcome 5.2:** UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to expanding the concern towards gender equality and women's empowerment within CT/PCVE efforts.

### UNCCT mainstreams gender into programming – highlights from 2022



2022 was marked by several institutional developments contributing to gender mainstreaming within UNCCT programmes and projects. Apart from the dedicated goal and outcome in the SPRF, gender is also integrated throughout the remaining four strategic goals and through nine specific outcomes addressing gender mainstreaming. The SPRF also sets *“Human Rights and Gender Amplified”* as one of the institutional priorities and highlights *“the essential need to mainstream human rights and gender across all programming.”*<sup>8</sup>.

In 2022, UNOCT formally adopted its *Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan* and started its implementation. The Policy was informed by an assessment of all programme and project documents from the Office, drawing from good practices and missed opportunities in gender mainstreaming, as well as the United Nations system-wide requirements for gender equality, international gender equality and human rights standards. The Policy outlines the values, actions, and targets for mainstreaming gender across the Office's operations across five key areas:

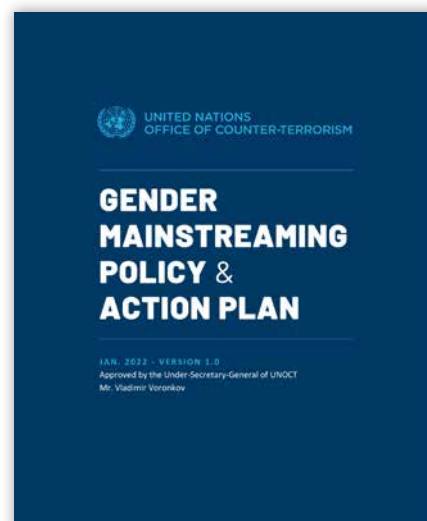
1. Mainstreaming Gender in Programmatic and Policy Performance Areas;
2. Strengthen UNOCT's Institutional Capacity to Deliver Results on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment;
3. Have Accountability Mechanisms in Place for Gender Mainstreaming;
4. Enhance Resource Mobilization & Partnership Development for Gender;
5. Promote Knowledge & Visibility on Gender.

As part of implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Policy, in 2022 the Office relaunched its Gender Task Force which now brings together representatives from all sections and units of UNOCT, including eight UNCCT focal points, to support

8 See p.11 of the *UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework*

implementation of the Policy and its Action Plan. The Gender Task Force conducts monthly meetings for coordination and building capacity of gender focal points through substantive discussions regarding gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE, as well as sharing of information regarding progress in the implementation of the policy and in their specific programmes. Each Gender Focal Point went on to develop a Gender Workplan for the Sections or Units they represent to guide their gender mainstreaming work in 2023.

In 2022, UNCCT continued to make progress on programmatic results related to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The *UNOCT Annual Gender Assessment*<sup>9</sup> analyzed 33 UNCCT programmes and projects that were reviewed or adopted by the PRB in 2022. The analysis demonstrated an increased number of UNCCT programmes and projects that mainstream gender in their design. Notably, in 2022, there was an increase in UNCCT projects and programmes that integrate gender mainstreaming considerations throughout their design and are expected to make a significant contribution to gender equality, empower women, and/or address women's specific needs (Gender Marker 2). See Table 3 below for more details.



**TABLE 3: GENDER ASSESSMENT OF UNCCT PROJECTS**

	2021	2022
<b>UNCCT projects and programmes assessed</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>
Gender Marker -1 <sup>10</sup>	0	0
Gender Marker 0 <sup>11</sup>	9	12
Gender Marker 1 <sup>12</sup>	7	5
Gender Marker 2 <sup>13</sup>	12	15
Gender Marker 3 <sup>14</sup>	1	1

<sup>9</sup> The assessment uses the UN-wide system of gender markers.

<sup>10</sup> Employed to reflect the risk that some projects, due to being gender blind and/or having flawed incorporation of gender, could result in a gender-negative outcome, aggravating or reinforcing existing gender inequalities and harmful norms.

<sup>11</sup> The project is not expected to make any contribution to promote gender equality, empower women, and/or address women's specific needs.

<sup>12</sup> The project is expected to make a marginal contribution to promote gender equality, empower women, and/or address women's specific needs.

<sup>13</sup> The project integrates gender mainstreaming considerations throughout and is expected to make a significant contribution to gender equality, empower women, and/or address women's specific needs.

<sup>14</sup> The project's primary objective is to promote gender equality, empower women, and/or address women's specific needs.

A number of UNCCT projects also have dedicated outcomes or outputs related to gender equality and empowerment of women. For example, the Global PCVE Programme includes the output *“Member States, UN entities and Civil Society have enhanced capacities to integrate gender analysis within PCVE planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation”*. The Project *“Supporting the Reintegration of Men and Women Formerly Associated with Al Shabab Through Social Cohesion Activities During Rehabilitation”* includes the output *“Women formerly associated with AS and male disengaged combatants are engaged in project activities”* and the output *“Community members demonstrate increased positive attitudes towards disengaged combatants and women formerly associated with AS, and their reintegration.”* Similarly, the “Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies” contains gender considerations mainstreamed throughout its three outcomes; for example, *“Member States have increased awareness of human rights and gender considerations relevant when planning and implementing resilience, mitigation and response activities, and enhanced skills to ensure all actions are in line with human rights obligations.”*

While a comprehensive assessment of gender mainstreaming in the implementation of UNCCT project and programmes has not been done, some examples highlight specific achievements.

For example, in 2022 UNCCT programmes increased participation of women in their activities, even in more technical areas, where women’s representation and participation are traditionally low. Also in 2022, the Weapons Programme trained 331 participants, of whom 105 or 32% were women (compared to 12% women in 2021).

Moreover, several UNCCT projects and programmes directly contribute to strengthening the role of women in CT/PCVE and building capacity of young women. For example, the Global PCVE Programme together with its partners UNAOC and UNESCO, UNCCT directly contributed to upskilling young women to use innovation and technology to help fight online and offline narratives of hate and division. The programme alumni have built social media campaigns, developed online educational tools and designed video games to counter violent extremism narratives in digital spaces. In addition, in June 2022, UNCCT convened a High-Level Forum aimed at increasing participation of Central Asian Women Parliamentarians in CT/PCVE efforts (see also on page 28). The forum held discussions regarding the balanced implementation of respective NAPs to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism, while fostering gender equality and women’s empowerment.





The forum promoted a better understanding of gender aspects of terrorism and violent extremism, recognizing the important role that women can play by providing their specific knowledge, expertise and experiences in regard to PCVE. The resulting discussions on key opportunities and challenges helped produce a draft roadmap for gender-responsive national action plans in Central Asia.

UNCCT also continued to further integrate gender analysis in its projects. For example, in September 2022, the Global BSM Programme organized an event on border management and gender called *"Understanding the Crime-Terror Nexus and the Gendered Impacts of Border Practices to Prevent Terrorist Movement"*. This event was jointly held with the World Border Security Congress. During this virtual panel discussion, experts discussed the gender dimensions of the crime-terror nexus and the importance of gender-responsive approaches to border security and management, especially in the counter-terrorism context. They explored practical ways in which border practices impact individuals crossing borders, taking into consideration the complexities of gender roles and underlying assumptions regarding women, girls, men, and boys. The experts agreed on the importance of a comprehensive gender analysis to inform border strategies and action plans which are inclusive of counter-terrorism elements.

## Communications and Visibility

### Overview

In 2022, the Office continued to implement its communications strategy, which aims at increasing visibility for UNCCT as a **Global Centre of Excellence** for Member States in their efforts to address threats from terrorism. Dedicated communications plans and branded products were developed, in close collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications and other United Nations entities and partners, to further promote the programmes, projects and activities showcasing impact, innovation and partnerships in addressing the threats of terrorism and violence extremism.

The international and regional conferences held in Tashkent (3 – 4 March), Málaga (10 – 11 May) and Dushanbe (18 – 19 October) as well as the UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in New York (8 – 9 September) saw high-levels of participation of media on site. These high-level events provided important platforms to promote the activities of

Photo/UNCCT



UNCCT through the use of audio-visual products and the dissemination of promotional and communication products.

In addition, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and UNOCT/UNCCT senior officials continued to promote the activities of the Office in statements delivered at major events. To reach out to wider audiences and ensure representation in key events, senior managers also increased their digital diplomacy and recorded a number of video messages that were disseminated online.

In 2022, the Office doubled the production of audio-visual products to promote the activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner. Forty-five videos were produced in 2022, including 24 videos for the [Victims of Terrorism Memories Campaign](#), two videos for the Dushanbe Conference, [UNOCT's Connect & Learn](#) platform, which features UNCCT project and programmes, and a video message on International Women's Day.

UNOCT also prepared a video to wrap up 2022 entitled "*UNOCT 2022: year in review*", shared with Member States and posted on the UNOCT YouTube channel, which summarizes key achievements and acknowledges funding partners contributions including the support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## The 'Memories' campaign

Launched in 2022, the **UNCCT 'Memories' Campaign** shares the stories of 22 victims of terrorism through films and a photographic exhibition. The campaign and exhibition were launched in May with the stories of eight victims and survivors of terrorism and was later expanded for the purpose of portraying a wider scope of victims, survivors and attacks on the occasion of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. The campaign was also featured on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in August. It was shown as an exhibition with 22 stories of victims of terrorism at the UN Headquarters in New York during the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in September. The campaign gave victims the opportunity to tell their stories and demonstrated that the memories of victims

and survivors are integral to rehabilitation efforts. The campaign speaks to the universality of victims' experiences across time, places and attacks, and serves as a reminder of the importance of ensuring that victims and survivors have the support they need to recover and be part of a more resilient community. The campaign and Congress received more than 30 million Twitter impressions and 20,000 website page views. Over 15,000 viewers watched the exhibition videos.



## UNOCT Website

UNOCT increased its website content and revamped the webpages for a number of programmes and platforms, including the Global Victims of Terrorism Programme, the Weapons Programme, and the JPOA. Featuring the activities of the Office, the number of




web stories (95) posted on the UNOCT website and promoted on social media increased by over 98% in 2022. Demonstrating the relevance of the content and stories presented, the traffic and viewers increased by 10%.

In total, the UNOCT website recorded over 799,263 page views in 2022 compared to 726,000 page views in 2021. The number of views on all UNOCT websites, including UNCCT, CT Travel and the Victims of Terrorism Portal exceeded 1 million views.

## UNOCT Twitter

The Office boosted support to its Twitter account (@UN\_OCT) which increased its number of followers by 39% in 2022 (from 14,200 followers by the end of 2021 to 19,600 in 2022). Over 808 tweets were posted on the @UN\_OCT Twitter account. The total impressions @UN\_OCT generated by 9,400 contributors reached 326 million in 2022, with an increase of 14% as compared to 2021. The hashtag #UNCCT generated 20 million impressions by 499 contributors.



 @UN_OCT	2021	2022	Increase
<b>Impressions</b>	287 million	326 million	+14%
<b>Contributors</b>	8,000	9,400	+18%
<b># of Tweets</b>	755	808	+7%
<b># of followers</b>	14,200	19,600	+39%

### Top Tweets

1

#### Top Tweet

earned 38,841 impressions

USG Voronkov thanks Dr. Mansour Al-Shammari, Secretary-General of @Etidal and its experts for the insightful visit. @UN\_OCT looks forward to expanding the excellent cooperation with Etidal through continued knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and joint activities in CT/PCVE.

اعتدال | E... @.. · Dec 13, 2022  
وكيل الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الإرهاب  
والمدير التنفيذي لمركز الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الإرهاب #UNCCT السيد  
فلاديمير فورونكوف: السعودية تعد مثالا يحتذى به  
في مكافحة الإرهاب.. ومركز #اعتدال أحد  
الأمثلة الممتازة



2

#### Top Tweet

earned 24,540 impressions

In her keynote address at #UNCongressVot, @un Deputy Secretary-General @aminajmohammed highlighted the need for solidarity & support to #VictimsofTerrorism and to listen to victims voices as part of our efforts to #CounterTerrorism

[bit.ly/VoTCongress2022](https://bit.ly/VoTCongress2022)



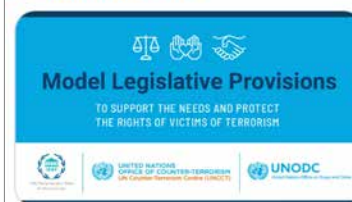
3

#### Top Tweet

earned 9,825 impressions

Today, @UN\_OCT #UNCCT @UNODC & @IPUparliament launch the Model Legislative Provisions (MLPs) to protect & support the rights & needs of #VictimsOfTerrorism with @GhadaFathiWaly @MartinChungong @NiAolainF @ReinholdLopatka @Arthur\_Dvx @imansayedtaha

[bit.ly/3GqzHev](https://bit.ly/3GqzHev)

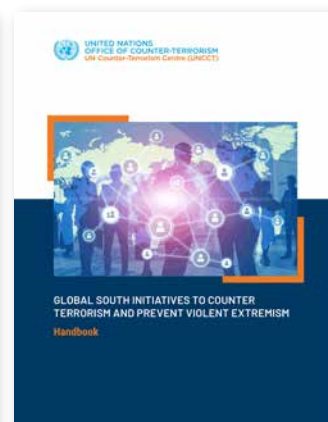
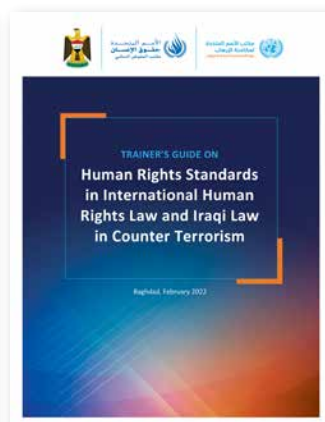
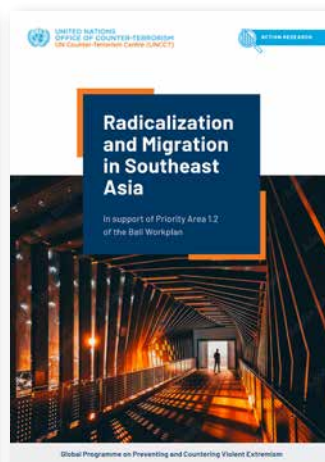
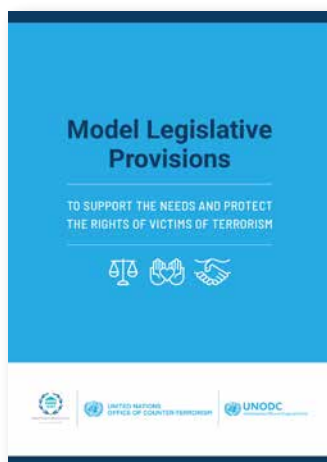
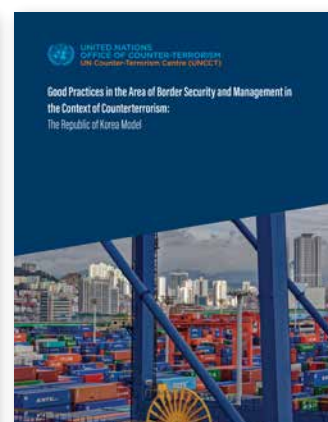
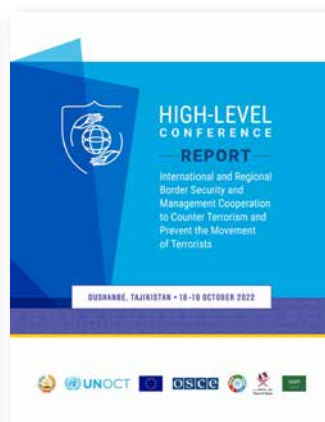
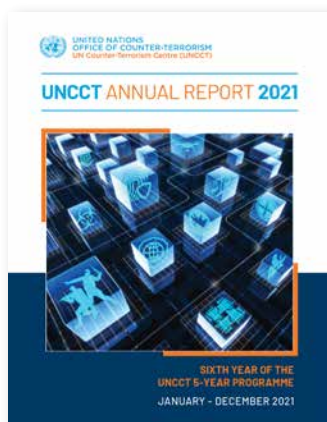


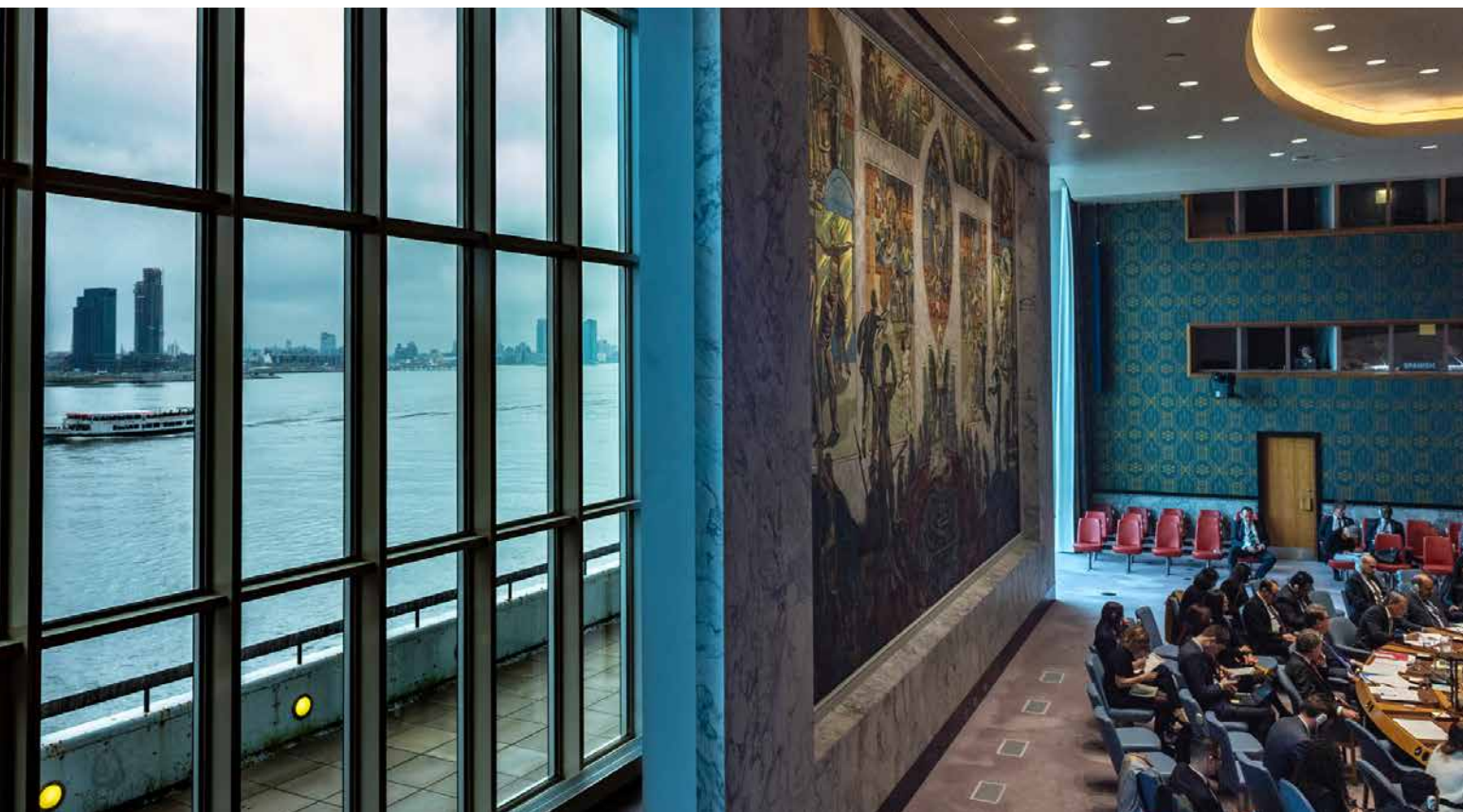
UNOCT issued 110 reports, an increase of 66% as compared to 2021 during which 66 reports were issued. The electronic version of the brochure is available on the UNOCT/UNCCT website and hard copies are provided upon request.

The [UNOCT monthly and annual newsletters](#) continued to promote the achievements of UNOCT/UNCCT across its policy, coordination, capacity-building, and resource mobilization functions, highlighting UNCCT programmes and projects and its top funding partners as well as recent contributions. These newsletters are disseminated to the Permanent Missions and Observers to the United Nations in New York and published on the UNOCT website and on the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform.

UNOCT/UNCCT also produces quarterly updates reporting on the implementation of UNCCT programmes and activities.







UN Photo/Loey Felipe

### III. Governance and programme management

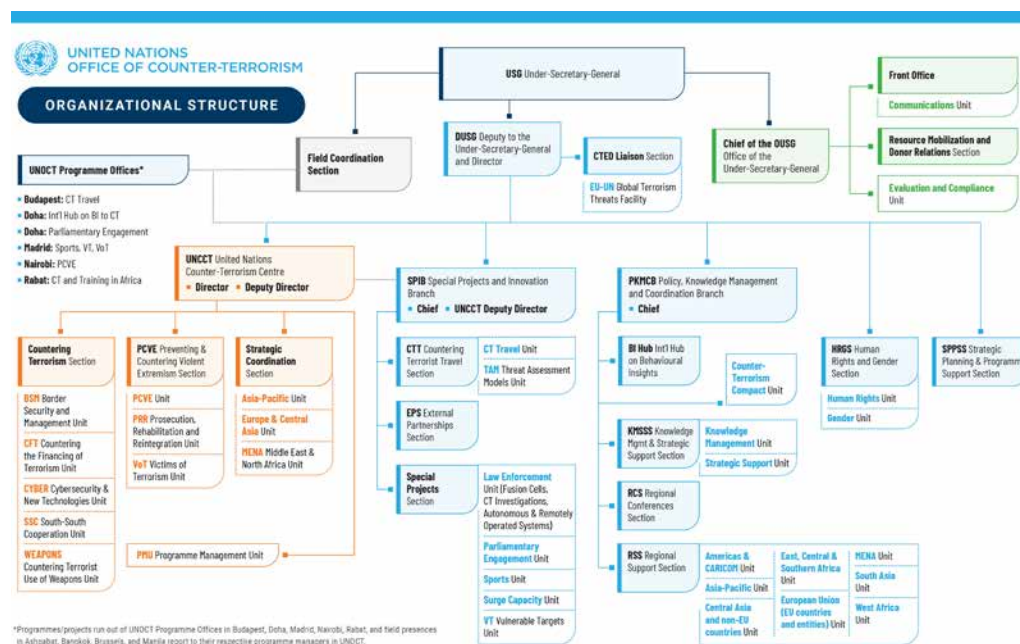
#### Overall structure and governance

UNCCT was established in September 2011 to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through a voluntary contribution of the Government of Saudi Arabia. The General Assembly in its resolution 66/10 adopted on 18 November 2011 welcomed the establishment of the Center at UN Headquarters. From the beginning, UNCCT has played an important role in helping Member States to build capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and in strengthening the role of the UN system towards the balanced and effective implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy.

UNCCT was integrated into the newly-formed UNOCT in 2017 (see the organizational structure in Table 4 below), and works together with other UNOCT branches and sections to support Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts. The Executive Director of the UNCCT is the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov.

He was supported by the Director of UNCCT, Dr. Jehangir Khan (retired in 2023), in the management of the Centre.

**TABLE 4: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF UNOCT**



## UNCCT Advisory Board

The [UNCCT Advisory Board](#) provides guidance to the UNCCT Executive Director on the work of the Centre, including its programming and budget. The Centre provides the Advisory Board with updates on the implementation of the Centre's various programmes and projects.

**TABLE 5: UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Wasil, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Chair)		
Algeria	Germany	Russian Federation
Argentina	India	Spain
Belgium	Indonesia	Türkiye
Brazil	Morocco	United Kingdom
China	Nigeria	United States of America
Egypt	Norway	European Union (observer)
France	Pakistan	

In performing this function, the Advisory Board convenes at the Ambassadorial level and holds expert meetings as needed. The Advisory Board was scheduled to meet in early 2023 at ambassadorial level where board members would be updated on achievements of UNCCT programmes and projects in 2022, as well as the Under-Secretary-General's vision and strategy for the Centre.

## Programme Review Board (PRB)

In December 2022, UNOCT issued a policy that sets out the purpose, scope of work, composition, roles and responsibilities, and functioning of the **Programme Review Board (PRB)** mechanism. The PRB serves as the primary internal control, governance, and oversight body to ensure efficient and effective management and release of extrabudgetary funding for programmes and projects. The PRB, chaired by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and consisting of Director level senior leadership:

1. reviews programme and project submissions;
2. monitors implementation to ensure programmes achieve intended results;
3. provides direction and guidance to ensure effective programme delivery; and
4. provides updates and advice to the Under-Secretary-General, who takes decisions based on PRB recommendations.

In reviewing programmes and projects, the PRB is guided by considerations of strategic alignment, needs and results focus, comparative advantage, human rights and gender mainstreaming, and resource stewardship. In 2022, the PRB met monthly and held 12 meetings, which reviewed different stages of UNCCT programmes and projects, ensuring the Centre's activities continued to respond to requests of Member States, including as defined in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

## Results-Based Management in UNCCT

**Results-based management (RBM)** is an integrated strategy towards project and programme management that includes action at the planning, monitoring, and evaluation stages. Following this approach, all actors, contribute directly or indirectly to achieving a set of results, to ensure that their processes, products and services contribute to the achievement of the desired results (outputs, outcomes and higher-level goals or impact). The actors in turn use information and evidence on actual results to inform decision making on the design, resourcing and delivery of programmes and activities as well as for accountability and reporting<sup>15</sup>. RBM is not a single set of tools and instructions, but rather a way of managing that allows for learning and improvement, increased effectiveness,

and better overall results. The importance of an RBM approach in the United Nations has been reiterated through a number of General Assembly resolutions (see, for example, A/RES/71/243 of 2016).

In 2022, UNCCT prioritized results-based programme management to provide impactful delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support that responds to the needs and priorities of beneficiary Member States. RBM helps to ensure accountability for the services rendered and resources utilized, in accordance with the overall results-based management system of the Office, which consists of the:

1. UNOCT's Programme Review Board (PRB) that functions as a governance and oversight mechanism for programmes and projects;
2. UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework that provides the overarching strategic direction and monitoring framework for the period 2022-2025;
3. UNOCT internal guidance documents (i.e., strategies, policies, standard operating procedures, and guidelines).

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) has continued to provide programme management support to programmes and projects implemented by UNCCT in 2022, and assisted the Centre in developing results-based reporting focused on outcomes and impact-based performance results. PMU supported the monitoring of progress of UNCCT programmes against the Results Framework, maintained the UNOCT App internal monitoring tool and ensured its compliance with the IPMR module, and provided quality assurance of programmes and projects across their lifecycle. PMU also initiated work on developing guidelines and the first e-learning course on results-based project management in collaboration with relevant work units.

## Evaluations conducted in 2022

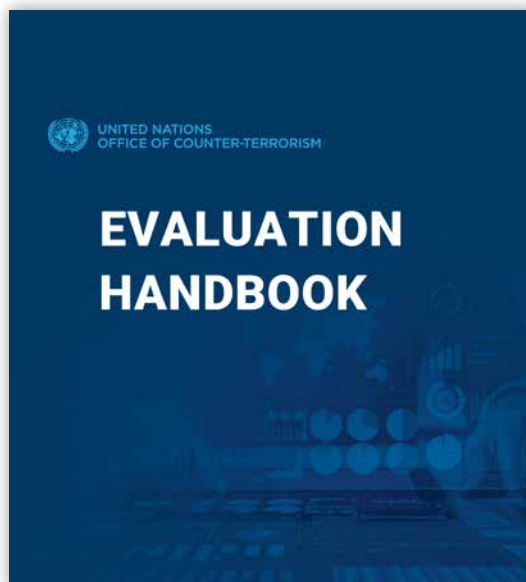
As an integral part of results-based management, UNOCT continued to undertake independent evaluations of programmes and projects in 2022 to assess the attainment of programme and project results, support informed decision-making in programme implementation, use lessons learned to strengthen design and delivery of capacity-building support, and improve organizational learning through evidence-based knowledge. Over the course of the year, the Office, with the support of the Evaluation and Compliance Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), completed two evaluations, which include the final evaluation of the project on *"Training and Capacity-Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law, and the Prevention of Terrorism"* and the mid-term evaluation of the project *"Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia)"*. These evaluations were undertaken based on the framework provided by UNOCT's Evaluation Policy issued in 2021, operationalized through the [Evaluation Handbook](#) developed in 2022.

The evaluation findings and recommendations from the evaluation of the project on training and capacity-building of law enforcement officials, including on building sustainable partnerships with training institutions in the beneficiary countries, designing projects from a needs-based perspective, and integrating a gender perspective throughout the design and implementation process, have informed the formulation of the successor project “Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism: Capacity-building Support to Law Enforcement and Intelligence Services in Iraq”. In response to recommendations

from the evaluation of the STRIVE Asia project, the project management structure has been reconfigured to ensure better coordination among implementing partners, and the implementation process has been strengthened to leverage a regional approach through joint organization of cross-regional events targeting both Central Asia and South Asia.

In 2023, UNOCT will conduct evaluations of selected projects and programmes to assess the results and impact of the technical assistance and capacity-building support provided to Member States. Accordingly, the Office will complete the independent mid-term evaluations of the **UNCCT Global Programme on Border Security and Management** and the **UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons**. It also plans to initiate the mid-term evaluation of the **Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations**; the final evaluation of the project on **Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons**; and the final evaluation of the project on **Addressing Urgent Needs in Iraq: Screening, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Adults, Management of High-Risk Prisoners, and Humanitarian and Protection Needs of Children Returned from Syria**.

In addition, the independent meta-synthesis of evaluations under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, completed in 2021, highlighted the varied evaluation capacities among the Global Compact entities and the need for those capacities to be improved. In 2023, the Office will continue to lead the coordination in strengthening UN system-wide evaluation capacities, including through the development of a Compendium of good practices for measuring results in CT/PCVE which will contribute to fostering a community of practice on monitoring and evaluation of CT/PCVE interventions.



## Independent audits in 2022

During the reporting period, the **UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)** conducted an audit of the **United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**. Under governance and project and financial management, the OIOS audit found that the PRB was operating effectively as an oversight body over the Trust Fund activities, the PMU was increasingly supporting the integrated programme management function, and that actions were taken to improve development and monitoring of performance indicators, while noting the need to expedite the development of a resource mobilization action plan to diversify the donor base and secure more sustainable and diversified funding, as well as to enhance project risk assessments. Addressing the audit recommendations, in 2022, the Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations Section (RMDRS) in the OUSG mapped out funding priorities to support the delivery of the Office's mandate and formulated the guidelines to develop resource mobilization action plans to be rolled out in 2023 for key global programmes. In addition, the PRB continued to highlight the importance of conducting comprehensive project risk assessments and developing risk mitigation measures, which is mandatory in submitting programme/project proposals to the PRB.



Photo/UNCCT



## IV. Risk management

### Overview



The risks confronted by UNCCT come in a range of different categories, from the dangers posed by terrorist groups and activities themselves, to operational and financial risks of running UNCCT projects, programmes and related activities. As part of the UN Secretariat, UNCCT (and UNOCT as a whole) share many of these risks and concerns with a number of different entities, as well as with Member States. To address a number of these risks and taking into account the Secretariat-wide Risk Register, UNOCT is developing a risk register to identify, evaluate and prioritise the risks impacting the work of the Office. As an integral part of UNOCT, UNCCT's work will also fall within the scope of this register.

The UNOCT Risk Register, which will be issued in 2023, includes risk definitions under each risk category (i.e., strategic, governance, managerial, operational, financial, fraud and corruption), assignment of risks to owners, a full analysis of key risk drivers, a description of internal controls, and an outline of potential risk mitigation and response strategies. UNOCT senior management will report annually on the progress of implementation of risk treatment plans to the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, and UNOCT senior leadership will annually review the Risk Register to ensure that it remains relevant and updated based on the findings from audits, internal control assessments, and strategic priorities.

Within the framework of this overall risk management approach, UNCCT will continue to consider the operational and other risks that may impact on specific projects and programmes. As part of this approach, UNCCT will also continue to strengthen the meaningful mainstreaming of human rights and gender in all its activities, promote enhanced Member States' compliance with human rights, including women's rights as well as implement the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in its support to non-UN security forces. Project and programme management and implementation monitors and responds to these risks in a targeted manner, where appropriate.

## Key challenges in 2022

In terms of risks associated with the operational environment, COVID-19 remained the most relevant challenge in the implementation of programme activities in 2022. UNOCT mainstreamed lessons learned and best practices related to programmatic adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic and fully adjusted to the post-COVID-19 realities.

In this regard, the Office opted to conduct hybrid events and continued implementation of flexible working arrangements on return to the Office. While using virtual and hybrid modality for delivery of its capacity-building mandate, the Office recognized the importance of in-person delivery of its technical assistance and continued to deliver in-person engagements with beneficiary Member States and other stakeholders as required. In doing so, UNCCT project and programme teams ensured appropriate number and representation of in-person participants and took all necessary measures related to health and COVID-19 protocols. The Office continued to invest heavily in developing its digital capabilities, including through the expansion and consolidation of the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform, and development of e-training modules and other digital resources.



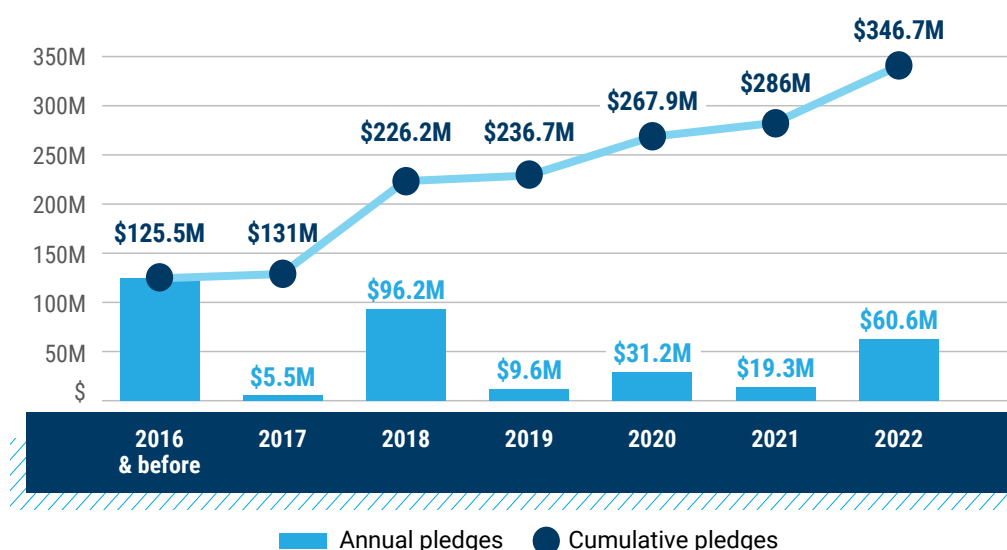
## Summary

Since the Trust Fund's establishment in 2009 and up to 31 December 2022, UNOCT has mobilized \$346.7 million in pledges from 36 funding partners and through allocations from the **United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF)** funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China. In 2022 alone, UNOCT secured \$60.6 million in new contributions and allocations from 22 funding partners.

UNOCT continued its outreach efforts to expand and diversify its base of financial support, and welcomed its 36th funding partner in 2022, with a contribution from the **United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the United Nations Joint Programme of Technical Assistance and Capacity building on Human Rights in the Philippines**.

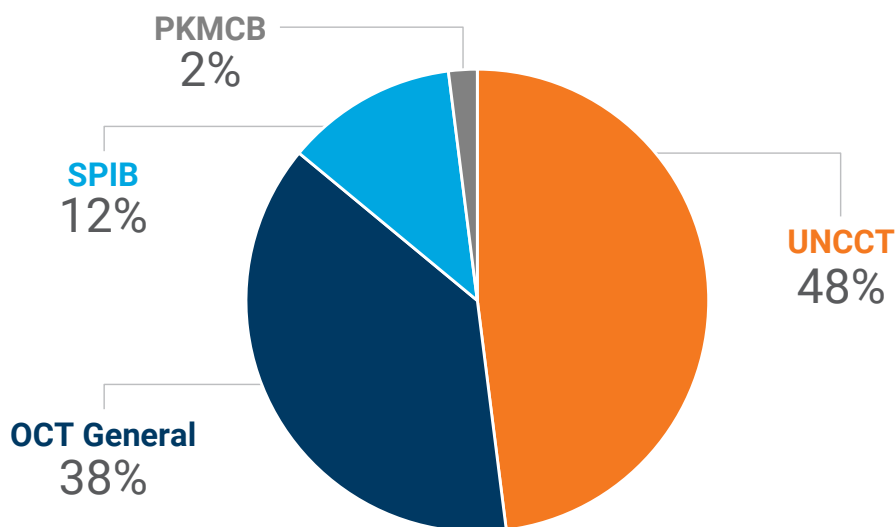
**FIGURE 2: CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Accumulated income in UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since its creation in 2009 until 31 December 2022



**FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION WITHIN UNCCT**

Distribution of contributions to UNCCT and other UNOCT units



## Resource mobilization in UNCCT

UNCCT redoubled all efforts to secure diversified, sustainable, and predictable funding for the continuation of mandated capacity building activities. In 2022, out of the total \$60.6 million secured in new contributions and allocations, \$7.7 million was to support UNCCT initiatives (see Table 6 below).

**TABLE 6:**

List of new contributions secured in 2022 for UNCCT		
Donor	Amount in USD \$	Purpose
Canada	1,304,566	Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: Preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) project
European Union	407,014	EU-UN Support to States in Central Asia for Third Country Nationals returned from Syria and Iraq-Security and Accountability Action (Global Programme on PRR)
Finland	62,004	Weapons Programme
Germany	256,113	Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme
Germany	736,750	Global Programme on PRR
India	250,000	Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme)
Italy	470,000	Enhancing BSM in Western Africa and Gulf of Guinea countries (Global BSM Programme)
Kazakhstan	50,000	JPoA - Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase IV
Netherlands	1,125,000	All-of-UN support to Iraq on Iraqi national returned from Northeast Syria - UN Global Framework on Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq

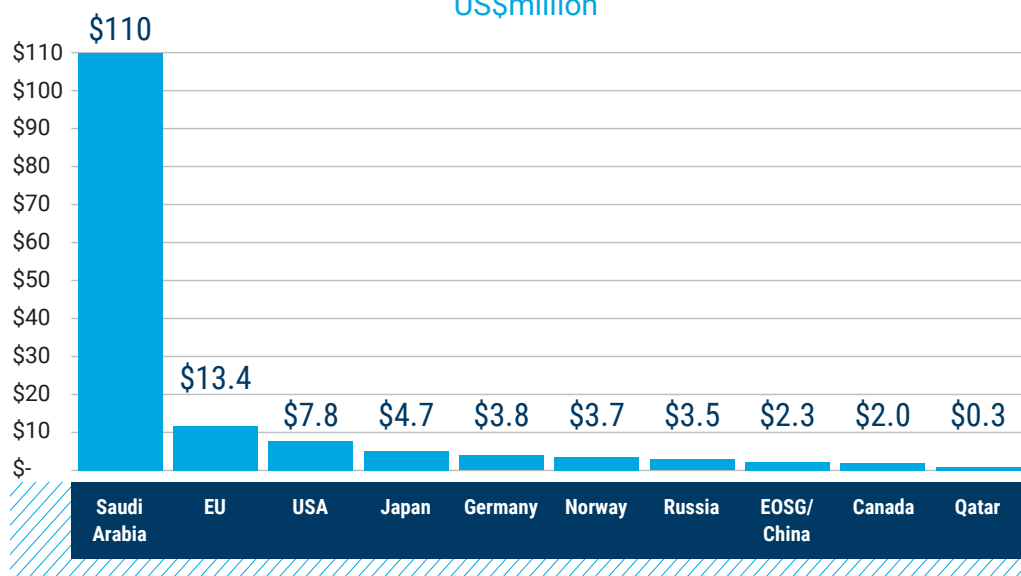
List of new contributions secured in 2022 for UNCCT		
Donor	Amount in USD \$	Purpose
Netherlands	599,950	UNOCT Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism - OICT Go Fintel
Republic of Korea	215,046	Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies
Spain	479,425	Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme
Sweden	57,061	Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme)
United States of America	1,680,797	Strengthening Partner Nations' Capacity on Counter WMD Terrorism Exercise Programs (Weapons Programme)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,693,751</b>	

Since the creation of the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2009 until 31 December 2022, UNCCT had received \$166 million from 32 funding partners (or 48% of the total cumulative income secured in the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism). Underpinning UNCCT's creation and subsequent mandate delivery has been the contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia totalling \$110 million. This has made the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia UNCCT's largest contributor whose support represents 66% of the total secured by UNCCT. The much-needed flexible funding generously provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been complemented with support from the other 31 funding partners providing earmarked contributions to specific programmes and projects. UNCCT is committed to further intensifying its efforts to deepen existing partnerships and forge new ones.

The contribution provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is expected to be depleted in 2023 creating a critical funding gap that impacts UNCCT's operational and programmatic capacity to effectively support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS. The reinvigoration of the strategic partnership with the Kingdom – alongside the cultivation of new partnerships – is critical for further capacity building mandate implementation, and to enable efficient and effective delivery of technical assistance in support of Member States.

### Top 10 Donors to UNCCT

US\$million



### Total contributions and allocations to UNCCT from the UN Trust Fund of Counter-Terrorism since its establishment in 2009

Donors	Rank	Contribution to UNCCT
Saudi Arabia	1	\$110,000,000.00
European Union	2	\$13,352,645.00
United States of America	3	\$8,137,064.00
Japan	4	\$4,734,945.00
Germany	5	\$3,814,127.00
Norway	7	\$3,747,148.00
Russia	7	\$3,461,500.00
Spain	8	\$2,918,430.00
Netherlands	9	\$2,630,085.00
UN Peace and Development Fund	10	\$2,345,664.00
Canada	11	\$1,952,418.00

Total contributions and allocations to UNCCT from the UN Trust Fund of Counter-Terrorism since its establishment in 2009		
Donors	Rank	Contribution to UNCCT
United Kingdom	12	\$1,434,721.00
India	13	\$1,025,000.00
UNDP/European Union	14	\$1,001,963.00
Republic of Korea	15	\$937,745.00
Italy	16	\$911,608.00
Sweden	17	\$800,772.00
Switzerland	18	\$548,621.00
Denmark	19	\$521,848.00
Kazakhstan	20	\$350,000.00
United Arab Emirates	20	\$350,000.00
France	22	\$347,220.00
Belgium	23	\$270,855.00
Qatar	24	\$250,000.00
Australia	25	\$230,058.00
Finland	26	\$149,858.00
Turkey	27	\$60,000.00
Liechtenstein	28	\$40,000.00
Morocco	29	\$30,000.00
Nigeria	30	\$10,000.00
Kenya	31	\$5,000.00
Algeria	32	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$166,371820.00</b>



Photo/UNCCT

## VI. Way forward

In 2023 and 2024, UNOCT and the Centre will be placing more focus on supporting Member States in Africa. A signature event in that regard will be the co-organization of the **African Counter-Terrorism Summit** in Abuja in early 2024 with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The theme of the Summit is “*Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa*”. African Heads of State and Government, together with key international and regional actors, will review the nature and severity of the threat of terrorism in Africa and agree on concrete priorities and measures pivoted on institutional approaches to address the challenge.

Other priorities for UNOCT were highlighted by Member States during the biennial [Third Counter-Terrorism Week](#) in June 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This includes the following key areas of activity highlighted in the eighth review resolution of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy<sup>16</sup>:

<sup>16</sup> ([A/Res/77/298](#)) The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: eighth review (22 June 2023)

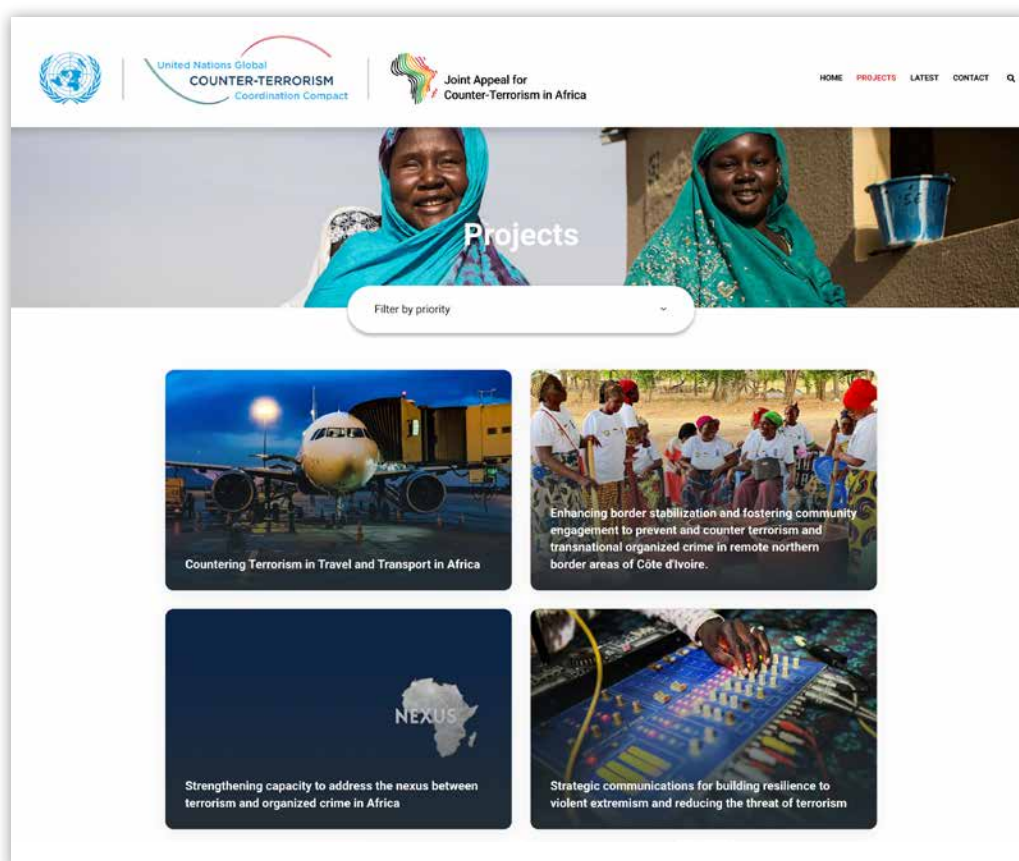
- Addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, including through programmes that empower youth and encourage tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Strengthening measures to prevent and combat terrorism, including for supporting Member States in developing innovative measures and approaches to address the challenges and opportunities of new technologies, in the context of preventing and countering terrorism;
- Building Member State capacities in counter-terrorism, including for cooperation across UN entities to support Member State capacity building, at their request, to effectively respond to the challenge prevent and respond to terrorism;
- Integrating respect for human rights and rule of law into counter-terrorism activities, including through further efforts to mainstream human rights and gender approaches into its programmes and initiatives, and to raise awareness of and support for the rights of victims.



Member States further recognised the importance of Programme Offices away from Headquarters to bring counter-terrorism work closer to beneficiaries, and the opportunities provided for work with local and regional actors, and other agencies of the UN system. UNCCT will continue to work in this regard, supporting Member States in whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and recognising the interconnections between the goals of UNGCTS and global and regional development frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Securing sufficient, predictable, and diversified funding will remain a priority for UNCCT in 2023 and beyond. The Centre will seek to increase the number of funding partners to

sustain its full-scale programmatic delivery to meet the growing demand for assistance by Member States. Several UNCCT projects have been selected for the [United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa](#). The Joint Appeal supports a new generation of ten UN inter-agency flagship initiatives to address complex and emerging threats across the continent strategically, innovatively, and jointly. The Office will also continue to prioritize the integration of human rights and gender considerations in all its programmes and projects as well as to implement the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in its support to non-UN security forces. The Office will also continue to deepen and expand its partner base by actively engaging with civil society, the private sector, and the academia through consultations and several joint initiatives, while further developing the [UNOCT Connect & Learn](#) platform through the launch of new courses.



<https://jointappeal.org/projects>



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