



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

UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT 2023



A report under the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

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Executive Summary

In 2023, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) delivered effective capacity-building assistance to Member States to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), in line with the Centre's vision to serve as a **Global Centre of Excellence** in dealing with the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

On 22 June 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 77/298, reaffirming Member States' commitment to counter-terrorism and addressing new threats. The resolution emphasized the need for an integrated implementation of the four pillars of the GCTS:

- Addressing conditions conducive to terrorism
- Preventing and combating terrorism
- Building States' capacity to counter terrorism
- Respecting human rights and the rule of law

Over the course of the year, UNCCT contributed directly to all four pillars and provided support to 148 Member States and capacity-building training to over 6,360 individuals (35 per cent female, 64 per cent male, and 1 per cent preferred not to declare).

Through its eight global and three regional programmes, UNCCT ('the Centre') continued to strengthen the effectiveness of its capacity-building programming, while extending its base of financial partners.

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Through the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism ('Global Programme on PCVE'), the Centre worked with Member States to develop PCVE capacities in line with international human rights norms and standards, all while increasing regional and international cooperation in this important area. The Programme also worked directly with young women and men across Africa to strengthen their capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

STRIVE Asia

The Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) Programme, a joint effort by the European Union and United Nations, was designed to support Member States in Central, South, and Southeast Asia to effectively counter violent extremism

conducive to terrorism. This initiative sought to promote peace, security, sustainable development, and human rights. Implemented by UNCCT, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), STRIVE Asia employed a multi-stakeholder approach involving governments, security actors, civil society, and private sector entities.

Support to Victims of Terrorism

Efforts to enhance the support provided by Member States for victims and survivors of terrorism continued through the implementation of key activities under the four workstreams of the Global Victims of Terrorism (VoT) Support Programme. These efforts focused on bolstering outreach, policy development, advocacy, and technical assistance. The Programme also encouraged international policy development to support the victims of terrorism agenda and provide opportunities for victims to raise their voices.

Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The Centre continued to help Member States to 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, Iraq, and Central Asia in cooperation with local authorities, UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and other agencies.

Countering the Financing of Terrorism

UNCCT supported Member States in countering the financing of terrorism, including through the development of regional risk assessments, and national compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, in coordination with CTED. 2023 also saw significant progress in the launch of the goFintel software, which will further enhance the ability of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) to undertake critical analysis and investigations.

Border Security and Management

The Centre continued to deepen engagement with the broad range of partners supporting Member States border security and management (BSM) efforts. With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNODC, and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNCCT established the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) in Dakar, Senegal, to enhance coherence on BSM issues in West Africa. Support was provided to ensure that relevant counter-terrorism considerations were integrated in BSM strategies. The Centre also continued to gather and disseminate good practices, especially in the responsible use of biometrics, human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive BSM.

Cybersecurity and New Technologies

In 2023, the Global Counter Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies made significant strides in enhancing global counter-terrorism capacities in new technologies. It developed and launched seven knowledge products under the CT TECH initiative, providing essential guidance to law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies. These efforts collectively enhanced global counter-terrorism capacities in cybersecurity and new technologies through practical trainings, and international collaboration.

Conventional and Non-Conventional Weapons

UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons (Weapons Programme) enhanced the capacities of Member States in countering the 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 with government officials. It also worked to prevent terrorist acquisition 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 related to United Nations Security Council resolution 2370 (2017).

Regional Programmes

UNCCT supported Member States in establishing regional and national frameworks for addressing specific challenges related to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The Centre, through its Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) Programme, helped Arab States to develop a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy that is aligned with the four pillars of the GCTS. This strategy, which also supports Arab States to comply with their international obligations to address terrorism, while complying with relevant human rights and rule of law standards, enhances Member States' response to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and promotes regional and international cooperation.

Through its regional presence in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, UNCCT further supported Member States in Central Asia in developing and implementing their own regional and national strategies, while also helping to establish networks of partnership and communication on priority areas amongst both policy makers and practitioners in the region, including on early warning mechanisms.

The regional presence in Central Asia also helped strengthen cooperation and coordination between UNOCT/UNCCT and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO RATS) while developing, coordinating and delivering capacity-building to SCO's Central Asian Member States in the implementation of the GCTS and other relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Financial Partnerships

The Centre, initially founded with a generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, also continues to strengthen its relationships with funding partners. In 2023, as part of the broader UNOCT fundraising strategy, the Centre secured an additional USD 12 million in funding.

UNCCT Advisory Board

The UNCCT Advisory Board¹, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met twice at ambassadorial-level in 2023.

During these meetings, the Advisory Board provided guidance on the strategic orientation of the Centre in its response to the growing demand of Member States in their efforts to counter terrorism through the delivery of impactful capacity-building projects at the global, regional and national levels. The Advisory Board was also regularly updated on progress in implementing the Centre's programmes through quarterly reports.

2024 and Beyond

Looking forward into 2024 and beyond, the Centre will work with Member States in addressing the multi-faceted and evolving nature of terrorism, particularly in Africa.

The Centre is committed to working with a wide range of national, regional, and sub-regional organizations, including civil society organizations, to build networks of support and strengthen expertise at the local and regional levels.

In recognition of the interconnected nature of security, stability, and sustainable development, UNOCT has recently joined the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. As a result, UNCCT will be well positioned to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 and other SDGs and will work in partnership with United Nations agencies, peacekeeping operations, and Resident Coordinators' Offices in the field, striving together for a world without terrorism.

¹ See on page 87

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Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIMC	Arab Interior Ministers Council
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
ARCC	Arab Regional Cybersecurity Centre
AROS	Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSM	Border Security and Management
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CICTE	Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CTPN	Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network
DGC	United Nations Department of Global Communications
DOS	United Nations Department of Operational Support
DPO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
EPS	UNOCT External Partnerships Section
ERC	Emergency Response Centres
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
EUROPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit

FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FSRB	FATF-Style Regional Bodies
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JPoA	Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCTC	National Counter-Terrorism Centre
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open-Source Intelligence
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PRB	UNOCT Programme Review Board
PRR	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
RATS	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
RRA	Regional Risk Assessment
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPRF	UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework
STRIVE Asia	Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia Initiative
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UN	United Nations
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
VoT	Victims of Terrorism
WCO	World Customs Organization
WEF	World Economic Forum
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YEPP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

UNOCT Vision and Strategy

Vision

UNCCT shares the vision of UNOCT - **‘together, building a world without terrorism.’**

This vision inspires the Centre’s work and reflects the commitment to bring together a diverse range of partners, building upon the Centre’s General Assembly mandate² and the unique position in the United Nations Secretariat as a **Global Centre of Excellence** on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

UNCCT’s work recognises that confronting the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is a long-term process that will require the strong engagement by multiple stakeholders, in particular Member States. It further recognises that the nature of terrorism continues to evolve, as new technologies come onstream, responses from Member States vary, actors emerge, and ideological motivations change.

Approach

United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

In 2006, United Nations Member States adopted General Assembly resolution 60/288, establishing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy³. The four pillars of the Strategy are:

1. Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
2. Preventing and combating terrorism
3. Building States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard
4. Ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

In 2023, Member States undertook the eighth review⁴ of the Strategy, providing guidance on how UNOCT, UNCCT and the other entities of the Compact will support Member States. It further requested the United Nations Secretary-General to prepare a report in 2025 on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, containing suggestions for its future implementation.

² See A/RES/66/10 of 18 November 2011

³ A/RES/60/288

⁴ A/RES/77/298

UNCCT's 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**. UNCCT further works within the framework of the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**. The Compact brings together 47 entities, as either members or observers, to improve coordination, showcase CT/PCVE-related efforts, and share relevant information. The Compact strengthens a common action approach to coordination and coherence in the PCVE work of the United Nations system. It strengthens support to Member States, at their request, in the implementation of the GCTS and other relevant United Nations resolutions and mandates.



UN General Assembly adopted resolution (A/RES/77/298) on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, June 2023. Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

As an entity of the United Nations Secretariat, UNOCT provides leadership on the counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNOCT works to enhance coordination and coherence across Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the GCTS. The Office further provides support to requesting Member States, and works 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 **United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre** was established by the General Assembly in 2011 and was initially funded through a generous voluntary contribution by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS.

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 **United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office**, were incorporated into the newly formed UNOCT in 2017. The Centre benefits from strategic guidance provided by the **UNCCT Advisory Board**, consisting of 21 Members appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

UNCCT is the main provider of counter-terrorism capacity-building within the United Nations system. It provides expertise and capacity-building support to Member States in a wide range of areas, including:

- Preventing and countering of violent extremism;
- Providing support to victims and survivors of terrorism;
- Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration;
- Preventing and combating the use of weapons by terrorists (including SALW, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons);
- Border security and management;
- Countering the financing of terrorism;
- The use of new technologies for terrorist purposes;
- Engaging in regional counter-terrorism efforts.

Across all these areas, UNCCT integrates the principles of protection and promotion of human rights as well as promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as critical components of its work.

As a 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.

Criteria of Excellence

UNCCT understands “*excellence*” as a measure of consistent performance whereby UNCCT’s work is recognized for its specialized expertise in different CT/PCVE fields.

Excellence is not a single destination but a process of continual improvement. UNCCT has recently reiterated and strengthened its focus on promoting a culture of results across all 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
2. Fostering meaningful collaboration
3. Supporting relevant, coherent, integrated, human rights-compliant and gender responsive responses through a systems-approach to capacity-building

4. Advancing knowledge in PCVE and CT
5. Enabling peer-to-peer learning

UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework (2022 – 2025)

The Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) operationalizes the mandate given to UNOCT and UNCCT by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/291 (2017) and successive reviews of the GCTS.

The Plan itself is flexible and it also responds to the KPMG evaluation of the Centre in 2021⁵, that assessed the performance of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme which included recommendations for future programme strategy and design.

The SPRF was developed around a set of institutional priorities that describe how UNOCT and UNCCT will help Member States to address the evolving nature of terrorist threats. In particular, the SPRF emphasized the following elements:

- **A culture of results:** 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. Establishment and operation of field presences are undertaken in agreement with host governments and in consultation and coordination with Resident Coordinators’ Offices and other United Nations entities at national and regional levels.
- **Coordination and coherence:** UNOCT is cultivating and enhancing its engagement with key stakeholders, including through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact at the global level and with Resident Coordinators’ Offices at the national and regional levels.
- **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.

⁵ KPMG, International Development Advisory Services, Evaluation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, 30 September 2020



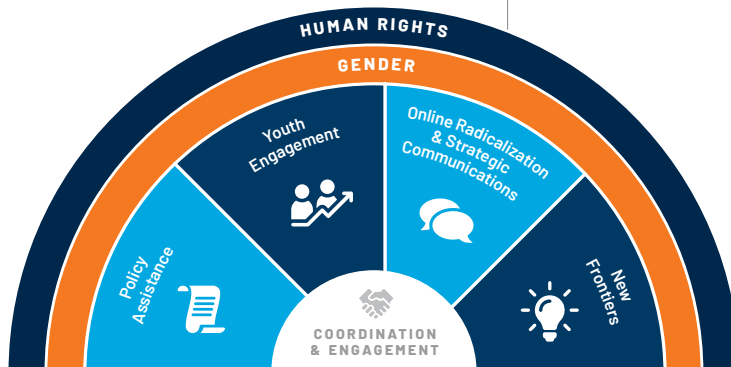
UN Photo/Loey Felipe

I. UNCCT Achievements in 2023

Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Summary

The Global Programme on PCVE builds the capacity of beneficiaries and partners to become more resilient violent extremism and reduce the threat of terrorism. The Programme delivers globally informed and locally tailored capacity-building across four



key portfolio areas, while effectively mainstreaming human rights and gender, and by developing sustainable partnerships in support of PCVE coordination. The four portfolio areas are:

- Online radicalization and strategic communication
- Youth engagement
- Policy assistance
- New frontiers (emerging topics in PCVE)

Strategic Objective

To support Member States, regional organizations, civil society and other beneficiaries develop and implement effective PCVE initiatives.

Partners

The Programme has received funding support from Australia; European Union, through a joint programme implemented with UNODC; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Kenya; State of Qatar; Sweden; United Arab Emirates; and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) - funded by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Impact in 2023

- Empowered 24 young people in Nigeria to become leaders in PCVE, including through the development and pitching of youth-designed policy recommendations to key decision makers.
- Enhanced the skills of 16 young people in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to implement PCVE strategic communication campaigns in their local communities and to train other young people to do the same.
- Strengthened the capacity of 136 government and civil society representatives in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to deliver strategic communications in the aftermath of a crisis, such as a terrorist attack, to support ongoing social cohesion and community resilience.
- Strengthened the capacity of 62 government and civil society representatives in Uganda to deliver PCVE strategic communications campaigns, building on the whole-of-society narrative developed with the support of the Global Programme in 2022.
- Identified key opportunities for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to contribute to PCVE aims and objectives, especially in low resource settings.
- Supported the Government of Kenya in the drafting of a revised PCVE National Action Plan.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women	Countries supported
440 participants	43% of training participants	20

Achievements

Policy Assistance

Support to Kenya to draft new strategy on countering violent extremism

Together with the Kenya National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), a technical working group meeting was organized in December to draft Kenya's new national strategy on countering violent extremism. This meeting of 20 experts (14 men and 6 women) resulted in the finalization of four sections of the new draft strategy, with the remaining sections to be completed in early 2024. As further support to this new strategy, the PCVE Programme conducted a needs assessment on PCVE Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) involving 60 people (30 men and 30 women), which culminated in the development of a workplan of activities to respond to the M&E gaps identified in the assessment.

Youth Engagement

Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme Nigeria

In August, the Global PCVE Programme launched the online phase of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) Nigeria, under the umbrella of the Programme's YEEP Africa initiative. The YEEP initiative aims to empower and enable young people to



Photo/UNCCT

contribute meaningfully in global, regional and national efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

Twenty-four young Nigerian leaders (12 men and 12 women) were trained on how to formulate policy recommendations, by understanding definitions of violent extremism, the role of ideology, discussions on the root causes, and the push and pull factors of violent extremism, with a focus on the local context. Online training on data analysis provided to YEEP participants helped them to analyse responses received from peers during community engagements, resulting in the identification of important themes for youth-centred policy recommendations that will be taken up during the youth-focused National Policy Dialogue on PCVE in January 2024.

YEEP Nigeria is the first in a series of three African national YEEP projects, with YEEP Somalia and YEEP Kenya to follow in 2024, helping to elevate the voices of other young leaders in PCVE across Africa.

Strategic Communications for Young Leaders in Southeast Asia

From September to November, the Global PCVE Programme trained 16 young leaders (8 women and 8 men) from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, to enhance their capacity to design and implement effective strategic communications, with the aim of building resilience to violent extremism in their own communities. Through comprehensive online and in-person training, the young leaders learned to design communications campaigns with the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), creating context-based, cost-effective, and well-crafted PCVE campaigns, complete with dissemination plans.

Furthermore, youth participants strengthened their ability to deliver their own strategic communications curriculum through 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) sessions, which was supported by UNCCT's Strategic Communications ToT Guide. Since receiving UNCCT's support, youth participants directly delivered trainings in their respective communities—to young women, journalists and to remote indigenous and local religious groups, passing on their learning and resulting in sustained and meaningful impact.

The UNCCT ToT Toolkit is set to be published in 2024 and will serve as a valuable resource for young people across the globe to effectively deliver their own strategic communications training for PCVE.

Online Radicalization and Strategic Communications

Crisis response capacities in Indonesia and Thailand

In February, workshops were held in Indonesia and Thailand with the aim to build the capacities of government communications officials across multiple government agencies in PCVE strategic and crisis communications. In Indonesia, 47 officials (12 women and 35 men) developed their own whole-of-government national strategic and crisis communications narrative for PCVE, using communication strategies to strengthen social cohesion and counter violent extremist and terrorist narratives. At the completion of this



workshop, participants tested their strategy in an interactive, high-pressure live terrorist crisis simulation using the Global PCVE Programme online simulation tool.

In Thailand, 46 officials (24 women and 22 men) came together to develop a whole-of-government national strategic and crisis communications narrative for PCVE. This work culminated in a live crisis simulation exercise using Conducttr, helping to 'pressure test' the officials' responses in the aftermath of a violent extremist attack.



Crisis communications and PCVE in Southeast Asia

In April, the Global PCVE Programme worked together with 43 representatives (17 women and 26 men) from government agencies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand on the development of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society regional narratives for the purposes of crisis communications and PCVE. During this workshop, all four Member States presented on-going and planned campaigns informed by the narratives developed at the national workshops, in addition to the wider crisis communication technical assistance delivered at these events by the Global PCVE Programme.

As a follow-up to this support, a Community of Practice will be established to ensure continued learning and networking across the region on crisis communications. A commitment to “Beach Diplomacy” was made by all participants moving beyond the regional workshop that entails ongoing working-level engagement by participants to share the latest developments in crisis communications at the national level, in addition to sharing of good practices.

Prevention of violent extremism in Uganda

The Global PCVE Programme, working with the Uganda National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), held a series of workshops in August and October, with a focus on enhancing strategic communications for PCVE, as part of delivery towards a joint European Union-UNOCT-UNODC project on *‘Strengthening efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and enhance Human Rights Safeguards in Uganda’*. In August, the Global PCVE Programme partnered with the Government of Uganda to bring together 23 Whole of Society representatives (5 women and 18 men) to better understand the role of strategic communications to support communities at risk of radicalization into violent extremism, and to design together a roadmap to address the skills gap required to effectively implement the new National PCVE Strategy.

As a follow up, in October, the Global PCVE Programme organized a national workshop on PCVE Strategic Communications, in partnership with the Ugandan NCTC. This brought together 39 government and civil society representatives (13 women and 26 men), with the aim to support the Government of Uganda in mounting an effective response to PCVE and to build societal resilience against radicalization to violence. Working in mixed groups



Photo/UNCCT

of government representatives and CSOs, the campaigns were developed in six languages (Acholi, Luganda, Lukonjo, Lusoga, Runyankore, and English), and were each matched with a dissemination plan to facilitate immediate distribution to local communities.

'New frontiers': Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Insights to support PCVE and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In March, the Global PCVE Programme held a series of roundtable discussions with an expert advisory group of mental health practitioners and academics to identify ways in which support can be provided to communities affected by violent extremism and individuals at risk. The expert discussions contributed to the development of a draft Issues Paper on how to better integrate and enhance mental MHPSS practices as a part of PCVE programming, particularly in low resource settings. This work will be transformed into tailored training resources for frontline PCVE practitioners.



Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) Programme

Summary

The Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) Programme, a joint European Union – United Nations partnership, contributed to PCVE work in Central, South and Southeast Asia, as the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism poses a significant threat to the international community's efforts to promote



peace and security and undermines progress made towards fostering sustainable development and upholding human rights. The intended impact of the STRIVE Asia initiative was to contribute to the prevention and countering of violent extremism in Central, South and Southeast Asia through a multi-stakeholder approach, including governments, security actors, civil society and private sector entities. The STRIVE Asia initiative was implemented by UNCCT in partnership with UNODC and UNDP.

Strategic Objective

To contribute to PCVE in Central, South and Southeast Asia through a multi-stakeholder approach, including governments, security actors, civil society and the private sector entities, meaning that key government (executive, security agencies and legislative bodies, and the private sector where appropriate) and non- government actors are better prepared to contribute to PCVE objectives in targeted regions and in line with international law and standards, including relevant Security Council resolutions.

Partners

The Programme has received funding support from the European Union and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and it is also co-funded by the co-implementors, namely UNDP and UNODC.

Impact in 2023

- STRIVE Asia has significantly advanced regional strategies and collaboration on CT and PCVE in Central Asia by developing three strategic roadmaps on the engagement of women, CSOs, and youth. These roadmaps offer a comprehensive approach to addressing regional challenges and ensuring diverse stakeholder involvement in National Action Plans. Particular attention has been given to the implementation of these roadmaps through effective collaboration between civil society and relevant authorities.
- Particular attention has been given to equip all five Central Asian Member States with good practices for monitoring and evaluating their initiatives, fostering more effective implementation and accountability.
- Cross regional exchanges enhanced coordination and knowledge-sharing across agencies and regions, promoting resilience through shared experiences.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women ⁶	Countries supported by UNCCT
107 participants	28%	5

⁶ As a proportion of all participants where gender was recorded

Achievements

Enhanced Regional and Cross-Regional Knowledge Sharing and Cooperation on PCVE

In April 2023, STRIVE Asia held a conference on “*Cross Regional Exchange to Strengthen Partnership in Promoting Resilience against Violent Extremism in Central and Southeast Asia*” attended by 58 participants (16 women and 42 men) from ten Central and Southeast Asian Member States. The conference featured presentations by experts from the United Nations, government bodies of the project beneficiary countries, independent research institutes, as well as civil society. It also included panel discussions and breakout sessions to discuss challenges and partnership opportunities within a range themes, such as: *Violent Extremism Trends in Central and Southeast Asia; the Role of FTFs in Local Radicalization Processes; Online Radicalization and the Responsibility of the Private Sector in Effective Detection and PVE; the Importance of a Gender-Sensitive and Human-Rights Based Approach to PCVE; and Fostering Law Enforcement and Civil Society Partnership in PCVE*. The conference facilitated the sharing and consolidation among participants of lessons learned, good practices, contributions and achievements through the implementation of the three thematic areas of STRIVE Asia in both Central and Southeast Asia.

Improved Monitoring and Evaluation of PCVE Efforts

A regional forum entitled “*Monitoring and Evaluation of National Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia*” took place in May 2023, organized by UNCCT in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), UNDP, UNODC, and the Global PCVE Programme. During the forum, Member States exchanged updates on the implementation of their respective National Action Plans. It was part of the standardized information collection and assessment practices for STRIVE Asia and its implementing partners to discuss the present state of implementation of PCVE efforts under national action plans across the STRIVE Asia Initiative. The forum was conducted as an essential part of the monitoring and evaluation phase of the initiative and was used to reflect on the performance of PCVE programmes across the regions of Central and Southeast Asia participating in STRIVE Asia. The forum



Photo/UNCCT



also allowed for discussion of the issue of effective M&E mechanisms while considering the perspectives of civil society organizations and other social groups such as women and young people.

Roadmaps for Effective Implementation of PCVE National Action Plans

STRIVE Asia organized the “*STRIVE Asia Symposium on Roadmaps for Effective Implementation of PCVE National Action Plans*” in New York, covering the following themes:

1. **What works and what doesn’t work during the drafting and implementation of PCVE National Action Plans.**
2. **How the engagement of women, civil society, and youth can be improved to achieve an inclusive and comprehensive PCVE strategy.**
3. **Areas of improvement.**
4. **Lessons learnt and ways forward.**

The objective of the event was to provide a platform for engaging with different stakeholders in the implementation of PCVE activities under STRIVE Asia to review the findings, accomplishments, recommendations, and the way forward for PCVE programming in Central Asia. As a result, an agreement was reached to further integrate the roadmaps in the process of the implementation of the PCVE National Action Plans in Central Asia.

Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

Summary

The Global Victims of Terrorism (VoT) Support Programme was established in 2018 to promote, protect and respect the rights and support the needs of victims of terrorism, and to increase the capacity of Member States and CSOs to assist and support victims across the world. The Global Programme is unique across the United Nations system, as it is:

- Dedicated to promoting solidarity with victims of terrorism, raising awareness about their rights and needs, and building the capacity of Member States and CSOs to advance them effectively.
- Deeply grounded in partnerships to ensure a global reach is translated into local impact. Member States and CSO – especially victims’ associations – are key partners in ensuring that the rights and needs of victims are met and upheld.
- Fostering the involvement of civil society and victims in a global campaign against terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism through a rights-based, survivor-centred approach, recognizing that victims should have the opportunity to play a decisive role in these efforts by making their voices heard.

Strategic Objective

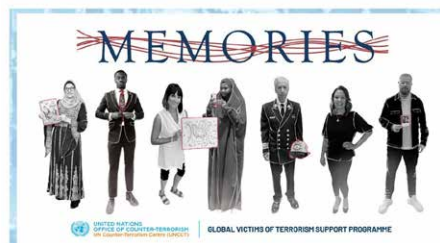
The Global Programme seeks to advocate for, support outreach, shape policy and build the capacity of Member States to support victims of terrorism, victims' associations and civil society. It aims to stand in solidarity with victims, strengthen victims' voices and their role in preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Partners

The Programme has received funding support from Germany, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Spain, State of Qatar, and the United States.

Impact in 2023

- **Advanced Global VoT Frameworks:** In March 2023, the Programme successfully organized a high-level hybrid roundtable at the United Nations Headquarters in New York with international stakeholders to discuss and promote best practices through the use of the Model Legislative Provisions, significantly enhancing Member States' capacity to support the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. The event was attended by over 120 participants, including Member States, victims of terrorism, regional organizations, members of parliament and other United Nations entities. During the roundtable 10 Member States expressed an interest in engaging with the Model Legislative Provisions project as beneficiaries. This initiative has fostered greater international cooperation and commitment to strengthening legal frameworks that prioritize victims' rights.
- **Strengthened International Partnerships:** Through collaboration with key international partners, including the European Union, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, other United Nations entities, victims' associations, and victims and survivors, the Programme has enhanced its strategic partnerships, focusing on sustainable funding, international cooperation, victims' participation and the development of a cohesive global response to support victims of terrorism. This collaboration has been pivotal in reinforcing the network of support for victims and fostering a unified and impactful approach.
- **Raised Global Awareness through Advocacy:** The Programme amplified the voices of victims and survivors of terrorism in leading important international events such the dedication of the Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree at the United Nations Headquarters in June 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters and the commemoration of the sixth International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August 2023. The Solidarity Tree ceremony convened over 70 Member States representatives, partners, and victims and survivors of terrorism. The International Day was webcast live on UN WebTV and the United Nations YouTube account and attracted over 14,000 views. Additionally, the @UN_OCT account generated 41 million impressions on 21 August alone, compared to 3.3 million in 2022. These efforts have increased global awareness about the rights and needs of victims and survivors and highlighted the role of the United Nations in advocating for victim-centred policies and initiatives.



14,000 views on UN Web TV and Youtube



41 million impressions generated on 21 August 2023 alone

- Promoted Victims' Resilience and Narratives:** Through initiatives like the "Legacy Gallery" on Instagram and the "Memories" campaign, the Programme has provided platforms for victims to share their stories, promoting resilience and raising awareness of the long-term impacts of terrorism. In 2023, the Legacy Gallery featured 15 victims of terrorism. During its launch the Legacy project account on Instagram attracted 717 subscribers in 10 days. These initiatives have not only honoured victims and survivors of terrorism but have also educated the public on the importance of preventing terrorism and supporting survivors.
- Influenced Policy and Strategic Direction:** By engaging in policy discussions and strategic forums such as the Ministerial-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism held in September 2023, on the margins of the high-level segment of the 78th United Nations General Assembly session at UNHQ, which was attended by representatives from 31 Member States, the Programme has played a crucial role in influencing international policies and ensuring that victim support remains a key priority in the global counter-terrorism agenda. This strategic involvement underscores the program's commitment to advancing a victim-centred approach in international counter-terrorism strategies.



The 4th High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. Photo/UNCCT

Key metrics for 2023

Outreach and special events	Participation of women ⁷	Countries supported
324 participants	44%	33

Achievements

Solidarity, Outreach and Advocacy in Support of the Rights and Needs of Victims and Survivors of Terrorism

Best practices and the adoption of model legislative provisions to support victims and survivors of terrorism

In March, the Global VoT Programme organized a hybrid roundtable event at the United Nations Headquarters on enhancing Member States' capacity to support the needs and rights of victims of terrorism. Participants discussed different roles in strengthening legislative frameworks, as well as national experiences and best practices in this area. The event brought together representatives from Member States, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, parliamentarians, United Nations entities, as well as two victims of terrorism from Pakistan and Nigeria, with altogether more than 120 in-person participants (40 men, 41 women). Together, the roundtable participants were able to: identify Member States interested in participating in the pilot Model Legislative Provisions capacity-building project, promote discussion about assistance needs of victims of terrorism, and raise awareness about best practices and lessons learned.



7 Excluding where gender was not listed

2023 Eradicate Hate Global Summit



The Programme participated in the *Eradicate Hate Summit 2023*, held annually in Pittsburgh, the United States, through a remote panel intervention and in-person participation in two working group sessions focused on the voices of victims and survivors. The Summit brought together a wide range of participants from across the world, including representatives from government, civil society, media, faith-based organizations, and the private sector. In the public Plenary Panel “*Voices of Survivors*”, the Global VoT Support Programme briefed 1,200 participants on the evolution of the international victims of terrorism agenda.

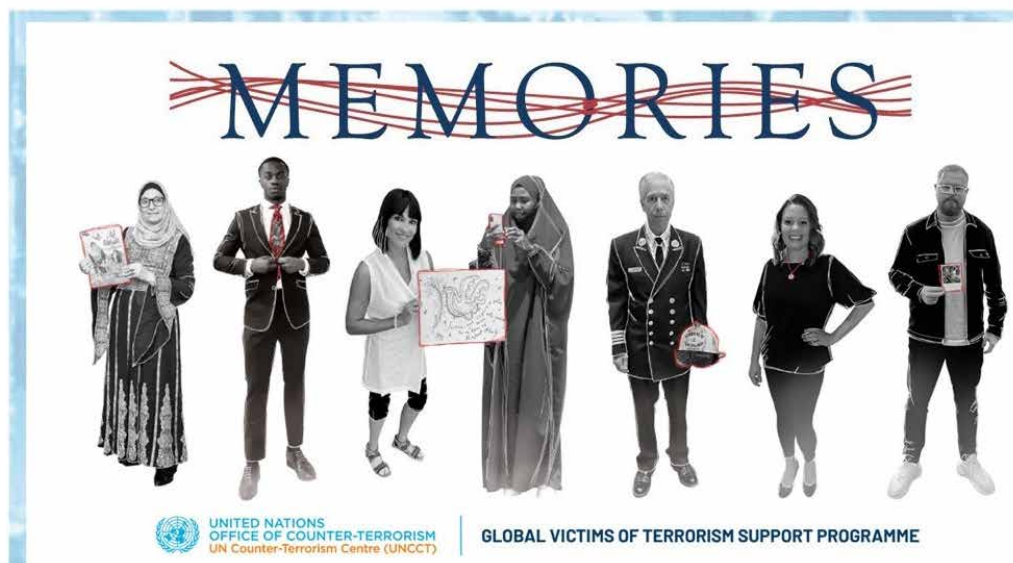
High-level commemoration of the sixth ‘International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism’

“ On this day, we pay tribute to the extraordinary work of those victims and survivors who have resolved to use their experiences to bring about change. ”

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General, 21 August 2023

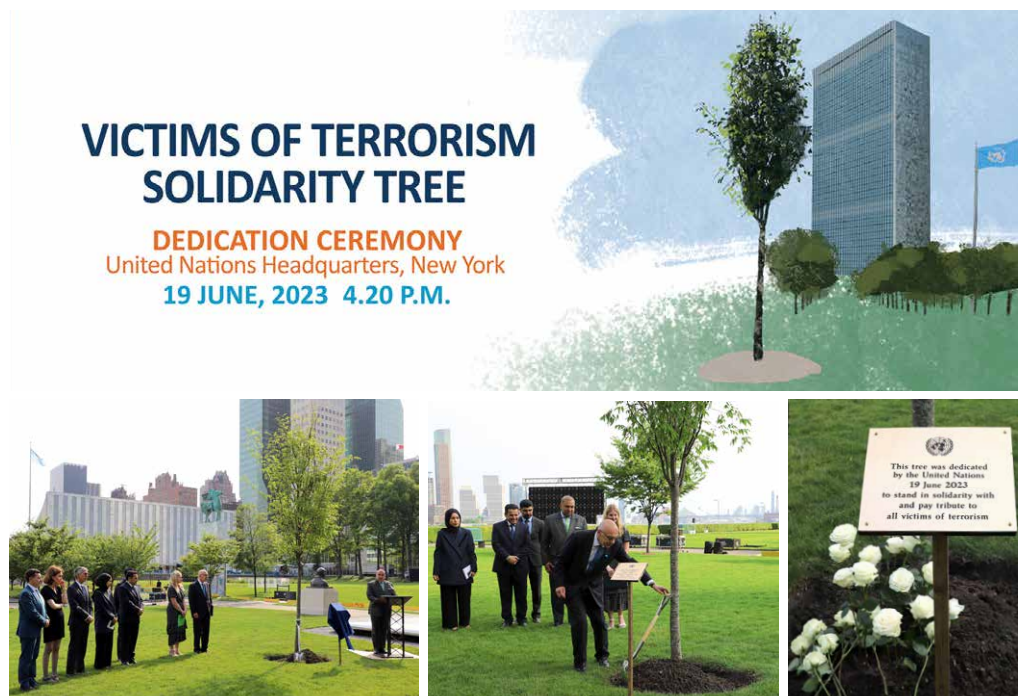
UNCCT held several events to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (‘International Day’) on 21 August. The theme for 2023’s International Day, which was selected following consultations with victims and victims’ associations, was “*The Legacy Project: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future*”. The theme recognized that many victims and survivors of terrorism use their experiences and

journeys to create meaningful and positive change by educating people about the long-lasting impact of terrorism and by honouring those whose lives were lost and those whose lives were forever altered. A high-level session was organised, with the participation of Secretary-General António Guterres and Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, with interventions by the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (Iraq and Spain), and by four victims of terrorism. The discussions reached a wide audience including through UN WebTV and the United Nations YouTube account. Other activities included a film montage of testimonies about the distinct legacy of 21 victims and survivors of terrorism from across the world. The “*Memories*” campaign was exhibited at the Visitors Lobby at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Through a short documentary and a photographic exhibition featuring the stories of 17 victims, the campaign aimed to raise awareness about the human stories that lie at the heart of each victim and survivor of terrorism, as well as the long-lasting impact each terrorist attack. It also sought to highlight the commonalities that connect victims across the world and to emphasize the importance of preventing terrorist attacks and the emergence of new victims.



High-level Dedication Ceremony of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree

The Global VoT Support Programme unveiled the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree to honour victims and survivors of terrorism worldwide through a permanent symbol of remembrance at the United Nations Headquarters. Attended by high-level members of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the ceremony underscored the resilience of victims and survivors, generating awareness and momentum for the international victims of terrorism agenda. The event featured remarks by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Spain, and Iraq as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, three victims of terrorism, and the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the ceremony, each head of delegation laid a white rose at the foot of the tree as a gesture of peace, unity, and remembrance.



Photo/UNCCT

Policy and coordination

Ministerial-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

With the coordination support of the Global VoT Support Programme, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, held a ministerial-level meeting on the margins of the High-Level Week of the General Assembly. Co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Iraq and Spain, the meeting focused on key topics such as the update of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/305, the outcomes of the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, and preparations for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review in 2026. Members of the Group of Friends emphasized the importance of a cohesive global response and continuous support for victims of terrorism.

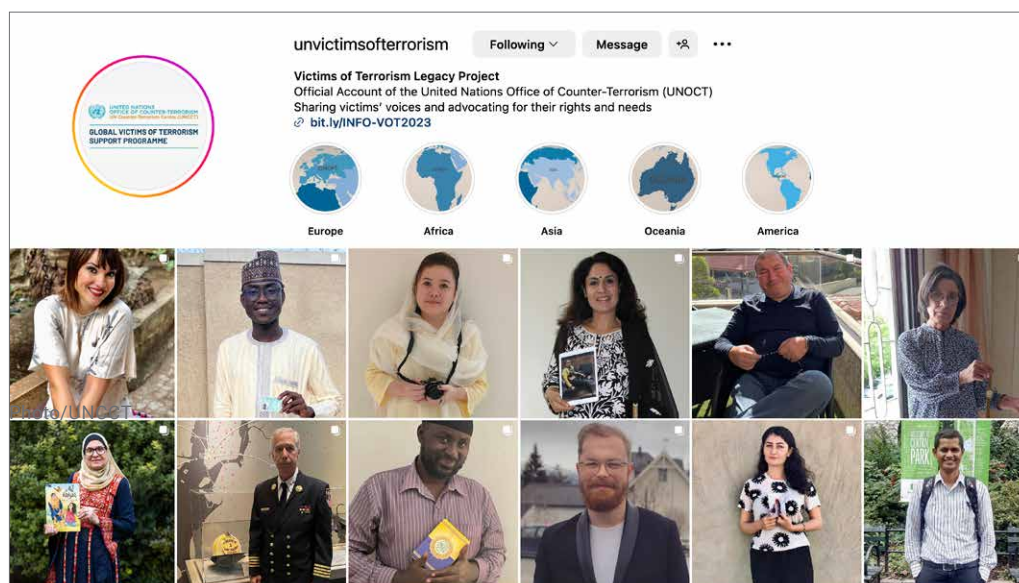
Strengthening strategic partnership with the European Union

The Global VoT Support Programme and the European Union strengthened their cooperation through several initiatives focused on supporting victims of terrorism. The Programme participated in the inaugural conference of the European Union Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EU/CVT), engaging in workshops to discuss key priorities and moderating a session on international cooperation and sustainable funding. This event facilitated network expansion and reinforced relationships with European Union members and victim associations. The Programme also attended the Spring Conference of the European Network on Victims' Rights to present their 2023 priorities and explore collaboration opportunities with various European Union entities and external partners. In August, the Programme participated in an EU/CVT webinar that commemorated the

United Nations International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism, highlighting the Centre's initiatives to support victims of terrorism and emphasizing the importance of victim-centred tributes. Also, during an international seminar on victims of terrorism under Spain's European Union Council Presidency, the Programme contributed to discussions on enhancing victim care, advocating for rights, and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. These activities collectively aimed at improving support structures and fostering a unified global approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Communications and visibility

Launch of the 'Legacy Gallery' in support of Victims of Terrorism



In August, the Programme launched the '*The Legacy Gallery Project*' that seeks to inspire others and to pay tribute to those whose lives have been lost or forever transformed by terrorism, as well as to reach out to new generations to transform their understanding of the impact of terrorism. The Legacy Gallery was launched by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov during the high-level online event for the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, through a short film explaining its aims and objectives.

The social media campaign to promote the International Day and launch 'The Legacy Gallery Project' on Instagram attracted a high level of interest on social media platforms, including the UNOCT X account and the main United Nations Facebook, X and Instagram accounts. **#VictimsofTerrorism reached 7,500 mentions, @UN_OCT received 41 million impressions** on the day of the event, and **almost 14 million accounts on X and Instagram posted at least once about International Day**. The launch was organized in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of Terrorism.

'Memories' exhibition unveiled to remember the victims of terrorism

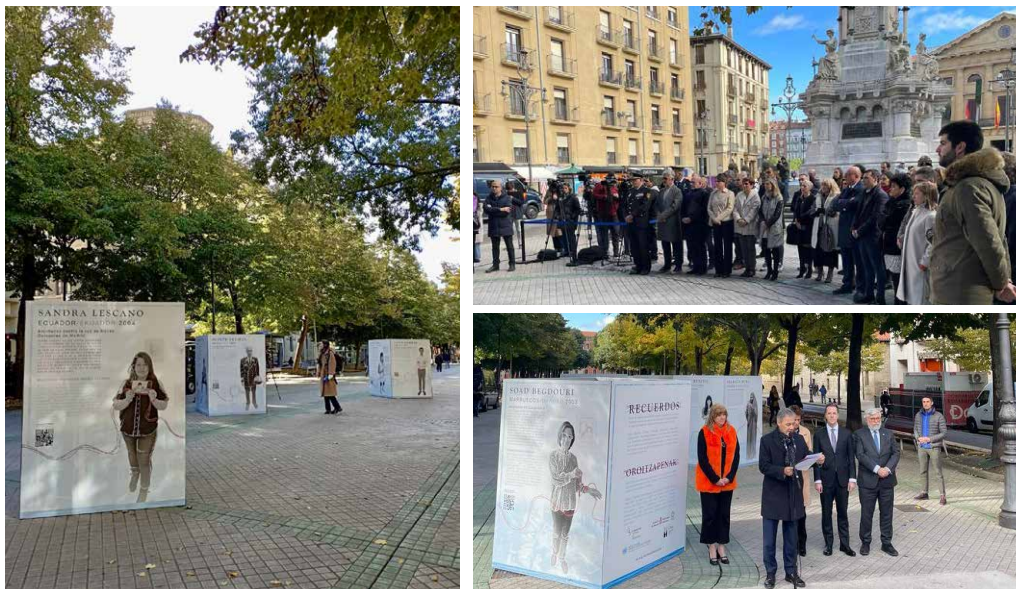


Photo/UNCCT

The Global VoT Support Programme inaugurated the 'Memories' exhibition at the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. During the high-level event in June, in which 60 people participated, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Mr. Fernando Grande-Marlaska, Minister of Interior of Spain, Mr. Florencio Domínguez, Director of the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre, and Spanish victims of terrorism reflected on the importance of listening to victims, understanding their experiences, fostering knowledge to deepen understanding and empathy towards victims, and strengthen the collective resolve to end terrorism.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov engaged with the victims through a dedicated session, facilitating personal connections and providing an empathetic platform for dialogue and understanding. Through this event, victims and survivors of terrorism were able to share their experiences and advocate for their rights and needs.

In September, the Programme unveiled the ‘*Memories Exhibition*’ in Valladolid, Spain. The exhibition, undertaken in partnership with the Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre and the Victims of Terrorism Foundation (Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo – FVT), featured testimonies from victims of terrorism worldwide, and aimed to give a voice to these victims, highlighting their courage and resilience. During the event, national and regional authorities, victims of terrorism, CSOs, and representatives from the Programme reflected on the importance of memorialization and the power of victims’ narratives and testimonies. The event also included the screening of the ‘*Memories*’ film and a guided tour of the photographic exhibition. The event was attended by 40 people (20 women and 20 men). The exhibition was then exhibited in Pamplona, Spain.



Photo/UNCCT

Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Summary

The Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR) supports the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States by providing guidance, coordination, and capacity-building in the PRR of terrorist suspects, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and their accompanying family members returning from conflict zones. Through the Programme, Member States and relevant United Nations entities benefit from increased coherence and a common vision of various United Nations counter-terrorism, security, accountability, human rights, and protection mandates working on PRR issues.

Strategic Objective

To support Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored human-rights-based PRR strategies, policies, and approaches.

Partners

The programme has received funding support from Belgium, European Union, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, the United States and Uzbekistan.

Impact in 2023

- Enhanced coordination between United Nations entities and the Government of Iraq with regards to the return of Iraqi citizens from Syria, especially relating to security and accountability aspects.
- Strengthened the capacity of 29 government and civil society representatives in Uzbekistan to communicate more effectively regarding the return of their citizens from Syria and Iraq – contributing towards successful long-term reintegration.
- Enhanced the exchange of regional best practice, in Central Asia, on managing returns from Syria and Iraq.
- Improved the understanding of 40 government and civil society representatives in Uzbekistan with regards to the application of mental health and psychosocial support measures in the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees from Syria and Iraq.
- Improved the understanding of 25 government representatives in Central Asia with regards to the collection and use of battlefield evidence for the prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters.

Key metrics for 2023

Capacity building	Participation of women ⁸	Countries supported
115 participants	37%	5

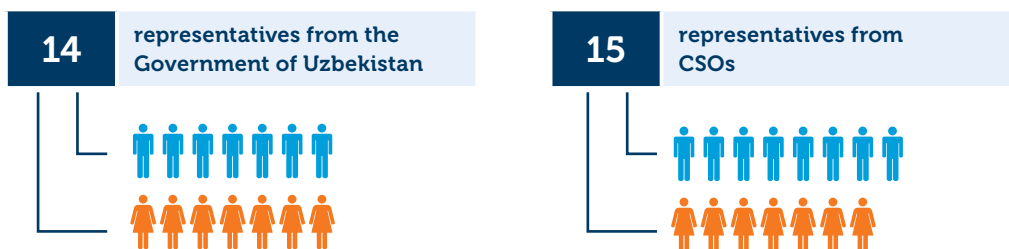
Achievements

Strengthened capacity of Uzbekistan to use strategic communications

In January, UNCCT delivered a four-day in-person workshop on Whole-of-Society Reintegration Communication for the Government of Uzbekistan and civil society representatives, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The first two days were dedicated to government

⁸ Excluding where gender was not listed

officials, while the last two days were dedicated to civil society representatives. The workshop was attended by 14 representatives from the Government of Uzbekistan (seven men and seven women) and 15 representatives from CSOs (8 men and 7 women). The training focused on effective communication to promote trust building and social cohesion between community members and returnees, in support to long-term reintegration.



Establishment of the Security and Accountability for Adults Task Force with Iraq

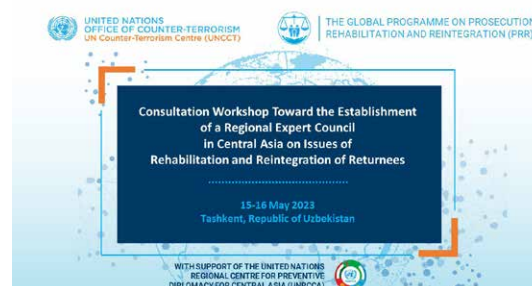
To support the implementation of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees ("Global Framework"), in 2023 UNCCT's Global Programme on PRR established the Security and Accountability for Adults Task Force (SAATF) with the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council. The SAATF is one of the four thematic task forces under the Technical Working Group for the Implementation of the Global Framework on Iraqi Returnees from Syria and supports the Government of Iraq to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies for Iraqi nationals repatriated from camps and detention centres in north-east Syria. The Global Programme on PRR co-chairs the SAATF with the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council, convening relevant United Nations entities and government stakeholders, including security and intelligence agencies, and investigative and judicial authorities, to address security and accountability needs and concerns arising from the ongoing repatriation process. The first meeting of the SAATF was held in December 2023. In 2023, United Nations partners and government counterparts agreed that the SAATF would focus on four priority areas, namely:

i.	Legal Framework and Criminal Justice;
ii.	Screening and Risk Assessment;
iii.	Criminal Justice Based Rehabilitation of Adult Returnees; and,
iv.	Support to Victims/Survivors.

The Global Programme on PRR will continue to support the Government of Iraq to ensure human rights-based, age and gender responsive all-of-UN support on these issues with subsequent rounds of returns in 2024 and beyond.

Establishment of the Regional Expert Council in Central Asia

In May, the Global Programme on PRR organized a regional workshop in Uzbekistan to support Central Asian Member States to develop a framework and preliminary terms of reference for a Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees, to share regional and national experiences, best practices, and challenges related to the repatriation of nationals from camps and detention centres in north-east Syria and Iraq. The workshop, organized with the support of UNRCCA, included 25 participants (20 men and 5 women) from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, who agreed upon the main objectives, structure, and membership of the Council. Following the workshop, participants validated the content of the Regional Expert Council's Terms of Reference, which will be finalized, and the Regional Expert Council launched in 2024.



Improved understanding of the relationship between mental health and rehabilitation and reintegration

In July, the Global Programme on PRR organized a workshop in Uzbekistan on Enhancing Psychosocial Support and Resilience of Returnees from Conflict Zones, in conjunction with UNODC. The workshop, brought together a total of 40 participants (20 men and 20 women), targeting MHPSS practitioners from Uzbek civil society, as well as the Government of Uzbekistan, who are providing ongoing support to persons associated with Da'esh returning from Iraq and Syria. The workshop gathered global and local experts in the areas of MHPSS and PCVE to raise participant's awareness of the linkages between rehabilitation and reintegration with mental health.



A three-day workshop on 'Enhancing Psychosocial Support and Resilience for Returnees from Conflict Zones' conducted by UNCCT/UNOCT and UNODC in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. 18-20 July 2023. Photo/UNCCT

Cooperation on the Collection and Use of Battlefield Evidence in Central Asia

The Global Programme on PRR held a regional workshop in Istanbul, Türkiye, on cross-border cooperation to strengthen the understanding and cooperation of Member States in Central Asia on the collection and use of battlefield evidence for the prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters. The workshop, which took place in November, brought together 25 participants (7 women and 18 men) from four regional Member States. The objective of the workshop was to improve understanding of the collection, handling, preserving, and sharing of battlefield evidence among law enforcement, prosecutorial services, judiciary, intelligence and other relevant security and judiciary to support the effective prosecution of individuals suspected of terrorist acts, including FTFs, in a human rights-compliant, gender-responsive manner.

Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme)

Summary

The CFT Programme was launched in 2020 following a mandate received by UNOCT through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019). The Programme strives to mainstream human rights considerations throughout all outcomes and outputs, including specific initiatives on identifying and addressing adverse effects of CFT measures on individuals or entities, ensuring that technical assistance is guided and implemented in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law.

Strategic Objective

The main strategic objective of the CFT Programme is to support Member States and regional entities to detect, prevent and counter-terrorism financing through the provision of technical assistance at the national and regional level, in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, other international law obligations and FATF Recommendations.

Partners

The Programme has received funding support from France, India, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, and the Russian Federation.

Impact in 2023

- Successfully completed the user acceptance testing process for the UNCCT-developed goFintel software with the Dutch Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
- Implemented the Joint Action Plan on Countering the Financing of Terrorism for 2022-2024 with the United Arab Emirates through a partnership with the United Arab Emirates' Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation (EOCN).
- Launched and implemented the Counter-Terrorism and Virtual Assets initiative with the Eurasian Group on Combatting Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) and the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation (Rosfinmonitoring).
- Launched and advanced the methodology for the Regional Risk Assessment on Countering the Financing of Terrorism, in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Secretariat.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women	Countries supported
5,000 trainees	39%	20

Achievements

In 2023, UNCCT continued to support Member States in countering the financing of terrorism. Positive results were achieved in helping beneficiary FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRB) and their member countries to develop regional risk assessments and comply with national implementation of FATF Recommendations.

Development of goFintel software

The main achievement of 2023 was the progresses in the development of the goFintel software, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). 2023 saw significant progress in this regard, as UNCCT worked closely with its partners to create a software application that will support the critical analysis and investigations functions of FIUs worldwide.



In 2023, goFintel successfully completed the user acceptance testing process with the FIU of the Netherlands in November 2023. Several other FIU members of the Egmont Group indicated their interest in the application throughout the course of the year. In addition, UNCCT elaborated a coordinated approach with UNODC and its goAML team to support complementarity of both software packages depending on the diverse needs of FIUs around the world.

Terrorist Financing risks

Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) on Terrorist Financing

The overall objective of the assessment is to augment the current understanding of the terrorist financing risks at the regional level in Eastern and Southern Africa to help identify priority areas where regional efforts could be focused to strengthen CFT capabilities and better mitigate terrorism financing risks across the region. The RRA assists Member States in developing their own CFT Strategies that are informed by risk and to be able to allocate resources accordingly. UNCCT supported the ESAAMLG Secretariat and its 21 member states, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, in the conduct of the RRA process on terrorism financing, including by collecting information from national authorities to improve the understanding of the terrorism financing risks faced by the ESAAMLG region.

Preventing and Mitigating the Risks of the Misuse of Technology

A side event during the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week (CT Week) was organized by the CFT Programme, OICT, CTED, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, with the participation of the European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting and the Royal United Services Institute. The event shed light on the mechanisms implemented by the United Nations and Member States to effectively prevent and mitigate risks associated with the misuse of technology in the fight against terrorism and its financing, ensuring that due diligence protocols are established and enforced to fully address human rights implications. The event was attended by more than 300 participants from Member States, civil society, academia, international organizations, and regional entities.



Photo/UNCCT

Virtual Assets

Knowledge Product on the misuse of Virtual Assets for Terrorist Financing purposes

The UNCCT Counter-Terrorism initiative on Virtual Assets was launched at the EAG Plenary meeting in Kazakhstan in June 2023, in partnership with EAG and Rosfinmonitoring, with the participation of 200 people (80 women and 120 men) from nine Member States.

A subsequent event on *“The use of virtual assets for committing crimes and terrorism financing”* was held in August in the Russian Federation. Substantive contributions were articulated around the risks of misuse of virtual assets for criminal purposes, including terrorism financing, and on mitigating measures (from public and private sector perspective). The event featured exchanges on the use of new technologies and platforms for terrorist financing, including Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and crypto exchanges. The event brought together **over 1200 participants from six Member States, academia, and several regional organizations**.

In September 2023, UNCCT participated in the third Eurasian Group Forum on Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), along with EAG, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring. The Forum covered the issues of the laundering of proceeds of crime and terrorist financing, and the risks of the use of virtual currencies for criminal purposes. It provided an opportunity for representatives of FIUs to discuss their respective challenges in combatting to the use of virtual currencies for criminal purposes. The Forum included a workshop co-organized by UNCCT and EAG as part of the project *“Preventing the use of cryptocurrencies and virtual assets trade in financing terrorism”*, with the support of Rosfinmonitoring. UNCCT presented the first set of observations on combating the use of virtual assets in terrorist financing in the EAG region.

The final event organized under this initiative, in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan and UNRCCA, was held in Uzbekistan in November. The aim of this event was to gather expertise, best practices and perspectives on the risk of, and responses to the misuse of Virtual Assets for terrorist financing purposes. Altogether, 140 people (30 women and 110 men) from nine countries attended the event, which was held in partnership with EAG and Rosfinmonitoring.



Photo/UNCCT

The first observations of the knowledge product were presented at the EAG Plenary Meeting held in China in December. At the meeting were over 200 attendees from 15 Member States, as well as representatives of UNODC, FATF, EAG, the World Bank, the



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the private sector. The UNCCT presentation at the meeting highlighted the importance of developing region-specific and human rights-compliant guidance in the rapidly developing area of new and emerging technologies, such as Virtual Assets.

Joint initiatives with the Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation (EOCN) of the United Arab Emirates

Joint UNOCT- EOCN Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism

The workshop on “*Countering the Financing of Terrorism: Investigations and New Technologies*”, held in November in Dubai, focused on exchanging views on best practices and perspectives on the risk of and responses to the misuse of Virtual Assets for terrorist financing purposes. The workshop took note of the investigation process, and the synergies virtual assets have with other new and emerging technologies. The discussions highlighted that risk-based approaches to new technologies from a CFT perspective was the way to ensure a balance between innovation, financial inclusion, and protection of human rights, including by taking in the guidance from the Delhi Declaration of 2022 and remaining in line with FATF standards. Participants included 1,400 women and 2,100 men from mainly private and public sector in the United Arab Emirates, in addition to representatives from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, CTED and UNODC.



Strengthened Capabilities for Public-Private Partnerships to disrupt Terrorist Financing in the UAE

The workshop on “Sharing of Information Between Public and Private Sector” was held in the United Arab Emirates in January, under the Joint Action Plan with the Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation of the United Arab Emirates. The aim of the workshop was to deepen participant understanding of the role of public-private financial information-sharing partnerships to detect, prevent and disrupt terrorism and its financing. The workshop covered experience sharing between United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, South Africa and Egypt in public-private partnerships, tools and technology for data sharing, confidentiality and data protection, de-risking, and combatting sanction evasion.

Global Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme

Summary

The BSM Programme works to ensure effective border security and management for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) across land, air, and maritime borders, as well as the cross-border movement of licit and illicit cargo, including drugs, weapons, arms, and munitions that may be used for terrorist purposes. The Programme is intended to be flexible in nature to allow for close coordination and the ability to build upon existing efforts of key United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact partner entities, regional and sub-regional bodies, as well as to address the ever-changing threat landscape, and most critically, to

meet the evolving needs and requirements of Member States. UNCCT works closely with UNODC, IOM, World Customs Organization (WCO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), INTERPOL and others in implementing the Programme.

Strategic Objective

To prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and stem the flow of FTFs through improved border security and management and cross-border cooperation among beneficiary countries.

Partners

The programme has received funding support from Italy, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, UNPDF funded by China, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Impact in 2023

- After extensive work with IOM, UNODC, and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) on strategic design, the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) for West Africa was launched in September in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to address gaps in security and border management in West Africa, with the main objective to improve coherence and synergies in support of participating West African Member States. The first activities planned after the launch were to conduct a baseline assessment to identify the main gaps, needs and priorities in border security and management across the current seven (7) IBSM participating countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo).
- In cooperation with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the BSM Programme is co-leading the production of the addendum to the GCTF framework document on "Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counter-terrorism and Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters," released in 2016, together with an associated Training of Trainers (ToT) programme. The Addendum will expand the scope of the pristine document adding elements of human rights and gender mainstreaming, the use of new technologies, like biometrics and UAS, and the inclusion of border communities in the design of border strategies.
- 86 government and law enforcement officials (58 men, 28 women) were trained on border security management and its important relationship to countering terrorism.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women ⁹	Countries supported
86 participants	33%	10

⁹ As a proportion of all participants where gender was recorded

Achievements

Good practices in border security and management

In May, the BSM Programme, together with IOM, CTED, and UNODC, organized a regional workshop in Italy on *“Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen Coordination and Capacities to Counter-terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa and the Sahel Region.”*

During the workshop, 31 participants (10 women and 21 men) from 10 Member States discussed preventing cross-border movement of terrorists and stemming the flow of FTFs, including returnees through improved border security. The workshop featured a range of lectures and discussions led



Photo/UNCCT

by UNCCT's BSM Unit, CTED, UNODC, IOM, EUROPOL, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), OSCE, the Burkina Faso Permanent Secretariat Border National Commission, and the Italian Department of Public Security (Polizia de Stato).

The *“High Level Roundtable meeting on Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen Coordination and Capacities to Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa and the Sahel Region”* was held in Italy in May and brought together 55 people (18 women and 37 men) from law enforcement in the 10 regional Member States to discuss reinforced cooperation, specialized border security support needs, specialized training in biometrics, and the IBSM.

Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

Summary

The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies provides capacity-building support to Member States and international and regional organizations for developing and implementing effective responses to challenges and opportunities that the Internet and other information and communications technologies provide in countering terrorism. The Programme supports the United Nations' strategic commitment to a world without terrorism by:

- Developing knowledge and raising awareness of challenges and opportunities related to new technologies in countering terrorism;
- Enhancing skills and capacities required to develop and implement effective national counter-terrorism policy responses to the challenges and opportunities of new technologies;
- Enhancing skills and capacities required to protect critical infrastructures against terrorist cyber-attacks; and
- Enhancing criminal justice capacities to counter and investigate terrorist use of new technologies

Strategic Objective

The Programme strategic objective is to contribute to global security by improving Member State's counter-terrorism policy responses and strengthening law enforcement capacities to respond to the increasing use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, while protecting human rights, in a gender-responsive manner, and improving their national ability to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cyberactivity by terrorist actors against critical infrastructure.

Partners

The Programme has received funding support from the European Union, Germany, Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, and United Arab Emirates.

Impact in 2023

- Seven knowledge products were developed and launched as part of the knowledge development phase of the European Union-funded CT TECH initiative. These products are designed to provide practical guidance and enhance the capabilities of law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies worldwide. These products were instrumental in providing the foundation for subsequent workshops and regional events, ensuring that the knowledge disseminated is both practical and aligned with international standards.
- Eight CT TECH regional workshops raised awareness and shared best practices for the development of national counter-terrorism policies and operational responses to new technologies.
- Three Regional Cyber Drill Exercises, organized with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Organization of American States-Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS-CICTE), provided hands-on experience for 356 participants in responding to simulated cyber threats and improved technical skills and readiness to handle real-world cyber incidents and Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) capabilities.
- A side-event organized during the third CT Week in June, attended by 70 participants, discussed the potential misuse of generative AI for terrorist purposes and global responses to this emerging threat.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women ¹⁰	Regional conferences and special events	Countries supported
1,124 officials	30%	20 regional conferences	136

Achievements

CT TECH Initiative

In 2023, the Programme continued the implementation of the European Union-funded CT TECH initiative together with INTERPOL, to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities in selected partner countries to counter the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, as well as supporting the leveraging of new and emerging technologies in the fight against terrorism. In 2023, two phases of the initiative were completed, including the knowledge development and awareness raising phases.

CT TECH Initiative: Knowledge Development Phase and Expert Group Meetings

In February, the first expert group meeting under the CT TECH initiative was held, with 24 participants (8 women and 16 men). The focus of the meeting was on the capabilities law enforcement agencies need to effectively respond to the evolving landscape of new technologies in counter-terrorism. Discussions included: practical guidance for first responders on handling digital devices to ensure their utility as electronic evidence; and identification of needs, requirements, and capabilities of law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies regarding new technologies. In March, the second expert group meeting took place, with 24 expert participants (10 women and 14 men). Key points included: the necessity for better regulation and oversight of online data collection for counter-terrorism purposes; and the strengthening of collaboration between law enforcement and small tech companies. The final expert group meeting in March gathered 15 participants (5 women and 10 men), key discussions included: the



Photo/UNCCT

¹⁰ As a proportion of all participants where gender was recorded

conduct of threat assessments in alignment with human rights and the rule of law; and the need for human-rights based approaches in counter-terrorism and technology adoption.

The collective insights and recommendations from these expert group meetings, as well as the side event below, will guide future efforts in enhancing law enforcement capabilities, cooperation with ICT companies, and the development of robust, human-rights compliant counter-terrorism policies.

CT TECH regional awareness raising events

From September to November, the CT TECH initiative organized a series of five regional awareness-raising events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan. These events aimed to raise awareness and share knowledge on good practices in developing national CT policy and operational responses. They further allowed for the strengthening of law enforcement approaches to countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes, as well as for exploration of the use of new technologies to prevent and counter terrorism in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, the rule of law, and in a gender-responsive manner.

From September to November, the initiative organized a series of five regional workshops in Africa, Central Asia, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of these workshops was to promote the seven knowledge products developed under the CT TECH initiative. In total these workshops were attended by 135 people (44 women and 91 men) from 30 countries.



CT Tech workshop
in Thailand, 25-26
October 2023.
Photo/UNCCT

Participants in the
first of five CT TECH
regional awareness
raising workshops
in Kenya, September
2023. Photo/UNCCT



CT TECH Facial Recognition Systems Trainings

From January to November, 124 officials (32 women and 92 men) from 19 countries strengthened their skills in the use of the facial recognition systems in counter-terrorism investigations. The training, delivered by INTERPOL, focused on best practices in extracting and sharing facial images and international facial image exchange through INTERPOL. The courses also incorporated a 'train the trainer' element, providing all attendees with the knowledge and skills to provide training on facial recognition to their peers. There were several practical exercises throughout the courses focused on both facial image collection and extraction skills as well as effective training skills.

CT TECH Investigative techniques in Darknet and Virtual Assets

In December, in Tirana, Albania, 20 officials (4 women and 16 men) from five Member States attended a training on Darknet and Virtual Assets investigative techniques, supported by the Global Programme. The course also incorporated a module on how to secure the working environment, providing all attendees with the knowledge and skills to set up their own virtual machine for safe work.

There were several practical exercises throughout the course focused on both virtual machine setup and specific OSINT techniques. At the end of the training, participants participated in a fictional operational scenario to solidify their OSINT and Darknet investigative skills.

CT TECH Open-Source Intelligence Training

In October, 18 officials (5 women, 13 men) from nine countries strengthened their investigative techniques and OSINT skills. They learnt how to secure the working environment, set up their own virtual machine for safe OSINT investigations. There were several practical exercises throughout the course focused on both virtual machine setup and specific OSINT techniques. At the end of the training, participants participated in a fictional operational scenario to solidify their OSINT skills.

Artificial Intelligence

Confronting the Dark Side of Generative AI

The CT Week side-event highlighted the significant technological advancements that have taken place since the 2020 launch of the UNCCT and UNICRI publication *Algorithms and Terrorism*¹¹, and raised awareness of what the malicious use of generative AI may



CT Week 2023 Side Event on "The Battle of the Bytes", 23 June 2023. Photo/UNCCT

11 See <https://unicri.it/News/Algorithms-Terrorism-Malicious-Use-Artificial-Intelligence-Terrorist-Purposes>

look like, and informed Member States about this emerging threat as they engage in international processes, such the implementation of the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, adopted in October 2022 by the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). The event was interactive and included participant questions to a ChatGPT moderated Q&A session. A total of 70 people (40 women and 30 men) from 48 Member States participated in the side event.

Cybersecurity

UNCCT's Cyber Drill Exercises in Collaboration with ITU

The Programme, in collaboration with ITU, organized two regional Cyber Drill exercises in Malawi. The first for African Member States, brought together 356 people (109 women and 247 men) with participants from 22 African countries. The exercise strengthened the investigative skills of participants in cyber-incidents against critical infrastructures through enhanced collaboration and information sharing regionally and at the national level between national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) and law enforcement.

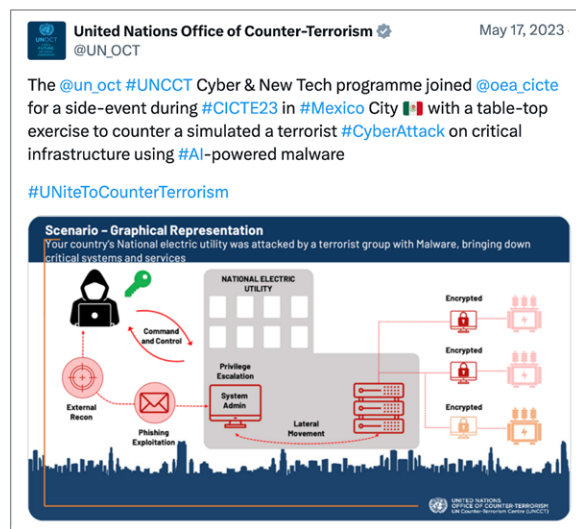
In October, a second regional Cyber Drill exercise was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, co-organized with the United Arab Emirates Cybersecurity Council, in collaboration with ITU and the Arab Regional Cybersecurity Centre (ARCC). UNCCT delivered a training on the cyber drill as well as effective international strategies and shared experiences on cybersecurity. Altogether, 175 people (26 women and 149 men) from 45 countries in Asia and Africa participated in the event.



UNCCT's Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise in Collaboration with OAS-CICTE

In May, in coordination with OAS-CICTE, the Government of Mexico, and the Latin American Jewish Congress, UNCCT organized a side event on the margins of the CICTE Plenary Meeting to raise awareness, promote coordination, and share information on capacity-building to prevent and respond to the increasing use of information and communication

technologies by terrorists and violent extremists. The Programme will continue working with ITU and OAS in 2024 to deliver cyber drill and tabletop exercises aimed at raising awareness and building capacities of Member States and regional organizations in countering the terrorist cybersecurity threat to critical infrastructure and building capacities of law enforcement agencies in open-source investigative skills.



Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS)

Summary

The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS Programme) was created in 2021 to support Member States in addressing the threat posed by UAS. Terrorists continue to prove their ability to adapt and evolve, moving beyond conventional attacks to threaten individuals, populations, facilities, and public order. This includes the use of AROS for intelligence gathering, direct and indirect attack, and communication to support propaganda. The possibility of terrorist groups combining technologies and using AROS to disperse chemical, biological, or radiological material also presents a serious threat with global, regional and national consequences. The Programme is jointly implemented by UNCCT and the Special Project and Innovation Branch (SPIB) of UNOCT.

Strategic Objective

The main strategic objective of the AROS Programme is to support Member States in countering terrorist use of UAS, including providing digital forensics training for UAS investigations, as well supporting positive use of UAS by national law enforcement agencies, such as border security and monitoring efforts.

Partners

The AROS Programme has received funding from Germany, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, and United Arab Emirates.

Impact in 2023

- The report “Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of UAS by Non-State Actors for Terrorism-Related Purposes” was widely publicised in trainings and large-scale events through lectures in Greece, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, in cooperation with the European Union, INTERPOL, academia, civil society and private sector.
- UNCCT supported multiple European Union trainings, with expert lectures for officials in the MENA region, on how to counter and conduct digital forensics investigations of UAS.

Key metrics for 2023

Academia and civil society trained	Public sector engaged (law enforcement and judiciary)	Private sector engaged
35 trainees	100 officials	150 participants

Achievements

Capacity-Building

UNCCT support for European Union trainings for officials from law enforcement and the judiciary

In both May and December, UNCCT supported European Union trainings for officials from the MENA region, with expert lectures on how to counter and conduct digital forensics investigations of UAS. The specific curriculum used was previously developed by UNCCT in 2021-2022. The lectures highlighted the need to secure crime and terrorist scenes to protect evidence and mitigate the risks of both contamination and booby-traps. The trainings also included providing a historic overview and context of UAS attacks, both globally and region-specific for MENA. The trainings were attended by more than 70 participants from 20 Member States.



The AROS Programme, in partnership with the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) and the Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre (CEOMP) in Lomé, launched its first Micro-UAS training courses for Togo. 3-18 May 2023. Photo/UNOCT

Knowledge Development and Outreach

Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of UAS by Non-State Actors for Terrorism-Related Purposes

UNCCT showcased the report on “Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of UAS by Non-State Actors for Terrorism-Related Purposes” in multiple higher-level events in combination with lectures on countering terrorist use of drones, including at the 2023 T.M.C. Asser Institute Advanced Counter-Terrorism Programme in the Netherlands in August, the 2023 Security Summit on Drones in Norway in September, the Counter-Drone Homeland Conference in the United Kingdom in October, and the European Union workshop for law enforcement and the judiciary on new technologies in Greece in December.



Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Summary

The UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons (Weapons Programme) was established in 2018, and since its launch, more than 8,000 representatives from over 100 Member States have benefitted from it. The Programme has developed a global training portfolio with 20 courses; implemented 10 multi-year projects at the global, regional, and national levels; prepared eight publications and conducted table-top and field exercises.

Strategic Objective

The Weapons Programme contributes to making the world safer and more secure from terrorist acquisition and use of weapons by enhancing capacities of Member States, International Organizations and United Nations entities to prevent terrorists from

accessing and using weapons, materials and/or components and to ensure that these same stakeholders are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials, including to weapons of mass destruction (WMD), chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials, small arms and light weapons (SALW), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

Partners

The Weapons Programme has received funding support from Canada, European Union, Finland, France, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and the United States.

Impact in 2023

In 2023, the Weapons Programme launched four new projects and conducted outreach and capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels, enhancing capacities and awareness of over 600 officials from over 70 Member States to counter terrorist use of weapons, including WMD/CBRN materials, SALW, IEDs and UAS.

Notably, following a national advocacy event for parliamentarians organized by UNOCT, Albania ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) in August 2023.

Key metrics for 2023

Workshops and training	Participation of women ¹²	Countries supported
628 participants	23%	74

Achievements

Preventing and responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism

Measures to develop national CBRN capabilities to counter terrorist attacks in Africa

Following a virtual seminar with 12 African Member States¹³ held in September, the Weapons Programme held an in-person workshop together with the United States Department of State, focused on supporting Sub-Saharan African countries in developing national exercise programmes to counter-terrorism. The workshop was supported by Kenya and

¹² Excluding where gender was not listed

¹³ Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania

organized within the framework of a joint UNCCT/United States Department of State project. The project gathered 35 representatives (4 women and 31 men) from 12 African Member States. Through interactive exercises and group work, the participants identified and prioritized the main threats and worked on building their own table-top exercises and evaluation plans aimed at addressing realistic WMD/CBRN terrorism threats. In November, a follow-up virtual seminar was held to allow the participants to apply the knowledge gained during the regional workshop. Participants from several Member States (Djibouti, Ghana, Madagascar, Senegal, and Tanzania) presented the exercises that each country had developed over the previous month, to receive feedback to further refine them.



Prevention of bioterrorism attacks involving biological agents and toxins

The Weapons Programme, together with OSCE, organized a regional workshop in Turkmenistan in June on the prevention of bioterrorism attacks involving biological agents and toxins. The workshop was attended by 70 participants (54 men and 16 women) from five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). Participants learned about measures at the national and regional level to prevent bioterrorism attacks involving biological agents and toxins.

Support to the Philippines towards adherence to ICSANT and CBRN Capacity Building

In March, the Weapons Programme met with and briefed several offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and presented the portfolios on preventing and responding to WMD/CBRN terrorism and on countering terrorist use of SALW, IEDs and UAS and their components. Officials informed about progress made towards ratification of ICSANT.

In addition, the Centre met with representatives of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Office of the President of the Philippines, in their capacity of National CBRN Focal Point, and the Head of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Secretariat for Southeast Asia. The meeting included exchanges on the CBRN trainings delivered in 2021 and the upcoming project on table-top exercises and national CBRN training programmes. Moreover, future collaboration on ICSANT, SALW, IEDs and UAS projects was discussed.

Enhancing detection of radiological and nuclear (R/N) material, and national security responses

In March, the Weapons Programme and France, in collaboration with the United States and through funding of the European Union and Finland, organized a two-and-a-half-day tabletop exercise and workshop on R/N detection and links to traditional national security, entitled 'Lutetia'. The event gathered close to 70 participants (61 men and 9 women) from relevant national agencies of 25 Member States, as well as representatives from international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UNODC. The exercise also enhanced participants' understanding of the applicability of international legal frameworks against acts of R/N terrorism, including ICSANT.



Photo/UNCCT

National Assembly of Togo develop understanding of ICSANT

In June, the Weapons Programme organized an advocacy event with the National Assembly of Togo to promote adherence to, and effective implementation of ICSANT. The event in Lomé was attended by 30 participants (20 men and 10 women), including members of the National Assembly of Togo, as well as representatives from the Nuclear Safety and Security Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event provided a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views on the threat of nuclear terrorism and legislative assistance available in support of adherence to the Convention and its effective implementation. Participants confirmed their commitment to ratifying the convention and indicated that it would be presented to the Government for ratification.



Photo/UNCCT

Investigating and prosecuting radiological and nuclear crimes and terrorism in Central Asia

In May, the Weapons Programme, in collaboration with Tajikistan, the Netherlands, Romania, UNODC and the United States, organized a three-day exercise and workshop on legal frameworks and nuclear forensics for Central Asia and the Caucasus region, entitled Snow Leopard. The event, which took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, was attended by 60 participants (47 men and 13 women) from 13 countries. Participants represented national agencies, including R/N regulatory authorities, intelligence, law enforcement and ministries of foreign affairs, as well as INTERPOL and the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As a result, participants had greater understanding of regional cooperation mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting R/N crimes and the applicability of ICSANT and other legal instruments.

Raising awareness on the Universalization and Implementation of ICSANT

In June, UNOCT, together with UNODC and the European Union, held a hybrid side event on the margins of CT Week, convening over 140 representatives from Member States (namely Albania, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, France, Ghana, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the



Philippines, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, and the United Kingdom) and international and regional organizations (including IAEA and UNODA). The event raised awareness of the importance of the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT and demonstrated the strong partnership between the European Union and the United Nations on enhancing multilateralism and strengthening nuclear security through its four-and-a-half-year capacity building project. Moreover, the side event provided a platform for Member States to share their experience, raised awareness of the threat of nuclear terrorism, the international legal framework, and the technical assistance available and showcased the significant work that UNCCT and UNODC have conducted in this area.

Launch of the new ICSANT project

In October, 50 participants (15 women and 35 men) from 25 countries attended a high-level event on the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly to launch the new project on ICSANT, jointly implemented with UNODC and funded by the European Union. The event, entitled *“Addressing the threat posed by nuclear terrorism to international peace and security: EU support to the UN for the universalization and effective implementation of*

the ICSANT” brought together high-level speakers from the European Union, UNODC, IAEA and Member States representatives to share perspectives on promoting adherence to and effective implementation of the Convention. Albania, Tajikistan, and the United States shared their countries’ experience, including the successful collaboration with UNCCT within the framework of the previous ICSANT project, and expressed their continuous commitment to promoting ICSANT.



Photo/UNCCT

Countering radiological and nuclear threats in Nigeria

In December, the Weapons Programme, in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser of Nigeria, organized a workshop on critical infrastructure protection against R/N threats to improve national preparedness and response to R/N terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure. The training gathered 30 representatives (4 women and 26 men) from 16 national entities. Participants discussed, inter alia, risk assessments, national policies and strategies, crime scene management. They also received information on ICSANT’s core provisions, and how the Convention provides a legal basis for information exchange and cooperation between States parties.



Photo/UNCCT

Countering terrorist use of small arms and light weapons (SALW), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)

Technical guidelines to implement the UN Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) in the Sahel, Maghreb and Caribbean regions



In February and March, the Weapons Programme, together with CTED and the Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), enhanced the capacities of countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and Caribbean regions to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017). After attending the workshops, all participants reported having a better understanding of provisions in Security Council resolution 2370 and of measures to prevent or deter terrorists from acquiring weapons.

Countering terrorist use of improvised explosive devices, unmanned aircraft systems and small arms and light weapons in East Africa

In September, UNCCT organized a regional capacity-building workshop for 68 participants (11 women and 56 men) from nine East African countries and 13 international and regional organizations in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the first regional capacity building event within the framework of the project on Building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa. The aim of the workshop was to increase awareness of the participants of the threat and risk posed by the supply of SALW, IEDs, and UAS in the region, as well as to enhance their understanding of upstream and downstream measures to counter terrorist use of these weapons, categories and systems.



Photo/UNCCT

Data Collection and Information Sharing on SALW Trafficking and Terrorism in Central Asia

In June, UNCCT and UNODC organized a three-day regional meeting for the community of practitioners on illicit trafficking of SALW of Central Asia in Ankara, Türkiye, which was attended by 20 participants (3 women and 17 men). The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen common knowledge of investigative strategies and approaches, as well as of good practices and knowledge of common challenges through the exchange and joint peer-to-peer analysis of cases relevant to terrorist use of illicit trafficking in SALW, their parts and components and ammunition. During the event, the scope and methodology of the regional study on firearms trafficking and terrorism-arms-crime nexus, its preliminary conclusions and recommendations were presented and discussed with national counterparts from five Central Asian countries. In addition, a study tour to the Forensics Department of the Turkish National Police was organized, with follow-up discussions with support from national and international experts.



Photo/UNCCT

Operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus for Kyrgyzstan

In December, UNODC and UNCCT held a joint training on “Operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus” for 19 participants (all men) from various government agencies in Kyrgyzstan. This new training was designed based on the feedback received from its participants in previous editions and their respective agencies. The course objectives included developing the knowledge and skills of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to operationalize strategies and formulate implementation plans to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus, raising situational awareness, improving institutional capabilities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute SALW trafficking and its nexus to terrorism and organized crime. A majority of training participants considered they were highly likely to use the training materials in the course of their work.

Update of Turkmenistan’s national legislation on SALW

In March, the Weapons Programme held a capacity-building workshop for officials in Turkmenistan on how to enhance their normative and institutional frameworks and measures to prevent and counter terrorists’ illicit access to SALW. The workshop engaged 21 representatives (20 men and 1 woman)¹⁴. As a result, 10 recommendations

¹⁴ Including representatives from the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Security, the State Customs Service, the State Frontier Service, the State Migration Service, and the Supreme Court.

to update and harmonize the national legislation in line with the international and regional instruments related to countering illicit SALW trafficking and its links to terrorism were prepared and presented to the participants.

Capacity Building on Investigations and Prosecution of Terrorism Cases related to Illicit Firearms Trafficking

In March, the Weapons Programme delivered a training on “*Countering Firearms Trafficking, Terrorism and Other Crimes: Tools for effective investigation and prosecution*”, to 23 officials (all men) from different agencies in Turkmenistan. The training built the capacities of criminal justice, customs, and border control, as well as arms control authorities. Activities such as combining theory and practice on topics related to firearms trafficking dynamics and terrorism nexus, as well as practical case scenarios were organized.



Photo/UNCCT

Regional Programmes

Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World

Summary

In the course of 2023, and following the successful adoption of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2022, UNOCT/UNCCT continued supporting the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) Secretariat, under a joint regional programme, to develop a plan of action to operationalize the Strategy and ensure its domestication and implementation in AIMC Member States. This plan of action aims to translate the strategy into actionable

programmes, through a diverse range of interventions that include capacity-building, technical assistance and policy support to AIMC Member States. The plan was developed through a consultative process, which involved expert-level meetings with CT and senior security officials from all Member States, who met twice, in November 2022 in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss the plan's components, dealing with pillars II and III of the GCTS, and in January 2023 in Tunis, Tunisia, to discuss the plan's components on pillars I and IV of the GCTS. In March 2023, the plan of action was adopted unanimously by Arab Interior Ministers, thus reflecting UNCCT's solid partnership with AIMC, and its role as the main technical assistance partner on CT matters in the region.

Partner

This programme has received funding support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Strategic Objective

The objective of this programme is to support the development and operationalization of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Through this support, UNOCT/UNCCT will help Member States to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the Arab region, enhance international and regional cooperation, strengthen compliance with international instruments against terrorism and international law in general, and enhance human rights and rule of law in states' responses to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Impact in 2023

- Adoption by consensus (21 States) of the plan of action of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Arab Interior Ministers at their annual meeting in March 2023.
- Inclusion and enhanced focus on human rights and rule of law protection in the plan of implementation, including matters pertaining to criminal procedure.
- Regional capacity-building workshop on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases, including foreign terrorist fighters.
- Technical expertise and support provided to the Naif Arab University for Security Studies (NAUSS) in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in implementing activities enshrined in the plan of action of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Participation in the annual Arab Counter-Terrorism Conference and meetings of Heads of Police and Security Agencies in the Arab world.

Achievements

As per the timebound plan of action of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, drafted and adopted with the technical support of UNOCT/UNCCT, several capacity-building activities were included and agreed upon by Member States, in addition to priority areas on PCVE, criminal justice, international cooperation and human rights and rule of law matters. The adoption of the strategy and its plan of action strengthened AIMC Member States' compliance with international CT obligations and adoption of best practices and standards

and enhanced the mainstreaming of gender and human rights standards in policy and practice. The domestication of the regional strategy at the national level, through review or adoption of national policies and legislative reforms, was advocated for throughout 2023 and a regional workshop focusing on the investigation, prosecution and trial of CT cases, in line with international law and best practices and standards was implemented in December 2023. This workshop brought together six AIMC Member States and included simulation exercises and roundtable discussions. Further activities on the remaining pillars of the regional strategy were also designed for implementation in 2024. UNOCT/UNCCT also supported several conferences and workshops organized by the NAUSS on the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in line the plan of action.

Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – Phase IV

Summary

The regional project *“Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – Phase IV”* (also known as the ‘JPoA project’) – is contributing to the balanced and integrated implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia. It is designed to provide a coordinated and tailored solution to enhance the capacity of Central Asian Member States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – to counterterrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism, through needs-based capacity-building, technical assistance, and expert mentoring by leveraging multi-stakeholders and multi-disciplinary best-practices. The project is implemented in partnership with UNRCCA, and it incorporates elements of United Nations programmes and projects implemented in the region to address the needs of the beneficiary countries. It also provides a platform for cooperation and coordination between the Member States, international and regional organizations, as well as civil society organizations in the region in their efforts to counterterrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Strategic Objective

The main goal is to support Central Asia Member States in implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia through enhanced capacity, as well as strengthened cooperation and coordination.

Partners

Since the inception of Phase IV in 2020, the Project has received funding from Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and UNPDF (China).

Impact in 2023

The project has significantly contributed to

- Enhanced regional security and cooperation in Central Asia through the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network (EWN).
- Implemented Central Asian PCVE efforts through dissemination of dedicated learning materials and organizing regional youth conferences.
- Advanced human rights by disseminating e-learning resources on human rights and CT to law enforcement officials.
- Fostered mutual coordination and collaboration with Central Asian Member States, United Nations agencies, and other regional and international organizations in implementation of national CT and PVE strategies in Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan through coordination meetings and development of roadmaps.
- Increased visibility of Central Asian initiatives in countering terrorism and violent extremism, showcasing the region's commitment to global security efforts.

Key metrics for 2023

Participation in EWN events	Participation of women	Countries supported
571 participants	38%	5 Central Asian countries

Achievements

Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia

In October 2023, UNOCT/UNCCT and UNRCCA organized the second Regional Conference on CT EWN in Tbilisi, Georgia, with discussions of the current dynamics of the situation in Afghanistan and its impact on Central Asian States in terms of counter-terrorism efforts. The event convened a diverse group of 65 in-person participants (13 women, 52 men), including representatives from various United Nations agencies, international and



Photo/UNCCT

regional organisations, government authorities, institutes of strategic studies, and national experts from Central Asia. The discussions encompassed topics such as (i) enhancing border security and control measures, (ii) devising strategies to counter the financing of terrorism, (iii) addressing humanitarian concerns, and (iv) tackling transboundary water issues in the Amudarya river basin. Participants also engaged in discussions about the CT EWN Board of Experts in Central Asia, resulting in the development of the initial draft of the terms of reference for the Regional Board of Experts.

Subsequently, in December, UNOCT/UNCCT and UNRCCA organized the third Regional Conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Conference delved into the situation in Afghanistan and outcomes of national and regional trainings. As a result, a comprehensive work plan for 2024 emerged. Key focus areas include the continued development and implementation of the CT EWN Board of Experts in Central Asia, and the organization of national-level trainings. The strategic addition of specialized trainings on new technologies, AI, and community engagement will fortify the capabilities of law enforcement and security organs in Central Asia.



Photo/UNCCT

Establishment of a board of international, regional and national experts, researchers and trainers on CT&PCVE

UNOCT/UNCCT and UNRCCA jointly organized a series of five national consultations with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (approximately 114 participants, 35 women, 79 men) in total for five consultations, in July 2023 to facilitate the establishment of a board of regional and national experts. The consultations served as a forum for effective engagement of various stakeholders from competent authorities, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations and CSOs and gathering valuable insights to shape the operational framework of the CT EWN. Subsequently, the terms of reference (ToRs) were drafted, delineating objectives, structural components, work plans, tasks, meeting protocols, reporting mechanisms, and associated costs.

National Training Sessions

The initial series of national training sessions in July 2024 with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (approximately 114 participants in total, 35 women, 79 men) competent authorities, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations and CSOs centred around the exploration of early warning systems and

networks. Over two days, regional and international experts were invited to share good practices in information-sharing mechanisms. These experts, representing various organizations, conducted training sessions clarifying the nuances of analysing security threats. The training delved into the establishment of information-sharing mechanisms. Participants were also acquainted with general principles of threat analysis, covering the identification of causes, drivers, and triggers leading to security threats at both national and regional levels.

The second round of national trainings aimed to strengthen the capacity of EWN members in Central Asia. The objective was to equip participants to adeptly assess risks, formulate effective policy options, and develop impact indicators for evaluating policy effectiveness. Analytical techniques widely employed by the analysis components of state agencies worldwide were applied to collaboratively generate policy options. In July 2023, participants collected a list of shared threats emanating from Afghanistan during the national consultations Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. During the workshops, the delegations collaboratively identified the most critical shared threats from the list, aiming to develop mitigative and preventive policy options. The delegations developed joint policy options and intervention strategies based on the systems analysis they collectively created, considering their key national instruments to achieve objectives: Diplomacy, Information, Military, Economy, Financial, Intelligence, Legal.



Targeted manuals and references on best practices and advanced methodologies/approaches to counter-terrorism and PCVE

Two research initiatives provided valuable insights to the development of the CT EWN in Central Asia.

The first delves into online propaganda and religious radicalization within the region, contextualized against the evolving situation in Afghanistan. The second scrutinizes the profound impact of the Afghan situation on security dynamics in Central Asia.

Promotion of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism in Central Asia

National briefing on e-learning course on “Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia”

On 27 September 2023 UNOCT/UNRCCA and UNRCCA, in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan organized a briefing in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on an e-learning course on

“Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia” for more than 80 representatives (30 women, 50 men) and students of four Uzbekistan law enforcement academies. The E-learning course was developed by UNOCT/UNCCT in cooperation with UNRCCA, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (for Module on Children Rights). The main goal was to present in an interactive way, joint United Nations capacity-building initiatives in the field of human rights and CT in Central Asia for law enforcement academies. UNOCT/UNCCT worked together with Uzbekistan in identifying new priorities for implementing the GCTS in the country. As a result, a new Roadmap was signed in May 2024 for 2024-2025 with several priority areas, including further incorporation of the e-learning course on human-rights in national curricula.

Supported Central Asia PCVE efforts

Ashgabat Model United Nations Regional Conference

The first ever Turkmenistan Ashgabat Model United Nations Regional Conference took place in November. Jointly organized by UNCCT in cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan, UNODC, UNRCCA, the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO), OHCHR, and the USAID “*Safe Migration in Central Asia*” program, the conference brought together 100 students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to participate in an educational simulation of the work of the United Nations. Participants simulated the work and structure of various United Nations committees and commissions, including on counter-terrorism topics.



Innovative Practices in the Implementation of National CT and PCVE Policies

In June, UNOCT/UNCCT, in partnership with the Governments of Kenya and Kyrgyzstan, OSCE, UNDP and UNRCCA organized a briefing for more than 60 participants to provide an overview of lessons learnt in the development and implementation of national strategies to CT and PCVE; demonstrate the advantages of “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approaches and interventions in CT and PCVE; and provide an opportunity to discuss new initiatives to promote cooperation and explore possibilities to raise funds for further advances in CT and PCVE in Africa and Central Asia, especially in Kenya and Kyrgyzstan. The participants, which included representatives from Permanent Missions of Member States, PCVE specialists, and relevant partners, actively exchanged ideas, shared best practices, and explored possibilities for further advancements.



Photo/UNCCT



Regional project on UNOCT cooperation with SCO RATS

Summary

The project is contributing to strengthened cooperation and coordination between UNOCT/UNCCT and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation ('SCO RATS') in the area of counter-terrorism while developing, coordinating and delivering capacity-building to SCO Central Asia Member States in the implementation of the GCTS and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The project is implemented in partnership with the SCO RATS with a priority focus on engagement with China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Strategic Objective

The overall objective is to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between UNOCT and SCO RATS in the area of counter-terrorism while developing, coordinating and delivering capacity-building to SCO Central Asia Member States in implementation of the GCTS and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Partners

This project has received funding support from the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Impact in 2023

- Established common priority areas and developed a joint plan of action containing seven priority areas, signed by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and the SCO RATS Director, Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev, in May 2024.
- Member States shared experiences at the event on *Investigations and Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Individuals Suspected of Terrorism, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Accompanying Family Members* in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Key metrics for 2023

Participation in trainings	Participation of women ¹⁵	Countries supported
42	25%	9 countries

Achievements

Regional Roundtable on the Investigations and Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR) of Individuals Suspected of Terrorism

In December, UNOCT/UNCCT and SCO RATS organized a Regional Roundtable on *Investigations and Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR) of Individuals Suspected of Terrorism, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Accompanying Family Members*. The event, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, involved the key stakeholders in PRR efforts, including CTED, UNODC, UNRCCA, and the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD Iraq). Over 42 representatives from countries such as China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended. The event featured national presentations on screening and investigative strategies within the PRR framework from Central Asia and China. The UNOCT/UNCCT PCVE Unit underscored the importance of a long-term, society-wide approach and introduced the Reintegration Communication

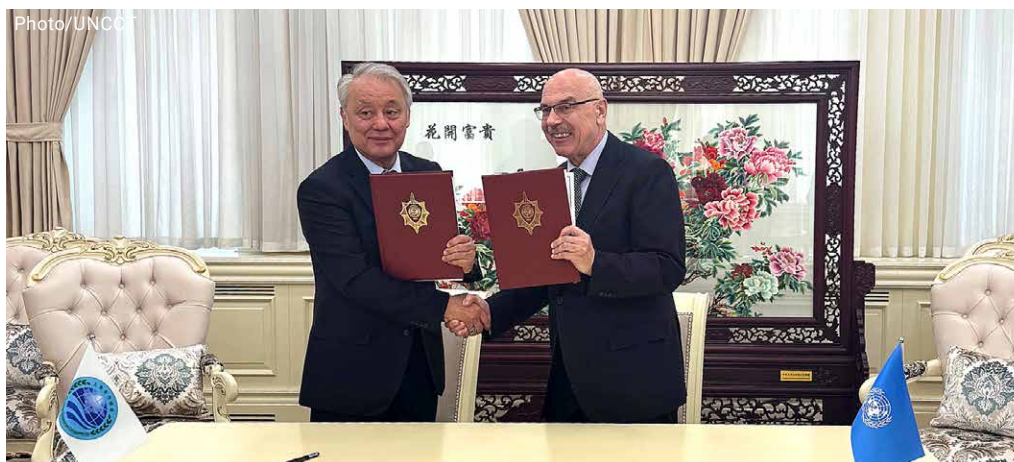
¹⁵ Excluding where gender was not listed

toolkit to the SCO Member States. UNITAD Iraq presented on screening and investigative strategies, as well as operative-search activities related to repatriation and reintegration measures. Discussions also covered the international legal framework for PRR, best practices, and the rehabilitation of individuals convicted of terrorist acts.



Joint Action Plan (JAP) for 2024-2026 on the Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding Between SCO RATS and UNOCT

In 2023, UNOCT/UNCCT developed the draft of the JAP in consultations with SCO RATS and relevant UNOCT Programmes and Projects. The JAP contains seven priority areas for cooperation and joint activities, such as: Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration; Small Arms and Light Weapons; Countering the Financing of Terrorism; Countering the use of information and communication technologies, as well as new technologies for terrorist purposes; Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems; Protection of critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets; Border Security and Management; and Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia. The document was signed by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and SCO RATS Director Mirzaev, on 14 May 2024, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Mainstreaming Gender and Human Rights into UNCCT programmes

Throughout 2023, UNCCT continued its efforts to further the integration of human rights and gender considerations into projects and programmes with the aim of ultimately assisting Member States in conducting human rights-compliant and gender-responsive counter-terrorism efforts. UNCCT benefited from support from UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS) in all these efforts.

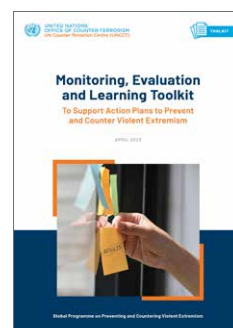
Integration of human rights into UNCCT programming

In 2023, UNCCT incorporated human rights in a range of activities. The CT TECH Initiative published two knowledge products dedicated to human rights-based approaches to the use of technology in counter-terrorism, including to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes as well as legislative frameworks, transparency and oversight. The knowledge-products were launched during a UN CT Week side-event to which HRGS contributed. The CT TECH Initiative further mainstreamed human rights in five regional workshops held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan, including sessions focused on human rights and gender considerations delivered by HRGS.

UNCCT held a side-event during the UN CT Week discussing the development and use of digital methods to address the evolving threat from terrorist financing, with a particular focus on the potential human rights concerns raised by technology-driven measures to counter terrorist financing, including their impact on civil society and the importance of integrating human rights into such measures as a prerequisite for any effective and sustainable response.

The final independent evaluation of the project '*Training and Capacity-building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism*' was [published](#) in 2023, along with the [management response](#) from UNOCT. This project ran from 2016 to 2022 and was implemented by UNCCT in cooperation with OHCHR. The project aimed to train six Member States' (Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, and Tunisia) law enforcement agencies to prevent, respond to, and investigate terrorism threats based on international human rights law and the rule of law. The evaluation noted several good practices and formulated a set of eight recommendations. These recommendations and lessons learned will be useful for support provided in this field under the UNOCT's Global Human Rights Programme, implemented by HRGS.

In April, the Global Programme on PCVE published the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit to Support Action Plans to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism](#). The Global Programme collaborated with HRGS to ensure that human rights and gender were adequately mainstreamed throughout the toolkit.




Integration of gender considerations and gender mainstreaming into UNCCT programming

Gender mainstreaming across UNCCT activities is guided by the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan (2022), which aims at ensuring that UNOCT's mandate is implemented in a gender-responsive manner, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and integrating the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda within CT/PCVE. Gender mainstreaming across UNOCT is led by HRGS's Gender Unit.

In 2023, nine UNCCT focal points and alternates continued to participate in the UNOCT Gender Task Force instituted in 2022, with the primary focus to support the implementation and monitoring of UNOCT's Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan. The Gender Task Force met on a monthly basis in 2023 and instituted a series of office-wide brown bag discussions on gender and CT/PCVE which aim to strengthen UNOCT, including UNCCT, internal capacity on gender mainstreaming across programmes, policy and coordination functions. UNCCT Gender Focal Points worked on developing a tailored Gender Workplan to guide their gender mainstreaming work in 2023.





United Nations
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IWD2023: Showcasing Women's contributions to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism


The full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in counter-terrorism (CT) efforts from design to implementation and evaluation is essential to succeed in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism (PCVE). UNOCT is committed to amplifying women's voices in CT and PCVE spaces and to advancing gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches to counter-terrorism.

For this year's International Women's Day, marked by the United Nations under the theme DigiALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality, we are showcasing some of the important contributions women make in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism through digital technology tools.


Through our Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, together with our partners, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNOCT/UNCCT directly invests in upskilling young women to use innovation and technology to help fight online and offline narratives of hate and division. Our young programme alumni have built social media campaigns, developed online educational tools and designed video games to counter violent extremism narratives in digital spaces.



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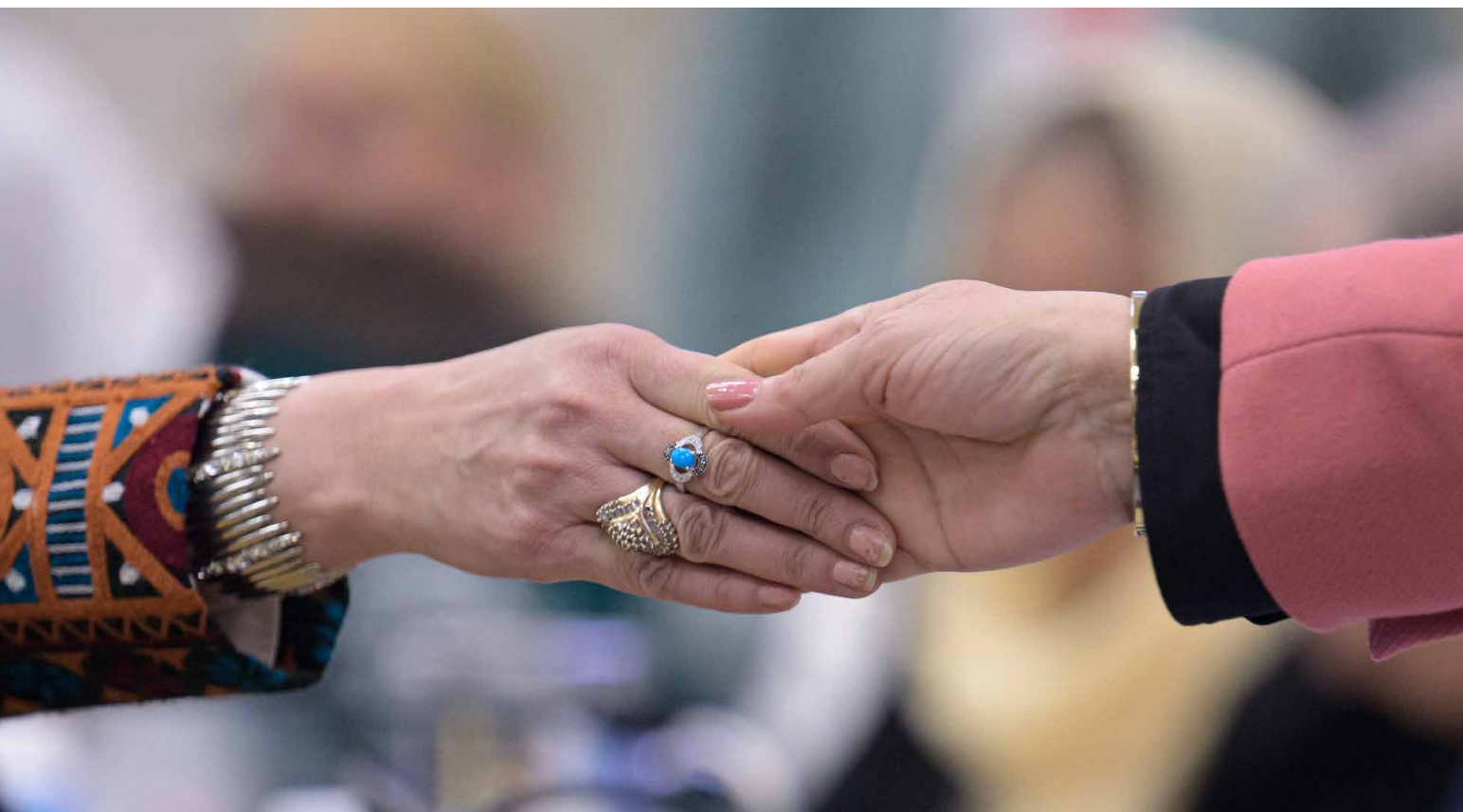


UNCCT, particularly its Global Programme on PCVE and the Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, has actively contributed to a communication campaign for International Women's Day 2023, which was marked by the United Nations under the global theme *DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality*. Through a [statement](#) and [dedicated web stories](#), UNCCT showcased some of the important contributions women make in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism through digital technology tools.

The Regional Forum on “*Monitoring and Evaluation of National Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia*”, organized by the STRIVE Asia Project in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in May 2023, included group discussions that helped initiate the dialogue between STRIVE Asia implementing partners and Member States governments on addressing the issue of implementing effective M&E mechanisms while taking into account the opinion of civil society organizations and other social groups such as women and young people.

Some of the knowledge products developed under the CT TECH Initiative to support more effective national counter-terrorism policy responses towards the challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies contain relevant gender considerations. Gender considerations were also integrated in the five regional workshops organized by CT TECH in 2023 with dedicated sessions led by HRGS.





UN Photo/Manuel Elías

II. UNCCT Partnerships and Engagement

Partnerships Overview

UNOCT and UNCCT engage 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 Centre: the private sector has capabilities and resources – both technological and physical – that can amplify the Centre’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 Centre’s efforts. Capacity-building and delivery of the mandates assigned to UNOCT and UNCCT require these dynamic and inclusive partnerships to address the multifaceted threat of terrorism and violent extremism in an effective, human rights-compliant and gender responsive manner.

Achievements in 2023

In 2023, UNCCT made significant progress in formalizing partnerships, with the support of UNOCT's External Partnerships Section (EPS), **concluding 17 new ones and renewing three existing partnerships** through MoUs and legal agreements.

Additionally, UNCCT has been actively involved in 32 other legal agreements, indicating a strong future pipeline of partnerships. The anticipated completion of these agreements will enhance UNOCT and UNCCT's capacity to address terrorism challenges through a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach.

Civil Society Engagement

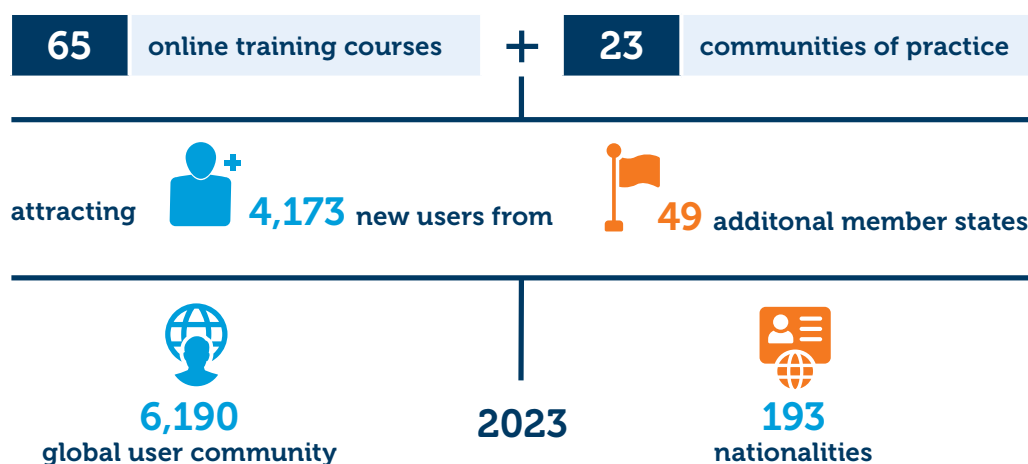
UNOCT/UNCCT actively fostered engagement with CSOs in line with UNOCT's Civil Society Engagement Strategy. Key initiatives included organizing two roundtable events in April and December, focusing on 'Priority Activities and A New Agenda for Peace' and 'Digital Safety for Youth'. These events facilitated discussions among global CSO representatives. A comprehensive database of 425 CSOs was also maintained, with UNCCT actively engaging many of them in various initiatives.

Engagement with Private Sector and Technology Industry

UNCCT strategically enhanced engagement with the private sector and technology industry, with the support of UNOCT's External Partnerships Section, focusing on the misuse of emerging technologies and identifying new trends.

This included participation in six Global Internet Forum to Counter-Terrorism meetings, involvement in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Coalition for Digital Safety, and contributions to key areas such as Global Principles for Digital Safety and Toolkit for Digital Safety Interventions.

Connect and Learn Platform



The Connect and Learn platform, launched by UNOCT in 2021, became a vital digital tool in capacity-building initiatives for UNCCT. Comprising 'Learn' and 'Connect' components, it offers e-learning courses, interactive communities, and extensive knowledge resources. In 2023, the platform expanded to include 65 online training courses and 23 communities of practice, attracting 4,173 new users from 49 additional Member States. By the end of the year, it had a global user community of 6,190 individuals from 193 nationalities, including professionals from diverse sectors. The platform's impact and success were recognized through award nominations, highlighting its effectiveness in counter-terrorism training.

UNCCT programmes contributed substantially to the overall success of Connect and Learn. This partnership enabled the implementation of key projects related to capacity-building.

The screenshot displays the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform interface. At the top, the UNOCT logo and 'CONNECT & LEARN' banner are visible, along with navigation links for 'About', 'FAQ', 'Contact us', and 'Go to Connect', and a 'Log In' button. Below the banner, the 'Programmes' section is titled, followed by a grid of 16 programme tiles, each with a representative image and a title:

- United Nations CT and P/CVE Architecture
- Border Security and Management
- Civil Society Organizations
- Counter-Terrorism in Central Asia
- Countering Terrorist Travel
- Countering WMD/CBRN Terrorism
- Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme
- Engaging Parliamentarians
- Gender and Identity Factors
- Global Fusion Cells Programme
- Global Programme on PCVE
- Int'l Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism
- Programme Office in Rabat
- Promoting South-South Cooperation
- Sports
- Vulnerable Targets

Incorporation of Academic Insights

UNOCT and UNCCT effectively integrated contributions from academic institutions, think tanks, and research entities into policymaking and programming in 2023. This included publishing 10 monthly internal Research Trackers, providing data and insights to inform policy and programmatic decisions. UNOCT also expanded its Academic Database to 256 entities, adding 10 new academic institutes in 2023.



Engaging more closely with Member States

In 2023, the Centre continued the implementation of its strategy to move staff from the United Nations Headquarters in New York to its programme offices and other field locations. The relocations have not only brought UNOCT/UNCCT closer to beneficiaries and partners, facilitating deeper engagements, but have also resulted in reduced staffing costs. The savings have been used to enhance capacity-building efforts, with an increased focus on co-design of programmes with interlocutors on the ground so that thematic programmes are tailored to the specific regional, national and local contexts in which they are implemented. By December, UNCCT had moved 1 staff out of New York, including to Nairobi, Baghdad, Budapest and Madrid.

Bangkok Presence

In 2023, UNOCT's presence in Bangkok, Thailand, housed in the United Nations's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) compound and supported thanks to the financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, continued to play a key role in providing institutional representation, liaison and programme support services for the implementation of UNCCT's activities in the Southeast Asia region. Throughout the year, the Bangkok presence represented UNCCT in 11 international and regional fora on counter-terrorism and PCVE. These included, inter alia, a briefing on *Regional Trends and Capacity-building in the Area of Counter-Terrorism*, delivered at the 19th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, as well as contributing with speaker roles at the Third ASEAN Partners Meeting for the Implementation of the Bali Work Plan 2019-2025, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Consultation on Victims-Oriented Protection to Prevent and Counter Radicalism and Violent Extremism in ASEAN, and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism's International Conference on Building Digital Resilience to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism, among others.

On the programmatic front, the Bangkok presence provided substantive and logistical support to all eight of the UNCCT global programmes implementing capacity-building activities in the region, including through the facilitation of government and other stakeholders' engagement, participating and contributing to technical assistance trainings and workshops, and delivering on site logistical and administrative support for the organization of events.

The presence also organized or participated in nine multi-stakeholder coordination platforms and meetings hosted by Member States, United Nations entities and other development partners. It continued to co-chair, along with the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Peace Hub in Indonesia, an internal coordination and collaboration platform established in 2019 under the Resident Coordinator's Office to enhance coordination of efforts to counter-terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism in the country among 12 United Nations entities.



Photo/UNCCT

Central Asia Regional Presence

UNOCT's Regional Coordination Officer, housed at UNRCCA in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and supported thanks to the financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have played a major role in the further development of collaboration among Central Asian Member States, supporting enabling them to fully carry out the JPoA for the implementation of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia and to share best practices, strategies, and initiatives for countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. It also provided liaison and programme support services for the organization of various UNCCT events.

In 2023, significant achievements were made in the programmatic activities of the Central Asian regional presence. Among others, it included the operationalization of the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia, marked by the successful organization of two regional conferences, eight national trainings and meetings as well as the development of two desk reviews of key regional priorities. These events facilitated critical knowledge sharing and capacity-building among Member States in light of the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

The regional presence also continued to support Central Asian Member States in preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism through the organization of various activities for educational institutions at both regional and national levels, thereby fostering awareness and resilience among youth and academia. Particular attention was given to the promotion of human rights while countering terrorism and additional briefings were conducted in that regard.

In 2023, the Central Asia presence prioritised strengthened strategic partnerships with Central Asian Member States. It worked closely with both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to develop new roadmaps for UNOCT/UNCCT initiatives during the period 2024-2027. These roadmaps are designed to support an updated JPoA for implementing the GCTS, adopted by Central Asian States in March 2022. These roadmaps encompass various elements, with several priority areas related to the technical assistance provided by UNCCT, with in-kind contributions and some funding provided from local partners. By tailoring these strategic documents to the specific needs and contexts of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the Central Asia presence has ensured that the technical assistance offered is both relevant and effective.



The Central Asia presence also organized briefings on possible technical assistance to Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan with various UNCCT Programmes (BSM, Cyber and New Technologies, and PRR). These briefings have focused on the implementation of national strategies and plans for CT/PCVE. They also highlighted UNCCT projects and programmes,

providing insights on main achievements and plans to national stakeholders. The briefings also had a significant component for resource mobilization for further implementation and sustaining the impact.



United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism 
@UN_OCT

Jul 12, 2023

USG @UN_OCT Voronkov and 🇰🇷@MFA_KZ Ambassador Kaliyev co-chaired a briefing with ASG @Natalia_Gherman ED of @UN_CTED on #CounterTerrorism & #PCVE programmes in #CentralAsia to over 70 members of diplomatic corps in #Kazakhstan

#UNiteToCounterTerrorism #JPOA

“ The UN is providing capacity-building support on a range of priorities identified by our Central Asian partners to prevent and counter terrorism. This includes, for instance, establishing a Regional Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network to facilitate sharing of information, joint analysis and common recommendations, and a Regional Council on Rehabilitation and



Programme Office in Nairobi

The Programme Office in Nairobi, supported thanks to the financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kenya, played a critical coordination function for UNCCT programmes in the region and held regular meetings and engagement with both United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact partners and other international bilateral regional and multilateral stakeholders.

The Programme Office supported and enabled the delivery of capacity-building support for UNCCT teams working on new technologies, countering terrorist use of weapons, countering terrorist financing, youth engagement and empowerment for PCVE, strategic communications for PCVE, national PCVE strategy development and vulnerable targets protection. The Office also supported the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility by facilitating contacts with national and regional actors. The Office's close partnership with the Kenya NCTC resulted in the organization of the Second Nairobi Caucus on Preventing the Exploitation of Technology and Communication for Terrorist Use on 3-4 August 2023,

which gathered nearly 300 participants from East and Southern Africa as well as experts in the field to look at the evolving threat and good practices for response.

In addition, the Programme Office facilitated UNOCT and UNCCT's participation in regional initiatives such as United Nations prevention strategies for the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as thematic events and activities related to countering the threat of terrorism and violent extremism including new technologies, aviation security, PCVE strategy development, and managing the threat of improvised explosive devices.

Programme Office in Baghdad

In September, UNOCT established a Programme Office in Baghdad, Iraq, creating a counter-terrorism programmatic presence in a United Nations Mission setting, supported thanks to the financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Programme Office is mandated to fulfil four main objectives: (i) engage with the Government of Iraq to identify priority capacity-building needs on CT and PCVE; (ii) channel and facilitate capacity-building support to the Government of Iraq; (iii) promote coordination at the country-level amongst United Nations agencies on CT topics; and (iv) develop partnerships with local actors, regional capacity-building providers and donor Governments to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in programmatic support to Iraq.

Working in close cooperation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the UNOCT Programme Office in Baghdad commenced operations with two priority capacity-building topics in close collaboration with UNCCT's global programmes and UNOCT's Global Human Rights Programme. First, as part of UNOCT's role as co-chair of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees, the Office remained engaged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the National Security Advisor of the Government of Iraq to ensure a fully coordinated and supportive role to help Iraq repatriate thousands of its citizens detained in camps in northeastern Syria. Second, responding to a request from the Government of Iraq, UNOCT's Programme Office has supported a capacity-building project on human rights in CT and liaised closely with Iraqi agencies to provide trainings.

The Programme Office has also remained engaged with the Government on launching several other strategic UNCCT projects to help Iraq in its fight against terrorism.

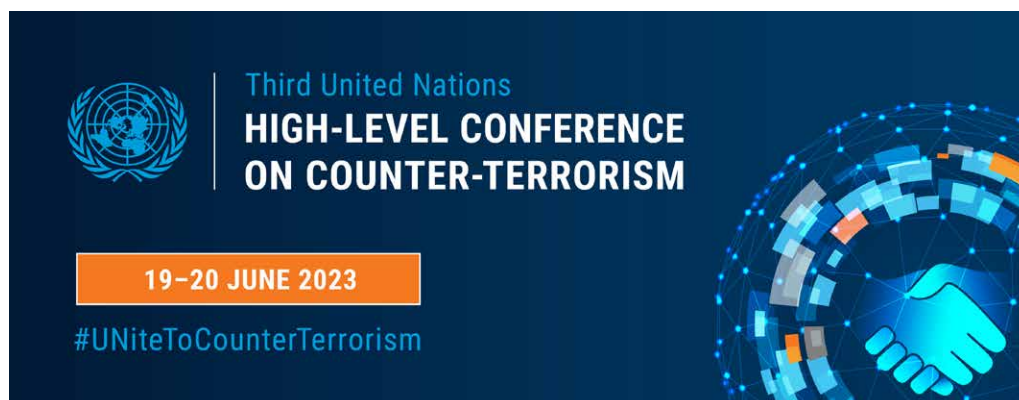
Communications

In 2023, UNOCT continued to implement its communications strategy, which aims to increase the visibility for UNCCT as a **Global Centre of Excellence** on counter-terrorism and PCVE, in support of Member States and their efforts to address threats from terrorism. Dedicated communications plans and branded products were developed, in close collaboration with the United Nations 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 violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

UNOCT's communications work – supported by a dedicated Communications Unit located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG) – involved the development and dissemination of communication products through diverse platforms. These efforts contributed to amplifying UNCCT's role and mandate, increasing awareness of its priorities, programmes and activities, expanding the Centre's outreach to the global counter-terrorism community, and building its professional networks.

The landmark visibility event in 2023 was CT Week and its 40 side events, which took place in June. It provided an important platform to promote the activities of UNCCT through the use of audio-visual products and the dissemination of promotional and communication products and provided due recognition to the support provided by all funding partners.



Digital outreach

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, UNOCT/UNCCT senior managers stepped up their digital communication and recorded a number of video

messages. The statements were systematically posted on UNOCT/UNCCT's website to maximize their reach and impact. Key events were promoted through online and digital communications as well as in person with increased media presence. For example, several meetings during CT Week, took place virtually or in hybrid format and were live streamed on UN Web TV.



Top image: A 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week side events was being live streamed on UN Web TV, 21 June 2023.

Bottom images: UNOCT/UNCCT senior management recorded remarks for various high-level events:

Ms. Oguljeren (Jerena) Niyazberdiyeva (Chief of OUSG), Mr. Mauro Miedico (Director of UNCCT), and Mr. Steven Siqueira (Deputy Director UNCCT). Photo/UNOCT

Audio-visual materials

In 2023, UNOCT used audio-visual products to promote activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner. 37 videos were produced or updated in 2023, including one on goFintel and 24 videos for the Victims of Terrorism Memories Campaign, three additional videos on the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, including the Model Legislative Provisions, the Legacy Project and the International VOT Day.

UNOCT also prepared a video to wrap up 2023 entitled *"UNOCT 2023: Year in Review"*, which summarized key achievements and acknowledges funding partners contributions. The video was posted on the UNOCT website and YouTube channel. The video will be featured at events and the high-level conferences to be held in 2024, in addition to video loops featuring UNOCT and UNCCT global programmes.



37 videos
were produced or
updated in 2023



Campaigns

In 2023, UNOCT marked four International Days, which provided the opportunity to raise awareness on UNOCT/UNCCT's work. These included:

- The first International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism (**12 February**)
- International Women's Day (**8 March**)
- International Youth Day (**12 August**)
- International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (**21 August**)

In 2023, UNOCT also continued to promote the Victims of Terrorism “*Memories*” campaign, which shares the stories of 22 victims of terrorism through films and a photographic exhibition. The exhibition was shown in the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from CT Week in June to the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August and in three locations in Spain, namely Madrid, Valladolid and Vitoria. The campaign garnered more than 14,000 views on UN Web TV and YouTube and generated 41 million X impressions on 21 August alone.

Website

UNOCT increased its website content and revamped the webpages for several programmes and platforms, including CT TECH, Weapons, PCVE, CFT/goFintel and VoT Support Programmes, among others.

Featuring the activities of UNCCT, web stories (80) and press releases (50) were posted on the UNOCT/UNCCT website and promoted on social media. These included, among others, events related to CT Week and the UNCCT Advisory Board and key activities of the UNCCT Global Programmes.

Demonstrating the relevance of the content and stories presented, the traffic and viewers on the website increased by 29 per cent. In total, the UNOCT/UNCCT website recorded over 1,035,515 pageviews in 2023, compared to 801,547 pageviews in 2022. The number of views on all UNOCT websites, including the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, reached 1.5 million views.


UNOCT Website Pageviews 2023 vs 2022



UNOCT Social Media

In 2023, the creation of two new channels, namely on Instagram (700 followers in 2023) and LinkedIn (1,300 followers), expanded the Office's presence and outreach to different audiences on social media.

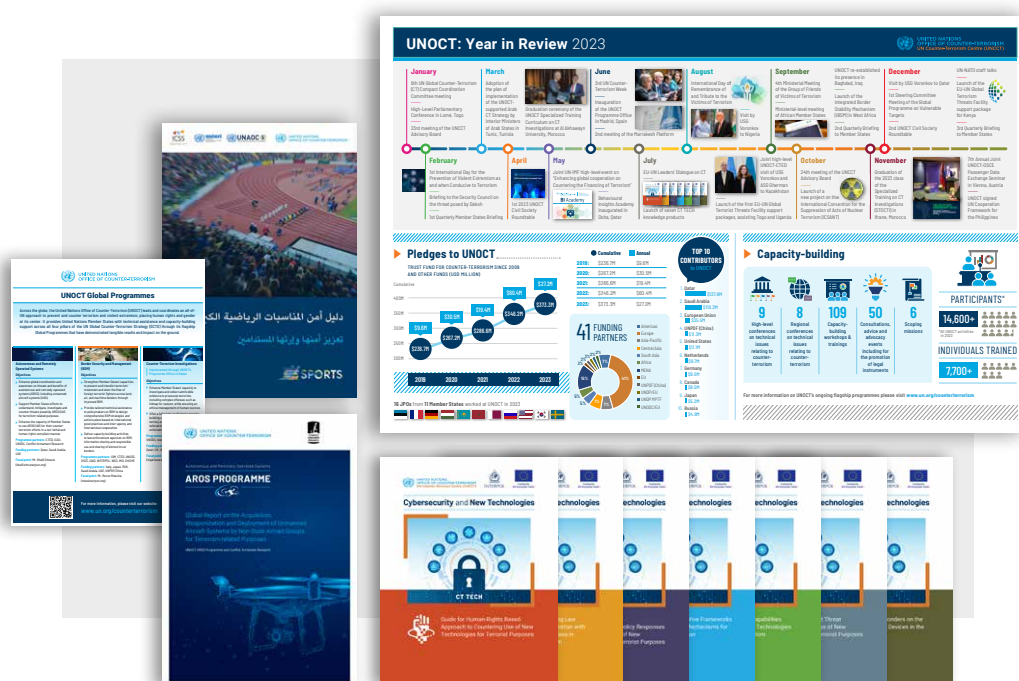
UNOCT X / Twitter performance

	 @UN_OCT	2020	2021	2022	2023	+ / -
Impressions		189 million	287 million	326 million	256 million	-2%
Contributors		6,000	8,000	9,400	10,000	+18%
# of followers		9,500	14,200	19,600	22,950	+17%

UNOCT boosted its X account (@UN_OCT), which increased its number of followers by 17 per cent in 2022 (from 19,535 followers by the end of 2022 to 22,950 in 2023). The total impressions for @UN_OCT, generated by 10,000 contributors, reached 256 million in 2023.

Publications

In 2023, UNOCT issued 86 reports. These included seven knowledge products developed by the CT TECH Initiative, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit for PCVE Action Plans, and information flyers on the JPoA, goFintel, and Weapons Programme, among others.



In addition, UNOCT updated a four-page brochure with a list of UNOCT/UNCCT global programmes that provides information on objectives, achievements, funding partners, and focal points of these programmes.

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 include a section to highlight the top 10 funding partners to UNOCT. The 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, which are posted the UNCCT website. The updates provide an overview of progress and results to ensure transparency on the utilization of the financial contribution.

Communication Priorities for 2024

In 2024, efforts will continue to promote UNOCT/UNCCT programmes and activities, and the role of UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence, through the development of tailored communications plans, communications tools, and media campaigns, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, and other partners.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

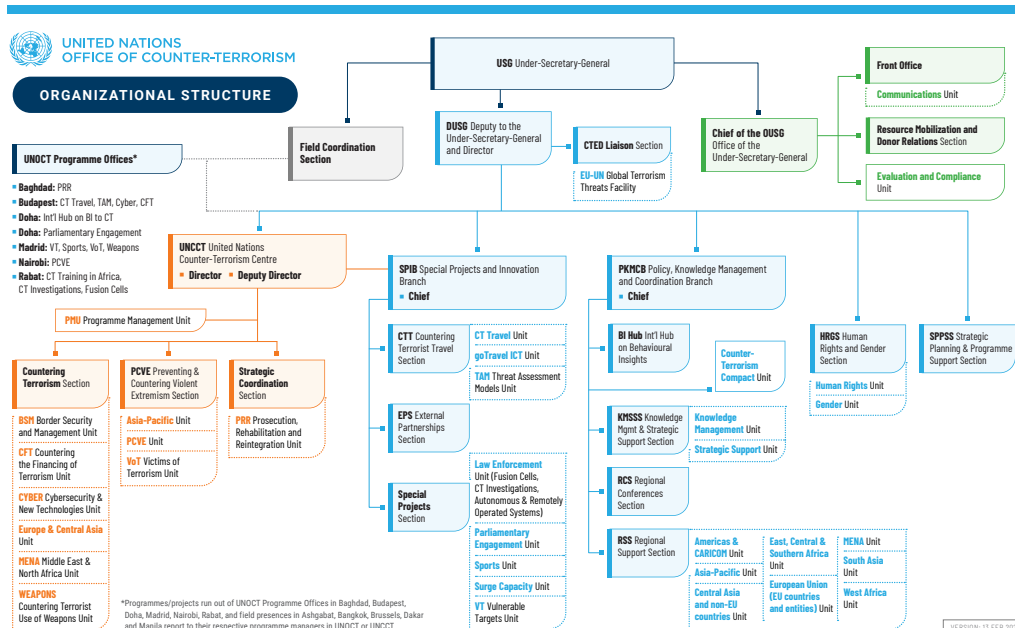


Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Wasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, speaking at the General Assembly. 12 June 2023. UN Photo/Manuel Elías

III. Governance and Programme Management

Overall structure

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 from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. From the beginning, UNCCT has played an important role in helping Member States build capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and in strengthening the role of the United Nations system towards the balanced and effective implementation of all four pillars of the GCTS. UNCCT works together with the other branches of UNOCT to support implementation of the GCTS.



Organizational Structure of UNCT

UNCCT Advisory Board

The **UNCCT Advisory Board** provides guidance to the UNCCT Executive Director on programming and priorities for UNCCT. The Centre provides the Advisory Board with regular updates on the implementation of the various programmes and projects. The Advisory Board convenes at the Ambassadorial level and holds expert meetings as needed. In 2023, the Advisory Board met at Ambassadorial level twice, where board members were updated on the achievements of UNCCT programmes and projects during 2022 and 2023, the results of recent audits and evaluations, as well as the Under-Secretary-General's vision and strategy for the Centre.



UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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 (Guest member)
France	Pakistan	

Programme Review Board (PRB)

The **Programme Review Board (PRB)** serves as the primary internal control, governance, and oversight body for UNCCT 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, i) reviews programme and project submissions; ii) monitors implementation to ensure programmes achieve intended results; iii) provides direction and guidance to ensure effective programme delivery; and iv) 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 2023, the PRB met monthly reviewing 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 GCTS 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. 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. RBM in UNCCT consists of:

- The SPRF (2022-2025), that provides the overarching strategic direction and monitoring framework for the work of UNOCT.
- The PRB, that serves as the primary internal governance, oversight and advisory mechanism for all capacity-building and technical assistance activities of UNOCT.

- UNOCT internal guidance (i.e., strategies, policies, standard operating procedures, and guidelines); and
- The Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution in Umoja which enables effective substantive and financial planning, monitoring and reporting of UNOCT programming, linking results to the SPRF and financials.

In 2023, UNOCT initiated work on the development of a new, consolidated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Programme and Project Management, which provides key concepts, definitions, principles, roles and responsibilities, processes and procedures for an improved results-based programme management, aligned with IPMR. Its annexes include streamlined templates on programme management to be used for submissions to the PRB as well as supporting guidance. The SOP will be issued in 2024, effectively replacing related SOPs issued in 2019.

In 2023, UNCCT has continued to prioritize results-based programme management and results culture 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 UNOCT, which consists of the PRB and SPRF, as well as relevant internal guidance documents. To support RBM in UNCCT, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) has provided programme management support to programmes and projects 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.

Evaluations conducted in 2023

In 2023, UNCCT's work continued to be guided by a robust evaluation system that is based on an internal evaluation guidance framework and supported by UNOCT's Evaluation and Compliance Unit, an independent evaluation function located in OUSG, which meticulously assesses the performance of programmes and projects, ensuring they are relevant, coherent, efficient, effective, impactful and sustainable. During the reporting year, the Unit finalized and published an Evaluation Handbook, which provides practical guidance and templates for the planning, conduct, management, reporting and follow-up of evaluations in UNOCT, in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards, with a view to operationalize the UNOCT Evaluation Policy issued in 2021. UNOCT also prepared its first comprehensive Evaluation Plan for the period 2023-2024 which was approved by the Under-Secretary-General upon the recommendation of the PRB and circulated to all UNOCT staff.

In line with the 2023-2024 Evaluation Plan, UNOCT continued to undertake independent evaluations of programmes and projects to assess the achievement of programmatic results, support informed decision-making, identify and use lessons learned to strengthen design and delivery of capacity-building support, and improve organizational learning

through evidence-based knowledge. In this regard, the Office initiated or advanced the implementation of four evaluations of UNCCT programmes and projects, out of eight programmatic evaluations in the Evaluation Plan. These include: i) the mid-term evaluation of the UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons; ii) the final evaluation of the UNCCT Global Programme on Border Security and Management; iii) the final evaluation of the UNCCT project *'Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons'* jointly managed by UNOCT and UNODC; and iv) the final evaluation of the UNCCT 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, jointly managed by UNOCT, UNODC, IOM and UNICEF. The results from these evaluations will be utilized to draw lessons from programmatic implementation and inform the design of the next phase of programmes and relevant initiatives.

In 2024, UNOCT will issue a call for evaluation proposals to develop its 2024-2025 Evaluation Plan that will include new programmatic evaluations. In line with its Evaluation Plan, the Office will finalize evaluations that are underway and initiate new evaluations, as part of continuous efforts 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 final evaluations of the Global Programme on Border Security and Management, the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons, the Project on Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons, and the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia Project, as well as the internal final evaluations of the Project 'Young Leaders for Online Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia' under the Global Programme on PCVE and the project on 'Supporting the Reintegration of Men and Women Formerly Associated with Al-Shabaab through Social Cohesion Activities during Rehabilitation,' jointly conducted with IOM. Evaluations completed will be operationalized through the preparation and implementation of management responses with concrete follow-up actions that will be tracked through the digital 'Evaluation Management and Tracking Tool'. In addition, evaluations of flagship UNCCT programmes and projects are expected to be initiated, including the independent mid-term evaluation of the Global Programme on PCVE, subject to funding availability, the internal final evaluation of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Project - Africa under the Global Programme on PCVE, and the internal mid-term evaluation of the Global Programme on PRR.

Responding to audits

Separately, UNOCT monitored and reported on progress towards the implementation of recommendations of the audit of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2022. This included the work undertaken on the completion of funding partner profiles accessible through the newly created Resource Mobilization Application and the development of individual resource mobilization action plans for global programmes, regional projects and substantive organizational units as well as the consolidated UNOCT Resource Mobilization Action Plan; the completion of the UNOCT Risk Register (issued in May

2023) and actions to ensure entity and project-level risk assessment and monitoring; strengthening engagement with funding partners to explore the possibility of annual aggregated reporting on UNOCT activities to improve operational efficiency; and efforts to implement the recommendations of external evaluations.

Risk Management



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. Risk management also includes actions to proactively ensure that UNCCT's counter-terrorist initiatives and support to Member State capacity-building are human-rights compliant and gender-responsive. As part of the United Nations Secretariat, UNCCT (and UNOCT as a whole) share many of these risks and concerns with several different entities, as well as Member States. To address a number of these risks, and taking into account the Secretariat-wide Risk Register, UNOCT developed a risk register in 2023 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 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.

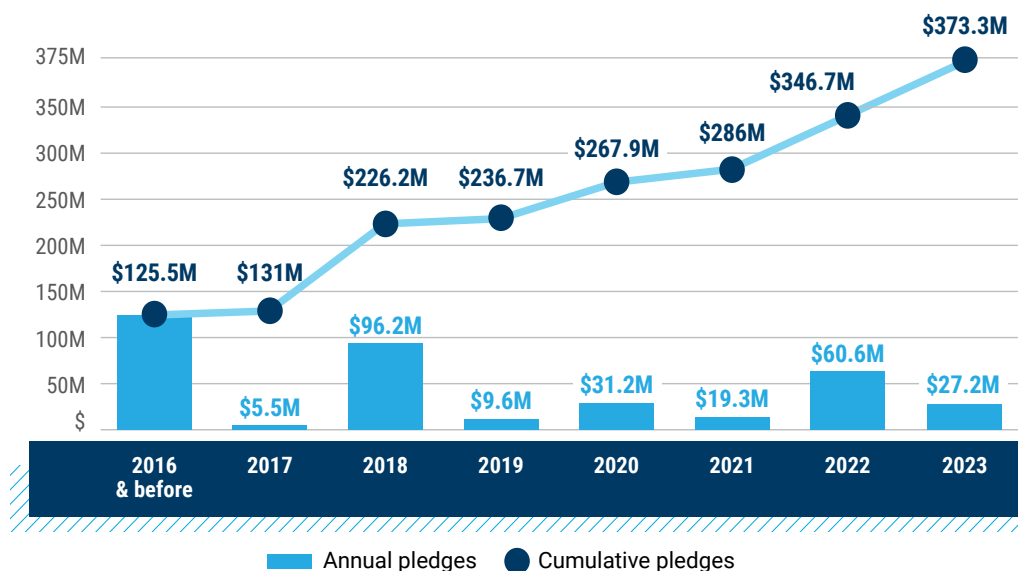


Overview

Following the General Assembly's approval of the Secretary-General's budget proposal in December 2023, the percentage of UNOCT's annual budget that is covered from the UN Regular Budget has increased from nine to twenty percent in 2024 (this was previously nine percent in 2023 and 3 percent in 2022). While this is a significant improvement for ensuring predictable funding of UNOCT's core mandate, UNOCT continues to rely on voluntary contributions from its funding partners for 80 percent of its annual budget, including for all capacity-building activities in support of Member States. In this context, UNOCT has continued to implement its resource mobilization strategy for raising extrabudgetary resources in a coordinated and coherent manner, in support of the mandate of the Office and the implementation of the strategic plan and programme framework.

FIGURE 1: CUMULATIVE AND ANNUAL PLEDGES

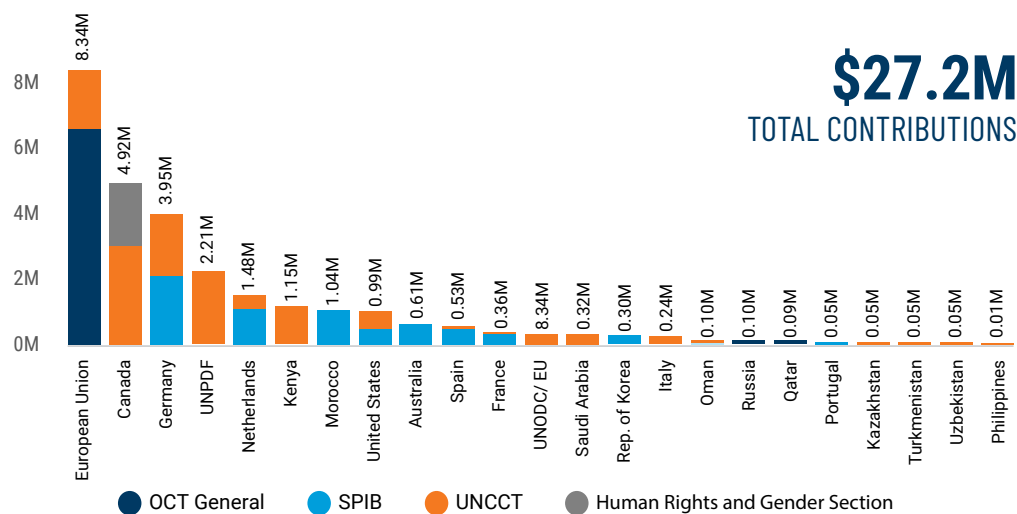
Cumulative and annual pledges to the UN Trust Fund on Counter-Terrorism since 2009



Since the establishment of United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2009 up to 31 December 2023, UNOCT had mobilized USD 373.3 million in pledges from 41 funding partners, out of which 48% (or USD 177.6 million) is to support UNCCT activities.

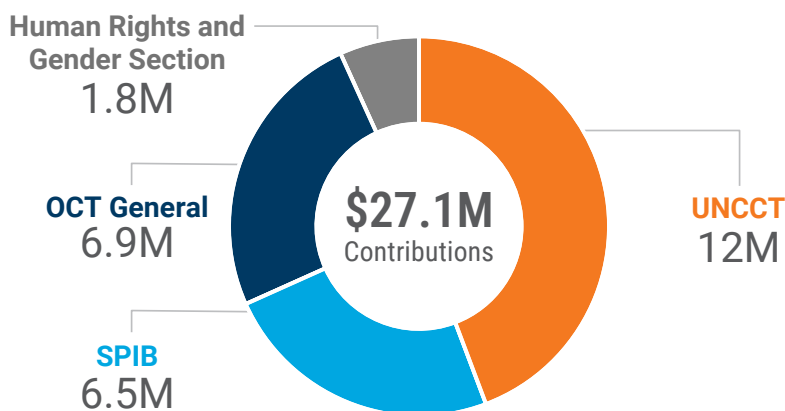
In 2023, UNOCT is grateful to have secured USD 27.2 million in earmarked pledges from 23 funding partners, representing a significant increase when comparing to 2022, when UNOCT secured \$15.8 million from 21 partners.

FIGURE 2: NEW FUNDING AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 2023



In addition, in 2023 UNOCT welcomed Oman, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and UNODC, for a joint project funded by the European Union, as new funding partners providing their first contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

FIGURE 3: NEW CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNOCT BY DIVISION



Of the USD 27.2 million raised in 2023, USD 12 million (44 per cent) was allocated by funding partners towards UNCCT programming and activities (see Figure 3), an increase from the USD 7.7 million raised for UNCCT in 2022 (see figure 5).

FIGURE 4: TOP TEN FUNDING PARTNERS FOR UNCCT (CUMULATIVE)

Rank	Country	Contribution
1	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	USD 110.3 million
2	European Union	USD 15 million
3	United States	USD 8.3 million
4	Germany	USD 5.6 million
5	Canada	USD 4.7 million
6	Japan	USD 4.7 million
7	UNPDF (China)	USD 4.6 million
8	Norway	USD 3.7 million
9	Russian Federation	USD 3.5 million
10	Netherlands	USD 3 million

Underpinning UNCCT's creation and subsequent mandate delivery has been the generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, totalling USD 110 million (see Figure 4 on previous page). This has made the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia UNCCT's largest contributor, whose support represents two-thirds of the total secured by UNCCT since its inception. The much-needed flexible funding provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been complemented by support from 31 other 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.

FIGURE 5 – CONTRIBUTIONS SECURED FOR UNCCT IN 2023

Funding partner	Amount in USD	Purpose
Canada	3,076,265	SALW Project
European Union	1,765,544	ICSANT II
France	25,562	Weapons Programme
Germany	1,812,113	AROS/IBSM
Italy	217,100	BSM Programme
Kazakhstan	50,000	JPoA project
Kenya	1,150,000	Nairobi Programme Office
Netherlands	399,975	CFT Programme
Saudi Arabia	300,000	AIMC project
Spain	53,250	VoT Programme
Turkmenistan	50,000	JPoA project
UNPDF/China	2,210,485	PCVE Programme & JPoA project
USA	493,750	BSM Programme
UNODC/EU	320,287	PCVE Programme
Uzbekistan	50,000	PRR Programme
Total	7,693,751	



UNCCT Advisory Board Meeting, 25 October 2023. Photo/UNCCT

V. Way Forward

The evolving terrorist landscape continues to pose a complex and persistent threat to global security in 2024, especially after the heinous terrorist attacks witnessed in 2023. Groups such as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh), and their many affiliates remain resilient, while new and emerging threats exploit technological advancements to inflict harm and new ideologies and motivations. The devastating impact of terrorist attacks, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, underscores the urgent need for effective counter-terrorism measures worldwide.

UNCCT's goal for 2024 is to significantly enhance Member States' capacity to prevent and counter terrorism. The Centre will do this by providing targeted, evidence-based support, fostering strategic partnerships, and leveraging cutting-edge tools and technologies. Building upon lessons learned in 2023, UNCCT will prioritize:

- **Strengthening Member State capacity** by providing tailored assistance to Member States in developing and implementing comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that address specific challenges.
- **Enhancing capacity-building initiatives** by focusing on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and rehabilitation.
- **Fostering international cooperation** through deepening collaboration with Member States, regional organizations, Counter-Terrorism Compact partners, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders to address transnational terrorist threats.
- **Promoting knowledge sharing and best practices** to enhance counter-terrorism efforts.
- **Driving innovation by exploring and harnessing emerging technologies** to prevent and counter terrorism and by supporting Member States in developing their technological capabilities to disrupt terrorist networks and protect critical infrastructure.
- **Ensuring human rights and gender mainstreaming** in all efforts by integrating human rights and gender perspectives and promoting the rule of law and accountability while upholding fundamental freedoms.

To achieve these objectives, UNCCT will adhere to its core principles of supporting balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, strengthening engagement with the United Nations system, diversifying funding sources, recruiting top talent, and enhancing programme impact.

In these ways and many more, UNCCT will make a significant contribution to a safer and more secure world in 2024 and beyond.



USG Voronkov briefed the Security Council on the 17th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by Da'esh, 25 August 2023. UN Photo/Loey Felipe



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



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