



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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

SECOND QUARTER

1 April – 30 June 2024

Table of Contents

Executive summary and key highlights	4
Key facts and figures.....	7
Member States supported in the second quarter of 2024*	8
Breakdown of activities.....	10
Overview of Programme Implementation under UNOCT's Results Framework	11
<i>Strategic Goal 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism</i>	11
<i>Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks</i>	12
<i>Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism</i>	18
<i>Strategic Goal 5: Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts</i>	21

Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIMC	Arab Interior Ministers' Council
ARF	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum
BSM	Border Security and Management
CAERT	African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSIRT	Computer Security Incident Response Team
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
ESAAMLGERC	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group Emergency Response Centres
ENVR	European Network of Victims' Rights
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FAFT	Financial Action Task Force
FBI	United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
HRGS	UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBSM	Integrated Border Stability Mechanism
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IJ	International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JaCIRT	Jamaica Cyber Incident Response Team
JPOA	Joint Plan of Action
MENA-FATF	Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force
MLP	Model Legislative Provision
NAP	National Action Plan
NCAP	National Comprehensive Action Plan
NAUSS	Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PNNL	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
PRR	Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
R/N	Radiological / Nuclear

TA	Technical Assistance
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCO-RATS	Shanghai Cooperation Organization - Regional Antiterrorist Structure
ToT	Training of Trainers
TUBSAN	National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Somalia)
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia
VoT	Victims of Terrorism
VoTAN	Global Victims of Terrorism Associations Network
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YADEN	Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network
YEEP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive summary and key highlights

During the second quarter of 2024, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) continued to address the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, guided by the mandates given to it by Member States, by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/291 (2017) and successive reviews of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022 – 2025.

To reflect the principles of results-based management and reporting, the structure of this report presents the contributions of UNCCT under the SPRF, reflecting the Centre's commitment to be a results-oriented Global Centre of Excellence.

In the reporting period, from 1 April to 30 June 2024, UNCCT implemented 18 capacity building activities, including workshops and trainings as well as one high-level event, that have increased the knowledge and skills of over 631 counter-terrorism professionals from 49 Member States.

Resource Mobilization

In Q2 2024, UNOCT mobilized \$2,534,250 in new pledges from seven funding partners, of which 34 percent or \$868,250 were earmarked to support UNCCT programmes, as per the table below.

UNCCT is thankful for the continued support of its founding partner, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the other 37 funding partners that have provided critical political, technical, and financial support to UNCCT activities. Given the continued growth of demand from Member States for the counter-terrorism capacity-building support provided by UNCCT, the Centre will continue to require additional funding to support its activities in 2024 and into 2025. Given that the funding identified below is strictly earmarked for specific programmes, UNCCT is experiencing shortfalls for its core programming linked to its Global Programmes on the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (PCVE), Victims of Terrorism (VoT) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT). Unless additional extra-budgetary funding is provided, UNCCT will need to significantly curtail programming in these areas in 2025.

Funding Partners providing contributions to UNCCT from 1 April to 30 June 2024

Funding partner	Amount	Purpose
Kazakhstan	\$100,000	JPoA Phase IV
Spain	\$268,275	Victims Programme
Netherlands	\$499,975	PRR Programme
Total	\$868,250	

Programme Highlights

- Substantial progress was made in enhancing financial analysis capacities to counter serious crime and financing of terrorism with the soft launch of the United Nations goFintel software as part of the Netherlands FIU's (Financial Intelligence Unit) digital transformation journey. The soft-launch event was organized by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations on 25 June in New York. UNCCT has spearheaded the development of goFintel through its Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme) in partnership with FIU-NL, and the UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), while coordinating closely with UNODC that supports Member States with the goAML tool, a tool that assists Member States to counter money laundering.
- On the implementation of the Arab Counter Terrorism Strategy and combatting financing of terrorism, UNCCT together with the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) Secretariat and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) completed a regional capacity building workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism for the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy, funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The event gathered 100 officials from Arab Member States that were trained on parallel financial investigations, virtual assets, non-profit protection, and prosecuting terrorism financing cases.
- In the field of cybersecurity, the UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies (Global Cyber Programme) and UNICRI launched their joint report entitled "Beneath the Surface: Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Dark Web and Cybercrime as a Service for Cyber-Attacks" in New York, United States, in June. The report, funded by the Republic of Korea, examines the intersection of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism and cybercrime on the Dark Web, and provides critical insights for countering these converging threats.
- UNCCT, in collaboration with Mongolia, Viet Nam, the U.S., UNODC, and the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF), organized the "Steppe Lotus" tabletop exercise (TTX) and workshop on strengthening legal frameworks to combat Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) terrorism in ARF countries. For the MENA region, UNCCT, in collaboration with the Netherlands, Romania, the U.S., and UNODC, implemented the "Glowing Tulip 2.0" TTX and workshop on forensics response to incidents related to radioactive or nuclear (R/N) materials out of regulatory control. The event culminated with mock trials to improve participants' investigative and prosecutorial skills. The two TTXs were conducted within the framework of the project on Supporting the Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), implemented by the UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons.
- In Central Asia, UNCCT made progress in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2370 (2017), by organizing a joint regional workshop with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization - Regional Antiterrorist Structure (SCO-RATS). The event was conducted under the Joint Plan of Action Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase IV and the Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons.

- On border security and management, UNCCT's Strengthening Member State Capacities in the Area of Border Security and Management to Counter Terrorism and Stem the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (BSM Programme) launched its Technical Workshop on Strengthening Cross-Border Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Central Sahel, which took place in Marrakech, Morocco, in April. The workshop was supported by UNODC, and IOM and contributed to strengthening the ongoing collaboration among Sahel countries, emphasizing the importance of unified strategies for regional security through cross-border cooperation.
- In the PCVE and youth field, UNCCT's Global Programme in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Global PCVE Programme) launched the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme Kenya (YEEP Kenya) in June, together with Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), and Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network – East Africa (YADEN). YEEP Kenya provides mentoring to young leaders on the development of key community engagement, policy development, programme design and strategic communication skills necessary for youth-centred PCVE solutions. YEEP Somalia delivery, which was launched in March 2024 in collaboration with the Tubsan National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, is still on-going.
- The UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (Global VoT Programme) opened its "Memories" exhibition at the City Hall in San Sebastián, Spain, in May, honouring victims of terrorism. Co-organizers of the event were the Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center and the Victims of Terrorism Foundation (FVT). The exhibition strengthened sensitisation and support for victims and survivors of terrorism in Spain.
- The UNCCT Global VoT Programme completed its final activities of the capacity building programme on the Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism in the Philippines with a final workshop in June that strengthened national authorities' efforts to address the rights and needs of victims and to provide them with the tools to develop a national comprehensive assistance plan on victims of terrorism.
- On prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with the UNCCT Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (Global PRR Programme), UNRCCA, and the OSCE organized the first Central Asia Regional Expert Council Meeting on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones in Central Asia, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in May. The event established collaboration among Central Asian states and promoted gender and age-sensitive approaches to handling returnees from conflict zones.

Key facts and figures



49

Member States supported
through capacity-building
activities



18

Capacity-building activities
delivered



631

Participants trained



1

High-level conferences on
counter-terrorism-related
issues



422

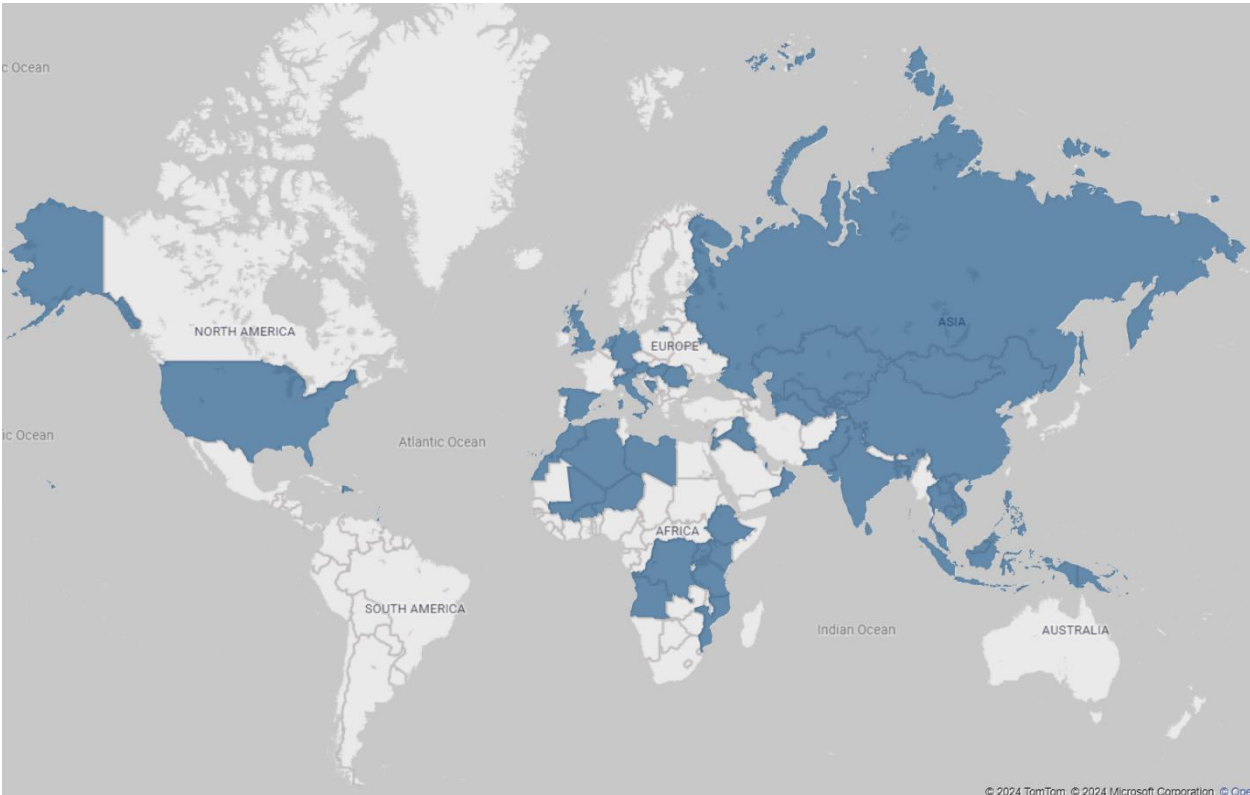
Participants in activities for
consultations, advocacy,
outreach, and special events



30.1%

Women participants in
capacity-building activities

Member States supported in the second quarter of 2024*



Key implementing partners for UNCCT's work in the second quarter 2024

United Nations entities:

- CTED
- ICAO
- INTERPOL
- IOM
- OAS
- OICT
- UNDP
- UNICRI
- UNRCCA
- UNOAC
- UNODC
- UNOPS

Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations:

- Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) Secretariat
- Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ASEAN ARF)

- ESAAMLG
- INTERPOL
- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- SCO-RATS
- OSCE

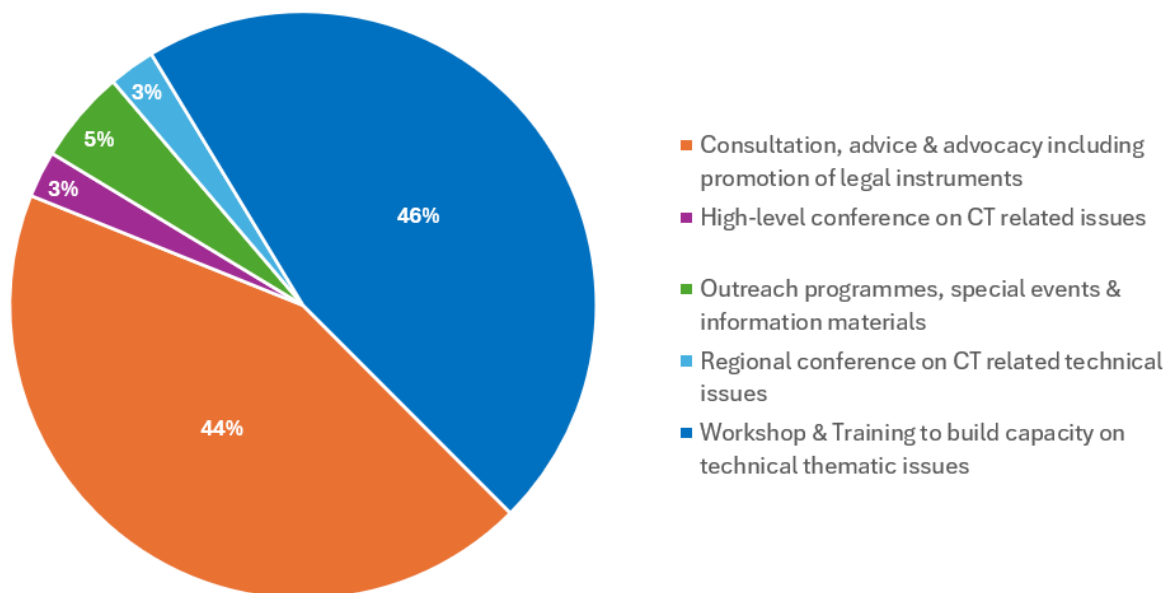
National institutions, agencies, CSOs and private sector companies:

- Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD)
- Brazil's ABIN
- FIU-Netherlands
- Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
- Kingdom of Morocco
- LIS (Libyan Intelligence Service)
- United States Department of State, Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation, Office of WMDT
- Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center
- Spanish Victims of Terrorism Foundation (FVT)
- Tekever (Portugal)
- Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
- Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network – East Africa (YADENU)
- Government of the Netherlands
- Government of Portugal
- Government of Romania
- The Shura Council of the State of Qatar
- Government of Mongolia
- Government of Vietnam
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Justice

Breakdown of activities

UNCCT Technical Assistance Delivered to Member States

UNCCT activities delivered by category



** Note that human rights and gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout UNCCT programming*

Overview of programme implementation under UNOCT's Results Framework (2022-2025)

Strategic Goal 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT, in fulfilling its leadership and coordination roles, fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on CT/PCVE among all stakeholders. UNCCT works to ensure that the United Nations system is further unified in its focus and support to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that Member States recognize the importance of tackling terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and that CT/PCVE programmes are coherent, duplications of intervention are avoided, and comparative advantages are fully leveraged, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In line with its mandate, UNCCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Outcome 1.2: Relevant, effective, coherent, integrated, human rights-compliant and gender-responsive capacity development support provided by UNCCT at national, regional and global levels.

UNCCT Launch of Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Kenya

On 3 June, the UNCCT Global PCVE Programme launched the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme in Kenya, involving 24 young leaders (50 percent female) from 17 counties. This initiative, in partnership with Kenya's NCTC, GCERF, and YADEN-East Africa, is the final focus for the YEEP Africa. The launch, led by former NCTC Director and the UNCCT, aims to mentor young leaders in community engagement, data analysis, policy development, programme design, and strategic communication to enhance and design youth-centred PCVE solutions. The project features in-person training, a national policy dialogue, and a regional policy dialogue in Nairobi in August. Participants' expectations and support preferences were discussed to enhance the programme's implementation.

UNCCT's Global Programme on PCVE continued to implement YEEP in partnership with the Tubsan National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Somalia. The programme includes 26 young women and men from the 6 geographic regions of Somalia, from diverse government and civil society backgrounds. YEEP Somalia will include an in-person training in Nairobi and a capstone National Policy Dialogue in August 2024.

Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

Description of Goal

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

Outcome 3.1: Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.

UNCCT - ICSANT Project – “Glowing Tulip 2.0” Tabletop Exercise and workshop on radioactive incident response and nuclear forensics

UNCCT's ICSANT Project, together with the Governments of the Netherlands, Romania, the United States, and UNODC, and with co-funding by the European Union, organized a three-and-a-half-day TTX and workshop on radioactive incident response and nuclear forensics in the MENA region, entitled “Glowing Tulip 2.0: From Crime Scene to Courtroom.” The TTX was implemented from 23 to 26 April in the Hague, the Netherlands. Key topics included the role of nuclear forensics experts, the admissibility of evidence, and the importance of pre-incident coordination among scientific, law enforcement, and prosecutorial bodies. It brought together 60 participants from 15 countries, as well as experts from the IAEA, INTERPOL, the Netherlands, Romania, the United States, the PNNL, UNOCT and UNODC.

The event enhanced the participants' knowledge and skills on forensic responses to incidents involving radioactive and nuclear materials out of regulatory control, particularly in the context of criminalization under ICSANT. Participants from CBRN regulatory authorities, intelligence, law enforcement, judiciary and ministries of foreign affairs reported that the training improved their abilities to investigate and prosecute nuclear security incidents, and they plan to apply and share this knowledge to enhance their agencies' practices. The exercise concluded with mock trials to demonstrate the use of nuclear forensic evidence in judicial systems.

UNCCT - ICSANT Project – “Steppe Lotus” Tabletop Exercise and workshop on legal frameworks to combat CBRN terrorism

In collaboration with Mongolia, Viet Nam, the United States, UNODC, and the ARF, UNCCT organized a three-day TTX and workshop on strengthening legal frameworks to combat CBRN terrorism in ARF countries. The event took place from 16 to 18 April in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and focused on enhancing regional cooperation mechanisms and the implementation of legal frameworks, highlighting the applicability of ICSANT and other legal instruments. It featured presentations, panel discussions, and exercises to improve cooperation and coordination in addressing CBRN terrorism and non-State actor non-proliferation issues. Over 80 participants from 16 countries and experts from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department of Justice, Indonesia, Mongolia, PNNL, Viet Nam, UNOCT and UNODC familiarized themselves with the key international legal instruments including ICSANT. They enhanced their knowledge on criminalization, jurisdiction over specified offenses, obligations to extradite, prosecute, and cooperate at the national and international levels. The collaboration provided a comprehensive view of CBRN threats and improved the participants’ knowledge and understanding of international legal frameworks. The workshop was co-funded by the EU.

Joint UNOCT and SCO RATS Regional Workshop on Fostering Cooperation and Information Sharing on Preventing and Combatting Firearms Trafficking

From 9 to 10 April, UNOCT in partnership with UNRCCA and SCO RATS held a Regional Workshop on Fostering Cooperation and Information Sharing on Preventing and Combatting the firearms trafficking and supporting the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017). The event was co-organized by UNCCT under the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA Project) and programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons. The workshop, which brought together over 40 experts from SCO Member States (China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) and Turkmenistan, as well as various UN agencies and international organizations, provided a platform for cooperation on exchanging judicial information. The event aimed to identify challenges that impede enhanced national, regional and international cooperation in preventing terrorist and criminal illicit access to weapons. Participants articulated their requirements for technical assistance and capacity-building to achieve increased sharing of judicial information and law enforcement cooperation. Particular attention was paid to the implementation of the UN counter-terrorism legal framework, including the Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2370 (2017), reinforced by the 2015 Madrid Guiding Principles. Further discussions focused on the role of international and regional organizations on facilitating the implementation of these documents in the region and beyond.

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

Border Security and Management Initiative Training Expert Workshop

On 19 April, the UNCCT BSM Programme, with substantive contributions from UNOCT’s Global Human Rights Programme, organized a training workshop for law enforcement experts in Rome, Italy. The experts

updated the ToT curriculum for border authorities in which they emphasized cultural considerations and included realistic scenarios with a focus on risk analysis, human rights, and gender considerations. The input of experts significantly informed the launch of the in-person BSM technical workshop which was organized in mid-June in Marrakech, Morocco.

Technical Workshop on Strengthening Cross-Border Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Central Sahel

From 25 to 27 June, the UNCCT BSM Programme organized the Technical Workshop on Strengthening Cross-Border Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Central Sahel in Marrakech, Morocco. The workshop was supported by UNODC and IOM and focused on counter-terrorism challenges in the Sahel region. It emphasized the importance of unified strategies for regional security through cross-border cooperation. Eight female and 17 male participants from border related government agencies from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger discussed recent trends and threats in the region and developed strategies to prevent the cross-border movement of known or suspected terrorists. They identified follow-up actions, including timelines to enhance national capacities, coordination, and cross-border collaboration. The workshop effectively strengthened the ongoing collaboration among Sahel countries and raised beneficiaries' awareness on the importance of unified strategies for regional security through cross-border cooperation.

UNCCT/AIMC workshop on countering the financing of terrorism for the implementation of the Arab CT Strategy

From 30 April to 2 May in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the UNCCT CFT Programme, the NAUSS and the AIMC Secretariat organized a regional capacity-building workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism for the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy. A hundred officials from Arab Member States attended the workshop and were trained on parallel financial investigations, virtual assets, non-profit protection, and prosecuting terrorism financing cases. Participants enhanced their knowledge and skills on methods of countering the financing of terrorism as set out in the Arab Counter Terrorism Strategy and increased their awareness of the above mentioned CFT aspects through discussions. The expert lectures were delivered by specialists from regional organizations, academia, public and private sectors, including from NAUSS, Complytek, the Public Prosecution Office of Egypt, the Guardia di Finanza of Italy, and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENA-FATF). The training was conducted in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, and provided guidance on risk-based approaches, operational challenges, strategies for mitigating risks and for the adoption of preventative measures.

Consultation with UNODC on joint communication strategy between goFintel and goAML teams - one day consultations

On 7 May, the UNCCT CFT Programme and UNODC discussed the preparation of a common narrative and roadmap for the joint communication strategy between UNODC/goFintel and UNODC/goAML, planning towards the goFintel deployment in the Netherlands. Participants agreed on the joint narrative, developed the initial communication strategy and roadmap, and prepared legal and communication materials for the deployment.

Consultations with FIU-NL Deputy Director and goFintel team from FIU-NL

On 8 May, UNCCT met with the FIU-NL Deputy Director, the goFintel team from FIU-NL and the OICT. The meeting focused on discussing future financial instalments and resources for the development and deployment of the goFintel software, as well as communication, legal agreements, and preparation for the next donor meeting. Positive feedback was given on funds for goFintel's development.

On 21 May, the UNCCT CFT Programme and the FIU-NL convened to strategize joint communication and outreach efforts, and to review the Service Level Agreement and cost model in preparation for the soft launch of goFintel in the Netherlands. The launch took place on 25 June in New York, United States, and initiated a transitional phase leading to the full deployment of the software later this year. During the Egmont Group's Plenary meeting from 3 – 7 June, goFintel was introduced to the 174 FIU members by the FIU-NL, with a subsequent presentation from UNOCT/UNODC. The UNODC/goAML team participated as observers.

National UNCCT/CFT consultations as part of the ESAAMLG Regional Risk Assessment

The UNCCT CFT Programme completed the second round of national confidential interviews under the ESAAMLG regional TF Risk Assessment process in Tanzania (3 June), a process previously rolled out in Uganda (22 April), Ethiopia (24 April), Mozambique (26 April), Democratic Republic of the Congo (27 May), Kenya (29 May) and Rwanda (31 May). All 21 ESAAMLG Member States submitted responses to a 2023 questionnaire. The consultations provided clarifications on the context for the final risk assessment report. The next steps involve gathering additional information and consulting with UN partners.

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

Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons briefing to the Permanent Missions of Singapore, Malaysia and Mongolia to the United Nations

The UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons held briefings with representatives of three countries (Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore) on countering terrorist use of weapons and discussed the upcoming "CBRNE Exercise and Exercise Program" regional workshop for South and Southeast Asia, held 9-12 July in Bangkok, Thailand.

UNOCT/UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit and the U.S. Department of State WMDT Office's Virtual seminar for Central Asia on CBRN exercises and exercise programmes

The main objective of the seminar was to allow the participants to apply the knowledge gained during the in-person workshop and receive support in utilizing the shared material. The seminar took place on 23 April and was conducted online. It was the third event in a series of engagements with the Central Asia region, organized under the joint project of the UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons and the U.S. Department of State WMDT Office on "Strengthening Partner Nations' Capacities to Develop Their Own CBRN Exercise Programmes". Thirteen representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

presented exercise outlines on hostage taking in chemical plants, a Hurricane 2024 TTX, and a draft for a national seminar for government officials on enhancing response capabilities to threats of CBRN weapons for terrorist purposes. The event also included information on additional capacity-building support available to Central Asia. It will be succeeded by an inter-regional seminar involving Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa.

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

Soft launch of the goFintel software presentation by NL Permanent Mission, FIU the NL, UNCCT, OICT

The launch event was organized by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN on 25 June in New York. UNCCT has spearheaded the development of goFintel through its CFT Programme in partnership with FIU-NL and OICT, while coordinating closely with UNODC. UNCCT supported the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands in informing Member States about goFintel in the FIU-NL with the purpose of raising interest from potential end-user countries and new donors. UNOCT received expressions of interest from Argentina, Germany, Latvia and Uzbekistan for the software.

CT TECH - Darknet and Virtual Assets Training

The three-day training was held from 6 to 8 May in Jakarta, Indonesia, and focused on Darknet and Virtual Assets investigative techniques. The training included a module on securing the working environment as well as practical exercises on virtual machine setup and Darknet methods. Participants from narcotic control bureaus, cybercrime units, financial forensics, counter terrorism and public prosecution gained knowledge about INTERPOL's Global Rapid Intervention of Payments (I-GRIP) system and enhanced their investigation skills through a scenario exercise. Feedback indicated that the training was comprehensive, with knowledgeable and supportive trainers. Participants appreciated the group activities and collaboration with international officers and suggested regional follow-up training to share real criminal data and simulation exercises.

CT TECH National capacity building workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The workshop aimed at finalizing the self-assessment report on law enforcement capabilities for new technologies and on developing a roadmap for implementation. Following extensive national stakeholder consultations on the roadmap, the UNCCT Cyber Programme organized the workshop under its CT TECH initiative and conducted it from 2 to 5 April 2024 in Sarajevo. The roadmap provides a guideline for the country to develop sustainable capability and mobilize international support. It also reviewed Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in threat assessment and policy development to counter the use of technology by terrorists. This workshop enhanced the skills and knowledge of participants in better drafting national counter-terrorism policies and to build up law enforcement capacities while protecting human rights. Six female and 14 male participants from 17 Government entities successfully finalized the self-assessment report and roadmap, reviewed its progress and examined case studies on how to improve national processes.

Final CT TECH capacity building workshop for Uzbekistan

In June, the CT TECH Initiative under the Global Cyber Programme delivered its final capacity building assistance to Uzbekistan on strengthening the national threat assessment and policy development processes to address challenges and opportunities of new technologies in countering terrorism as well as enhancing their law enforcement technological capabilities. The last workshop of the capacity building initiatives resulted in enhanced and strengthened national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, ensuring compliance with international human rights norms and standards, the rule of law, and integrating gender aspects in its response plans. The 20 participants from the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, Security Council, State Security Services, National Cybersecurity Agency, the Parliament, the defence forces and relevant ministries finalized the self-assessment report on the status of national law enforcement capabilities. Participants also discussed current law enforcement capabilities and readiness to adopt new technologies.

As a result, a report on “Law Enforcement Capabilities Framework for New Technologies in Countering Terrorism: Uzbekistan Review” was developed and published which is one of the main deliverables of CT TECH initiative.

CT TECH delivers final capacity building workshop to the Philippines

The CT TECH initiative held a final capacity building workshop for 33 participants (10 female, 23 male), including 26 representatives of the Philippines Anti-Terrorism Council, the National Police, cybersecurity agencies, intelligence and security services in Manila, the Philippines in June. The training resulted in the enhancement of the Philippines’s national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, ensuring its compliance with international human rights norms and standards, the rule of law, and gender mainstreaming. Twenty participants finalized the self-assessment report on the status of national law enforcement capabilities, developed through extensive national consultations, and the roadmap for improvement. As a result, a report on the “Law Enforcement Capabilities Framework for New Technologies in Countering Terrorism: Philippines Review” was developed.

Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (TTX) - Jamaica

From 24 April to 1 May, the UNCCT Cyber Programme conducted a TTX on responding to terrorist cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure using generative artificial intelligence (AI). This scenario-based exercise gave the 15 female and 25 male participants the opportunity to learn in a low-stake environment, minimizing the risk of error when applying the lessons learned at the training in real-life situations. Forty participants from the President's office, the defence forces, academia, , transport authorities, the Jamaica Cyber Incident Response Team (JaCIRT) and other government agencies attended the training, in addition to representatives from financial institutions and the private sector. The participants enhanced their knowledge on cooperation between technical, communications, and policy entities, explored response structures, capabilities, and contingencies while identifying gaps and vulnerabilities that necessitate technical or policy-driven solutions.

Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Port of Spain

A similar exercise was delivered together with the Organization of American States in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 27 to 28 May. The main purpose of the national, multi-agency tabletop exercise was to develop and inform Trinidad and Tobago's arrangements for preparing for and responding to terrorist cyber-attacks. Thirty participants from 17 government entities, such as TT-CSIRT, national security agencies, law enforcement agencies, crime units, public defence agencies and public service agencies (electricity, water) as well as academia attended and fostered dialogue on cybersecurity crisis communication. Additionally, participants shared best practices, explored response structures and discussed policy-driven solutions.

Launch of the UNOCT-UNCCT/UNICRI Report: Beneath the Surface: Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Dark Web and Cybercrime as a Service for Cyber-Attacks

On 28 June, UNCCT's Cyber Programme launched the UNOCT-UNCCT/UNICRI report entitled "Beneath the Surface: Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Dark Web and Cybercrime as a Service for Cyber-Attacks". The report, funded by the Republic of Korea, examines the intersection of terrorism, violent extremism, and cybercrime on the Dark Web, providing critical insights for countering these converging threats. Experts who contributed to the report provided access to their platforms (Trend Micro and S2W) which were presented during the event and showcased how to leverage AI in dark web investigations. The event was attended by 43 participants (19 female, 24 male) from Permanent Missions to the UN, the private sector, academia, and CSOs. The launch of the report resulted in the audience's increased awareness on terrorist and violent extremist use of the Dark Web and cybercrime-as-a-service for cyber-attacks.

Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with its victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure the impacts of terrorism on individuals, families and societies can be mitigated through the recognition, respect and protection of the victims' rights and needs. This includes supporting Member States to be better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts, as well as the development of comprehensive and gender-sensitive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and their families. UNCCT also works to support the application of empirically validated and human rights compliant, age and gender responsive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, with the aim of ensuring accountability and breaking the cycle of terrorism for the future.

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

Unveiling of 'Memories' exhibition in San Sebastian, Spain

On 23 May, the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (Global VoT Programme) unveiled its "Memories" exhibition at the City Hall in San Sebastián, Spain, highlighting how objects and/or memories have helped victims become resilient over the long term. San Sebastián is the sixth Spanish city to unveil the Memories exhibition, together with Madrid, Valladolid, Pamplona, Vitoria, and Málaga. The event was co-organized with the Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center and the FVT. The exhibition continued strengthening the close collaboration between UNOCT and the Government of Spain in their joint efforts to address the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism. Moreover, it strengthened awareness and support for victims and survivors of terrorism from the public and contributed to PCVE efforts and initiatives through victims' and survivors' testimonies and narratives. A launch event was held that included remarks from local dignitaries and UNOCT and a walkthrough of the exhibition which enhanced regional awareness and support for victims and fostered connections with local authorities and associations.

Partnership Briefing in support of Victims of Terrorism

The Global VoT Programme held a Partnership Briefing for UN Member States in New York on 24 June. Organized in the lead-up to the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism to be held in Spain in October, the briefing sought to galvanize the international community's support to uphold concrete progress in advancing the international victims of terrorism agenda and the commitments made at the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in 2022, as well as to raise funds for four specific asks:

- 1) To respond to Member States' technical assistance requests on the Model Legislative Provisions capacity building project, which also includes support on the development of national comprehensive assistance plans, as called for by General Assembly resolution 73/305;
- 2) To revitalize the UN Victims of Terrorism Portal on a new, secure server with up-to-date information and resources on and for victims of terrorism;
- 3) To develop knowledge products and interactive training tools to share good practices, increase the capacity of national authorities and victims; and
- 4) To increase the global participation in the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism by funding the participation of a broader representation of victims and CSOs from the Global South.

The event was attended by over 30 Permanent Mission representatives. The Permanent Representatives of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Spain delivered opening remarks. Three attending Member States expressed their intention to explore concrete options to support the appeal, and particularly the participation of victims from the Global South in the upcoming International Conference. One attending Member State expressed interest in supporting the revitalization of the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

Completion of Model Legislative Workshop to Support the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism in the Philippines

The second and last technical assistance workshop in the Philippines was held from 19 to 21 June in Manila, Philippines, marking the conclusion of the first national pilot project on the Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Rights and Need of Victims of Terrorism. The objectives of the second national workshop were to continue enhancing the capacity of national authorities to address the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, to provide national authorities with the tools to develop a National Comprehensive Assistance Plan, and to promote good practices and dialogue on victims of terrorism-related matters among relevant national stakeholders. The participants included 20 female and 28 male victims and survivors of terrorism, CSOs, representatives of the United Nations Country Team, various Philippine entities, national and international experts, and academics.

The workshop, which marked the completion of the capacity-building programme put together for the Philippines, concluded with a draft roadmap, developed by the key actors who participated in the MLP project and to be implemented over the next few years. The roadmap aims to integrate victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches into national legislation, implementation of CT/PCVE strategies, memorialization activities and assistance instruments and plans designed to support victims and survivors of terrorism in a more coherent, systematic, and holistic manner. The Global Programme will continue working closely with the Government of the Philippines, within existing resources, to advise them on the implementation of their workplan and good practices in the area of victims and survivors of terrorism.

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

First Central Asia Regional Expert Council Meeting on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees: 'Cooperation for Peace and Security'

The inaugural meeting of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees, held on May 14 in Tashkent, was hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan and co-organized by UNOCT, UNRCCA, and the OSCE. The event formalized regional collaboration, highlighted gender and age-sensitive practices in prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of returnees, and raised awareness of ongoing UN and OSCE efforts. Over 100 experts from Central Asia, including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, as well as UNODC representatives, participated in discussions on repatriated individuals' profiles and their integration needs. The meeting, which included a visit to a local "Mahalla" for insights into community rehabilitation efforts, successfully shared PRR practices and enhanced participants' awareness of existing strategies.

Strategic Goal 5: Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts

Description of Goal

UNCCT supports Member States and other partners to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote gender equality and women's empowerment while countering terrorism, in line with their international obligations, the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and inspired by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. This is undertaken by ensuring that UNCCT's strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights and gender equality within CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and its partners will support women and girl's representation and leadership in CT/PCVE. UNCCT will also enhance its capabilities to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to ensure respect of human rights in the delivery of its CT/PCVE mandates and ensure that its CT/PCVE efforts are informed by context-specific gender analyses.

Integration and promotion of human rights, gender considerations and gender mainstreaming in UNCCT activities

Human rights and gender are mainstreamed across UNCCT activities, with support and guidance from the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS). As outlined above, in the second quarter of 2024, a number of UNCCT activities incorporated human rights and/or gender considerations or further supported the promotion of human rights and gender equality.

Gender mainstreaming across UNCCT activities is guided by the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan (2022) under overall coordination of the Gender Unit of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS) with the support of the Gender Task Force (GTF), which also comprises nine UNCCT programme and project managers. In the second quarter, the GTF held two meetings, including to brief the Gender Task Force on the United Nation Gender Equality Acceleration Plan and discuss UNOCT progress towards implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Policy.

As part of the Gender Task Force initiative, on 3 June, the Gender Unit held the 6th office-wide Brown Bag Discussion on gender and CT/PCVE, which aims to strengthen UNOCT's, including UNCCT's, internal capacity on gender mainstreaming across programmes, policy and coordination functions. The Brownbag was moderated by the Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch, and hosted the Governance and Peacebuilding Coordinator at the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, who presented the UNDP report "Journey to Extremism in Africa: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement." She explored gendered aspects of the findings, including disaggregated gender analysis of the drivers of extremism, revealing differences in women's and men's experiences and in relative patterns of recruitment and disengagement. The brownbag was attended by 45 UNOCT and UNCCT staff members.

Jointly with the UNCCT CFT Programme on 3-4 June, HRGS participated as experts in the official launch of the Regional Project on Building Capacity and Improving Cooperation Mechanisms on Countering the Financing of Terrorism in Southeast Asia upon the invitation of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ). HRGS delivered two presentations: Human Rights Compliant Approaches to Implementing Effective Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Measures (focusing more on the impact of the CFT measures on NPOs) and Gender-responsive approach to countering the financing of terrorism measures. Both presentations were delivered in an interactive manner and were well-received by the participants and organizers.