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OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



دولة قطر  
State of Qatar

# ANNUAL FORUM

OF

**Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance**

## Outcome Report



28-29 MARCH 2022 | DOHA, STATE OF QATAR



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The Beneficiaries Forum is the first large-scale UNOCT event, which brings together beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical assistance, to assess the progress and performance of the policy, coordination and capacity-building work carried out with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and our national, regional and global partners.

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**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism  
at the opening session





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# Foreword

By Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General  
of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism



Since its establishment in June 2017, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has been working diligently to lead and coordinate the United Nations' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and strengthen its delivery of capacity-building assistance, while enhancing visibility, advocacy, and resource mobilization for these efforts. As we continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of this assistance in line with the June

2021 General Assembly resolution on its seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we are guided by and rely on the open and critical feedback of our beneficiaries and partners as the best measurement of our performance.

With this understanding, UNOCT and the State of Qatar, as a leading contributor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, co-organized the Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance on 28-29 March 2022 in Doha. This event, for the first time, brought together beneficiaries, providers, and donors to assess the results of the technical assistance and capacity-building support provided by my Office and Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities with the financial support of the State of Qatar. This unique set-up serves as a new and exemplary model of dialogue and cooperation with key stakeholders, reinforcing our efforts to ensure full transparency and accountability of our services to the global counter-terrorism community.

I am pleased that the Beneficiaries Forum succeeded in providing an inclusive and interactive platform to share perspectives on the evolving global threat landscape,



highlight counter-terrorism priorities and needs, take stock of experiences and lessons learned, demonstrate comparative advantages, identify challenges and opportunities, and put forward suggestions to strengthen the design and delivery of our assistance. The rich discussions we witnessed over the course of two days would not have been possible without the valuable contributions from our beneficiaries and partners representing Member States, international and regional organizations, parliamentary assemblies, and civil society organizations, for which I am grateful.

While we are encouraged by the positive assessment we have received from our beneficiaries and partners on what we have managed to accomplish so far in the areas of policy leadership, coordination and coherence, capacity-building, and resource mobilization, we have taken good note of and are committed to reflect upon the areas that could benefit from further attention and investment, which are consolidated and presented in the final section of this report on key guiding principles, main observations, and recommendations.

In closing, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the State of Qatar, a strategic partner in multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, for hosting the Beneficiaries Forum and for its strong political, financial and technical support to UNOCT programmes and core activities. I take this opportunity to thank our 34 other donors for their generous voluntary contributions to the various programmes and initiatives of my Office, which are essential to ensure the delivery of critical counter-terrorism assistance in a sustainable manner. I strongly encourage my Office and our Counter-Terrorism Compact partners to use this report to guide our collective efforts in the design and delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support in counter-terrorism going forward.



**Vladimir Voronkov**

Under-Secretary-General

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

# Foreword

By H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations



The State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) established a productive partnership shortly after the General Assembly authorized by consensus its establishment in 2017. This partnership reflects Qatar's commitment to supporting the United Nations' efforts to counter the scourge of terrorism by facilitating UNOCT's fulfillment of its mandate and strengthening its core activities.

The State of Qatar's annual \$15 million contribution to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism makes it a leading donor to UNOCT. This contribution has made it possible for UNOCT to not only reach full operational capability in a short period of time, but also to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to a wide range of recipients around the world.

Prompted by the desire of the State of Qatar to help UNOCT maximize the benefit recipients derive from the Office's initiatives, programmes and projects, the two parties have collaborated to organize the First International Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism with a contribution from the State of Qatar. The Forum was held in Doha in hybrid format from 28-29 March 2022 and brought together technical assistance providers, donors and recipients for a productive exchange of views and interactive dialogue.

As this report shows, the deliberations held during the Beneficiaries Forum highlighted the significant impact of UNOCT's diverse and integrated projects and programmes, implemented in cooperation with relevant UN agencies at the international and regional levels. The discussions also helped to assess performance results and progress achieved,

explore opportunities and address challenges with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such activities, ensuring that financial contributions achieve the greatest impact with the least possible resources.

We look forward to seeing the main guidelines, best practices and recommendations that emerged from the Forum become a future guide for adjusting and enhancing the design and implementation of UNOCT's technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, while it continues to work closely with the recipients and donors.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the State of Qatar to making all possible efforts, in continuous collaboration with the United Nations and various international partners, to get rid of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism.



**H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

# Executive Summary

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the State of Qatar jointly convened the Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance (“Beneficiaries Forum”) from 28-29 March 2022 in a hybrid format, with both in-person participation in Doha, State of Qatar, and virtual participation from Member States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society organizations, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (“Counter-Terrorism Compact”) entities.

The Beneficiaries Forum, the first in a series of annual forums co-organized by UNOCT and the State of Qatar, brought together beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical and capacity-building assistance to assess the results and impact of programmes and activities implemented by UNOCT across its mandated areas of policy leadership, coordination and coherence, capacity-building, as well as advocacy, visibility and resource mobilization, in close collaboration with its Counter-Terrorism Compact partners, with the generous financial contribution of the State of Qatar. In doing so, the Forum sought to identify the ways in which to strengthen the design and delivery of the UN’s assistance in counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE).

The Beneficiaries Forum registered a total of 426 in-person and virtual participants, including:

- **123 representatives from 88 Member States**
- **23 representatives from 11 international and regional organizations**
- **46 representatives from 33 civil society organizations**
- **24 representatives from 18 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities**

The Forum featured a ministerial opening, with 210 participants attending in-person, including 40 Ambassadors and 67 representatives from 63 Member States based in Doha, beneficiaries of UN counter-terrorism programmes from different parts of the world, and several senior UN officials. Over the course of a day and a half, the Forum hosted a total of 75 in-person and virtual speakers.

In addition to the opening and closing sessions, the Beneficiaries Forum consisted of six thematic sessions focused on:

- i. strategic priorities for CT/PCVE programming, including geographic and thematic priorities and key guiding principles;**
- ii. opportunities and challenges in the design and delivery of CT/PCVE assistance, including the effectiveness of cooperation and coordination instruments, monitoring and evaluation tools, and resource mobilization efforts;**
- iii. 'deep dive' assessments of the policy, coordination and programmatic work carried out with the financial support of the State of Qatar;**
- iv. perspectives of beneficiary Member States, regional organizations and civil society partners on enhancing the impact of CT/PCVE support;**
- v. field-based implementation, including integration of behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement in CT/PCVE programming; and**
- vi. reporting of outcomes and the vision forward.**

All participants welcomed the joint initiative of the State of Qatar and UNOCT to organize the Beneficiaries Forum as offering a unique and collaborative platform to assess the impact of the UN's CT/PCVE assistance and discuss effective counter-terrorism approaches to enable the UN to better support Member States and other recipients of assistance in their CT/PCVE needs and priorities. As detailed in this report, beneficiaries and partners, including Member States, international and regional organizations, parliamentary assemblies, and civil society organizations shared their assessments of the threat landscape, counter-terrorism priorities and needs, experiences collaborating with UNOCT and other UN partners on various CT/PCVE programmes, initiatives, activities, and events, as well as the impact that this assistance and cooperation has had at national, regional and global levels. The providers of assistance, notably UN entities, informed about the programmes and initiatives undertaken in collaboration with UNOCT and other partners, including within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups, and shared lessons learned, challenges and opportunities from experiences in delivering technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States and other beneficiaries. In addition, UNOCT senior leadership and programme managers shared their assessments of the Office's work in the

areas of policy leadership, coordination and coherence, and joint resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts, and informed about the core features of UNOCT programmes and lessons learned from their implementation, as well as measures that UNOCT has taken to strengthen its results culture and improve its capacity-building support.

The State of Qatar, as the leading donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, and beneficiary countries and organizations joining the Forum from around the world, expressed satisfaction with the relevance, results and impact of the policy, coordination and capacity-building support to Member States and other counter-terrorism actors towards the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism. They reaffirmed the importance and effectiveness of inclusive 'whole-of-society', 'whole-of-government', human rights-based and gender-responsive interventions tailored to the local context, as well as comprehensive, integrated, multifaceted, and innovative approaches to the delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance.

Government, regional and civil society partners highlighted their positive experiences with and the value of unique, specialized, and results-oriented programmes addressing complex counter-terrorism issues such as global programmes on National Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism (or "Fusion Cells"), Countering Terrorist Travel, Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security, Countering Terrorist Attacks against Vulnerable Targets, Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems, Counter-Terrorism Investigations, Security of Major Sporting Events and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, and Support to Victims of Terrorism. They emphasized the relevance of these programmes in meeting counter-terrorism needs and priorities; underscored the benefit of these programmes in establishing and supporting national and regional structures, developing tools and guidelines, and delivering expertise and practical trainings tailored for specific audiences and contexts; and recognized their contribution to promoting coordination and building partnerships among diverse stakeholders.

Participants underscored the importance of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its eight thematic working groups in ensuring coordination and coherence of the UN counter-terrorism efforts, keeping CT/PCVE high on the UN agenda, integrating CT/PCVE in the UN peace and security architecture, mainstreaming human rights and gender in CT/PCVE work, and strengthening engagement with civil society and victims in these efforts. They recognized and appreciated UNOCT's policy leadership and coordination role with regard to the UN General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General, including through the provision of secretariat support to the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, counter-terrorism reporting to the UN governing bodies, organization of high-level international and regional conferences, as well as diplomatic outreach and engagement with Member States and regional organizations.

Beneficiaries and partners shared a number of recommendations that will help inform the design and delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance on counter-terrorism going forward. They recommended stronger engagement with and inclusion of civil society, local communities, particularly women and youth, academia, and other private sector actors in programme design and delivery; adopting a multi-tier approach to programming that integrates regional and sub-regional dimensions; enhancing public-private partnerships; considering both security and prevention aspects for a holistic and integrated approach to programming; integrating CT/PCVE across all pillars of the UN and promoting comprehensive development-based solutions; ensuring the mainstreaming of human rights and gender considerations in CT/PCVE efforts; increasing local, national and regional ownership for sustainability of impact; expanding the geographic coverage of programmes; and providing innovative approaches to prevent and counter terrorism through the deployment and use of modern technologies.

Participants also recommended reinforcing field presences to provide not only tailored technical assistance and capacity-building support, but also to contribute to policy analysis and resource mobilization without duplicating efforts at Headquarters; leveraging the UN's field offices around the world to deliver quick expertise and responses to urgent needs and local realities; and building closer relationships between the field and Headquarters. Other recommendations included systematically identifying comparative advantages and avoiding duplication of efforts among UN entities and enhancing the engagement of the Counter-Terrorism Compact with Member States, regional organizations, and UN field presences. The project-based funding model emerged as a significant challenge to strategic planning and programming and appeals were made to institutionalize the funding of UN counter-terrorism efforts through the Regular Budget and multi-year frameworks with donors to allow for sustainability of assistance to Member States and other beneficiaries.

In addition to the executive summary, this outcome report consists of summaries of the interventions made by all 75 speakers of the eight sessions; a final section that outlines the key guiding principles, main observations, and recommendations that emerged from the Beneficiaries Forum; and annexes that include the final programme, list of speakers and participants, and statements delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and dignitaries of the State of Qatar.

# Opening Session

## Day 1 28 March 2022

This session was moderated by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under Secretary-General of UNOCT, and featured H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, as keynote speaker. It included remarks from H.E. Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari, Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar, H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, Ms. Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General, and Mr. Weixong Chen, Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. The ministerial opening hosted 210 participants attending in-person, including 40 Ambassadors and 67 representatives from 63 Member States based in Doha, as well as beneficiary and partner Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations joining virtually from around the world. Speakers highlighted the uniqueness and importance of the Beneficiaries Forum in bringing together the beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical assistance to assess the impact of CT/PCVE assistance provided by the United Nations with the financial contribution of the State of Qatar and to discuss the ways to improve and strengthen the development and implementation of programmes



and activities. They shared their observations on the performance of UNOCT's support in the areas of policy leadership, coordination and capacity-building, respective activities and initiatives in preventing and countering terrorism, as well as perspectives on the threat landscape, while highlighting counter-terrorism priorities and key principles for technical assistance delivery.

### Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

In opening the Beneficiaries Forum, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, **Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT**, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for its strong political, financial and technical support which has enabled UNOCT to deliver on its mandated functions of policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, as well as visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization, to support Member States and other beneficiaries in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. He thanked UNOCT's 34 other donors, in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as national, regional, and international partners, benefiting from or providing assistance to programmes and activities for their support.

Mr. Voronkov underscored that, through Qatar's generous contribution, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact continues to serve as the largest United Nations coordination framework to support the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions, and the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform now connects 914 focal points from Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, 131 participating Member States, the European Union, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. He emphasized that the partnership with Qatar paved the way for enhanced field presence for tailored, impactful and cost-effective assistance to beneficiaries, including the operationalization of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism based in Doha. He added that Qatar's support extended to the UNOCT Programme Office in Budapest hosting the programmes on countering terrorist travel and aviation security, as well as to the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid which supports the implementation of the programmes on the protection of vulnerable targets, sports security and prevention of violent extremism, and support to victims of terrorism.

In closing, Mr. Voronkov highlighted the importance of an honest and inclusive assessment and evaluation of impact of interventions for measuring the success of implementation, noting that the principles of transparency, accountability and sustainability are at the core of UNOCT's results-based delivery. In this context, he pointed to the significance of the Beneficiaries Forum as the first large-scale UNOCT event bringing together beneficiaries, providers, and donors of technical assistance, to assess the progress and performance of the policy, coordination and capacity-building work carried out with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and national, regional and global partners.

### H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi

In his keynote address, H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, **Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar**, expressed pleasure in convening the Beneficiaries Forum jointly with UNOCT as part of the importance Qatar places on coordination between providers and beneficiaries of technical assistance and donors based on the principles of accountability and efficiency and to ensure comprehensive response in programme management. The Minister reaffirmed Qatar's support to UN activities in counter-terrorism and its close cooperation with relevant UN bodies, including UNOCT, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the United Nations Development Programme, highlighting the country's commitment to the integrated implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other UN resolutions as well as the UN's central role in strengthening multilateral cooperation.

Referring to the 2018 Contribution Agreement between the State of Qatar and UNOCT, granting USD 15 million annually to UNOCT from 2019-2023 as a nucleus of an expanded partnership between the two sides, Qatar observed that UNOCT has strengthened the performance of its core mandate, including providing policy leadership and coordination across the UN system, organizing international and regional meetings, implementing the Counter-Terrorism Compact, and delivering integrated and diverse technical and capacity-building assistance programmes and projects. Qatar welcomed the tangible and increasing impact of such activities in addressing the most pressing challenges, developing and delivering solutions, and promoting international and regional cooperation.

Minister Al Muraikhi underscored Qatar's contribution to UNOCT's activities by offering its national expertise and capabilities, noting the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent

Extremism, implemented in partnership with the Doha-based International Center for Sport Security (ICSS), as well as the country's hosting of two UNOCT Programme Offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement, launched in December 2020 and June 2021, respectively. Qatar welcomed UNOCT's approach to consolidate its field presence at the regional level that facilitates programme implementation closer to beneficiaries, enhances impact and cost-effectiveness, and develops cooperation with local, national, and regional actors.

In closing, the Minister announced Qatar's decision to renew its contribution to UNOCT with USD 15 million annually from 2024-2026, as part of its support to multilateral counter-terrorism efforts.

### H.E. Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari

In his opening remarks, H.E. Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari, **Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar**, highlighted Qatar's efforts in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism at national and international levels, including through the promulgation of laws, regulations and guidelines on counter-terrorism and combating the financing of terrorism in line with Security Council resolutions and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, as well as its contributions to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and regional strategies.

Underscoring Qatar's commitment towards continued cooperation with the United Nations and its vision of establishing the United Nations House in Doha as an umbrella to consolidate assistance for international peace and security, Mr. Al-Ansari emphasized the close collaboration with UNOCT in establishing and operationalizing the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, as well as the launch with CTED of the Global Violent Extremism Index in cooperation with Qatar University. The Chairman highlighted Qatar's efforts in coordinating and engaging with international organizations to use the 2022 FIFA World Cup as a platform to reject violent extremism and promote noble values among youth as well as to support initiatives on its margins that serve these goals. As part of support to UN initiatives, Mr. Al-Ansari also referred to the development of advanced systems at border crossings to counter the travel of foreign fighters.

In closing, Mr. Al-Ansari mentioned that Qatar's efforts are not confined to the national level and reiterated the strategic partnership with UNOCT to assist Member States to achieve the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, ensure the protection of human rights, consolidate good governance, and develop systems in support of global peace and security.

## H.E. Mr. Hassan Al Thawadi

H.E. Mr. Hassan Al Thawadi, **Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy**, highlighted the important role that sports can play as a vehicle to counter terrorism and violent extremism as part of the multifaceted approach to addressing the phenomenon. As the host of the first FIFA World Cup in the Arab World and the Middle East, Mr. Al Thawadi spoke about Qatar's efforts to harness the dynamic and magnetic spirit of the event to extract every potential benefit that it can bring and to make sure that these benefits reach people who need it the most. He noted that, through the World Cup, Qatar aims to ensure that the power of football is utilized in the most effective way to disseminate the messages of peace, tolerance, and inclusion, to leverage the social and economic potential that hosting such an event can inspire in the region and beyond, and to support broader efforts aimed at resolving conflict through dialogue and combating extremism through addressing root causes.

In this regard, Mr. Al Thawadi mentioned that the Supreme Committee provides young professionals across the Arab World a pathway to a career in the region's growing sporting industry to ensure young people have opportunities and hope for a better future. He noted that Generation Amazing, through a football for development approach, has transformed into an international network operating in more than 50 countries and reaching over 750,000 beneficiaries dedicated to utilizing football as a vehicle for societal development and community integration, as well as a platform for boys and girls to learn leadership skills through a special curriculum designed around football. In addition, the Secretary General informed that the Supreme Committee incubated the region's first behavioural insights unit within its office known as B4 Development, which works with public and private sector partners, in collaboration with Generation Amazing, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and UNOCT.

In closing, Mr. Al Thawadi appealed for the acknowledgment of the potential of sports at a wider and deeper level and encouraged the international community to increase its belief in the power of sports and its practical application in enacting positive

influence on societies, building relationships, and promoting communication among people from any strata of society and in any part of the world.

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### Ms. Cristina Duarte

In her opening remarks, Ms. Cristina Duarte, **United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General**, highlighted the various factors that nurture terrorism and violent extremism in parts of Africa, including ideological aspirations, religious discrimination, and marginalization of social groups, sustained by uncontrolled access to arms, corruption, covert sponsorship through funding and training, heavy handed military responses, and transnational organized crime, among others. She noted that global extremist groups capitalize on local grievances and challenges related to limited state security infrastructure and take advantage of illicit networks.

Ms. Duarte elaborated on external and internal factors that have impacted the capacities of African countries to prevent violence, including smuggling of natural resources that could be used to finance terrorism, as well as issues related to governance and the national control of economic flows, endemic poverty, inequalities, marginalization, and respect for human rights. She emphasized the need to focus efforts on tackling the internal causes of violence given their power to catalyze holistic solutions that address both internal and external sources of terrorism and violent extremism, and highlighted the critical relevance of technical cooperation addressing the structural root causes of conflicts to prevent the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. In this regard, she called on approaching inclusive and sustainable development as a tool for conflict prevention and durable peace, noting higher incidence of conflict resurgence in countries falling behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She further noted that absence of state institutions is leveraged by non-state actors to earn trust and allegiance, while lack of development undermines state legitimacy and paves the way for terrorist groups to replace the state in service provision.

**In closing, she stressed the need to build institutional, social and individual resilience to stem terrorist recruitment, to have strong, just and accountable institutions, and to sustain consistent, coordinated and comprehensive efforts across countries, sectors and disciplines anchored in human rights and the rule of law.**

## Mr. Weixong Chen

In his opening remarks, Mr. Weixong Chen, **Acting Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**, recalled CTED's mandate to support the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee by monitoring the implementation of relevant Council resolutions, through on-site expert assessment visits to Member States, based on which recommendations are drawn to facilitate the delivery of technical assistance in close cooperation with partners. He highlighted the long-standing relationship between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the State of Qatar, recognizing the latter's good practices on effective coordination, sophisticated use of technology, and proactive international cooperation, as well as its intellectual contribution for UN counter-terrorism programmes.

Mr. Chen recalled that the Security Council resolution 2617 (2021) renewing CTED's mandate underscores cooperation between CTED and other Counter-Terrorism Compact members, particularly UNOCT, reaffirms the value of recommendations from CTED's assessments, and calls on UN entities and Member States to use these in the design of technical and capacity-building assistance. He stressed that CTED assessments are technical and comprehensive in nature, based on expertise drawn from a wide range of professional backgrounds as well as a methodology that takes the form of a dialogue with a broad range of national authorities and engages other UN entities, academia, and civil society. Moreover, the cooperative dialogue between the Committee and the host country ensures that recommendations are sound, impartial, factual, and focused on priority gaps in implementation.

### Mr. Chen shared CTED's proposals to be considered for inclusion among the key principles for technical assistance delivery, namely:

- i. **Acknowledgment** of the importance of strengthening international law and that the primary responsibility for implementing the relevant international legal obligations rests with Member States;
- ii. **Recognition** of the importance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's recommendations as a multilateral starting point for the design of technical assistance and capacity-building aimed at implementing relevant Security Council documents, while also stressing the importance of UN coordination and the adoption of a "whole-of-UN" approach to the design of technical assistance projects; and
- iii. **Reference** to the effectiveness and sustainability of technical assistance; whole-of-Government and whole-of-society perspectives; and importance of strengthening international cooperation as a core imperative in the fight against terrorism.

# Session I

## Strategic Priorities for Programming to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism

### Highlights

Session I was chaired by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under Secretary-General of UNOCT. It featured remarks from the panel by:

- **H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori**, Director General, Head of Global Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna**, Ambassador and Director of the Transnational Threats Department and Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Hassan**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Huib Mijnaerends**, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Netherlands and Head of Counter-Terrorism and National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- **Mr. Mauro Miedico**, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch of UNOCT
- **Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown**, Coordinator of the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team
- **Ms. Azadeh Moaveni**, Director of Gender and Conflict Project, the International Crisis Group.

The panel discussion was followed by an interactive segment with interventions from Tunisia, Colombia, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Norway, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the Strong Cities Network.

The session sought to understand how the global counter-terrorism community identifies and prioritizes technical and capacity-building assistance in CT/PCVE to address and respond to diverse and evolving counter-terrorism needs of Member States and other beneficiaries. It explored the strategic and policy frameworks at the global and regional levels as well as the thematic and geographic priorities that inform and guide planning and programming in CT/PCVE to understand how counter-terrorism goals can be effectively translated into operational-level programme design and delivery, while ensuring coherence and coordination in multilateral capacity-building efforts.

### Key questions/issues addressed

- How do existing global and regional policy frameworks guide and shape CT/PCVE planning and programming in specific countries and regions affected by terrorism?
- What are the key thematic and geographic priorities, guiding principles and operational modalities that inform CT/PCVE programme design and delivery in the context of the global terrorism landscape?
- How should the international community identify and prioritize CT/PCVE technical and capacity-building assistance within resource and operational constraints posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic?
- Where do the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and civil society actors fit within the overall counter-terrorism capacity-building architecture?
- How effective are existing strategic and policy instruments in ensuring coherence and coordination in the delivery of CT/PCVE assistance to achieve counter-terrorism goals?
- What are some of the ways to strengthen strategic and operational alignment in multilateral CT/PCVE efforts?

### Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

**Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT**, highlighted new counter-terrorism challenges, including terrorists' access to and use of cyber space, digital platforms such as social



media, online video games and their adjacent applications, and complex technologies including unmanned aircraft systems, 3D printing, cryptocurrencies and digital assets, mobile payments, and crowdfunding. He pointed to risks posed by terrorists' access to small arms and light weapons in conflict zones and the need to remain alert to efforts by terrorists to obtain weapons of mass destruction, while adding that COVID-19 has exacerbated grievances and polarization that terrorists manipulate to attract new members. He mentioned that Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their regional affiliates have intensified their activities and expanded their geographical presence, while terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief, continues to grow. In this context, he emphasized the importance of identifying and articulating strategic priorities for programming and ensuring that operational activities and outputs align with those priorities, highlighting the centrality of human rights and gender considerations in measures to counter terrorism. He stressed the need to invest in policy coherence at all levels, cooperation with and among regional and sub-regional organizations, and collaboration with civil society and private sector actors. Mr. Voronkov also mentioned the need to make the Counter-Terrorism Compact platform available to all partners to strengthen policy coherence and streamline collaboration around counter-terrorism efforts.

### **H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori**

**Director General, Head of Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, the Kingdom of Morocco, and Co-Chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)**, highlighted the imperative to anticipate and understand terrorist threats and prepare adequate counter-terrorism responses in an increasingly complex global context marked by a surge of terrorist attacks and violence. He underscored that the threat of terrorism requires establishing coherent and coordinated strategies and policy frameworks, interlaced with operational level capacity-building efforts through tailored programmes that take into account specificities of each country and region. He noted that these efforts should be aimed at promoting resilience, increasing preparedness, and enhancing prevention capabilities. Further, he stressed that addressing the cycle of terrorism requires an inclusive and collaborative response that promotes specialized counter-terrorism expertise among practitioners and leverages their capabilities, adapting to evolving terrorism threats, and designing context-specific programmes, while drawing from international best practices and lessons learned.

Ambassador Chekkori outlined Morocco's efforts to promote cooperation, develop tailored responses, and foster the sharing of expertise and knowledge in counter-terrorism. In this regard, he highlighted Morocco's co-chairmanship of the GCTF with the Netherlands (2016-2019) and Canada; the GCTF initiatives to consolidate civilian counter-terrorism capacities (e.g., The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response

to the FTF Phenomenon, Border Security Initiative, Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector); the adoption of the 2021 GCTF Strategic Vision for the Next Decade that enhances cooperation between the GCTF and the Counter-Terrorism Compact; and the country's co-chairmanship of the Africa Focus Group of the Global Coalition against Da'esh. Ambassador Chekkori underscored Morocco's support for the establishment and operationalization of the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa which provides African countries innovative means to transfer expertise and knowledge in counter-terrorism and offers training programmes based on identified priorities across several areas such as border security management, PVE and counter-terrorism investigations.

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### **H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna**

**Ambassador and Director of the Transnational Threats Department, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**, outlined the main parameters guiding the work of OSCE and the Organization's strategic priorities for its technical assistance at the national and regional levels. First, she highlighted that OSCE's work on preventing and countering terrorism is based on a comprehensive understanding of security with human rights and gender mainstreaming forming the integral parts of all its efforts. In particular, she stressed the need to promote age- and gender sensitive good practices in the rehabilitation and reintegration of returning FTF family members, recalling that this issue was one of the prominent topics during the Tashkent Conference (3-4 March) and specific regional policy dialogues organized jointly with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

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Second, she highlighted OSCE's approach that stresses the need for government agencies to coordinate their efforts as well as to include the expertise of civil society and the private sector in their responses. In this regard, she mentioned that while the LIVE Initiative strengthens the capacity of civil society actors in making their respective communities more resilient against violent extremism, OSCE also assists its participating States in devising national strategies and action plans that enable long-term partnerships between civil society and government agencies. She informed that OSCE together with UNODC is offering a joint training programme on countering the financing of terrorism that not only brings together different government actors but also connects them with the private financial sector and raises awareness among NGOs against being abused for terrorist financing purposes. Similarly, she mentioned OSCE's efforts in countering terrorist use of the Internet aim at strengthening cooperation between the ICT industry and government experts on monitoring online content, while bringing civil society actors on board, noting that OSCE's efforts in this area are aimed at advancing digital literacy, especially among young people.

Lastly, Ambassador Kupchyna highlighted the importance of coordination and cooperation with international and regional partners to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure effective utilization of resources. As part of OSCE's efforts in promoting partnerships, she referred to the updating of the OSCE-UNOCT Biennial Action Plan that includes ongoing cooperation on establishment of Advance Passenger Information Systems, a conference on border security in Dushanbe later this year; and joint efforts in strengthening the protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets in Central Asia. She also informed about OSCE's cooperation with UNODC on gathering and sharing of electronic evidence, its regular coordination with the Council of Europe on countering terrorism and trafficking in human beings, and its cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on critical infrastructure protection.

### **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Hassan**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations**, echoed the importance of providing assistance to eliminate the terrorism phenomenon, and referring to Oman's role as co-facilitator together with the Kingdom of Spain of the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, shared his country's observations and thoughts addressing the considerations of the session. In this regard, he stressed the need to move away from the stereotypes that have persisted especially after 9/11 linking terrorism to a religion, doctrine, sect, people, or group, recalling that the United Nations was clear in rejecting any association between terrorism and any religion. Second, the Ambassador underscored the importance of applying justice and international law in the fight against terrorism, highlighting that intolerance, ill treatment, targeting of certain groups, and double standards, whatever their source may be, that lead to injustice will inevitably generate negative reactions. He asked what the fate of refugees, including children, in camps in Afghanistan, will be if they are deprived of funds that concern the livelihood of Afghan citizens, noting the need to address these questions to understand the extent of its impact on extremism and terrorism. Third, he underlined that it is not permissible to insult prophets and religious symbols under the pretext of freedom of expression and called for the accountability of their perpetrators, noting that fanaticism, extremism, and hatred of the other are all types of terrorism. Fourth, he highlighted the need for all countries to provide support to the United Nations and UNOCT as the main international platform that constitutes a global starting point in eliminating terrorism, stressing the need to not politicize this support. Fifth, he emphasized the need to call things by their proper names without double standards and appealed not to use different terms such as "violent extremist". He noted that whoever commits terrorism is a terrorist and the term terrorism that applies for some countries is obscured in some other countries for the same violent and hostile actions. Sixth, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity as enshrined in the UN Charter, noting that counter-terrorism efforts should be conducted in cooperation with Member

States and with their approval. Seventh, he pointed to the need to pay particular attention on legal grounds to the situation of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members in camps in Syria and other countries, which if left unaddressed may feed extremism, fanaticism, and terrorism. And lastly, the Ambassador reiterated the need to consider all different forms and patterns of terrorism and their impact across the world.

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### **H.E. Mr. Huib Mijnaerends**

**Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Netherlands and Head of Counter-Terrorism and National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**, underscored the need to counter and prevent all violations of international law including human rights and international humanitarian law, and to place human rights at the centre of global CT/PCVE policies, as the contrary will become drivers of violent extremism feeding into terrorist narratives. Mr. Mijnaerends highlighted the need for concrete tools to develop effective counter-terrorism policies while safeguarding human rights and concrete solutions to mitigate negative impacts when counter-terrorism legislation and measures are applied contrary to international law. In that regard, the Netherlands is working with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on a policy model to better incorporate human rights in counter-terrorism efforts. In addition, Mr. Mijnaerends emphasized the need to focus on root causes to counter terrorism and violent extremism in the long run and to adopt an inclusive approach that ensures the meaningful participation of civil society in the development and execution of CT/PCVE policies and programmes, noting the crucial role that UN agencies play in creating this synergy and ensuring coherence and coordination on the ground. He further stressed the need to work with those who know the local context best to enhance the effectiveness of strategic and policy instruments and mentioned that the lessons learned from UN programmes across the globe can guide us on how to best design programmes that includes civil society in policymaking and ensures that human rights are respected in counter-terrorism efforts. The Ambassador noted that the Netherlands and Morocco have put this approach into practice through the GCTF initiative on strengthening civil society actors in developing countering the financing of terrorism policies and measures.

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### **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**

**High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, highlighted that UNAOC, as Vice-Chair of the PCVE Working Group together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNDP, actively engages with other members of the Counter-Terrorism Compact to leverage an all-of-UN approach and deploys soft-power tools to bridge cultural divides and cement cohesive societies for PCVE efforts. He noted that that building inclusive and cohesive societies requires an all-

of-society approach and commitment to include young women and men and that UNAOC works closely with civil society organizations including youth-led grassroots and faith-based organizations.

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Mr. Moratinos briefed on activities completed under UNOCT seed-funded projects, including the Intercultural Dialogue and Socio-Emotional Competencies for Peacebuilding or Digital Games for Peace Initiative that addresses violent extremism in South Asia through an educational project for young leaders; the EDIN/Empowering Interfaith Dialogue Networks Project, which offered peer-to-peer capacity-building training targeting young religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations, and young media makers, where participants designed and implemented social media campaigns encouraging interreligious and intercultural dialogue and deconstructing the processes of hate speech and radical extremism through dialogue; a Handbook on 'Preventing Violent Extremism through Major Sporting Events – A Handbook for Organizers' developed as part of UNOCT's Global Programme on Sports and Security implemented with UNAOC, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and ICSS; and the roll-out of the pilot phase of mapping of religious sites in Burkina Faso and Argentina as part of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites developed by UNAOC.

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As part of the deliverables of the sports programme, Mr. Moratinos announced UNAOC's plans to organize a Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Youth Forum in Rabat in June 2022 that will build on the power of sport to amplify youth participation in national and regional PVE strategies, affirming the important role that youth bring to foster sustainable peace and development in the MENA region, in addition to three additional youth forums that will be organized by UNAOC over the course of 2022. He informed about UNAOC's active involvement in the elaboration of the United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, led by UNOCT in partnership with CTED, UNICRI and INTERPOL, including its modular guide on religious sites. In closing, he expressed UNAOC's readiness to undertake new projects particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and to enhance collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts and undertake new projects subject to funding.

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### **Mr. Mauro Miedico**

**Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) of UNOCT**, highlighted that our work needs to continue to be guided by Member States and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions. He observed that the seventh review of the Strategy made it clear that despite divides in many areas, there is strong consensus in countering terrorism together. He also noted that in the face of the continuously evolving

terrorist threat, we need to be more prepared at the UN to better support Member States through critical technical assistance and capacity-building support, asking ourselves how we can balance strategic prioritization with effective programming.

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He highlighted seven areas of lessons learned for UNOCT. The first is ensuring that our capacity-building better matches and responds to critical needs of beneficiaries, and in this regard, UNOCT has consolidated dispersed projects into comprehensive and innovative programmes at global and regional levels. The second lessons learned is delivering assistance closer to beneficiaries in close partnership with UN Country Teams and de-centralizing programming for more sustainable, impactful, and cost-efficient implementation through the establishment and operationalization of field presences, such as the UNOCT programme offices on parliamentary engagement and behavioural insights in Doha. Third, in line with the purpose of the Beneficiaries Forum, is hearing directly from beneficiaries on their assessments, expectations and priorities and further expanding our reach beyond state institutions to include more civil society organizations, academia and youth. Fourth is the critical need to work more with regional and sub-regional organizations. For instance, UNOCT has supported the Arab Interior Ministers Council in the development of the new Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy adopted in March 2022, and the Office is also closely engaged with the Southern African Development Community to support its regional counter-terrorism centre in Tanzania. Fifth, UNOCT is putting more attention to developing horizontal cooperation and South-South cooperation to share and benefit from the experiences and expertise of the Global South, and to support these efforts, it has recently launched a programme office in Nairobi, which was followed by a South-South cooperation event. Sixth is the need to ensure a rigorous approach to measuring and evaluating the impact of our work, as also highlighted in the latest review resolution. The final lessons learned is the need to ensure predictable, flexible, sustained, and diversified funding to be able to better support Member States, including through securing more allocation from the Regular Budget.

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### **Mr. Edmund Fitton Brown**

**Coordinator of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team**, provided an overview of the mandate of the Monitoring Team in supporting United Nations Security Council 1267 and 1988 Committees by assessing the global threat from Da'esh and Al-Qaida and collecting information from Member States on individuals and entities on sanctions lists to keep them accurate and relevant, and maximize their counter-terrorism impact. He shared an assessment of the global threat landscape to shed light on key thematic and geographic priorities for counter-terrorism. In this regard, he noted that in non-conflict zones, travel restrictions and reduced public activity due to COVID-19 combined

with effective counter-terrorism action by Member States have suppressed the terrorist threat; however, online radicalization and recruitment remain a concern. While difficult to assess, more attacks may occur as lockdowns ease and targets present themselves. In conflict zones, insurgency and terrorist activity continue where rule of law is weak, and despite Da'esh and Al-Qaida lacking a strategy for the pandemic, the threat they pose has increased and is expected to continue rising. Their success in conflict zones will eventually increase the threat they pose in non-conflict zones.

Mr. Fitton-Brown observed that Iraq and Syria remain fundamental to Da'esh's identity and political problems inhibiting stabilization in both countries mean conditions still exist for Da'esh to survive and perhaps eventually resurge. He noted that the situation of fighters and dependents, including minors, in prisons and internally displaced camps of northeast Syria present both a humanitarian concern and a long-term global threat multiplier, adding that facilities remain precarious as proved by the Al-Hasakah prison break. Mr. Fitton-Brown expressed concern about the spread of terrorism in Africa with Al-Shabaab demonstrating its capabilities in Somalia and the growing threat posed by local affiliates of Da'esh and Al-Qaida in Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, northeast Nigeria, and Mali with cross-border implications. Outside Africa, Da'esh-core region, and Afghanistan, he mentioned continuing counter-terrorism concerns in northwest Syria, Yemen, and parts of south and southeast Asia. In closing, Mr. Fitton-Brown echoed the sentiments of previous speakers on the power of sports as a unifying force that plays a vital role in building social resilience and therefore countering violent extremism.

### **Ms. Azadeh Moaveni**

**Director, Gender and Conflict Project, International Crisis Group**, echoed the importance of gender sensitivity, awareness and responsiveness in charting and executing counter-terrorism policies and strategies and ensuring they are human rights compliant. She noted that while there have been many discussions about women as victims of terrorism and conflict, there has been no discussion in women's participation in conflicts as combatants, supporters, or as a social base of insurgencies. She stressed the need to ensure that the principles of the Women, Peace and Security agenda are not subsumed into the counter-terrorism agenda, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, and that women civil society actors are not drawn into CT/PCVE programming in a way that distracts them from their local priorities or puts them at risk of losing their legitimacy as mediators and activists in their communities. She stressed that while the situation in the camps in northeast Syria and the legacy of Daesh in Iraq and Syria undermines the rights of women and girls and poses a security risk, we also should not overlook the horrors faced by hundreds of young boys held in adult detention centres in Syria, highlighting the importance of ensuring broad and deep gender sensitivity and consistent application of these principles to conflict settings.

In addition, Ms. Moaveni expressed concern regarding the shrinking space for women and girls in Afghanistan, noting the growing gap between the diaspora that had been obliged to flee and Afghans who remained in terms of their fears and expectations from the international community. She added that this shrinking civic space leaves narrower avenues for women's engagement in the Afghan society and exacerbates security risks. She noted that Da'esh-Khorasan attracts different demographics in certain parts of Afghanistan, recruiting in urban areas and appealing to young women and using them operationally, as the group seeks to offer an alternative to the Taliban, despite its suppressive gender orthodoxy. She expressed concern over constraints in the provision of aid to those in need in Afghanistan which is necessary to sustain activism, adding that failure to prevent the collapse of civic space in the country could lead to terrorist recruitment in the country.

## Interactive discussion

### H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations**, highlighted that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security that is further exacerbated by the fallouts of the pandemic and that has become more diverse and diffused. In this context, he mentioned that counter-terrorism remains top of the multilateral agenda and the international community must always strive to be one step ahead by working together and adapting priorities and strategies at national, regional and global levels. The Ambassador stressed the need for a streamlined approach to strategic programming based on evidence, clear concepts, universal norms and shared values, drawing on the comparative advantages offered by key players, including regional organizations, civil society, and the private sector, and following a clear methodology that mainstreams human rights considerations and measures programmes against existing international norms and standards. Ambassador Ladeb also highlighted the importance of establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability, draw lessons learned, and amplify best practices. He indicated that while many capacity-building programmes are successfully implemented with thanks to the financial support of the State of Qatar and other donors, strategic planning requires a degree of predictability in terms of resources that calls for a streamlined approach. He acknowledged the important steps that UNOCT has taken to maintain consistent dialogue with all beneficiaries and to ensure that work at the strategic level translates into constructive and effective operational measures in many regions, including Asia and Africa, in various fields such as civil aviation, protection of vulnerable targets, and prevention of violent extremism in prison settings. The Ambassador concluded by asking whether there is coordination and harmonization to adapt priorities with the implementation mechanisms of the Secretary-General's Report on 'Our Common Agenda'



given the convergence of outcomes in addressing root causes and underlying drivers of violent extremism and creating resilient and inclusive societies. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov noted that UNOCT is playing an active part in discussions with Member States and other stakeholders to deliver on the vision and ideas provided in this strategic document.

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### **H.E. Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin**

**Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for International Anti-Terrorist Cooperation, Director of Department on Issues of New Challenges and Threats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation**, welcomed the efforts to counter terrorism around the world, including through programme activities. Mr. Tarabrin stressed the attention given by the Russian Federation to the practical results of counter-terrorism programmes, noting the increased capacity of law enforcement agents to counter terrorism as the main indicator. He highlighted that the Russian Federation constantly supports capacity-building and coordination between Member States and international organizations in countering terrorism and the United Nations' pivotal role in this regard to ensure the respect of relevant Security Council resolutions, UN Charter, and international law. He emphasized that for the Russian Federation, the implementation of relevant initiatives needs to follow consensual approaches of Member States that are set in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He informed that the Russian Federation, like other States, is looking for a balanced implementation of the Strategy and its four pillars. He expressed concern about the mainstreaming of human rights and gender aspects in counter-terrorism programmes and initiatives independently of the main goal defined for such programmes/initiatives which impacts resource allocation and performance, and called for a reasonable approach to ensure funds are spent towards the achievement of the main goal. He noted that the Russian Federation is one of the donors of UNOCT and an active participant in many counter-terrorism forums, and supports several projects and initiatives aimed at implementing the Strategy, including border security, countering foreign terrorist fighters' travel across borders, increasing cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Central Asian countries, and promoting information exchange and capacity-building in Central Asia. He highlighted the result of the Small Arms and Light Weapons project that led to the elaboration of important recommendations for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Mr. Tarabrin called for expanding UNOCT's network of donors and highlighted the need to avoid the duplication of initiatives and the politicization of counter-terrorism activities.

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### **H.E. Mr. Guillermo Fernandez De Soto**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations**, stressed the importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and

subsequent resolutions which underscore the promotion of international cooperation as an effective tool against terrorism, further highlighting international cooperation as a fundamental instrument to achieve success against criminal organizations. In this regard, Ambassador De Soto pointed to the importance of the international community to have access to the necessary tools to tackle the threat and the need to develop knowledge and mechanisms to address the interlinkages between terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime networks dedicated to drug trafficking, money laundering and human trafficking, among other crimes. Ambassador De Soto informed that the Government of Colombia presented its Portfolio of Good Practices for South-South Cooperation 2021-2022 which includes relevant actions against terrorism that have been shared in the Latin American region and the Caribbean. He called on UNOCT and the Counter-Terrorism Compact to increase their cooperation with and activities in the Americas and the Caribbean, and invited UNODC and other Compact partners to consider Colombia as a partner to promote triangular cooperation in this field.

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### **H.E. Ms. Nancy Jamal**

**Ambassador and Chief of Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain**, shared an assessment of the evolution of the threat and the global response, and noted that while the challenge is more complicated and the threat of hatred and extremism is compounding, it is encouraging how structures in our countries are working incessantly to fight and eradicate terrorism collectively through different methods such as strategic communications, enacting law enforcement policies, undergoing education reform, employing information and communications technologies (ICT), upscaling sport initiatives, entering peace promotion engagements, and utilizing methods related to scientific management. Ambassador Jamal noted that terrorism affects us all and policies to counter and defeat terrorism through defence, education or diplomacy are interconnected. She highlighted that the interface of terrorism is changing, and its borders are rapidly expanding, and we are reconsidering our understanding of the terrorism portfolio as global threats become more diverse to include political, domestic, state, bio, cyber and others forms of terrorism, all of which must be placed as priority to understand the challenges ahead of us and formulate the best steps forward. Furthermore, she emphasized the need to work together to study the geopolitics of world events and analyse how they affect societies and systems, noting that issues such as Afghanistan, UN sanctions lists, cryptocurrency frameworks, African counter-terrorism policies, Da'esh resilience, Al-Qaida resurgence, pandemic outbreaks, legislation related to foreign terrorist fighters, scientific breakthroughs, and strategic concepts must be part of this effort. In closing, Ambassador Jamal expressed Bahrain's commitment to the global fight against terrorism and the UN's efforts towards this aim and highlighted the importance of concerted and united global efforts, sharing of best practices, understanding the nuances of vulnerable societies, and preserving and flourishing our collective institutional memory. She added that we must

continue to stay ahead of the curve, adapt to threats and persist in our fight against terrorist organizations and networks that threaten international peace and stability.

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### Mr. Constantin Nicolaysen Karame

**Senior Adviser, Section for Global Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway**, highlighted the emphasis that Norway places on international cooperation to address root causes, build resilience, and strengthen Member States' capacities in this area. He stressed that international capacity-building efforts must be aligned, complementary, and avoid duplication to succeed and commended UNOCT's coordinating role in leading the Counter-Terrorism Compact as crucial to achieving a coherent, whole-of-UN approach to counter-terrorism, while noting that continuous attention should be paid to further strengthen partnerships with CTED, OHCHR, UNDP and UN Women. In addition, Mr. Karame mentioned that investing in resilience while building counter-terrorism capacities requires resources and underlined the importance identifying and developing programmes in a manner that reflects the needs of recipients rather than priorities of donors towards the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. And lastly, noting that human rights violations are a key driver of radicalization and counter-terrorism programming that is not human rights and rule of law compliant will be counterproductive, Mr. Karame stressed that due diligence obligations of providers must be met throughout project selection, development, implementation, and evaluation.

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### Mr. Frank Borchers

**Chief of the Division for Peace Office in Bonn, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)**, highlighted the importance of cooperation, coordination and solidarity as the way forward to disrupt violent extremism and bring terrorist to justice and stressed that respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the very foundation of the fight against terrorism and a key guiding principle that informs CT/PCVE programme design. The representative referred to UNITAR's trainings to strengthen capacities of individuals and institutions in the area of international humanitarian and human rights law and principles in the protection of civilians, as well as its interactive e-learning course dedicated to raising awareness and building knowledge of beneficiaries in the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in the context of counter-terrorism in Central Asia. In addition, the representative mentioned that UNITAR's focus remains on empowering local communities and civil society, noting UNITAR's capacity-building initiatives in Libya and Colombia in this regard. And finally, he highlighted the value of UNITAR's 'training of trainers' approach in fostering local ownership, increasing efficiency and impact, avoiding duplication while promoting complementarity, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

## Ms. Sabine Barton

**Head of Policy, Strong Cities Network (SCN)**, stressed the important role that cities and local authorities can play in preventing and countering violent extremism both in policy and practice, including by creating open spaces to which all citizens have access thus building social capital and reducing segregation and isolation that can be a driver of violent extremism; by developing locally led approaches for PVE that can draw on a range of resources; and by serving as a connective tissue between national strategies and local action thereby ensuring that national strategies are informed by local practice and local action is in line with national frameworks. Despite this potential, Ms. Barton mentioned that cities continue to face barriers to realizing their critical role due to lack of mandate, capacity, expertise, resources or understanding of how they can contribute to CT/PCVE efforts. As part of SCN's efforts aimed at building resilience, she highlighted a recently launched initiative 'Mapping City-Level P/CVE Needs and Priorities across the African Continent' supported by the European Union. She added that the Network enables cities to drive local and whole of society approaches by supporting city to city learning, uniting policymakers and practitioners regionally and around the world, disseminating good practices, inspiring local leadership and innovation, and raising profile of mayors and local leaders and their importance in shaping approaches to security, cohesion and resilience. Lastly, Ms. Barton stressed that enhanced vertical cooperation between national and local governments is essential in translating international and national PCVE frameworks into local action that promotes principles of conflict sensitivity and do no harm. She noted SCN's partnership with GCTF to identify good practices for strengthening national-local cooperation for PCVE.



From left to right: Mr. Mauro Miedico, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and Ms. Azadeh Moaveni; (on screen): H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Hassan, H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori, H.E. Mr. Huib Mijnarends and Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown

# Session II

## Opportunities and Challenges in the Design and Delivery of Counter-Terrorism Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance

### Highlights

Session II was chaired by Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director and Deputy to the Under Secretary-General of UNOCT. It featured remarks from the panel by:

- **H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka**, Vice-President of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism
- **Mr. Gregory Hinds**, Counter-Terrorism Director, International Criminal Police Organization; Mr. Jesper Pedersen, Deputy Head of Unit, Service for Policy Instruments, Stability and Peace – Global and Transregional Threats, European Commission
- **Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo**, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- **Mr. Masood Karimipour**, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The session brought together UNOCT programming partners to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the design and implementation of CT/PCVE capacity-building and technical assistance to beneficiaries. Speakers assessed the results of joint programmes, projects and activities, the collaboration between UNOCT and its partners, and respective comparative advantages. They identified good practices, existing gaps, and ways to enhance the impact of delivery, and highlighted future cooperation opportunities.

### Key questions/issues addressed

- What are the comparative advantages offered by UNOCT and its implementing partners in responding to the counter-terrorism needs of beneficiaries?
- Are there gaps and/or challenges in the delivery of CT/PCVE assistance to beneficiaries? How can these be best addressed?
- What are some of the opportunities and practices that can be adopted to improve and/or strengthen programme design and delivery?
- How effective are cooperation agreements and instruments (e.g., memoranda of understanding/agreement, strategic programme frameworks, action plans)? What are some of the ways to maximize their operationalization?
- What are some of the considerations in optimizing the impact of CT/PCVE assistance in the field?
- How effective are monitoring and evaluation tools to assess the results and impact of CT/PCVE assistance to beneficiaries?
- What are some of the tools and good practices to mobilize resources for joint CT/PCVE programmes and activities? Are there ways to improve their effectiveness?

### Mr. Raffi Gregorian

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Raffi Gregorian, **Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT**, recalled the General Assembly's seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy requesting UNOCT to assess methodologies and tools for a results framework to ensure comprehensive, balanced and integrated implementation of the Strategy, and while noting that work on this assessment will shortly begin, he highlighted some of the measures that UNOCT has already taken to strengthen its results culture and improve its capacity-building support.

In this regard, he mentioned the steps taken to revamp UNOCT's Programme Management Unit to support all capacity-building programmes of the Office in line with the UN's Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution that enables results-based programme management. He informed that the Office introduced a new robust policy to reinforce the UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB) mechanism so that it is better able to perform results-focused review of programmes on a monthly basis. He also mentioned

the adoption of a new gender policy and action plan and the establishment of a new gender and human rights section in UNOCT that must review all programmes and projects prior to their submission to the PRB to ensure gender and human rights considerations are mainstreamed into their design. Mr. Gregorian highlighted UNOCT's efforts to enhance outreach and consultations with local and regional civil society organizations that are most affected by and working on terrorism, informing that the next round table series will have dedicated sessions where civil society organizations will meet with programme managers to discuss and provide inputs for programmes and projects of interest. He informed about the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group chaired by UNOCT and co-chaired by CTED and UNODC to promote a 'one-UN' approach to improving the delivery of counter-terrorism support and coordinating a more relevant and interactive multi-year appeal for UN system-wide projects on CT/PCVE. He also mentioned that UNOCT has strengthened collaboration with CTED to help ensure counter-terrorism programmes are aligned with analysis, needs and recommendations identified through their technical assessment visits. In response to request of Member States for delivery of assistance closer to beneficiaries, he highlighted that UNOCT established programme and liaison offices in several locations which are supported by host countries and donors through funding and in-kind contributions. And lastly, he informed that the Office finalized its Strategic Plan and Programme Framework that articulates internal strategic goals and institutional priorities to help ensure that its work is fit for purpose.

In closing, Mr. Gregorian noted UNOCT's efforts to increase collaboration and complementarity with other technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to avoid duplication and optimize outcomes. He provided as examples the cooperation with the Netherlands and Morocco on the GCTF Good Practices document on countering the financing of terrorism measures while safeguarding civic space and with the U.S. State Department on countering WMD terrorism in Iraq.

### **Mr. Reinhold Lopatka**

**Vice-President of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (OSCE PA CCT), and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism**, informed that the OSCE PA CCT was established to strengthen the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians in addressing violent extremism and radicalization through coherent policy development, regular exchange of innovative ideas and lessons learned, and coordination of parliamentary initiatives. The Committee develops policy guidance through innovative and comprehensive resolutions which endorse a whole-of-society approach and contributes to the implementation of the international counter-terrorism framework. OSCE PA supports parliamentarians to act as enablers in

shaping national policy and legislative counter-terrorism framework and ensuring that counter-terrorism measures are not misused and respect fundamental freedoms, builds bridges among parliamentarians with different views, and supports parliamentarians in their work at national level.

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Mr. Lopatka recalled that the OSCE PA has actively contributed to the development of model legislative provisions on victims of terrorism published in February 2022 and informed that work on guidelines for parliamentarians in the implementation of the international counter-terrorism framework is being finalized. He also highlighted the close cooperation with UNOCT in the launch of the counter-terrorism parliamentary coordination mechanism among parliamentary assemblies, underlining the importance of the mechanism to prioritize activities and work towards the full implementation of the global counter-terrorism framework through targeted parliamentary actions, and expressing his hope that OSCE PA CCT will bring leadership and ownership of the process that should remain at the hands of parliamentary assemblies. He stressed the importance of bringing more visibility to the work of parliamentarians and enhancing the impact of their actions, including by using the UNOCT Parliamentary Engagement Office in Doha for this purpose.

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In addition, Mr. Lopatka expressed the need for dedicated technical and financial support from UNOCT in the implementation of the international counter-terrorism framework given the lack the resources and expertise at the disposal of parliaments and parliamentary assemblies to implement long-term technical assistance projects.

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## **Mr. Gregory Hinds**

**Counter-Terrorism Director, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**, shared his assessment of the global terrorist threat landscape, including regrouping of Da'esh in Sub-Saharan Africa and Al-Qaida preserving its presence in key regions, concerns over Afghanistan becoming a platform for external operations and inspiring or radicalizing others, and the rise of extreme right-wing terrorism, homegrown terrorism, and terrorist exploitation of the Internet and cyberspace.

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Mr. Hinds highlighted joint initiatives undertaken with UN partners to provide tools, guidance and good practices to countries affected by terrorism threats and reiterated appreciation to UNOCT for its ongoing cooperation and contribution to these initiatives. Some examples provided include: UNOCT-CTED-INTERPOL Compendium of good practices for the protection of critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks; INTERPOL-UNCCT Handbook on Using the Internet and Social Media for Counter-Terrorism Investigations; Technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons; INTERPOL-UNCCT Global Threat



Study on Non-State Actors and Their Potential Use of CBRNE Materials; INTERPOL-UNCCT joint project on enhancing information sharing on FTFs; and the INTERPOL-UNCCT CT TECH project to address increasing terrorist exploitation of new and emerging technologies. In addition, Mr. Hinds mentioned that INTERPOL deploys operational teams in support of Member State investigations and coordinates national and regional counter-terrorism operations involving Counter-Terrorism Compact partners such as UNODC, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and UNOCT, while also noting its participation in Counter-Terrorism Committee assessment visits and its commitment to delivering technical assistance based on identified gaps and needs.

Mr. Hinds also pointed to the challenges that remain in the design and delivery of initiatives in terms of duplicating efforts and overlapping roles which translates into lack of legitimacy and understanding from a beneficiary country perspective. He highlighted that the Counter-Terrorism Compact, where INTERPOL serves as chair or vice-chair of two working groups, serves as a model platform to identify priorities, avoid gaps, and minimize duplication of counter-terrorism efforts. In closing, he highlighted the need to remain vigilant and the importance of a whole-of-community approach to counter-terrorism.

### Mr. Jesper Pedersen

**Deputy Head of Unit, Service for Policy Instruments, Stability and Peace – Global and Transregional Threats, European Commission**, informed that the European Union (EU) has over the past decade increased drastically its engagement on CT/PCVE, moving from roughly 7 million Euros of assistance in 2012 to more than 450 million Euros of activities targeting counter-terrorism and prevention work outside of Europe's borders. The EU has also come a long way in terms of building experience, learning from its activities, and sharing its experience with partners. Mr. Pedersen noted that the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms is on the rise and against this complex and diverse landscape, the need for strengthening cooperation with strategic partners such as UNOCT is relevant as ever. He highlighted the upcoming joint launch with UNOCT of the EU-UN Counter-Terrorism Threat Facility which will serve as a useful tool to address the terrorism threats. He also emphasized that pooling resources and expertise is crucial, particularly in areas where expertise is scarce and more resources are needed, such as countering the financing of terrorism and cyber, noting the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme as a solid example of collaboration. In addition, he highlighted the GCTF and its Inspired Institutions such as the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) as other good examples of collaboration, noting that through GCERF, international donors such as the EU can engage with grassroots communities in a number of countries and pool expertise and experiences to work towards greater impact. He appreciated the positive collaboration with the State of Qatar that is an important part of GCERF and welcomed the close engagement between the UN and the GCTF. And lastly, Mr. Pedersen highlighted

that the EU is a strong advocate of the 'one-UN' approach led by UNOCT in CT/PCVE and appreciated that the Forum brought together expertise both from the UN and outside.

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## Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo

**Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI),** highlighted that UNICRI, as the only UN training and research institute in criminal justice and crime prevention, uses a learning-based approach that pilots, tests, analyses, and seeks to improve the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building. As an example of this approach, she referred to the work with UNOCT and UNODC on an independent synthesis of project findings implemented by all UN entities under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy known as “meta-synthesis” which aggregates findings and lessons learned from 118 evaluation and oversight reports. The resulting report entitled “Learning Better Together” found evidence that Counter-Terrorism Compact entities are delivering a wide variety of technical assistance to Member States showing behavioural change in the near and medium terms while there is not enough information on long-term changes to instil a culture of peace, justice, rule of law and human rights. The report recommends a full-fledged independent evaluation of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which will enable a detailed understanding of what is and what is not working in the design and implementation of counter-terrorism programmes. Another example shared by Ms. De Meo is UNICRI’s programme on countering radicalization and violent extremism in the Sahel-Maghreb region in which UNICRI worked with 80 civil society organizations over a period of five years to test different tools and approaches.

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Against this background, Ms. De Meo shared four key takeaways that UNICRI has learned in relation to the design and implementation of counter-terrorism programmes. The first is the need for robust and in-depth research to gather sound knowledge of local and wider political, economic and cultural dynamics to design programmes that deliver context-specific tailored interventions. The second is recognizing that it takes time to carry out research, design projects, mobilize funding and launch implementation, which may lead to a situation where the situation on the ground may no longer match initial assumptions, requiring flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, trends and vulnerabilities in a timely manner. The third is the imperative of local and community-based approaches and working with local organizations and partners to build more inclusive and tolerant societies, social bonds and civic responsibilities as a prerequisite to bring out meaningful change. The fourth is the need to build upon the beneficial role of religion in delivering technical assistance programmes. Ms. De Meo mentioned that although terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religious belief, some terrorist groups have used distorted narratives and manipulated religion as pretext, and noted that for some religion plays a powerful part in their daily lives and education. She invited the audience to review UNICRI’s final report of its five-year programme in the Sahel-Maghreb entitled “Many hands on an elephant” which

may help inform interventions as we continue discussions on impactful assistance.

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### Mr. Masood Karimipour

**Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, shared UNODC's lessons learned from its long years of experience in delivering technical assistance to Member States. In view of the wide-reaching and rapidly evolving nature of the terrorism threat, beneficiary needs require multifaceted and flexible responses. Referring to the supply chain of elements that contribute to terrorist acts involving the commission of crime (i.e., radicalization, recruitment, financing, training, execution of attacks, etc.), Mr. Karimipour highlighted that all of them are opportunities either seized or missed and that the criminal justice system is integral to an effective response, while noting that the criminal justice system cannot alone fight terrorism and violent extremism and that countries are best serviced when they develop a whole-of-society approach to tackle these challenges. As such, he noted that responses need to be comprehensive and integrated, targeting the entire process at the same time. In addition, Mr. Karimipour underscored the need to be close to beneficiaries to design and deliver tailored programmes that respond to their particular needs and to bring expertise and assets closer to beneficiaries, noting that UNODC has staff spread across 115 offices around the world who have been essential in responding quickly to terrorist attacks and providing on the ground expertise and training. He informed that UNODC delivered training for 37,000 criminal and law enforcement officials and produced 70 practical tools and publications. He also pointed to some of the areas that have been overlooked by criminal justice systems across the world such as mainstreaming gender and human rights and suggested continuing to build on these capacities, noting UNODC's practical guide for Member States on gender mainstreaming.

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Mr. Karimipour appreciated the role that UNOCT plays in terms of coordination and partnerships with UN entities including UNODC to develop and deliver joint programmes, and highlighted UNODC's contribution to several working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact either as chair or co-chair. He noted that CTED continues to be an important partner due to its country assessments on which UNODC bases its programming, and mentioned cooperation with UNOCT and other partners on the launch of the model legislative provisions on victims of terrorism and emerging areas such as CBRN and suppression of nuclear terrorism, which needs more serious response. In closing, Mr. Karimipour underscored that the main challenge for the UN community is to be more flexible, agile, and responsive in light of evolving challenges and circumstances such as the pandemic. In that regard, he noted that UNODC moved quickly to offer its technical assistance online training some 3,000 individuals through its online programming. He added that UNODC is also developing a new global programme that integrates new and emerging areas and mainstreams gender and human rights.

# Session III

## 'Deep Dive' Round Tables of Providers, Beneficiaries and Donors of Counter-Terrorism Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance

### Highlights

Session III of the Beneficiaries Forum brought together providers, beneficiaries and donors of CT/PCVE technical and capacity-building assistance in two 'deep dive' round tables: the first focusing on the assessment of flagship capacity-building programmes implemented in partnership with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and other external partners with the financial support of the State of Qatar; and the second focusing on the assessment of the policy, coordination and programmatic work carried out by UNOCT and its implementing partners supported by the financial contribution of the State of Qatar, including within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups.

### Round Table 1

**Round Table 1** was moderated by Mr. Mauro Miedico, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch of UNOCT. It consisted of three sub-sessions with assessments from (i) beneficiary Member States and regional partners, (ii) parliaments and parliamentary assemblies, and (iii) civil society organizations, with each part featuring reflections from relevant UNOCT Chiefs and Programme Managers as well as Counter-Terrorism Compact representatives. The round table participants conducted a 'deep dive' into the support areas, implementation structures and methodologies, as well as the results and impact of global capacity-building programmes implemented by UNOCT

and its implementing partners with the financial support of the State of Qatar. They discussed opportunities and challenges in programme design and delivery, shared experiences on programmatic cooperation with UNOCT and other UN partners, and provided suggestions on how UN agencies can better support beneficiaries and complement the work of national and regional partners. The round table also included reflections on the application and impact of the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform. It concluded with reflections from the State of Qatar, represented by H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri, Ambassador and Director of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who provided an assessment of the impact of the technical assistance and capacity-building programmes implemented by UNOCT and its partners from a donor perspective and shared expectations for the utilization of Qatar's financial contribution going forward.

#### Programmes and themes covered in the round table

- Global Programme on Protection of Vulnerable Targets
- United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP)
- United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM Programme)
- Global Programme on National Interagency Coordination Mechanism – Fusion Cells
- Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism
- UNOCT Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism
- Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme
- UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform

#### Key questions addressed in the round table

- How do you assess the relevance and impact of these programmes in addressing the counter-terrorism priorities, needs and expectations of beneficiaries and supporting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council CT/PCVE mandates?

- To what extent have technical assessments and recommendations of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee informed programme planning and design?

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- What benefits and results have the programmes had in respective regions and countries of implementation?

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- What factors have impacted the achievement or non-achievement of programmatic goals and outcomes?

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- What methods are used to monitor and evaluate impact? How effective are these?

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- How well do collaboration arrangements and implementation structures facilitate and support programme delivery? What changes can be made to strengthen synergies and cooperation among implementing partners?

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- What is the role of civil society in CT/PCVE programming and execution and how can we further benefit from the expertise, experiences and networks of civil society actors?

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- How has programme implementation adapted to realities in the COVID-19 operating environment?

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- What areas, if any, need adjustment and/or improvement in programme design and delivery?

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- What practices can be adopted to ensure or maximize programme effectiveness and efficiency?

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- How do you assess overall programmatic cooperation with UNOCT? What are the ways to strengthen programmatic cooperation?

## Mr. Mauro Miedico

In introducing the round table, Mr. Mauro Miedico, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) of UNOCT, highlighted the core features of UNOCT programmes that assist Member States in their efforts to CT/PCVE, with thanks to the generous financial support of the State of Qatar. He noted that these programmes are extremely innovative as they constitute an operational shift from workshop centric delivery to offering sustained and comprehensive packages of technical assistance that address the most important needs of Member States. He mentioned that the programmes are designed to address all specific

areas of support ranging from refinement of legislative and policy frameworks to provision of specialized training and capacity building as well as operational and technological support. He also underlined the value of these programmes in fostering partnerships. In this regard, he highlighted efforts to enlarge the pool of beneficiaries not only focusing on national institutions but ensuring an ‘all-of-society’ response and the ‘all-of-UN’ approach through which these programmes are implemented that allows coherent, coordinated and specialized responses.

## [ 1 ] Voices of Beneficiary Governments and Regional Partners

### Advocate Erneste Mosate

**Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency of the Republic of Botswana**, shared his assessment of the technical assistance received from UNOCT within the scope of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP), the Threat Assessment Models for Aviation (TAM) Programme, and the Fusion Cells Programme, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Botswana and UNOCT in 2021. Mr. Mosate informed that Botswana completed the implementation of the TAM Programme in February 2022 as the first country in the region. This assistance equipped the country with tailored processes and methodologies to support national cooperation and coordination against terrorist threats in the civil aviation space and allowed it to successfully realign its counter-terrorism and aviation security services within a trusted ecosystem, in pursuit of a robust risk-based protection of civil aviation assets. In addition, he informed that Botswana is at an advanced stage in the implementation of the CTTP and the Global Fusion Cells Programme, noting that both programmes have delivered measurable impact and tangible results for the country. For example, Botswana received assistance in setting up its National Counter-Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency to ensure compliance with UN counter-terrorism resolutions and in developing legislation, policies, and operational strategies to enhance its capabilities to detect, prevent, and address terrorist threats and support coordinated efforts across the broader Southern Africa region.

In achieving these milestones, Advocate Mosate outlined the basis of Botswana’s success as: (i) political will and ensuring that the necessary commitment and continuous support is present across all levels of Government; (ii) legal framework and willingness to review legislation to enable the implementation of programmes; (iii) inter-agency cooperation and information sharing; and (iv) regional cooperation through structures such as the Southern Africa Regional Informal Working Group (IWG) on API and PNR that provides an important platform for sharing information and lessons learned. Noting that most programmes are

ICT-based, he highlighted the need to build a substructure of an ICT environment to enable further implementation. Referring to Botswana's inaugural chairmanship of the IWG for Southern Africa that will be launched at the end of June 2022, Advocate Mosate mentioned that his country is strategically positioned to help Member States in the region to achieve similar successes in their counter-terrorism efforts.

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### **Ms. Tonya Ayow**

**Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS)**, informed that CARICOM established a regional advance passenger information (API) system making it the only region in the world to have a multilateral API system and that they have been approached by Pacific islands to provide technical assistance. She shared the assessment that technical assistance should be delivered closer to beneficiaries, that providers work closely with regional and subregional agencies, and that more efforts should be given to enhancing horizontal cooperation. She also recalled the previous references to avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring sustainability. Ms. Ayow stressed that maritime security is critical to CARICOM Member States that rely extensively on the tourism industry, and informed that CARICOM IMPACS has advanced cargo information that is centralized and a maritime domain awareness program that identifies ships and vessels of interest and allows reporting to customs. She highlighted that CARICOM IMPACS and UNOCT through its Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) have been collaborating to strengthen legislation on collection of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data and to sensitize CARICOM Member States on the requirements related to PNR data collection. She informed that CARICOM IMPACS offered to share its experience and technical expertise in developing the maritime component of the CTTP goTravel software and collaboration is ongoing in this area. She said CARICOM IMPACS is delighted to work with CTTP and see this cooperation as an opportunity to increase South-South cooperation and ensure sustainability as it enables CARICOM IMPACS to serve as a pilot that can assist developing and small states that may not have the resources and capacity to address these challenges alone.

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### **Ms. Mercedes Quesada**

**Intelligence Officer, Intelligence and National Security Directorate, the Republic of Costa Rica**, recalled that her country is hosting a major sporting event, the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, which is its first since the pandemic in August 2022, and highlighted that the engagement with UNOCT's Sports Programme through capacity building resulted in increased preparedness. In particular, Costa Rica benefited from trainings and guidance, and was able to exchange best practices and lessons learned with other countries in the



region that were experiencing a similar situation in hosting a major sporting event for the first time since the pandemic. Ms. Quesada mentioned that although Costa Rica is not what you would consider a likely target for a terrorist attack, some of the major sporting events that it hosts might be and the Programme helped raise awareness on that fact. Consequently, the matter gained credibility and enabled them to have convening power to gather all public stakeholders for the security planning of a sporting event and not a diplomatic one. In addition, the Programme provided support to enhance public-private alliances. Overall, the Programme provided Costa Rica with the necessary tools to improve its capacities in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

### **Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali**

**Deputy Director and Acting Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT)**, shared that UNOCT's Fusion Cells Programme has responded to the specific regional need to create and strengthen structures that enhance national coordination and interaction between relevant state agencies. He observed that national and regional structures are evolving to include a broader set of CT/PCVE actors and areas, such as Financial Intelligence Units or PNR programmes, enhancing capacities to address transnational threats. In this context, he referred to the two African regional fusion centres, namely L'Unité de Liaison de Fusion (UFL) – Sahel, in Algiers, and the East Africa Fusion and Liaison Unit (EA-FLU) in Kampala and congratulated the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in establishing a regional counter-terrorism centre in Tanzania. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration with UNOCT in responding to the requests of several Member States in Africa to assist them in developing national fusion centres. Responding to the question on how to enhance the provision of assistance, Mr. Lallali recommended that technical assistance providers ensure that the support they provide responds to Member States' specific needs and requests, develop solutions based on a unified definition and clear picture of the threat; and work with regional and national partners to create synergies. He also underlined the need to ensure that structures are sustained by Member States in terms of capacity and financing and suggested focusing on capacity building not only of staff of state institutions but also other stakeholders through the development of training manuals and modules that would allow Member States to continue training. He noted the need to continue the close collaboration and coordination on other programmes as well such as protection of critical infrastructure and API/PNR to build on each other's efforts.

## Reflections and Comments

### Ms. Guadalupe Abreu Megre Pires

**Chief of Special Projects Section, SPIB, UNOCT**, highlighted that SPIB's programmes are indeed 'special' as they are tailored to the needs of beneficiaries, focus on high impact delivery in complex areas, and offer practical applied training courses and other capacity-building assistance in specific niche areas that respond to the request of Member States and the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, while offering beneficiaries with capacities to ensure sustainability. She provided as example the fusion cells programme that focuses on establishing and strengthening counter-terrorism national and regional structures and offers specialized training for decisionmakers and information analysts by in-house staff who have extensive expertise and experience in counter-terrorism and national security matters. Another example that was given was the Vulnerable Targets Programme that provides operational capacity-building to address the rising terrorist threat against civilians and vulnerable targets. She informed about the work of the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat which serves as a training hub to deliver accredited training in Africa, responding to a long-standing request from several African countries in this area. She also highlighted that the UNOCT Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme delivers certified courses to investigators on matters such as interviewing of suspects and witnesses of terrorism related cases, management of terrorism related crimes, and threats related to kidnapping of ransom, among others. Mr. Miedico added that the Rabat Programme Office, which has developed a four-month long comprehensive training courses, is making a strong impact as a unique law enforcement academy.

### Ms. Christine Bradley

**Chief of Countering Terrorist Travel Section, SPIB, UNOCT**, shared her reflections regarding the implementation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) and the Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security Programme (TAM Programme), both of which use an 'all-of-UN' approach to support Member States to enhance their capabilities to detect, prevent and counter terrorist threats through comprehensive and tailored assistance that addresses the realities on the ground and the specific challenges that exist for these countries. In this regard, Ms. Bradley first highlighted the concrete and impactful results achieved through the two programmes. As an example, she informed that Azerbaijan launched its passenger information unit earlier this year, through which it has technical and operational capacity to collect and analyse API/PNR travel information and the critical tools to balance both security and passenger facilitation. She noted that CTTP has delivered similar results and impact in more than 50 Member States that the programme is supporting. Another example she provided was the adoption by Botswana

of a new interagency framework for information sharing on terrorist threats to address the security threats to civil aviation, noting that the country's national aviation authority is now working alongside the national counter-terrorism and fusion agency to ensure that relevant terrorist threat information is shared and that the country has now reoriented its counter-terrorism and civil aviation structure to deliver risk-based management to address threats posed to critical infrastructure.

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Second, Ms. Bradley emphasized the multiplier effect of the results achieved in that by leveraging the impact of the support provided and the expertise developed, UNOCT expands the scope and scale of impact at the regional and global levels. For example, noting the achievements in Botswana within the TAM Programme, UNOCT is now working with national stakeholders to incorporate the experience and expertise gathered to support the delivery of programmes in other Member States in the region and beyond. In addition, UNOCT is looking at leveraging the expertise of CARICOM IMPACS particularly in the maritime domain to help other Member States such as small island and low-lying coastal countries that face similar challenges to establish maritime passenger data systems. And lastly, Ms. Bradley emphasized the importance of partnerships, informing that both CTTP and TAM Programmes deliver technical assistance and capacity-building alongside Member States that these programmes support, which includes jointly developing lessons learned, recognizing strengths and challenges on the ground, and building national expertise and capabilities. She added that UNOCT works closely with its implementing partners, regional organizations and the private sector to ensure cohesion and coordination on technical assistance delivery.

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### **Ms. Anne-Maria Seesmaa**

**Legal Officer, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**, highlighted that CTED is uniquely positioned in the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture with its mandate to conduct assessments and identify recommendations for technical assistance on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which aid Member States to identify their gaps and challenges as well as support implementing partners to deliver technical assistance and capacity-building that responds to the actual and critical needs of Member States to implement relevant Security Council resolutions and other international obligations and standards including the international human rights framework. She underscored CTED's leading role in building the comprehensive methodology of technical assistance programmes including the capacity consultations component that lead to the development of road maps based on CTED assessments in all areas of support such as API/PNR, protection of vulnerable targets, and fusion cells. She further noted the uniqueness of these programmes to include legal, regulatory, institutional, operational and technical measures and that this comprehensive methodology applied consistently through all

programmes has proven to work in practice and deliver tangible results as illustrated by the positive feedback received from Member States. Ms. Seesmaa noted that while it takes a long time to get results, we have already seen the impact that these programmes have had on the ground by pooling together the resource and expertise of all UN agencies and other partners. She concluded by emphasizing the need to continue to identify synergies and ensure sustainability.

## [ 2 ] Voices of Parliaments

### Mr. Mauro Miedico

In introducing the second sub-session of the round table dedicated to parliamentary voices, Mr. Miedico reiterated UNOCT's efforts in amplifying and enlarging its partnerships and group of stakeholders, and in this context, referred to the establishment and operationalization of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism in Doha, with the strong support of the State of Qatar and in particular its Shura Council.

### H.E. Mr. Gennaro Migliore

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)**, underscored the importance of parliamentary diplomacy including in conflict situations in bringing together and fostering interactions among conflicting parties, confidence building, and promoting reconciliation and collaboration. He welcomed the new full membership of the State of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to PAM, noting the important role and strong influence of Gulf countries in the Mediterranean region. He highlighted the role of parliaments and parliamentary assemblies in preventing and countering terrorism and addressing the underlying spread of violent extremism through various parliamentary actions including drafting legislation targeting different aspects of the terrorist threat which requires multifaceted response beyond security measures. He recalled his participation together with IPU in the establishment of UNOCT's parliamentary engagement office in June 2021 as well as in the first counter-terrorism coordination meeting among parliamentary assemblies in Doha in December 2021, the latter leading to the proposal to establish a coordination mechanism that received the support of all parliamentary assemblies. Mr. Migliore announced a conference organized jointly with UNOCT in Rome in June 2022 regarding the implementation of the model legislative provisions developed to support the victims of terrorism and concluded by highlighting the importance of cooperation

with parliamentary assemblies of different regions to implement effective programmes to prevent and counter terrorism.

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### **H.E. Mr. Stanislav Korostelyov**

**Executive Secretary of the Joint Commission for the Harmonization of National Laws Related to Security, Countering Emerging Threats and Challenges, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)**, referring to the different approaches to counter terrorism in the volatile and ambiguous security environment and the absence of a comprehensive definition of terrorism, highlighted the importance of the need to propose an ad hoc definition of terrorism. He informed that IPA CIS accumulated very valuable experience in counter-terrorism especially in the area of development of model counter-terrorism legislation over the past two decades, adopting more than 2,000 laws and regulations which constitute agreed model legislation and demonstrate the values of CIS Member States. He mentioned that UNOCT's parliamentary engagement programme can provide valuable support and complement the work of CIS parliaments. In this regard, he indicated that the UN bodies need to concentrate on the protection of common values, human dignity and human rights, not the means and methods of countering the threat, and due to the lack of generally accepted definition of terrorism, to target combined efforts on the development of due legal and fact-finding procedures and fair trial of suspects. Regarding possible technical assistance, he mentioned that IPA CIS would like to have access to available counter-terrorism databases and information on finished and pending trials that would help to understand the moves of governments acting on different institutional delegations.

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### **H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka**

**Vice-President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism**, shared his insights on the first coordination meeting of parliamentary assemblies on counter-terrorism held in Doha in December 2021, as one of the founding parliamentary assemblies of the coordination mechanism proposed for establishment during this meeting. He stressed the importance of involving parliamentarians in counter-terrorism work and the need to work together to succeed in the fight against terrorism. He emphasized the need to align interparliamentary efforts, increase the visibility of parliamentary work, boost concrete actions, and support the most vulnerable groups. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of coordination meetings that enable parliamentarians to obtain more information about latest trends and what the UN is doing, share their experiences, identify

priorities, and avoid duplication, while presenting an opportunity to interact multilaterally with and under the leadership of the UN. Mr. Lopatka stressed the importance of the full implementation of the global counter-terrorism framework through parliamentary actions and ensuring as parliamentarians the freedom of speech and that the fight against terrorism is not misused against innocent people. He indicated that OSCE PA is a supporter of the coordination process and expressed hope that this work is carried out under the leadership and ownership of parliamentarians with the support of the UN. He highlighted the need to involve all parliamentary assemblies in the coordination mechanism and that the parliamentary office in Doha presents an important opportunity for parliamentarians to advance work in this area.

## Reflections and Comments

### Mr. David Alamos

**Acting Chief, UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism**, noted that the parliamentary engagement office delivered six major technical assistance activities in a short period of nine months and highlighted the unique nature of the office as the first global centre fully dedicated to engaging with parliamentarians on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, recognizing the critical role they play and demonstrating the whole-of-society approach to delivery of technical assistance. Elaborating on the relevance and impact of the work of the parliamentary engagement office, Mr. Alamos highlighted efforts aimed at sustainability through the conclusion of memoranda of understanding with PAM, CIS IPA, and OSCE PA, as well as the establishment of the innovative coordination mechanism in partnership with parliamentary assemblies that promotes ownership of this initiative. He mentioned that in addition to the development of model legislative provisions for victims of terrorism and based on lessons learned from that experience, the parliamentary office is in the process of producing other technical assistance tools to support parliamentarians in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) as well as in specific thematic areas such as data collection and vulnerable targets. He highlighted efforts aimed at increasing partnerships and outreach to parliamentarians worldwide and expanding the geographic reach of technical assistance, noting the First Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism held in Vienna in September 2021 and the High-Level Conference on “Understanding the Terrorist Threat in Africa: New Challenges and Necessary Measures” organized in partnership with the Shura Council and the African Parliamentary Union (APU) for African parliamentarians on 30 March 2022 in Doha. In closing, Mr. Alamos thanked the Shura Council for its support and generous contribution to the implementation of the parliamentary engagement programme.

## [ 3 ] Voices of Civil Society Organizations

### Mr. Mauro Miedico

Mr. Miedico introduced the third and final sub-session of the round table dedicated to the voice of civil society organizations and highlighted UNOCT's efforts and commitment to strengthen engagement with all counter-terrorism actors, in particular civil society organizations given their important and unique role in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

### Mr. Massimiliano Montanari

**Chief Executive Officer, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)**, shared his insights on the benefits and use in practice of the "Guide on Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sustainable Security and Legacies" developed within the scope of the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism in partnership with ICSS. In this context, he highlighted that the Guide is the result of the contribution of several policy and decisionmakers and more than 50 experts, including from the UN, INTERPOL, Council of Europe and sport bodies, most of whom have dedicated their life to security of sports and major sporting events (MSEs), and noted the strong involvement and technical support of the State of Qatar. Mr. Montanari explained how the Guide supports policy and decisionmakers to prepare for MSEs in a context of increasing complexity and diverse challenges, including by introducing key principles such as leadership, vision and values and promoting other principles such as consistency and constant communication, which are essential for the planning, preparation and execution of MSEs. The Guide's beneficiaries include members of parliament given measures related to legislation as well as ministers given the mechanisms for inter-institutional, inter-agency, international and multi-sectoral cooperation. He also noted that the Guide promotes synergies in terms of public-private partnerships, civil society engagement, and cooperation with sport bodies and the business sector. Against this background, he mentioned that the Guide serves as an important reference document for capacity building and international cooperation and is considered by major sport federations as one of the most essential documents that can be utilized in the bidding process and over the course of security preparation of MSEs. And lastly, he commended UNOCT for the preparation of a new guide on the use of sport to prevent violent extremism to help national, regional and international policymakers in the effective integration of sport initiatives in strategies for PVE.

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## Mr. Christian Emeruwa

**Head of Security and Safety, Confederation of African Football (CAF)**, shared the positive experience CAF has had working with the UNOCT Sports Programme as one of its first beneficiaries which enabled the body to share its knowledge and experiences on MSE safety and security and to benefit from the participation of the programme team in one of the last inspections to the various centres before the kickoff of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). He observed that before it was a struggle to host MSE given the lack of sufficient expertise of States and the absence of a guide on what needs to be done and when, how and by whom. He highlighted that organizing such events require a more comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account all facets of safety and security in the country including but not limited to the police. Referring to the magnitude of AFCON for example that hosted some 698,000 spectators and the impact that any negative scenario could have generated, he mentioned that the UN Guide helps countries to adequately prepare and confederations on how to better partner with host countries. Mr. Emeruwa underscored that in order to ensure the sustainability of these programmes, UNOCT, using the instrumentality of the UN, could still do more by engaging international sport federations that are long-term beneficiaries with funds that should be committed to protecting football and its participants. In similar vein, UNOCT could also partner with relevant African agencies that are financially savvy such as the African Development Bank and African Industrial Bank, also noting the nexus between development and security. In closing, Mr. Emeruwa added that the programme has brought high-level attention to the issue of MSE safety and security noting that previously no one was talking about it and the UN's involvement it took a different dimension. He thanked all donors that have committed resources to supporting this initiative that is integral to saving lives.

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## Ms. Ekoko Caroline

**Project Officer, Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC)**, shared her organization's experience in benefiting from the granting scheme managed by UNICRI within the scope of the Sports Programme to carry out youth-based initiatives to prevent violent extremism in Cameroon. In this regard, she informed that the Local Youth Corner operating since 2002 works towards empowering youth in peacebuilding, countering violent extremism, and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, and since 2016 it has been using different opportunities such as sports to engage youth in conflict affected communities to bring them together, build trust, and promote peace. She mentioned that her organization has been facing financial and technical challenges and that they are glad to benefit from the sports programme which has enabled them to improve their skills and knowledge and to put into use the technical guide that has been developed. She explained that the Local Youth Corner carries out initiatives to bring together and engage the internally displaced persons from



the North-West and South-West Cameroon where there has been the Anglophone Crisis since 2016 and the host community of the Littoral Region. For example, she informed about the upcoming sporting Jamboree 'we play together, we enjoy together' as an opportunity to promote peacebuilding, social cohesion, and values of respect and mutual tolerance. She highlighted that the grant has permitted Local Youth Corner to produce its own context-specific guide on PVE following the general guide developed which can then be used to reach other NGOs and companies organizing sporting events in Cameroon, to ensure that sporting events are not only used for entertainment but bring tolerance and social cohesion in line with the 2035 vision of Cameroon that seeks to improve consolidation of national unity and emergence of strong civil society organizations.

### **Mr. Kato Ssekha Abdu**

**Executive Director, Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICODI), Uganda,** thanked UNOCT for the opportunity to communicate the impact of the work of civil society organizations in countering violent extremism and UNICRI, UNOCT, UNAOC and ICSS for the grant scheme that contributes to peacebuilding initiatives in Uganda. He informed that his organization established in 2010 has been implementing peacebuilding activities since 2014 in Uganda. He explained that Uganda hosts around 1.6 million refugees from several countries representing different cultures, identities and ideologies and has witnessed violence among refugees in refugee settlements and between refugees and host communities, in addition to violent extremism among local youth. In this context, he informed that through the grant programme ICODI has so far brought together 375 refugee youth and youth from host communities through sports to foster dialogue and promote mutual understanding and respect and that they have seen that the initiative has reduced tension and violence. Mr. Abdu mentioned that his organization has been using the grant to arrange sports activities, alongside trainings delivered on building entrepreneurship skills to enable youth to participate in economic activities as part of efforts to ensure social and economic stability of refugees and vulnerable youth and build resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In addition, he highlighted efforts aimed at achieving sustainability of this programme including using this grant to engage the education sector and train teachers, administrators and students to help transfer knowledge and skills in peacebuilding and the use of sports as a platform to PVE. He noted that his organization is exploring capacity building of other youth-led organizations to integrate sports and PVE into their activities and extend the knowledge in this area to different communities of the country. He added that they are looking at working with religious and cultural leaders that have influence among youth to further promote peacebuilding.

## Mr. Imrana Buba

**Founder, Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT), Nigeria**, mentioned that his organization, which is a volunteer-based coalition of young victims particularly of Boko Haram insurgency of North-East Nigeria, has benefited from the UNOCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme since 2016 that has contributed to enhancing the organization's programmes and activities. As an example, he highlighted the usefulness of the media and communication training for victims and civil society organizations which provided an opportunity to receive direct support from a media consultant to develop the organization's media and communication plan to amplify the needs of victims and ensure the protection of their rights as well as to engage with journalists and the media. As a result, the organization launched Nigeria United Campaign where it featured stories of victims and talked with community leaders especially on issues around stigma of young women and girl victims of sexual violence often rejected by their communities. Another example provided by Mr. Buba was his organization's participation in the development of a handbook of good practices to support victims of terrorism in Africa and the Middle East, which provided an opportunity to share experiences and best practices with other victims associations, and consequently to form a network of victims associations in Africa and the Middle East that further enabled the exchange of ideas on the implementation of relevant projects. In follow up, the organization commenced the implementation of a project with funding of the EU on Nigerian youth community peacebuilding which trains young victims on transitional justice, democratic governance and peacebuilding. In addition, Mr. Buba highlighted their participation in several high-level events organized by UNOCT including the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which provide an important platform to raise awareness of victims' experiences, showcase the work of victims on PVE issues, establish partnerships, and obtain support. And lastly, he suggested that the Victims Programme explores more opportunities to work with victims associations and civil society organizations more broadly to link them and national governments and institutions to share practices, noting that his organization looks forward to attending the upcoming Global Congress of Victims.

## Reflections and Comments

### Mr. Valerio De Divitiis

**Programme Manager, Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism**, thanked for the collaboration of national focal points established within the sports programme to represent Member States to secure their robust engagement in the programme's activities. Mr. De Divitiis underscored that civil society organizations and international and regional sports federations and organizations, including but not limited to CAF, Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), are key partners and that the programme seeks to expand its support to and engagement with civil society organizations given that they are concrete actors delivering impactful activities and are a multiplier force for UNOCT's PVE work on the ground. In this regard, he expressed hope to run a second edition of the grant scheme next year to enable more civil society organizations to benefit from the sports programme. He noted that several Member States organizing and hosting MSEs in 2023-2024, including Ghana, Chile, the Philippines, and the Maldives, have requested technical assistance from UNOCT and its partners. And lastly, he emphasized the close collaboration with Generation Amazing with which the programme is planning a major campaign on sport for PVE and the ongoing dialogue with FIFA to stage an event during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 that will feature a conversation between a young beneficiary in the PVE workstream with a FIFA sports legend.

### Mr. Duccio Carlo Mazarese

**Programme Officer, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**, highlighted UNICRI's contributions as implementing partner to the Global Programmes on Sports Security and Protection of Vulnerable Targets and the close collaboration with UNOCT and other UN agencies in the implementation of both programmes as part of the 'one-UN' approach to programme design and delivery. He stressed the importance of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that provides the legal framework within which different UN agencies are working together, the guidance of CTED to ensure alignment with Security Council resolutions, and the Counter-Terrorism Compact that provides strategic direction. He highlighted the work carried out at the implementing level including how UN agencies align efforts through steering committee meetings and rigorous work plans that are extremely helpful to ensure coherence and coordination of efforts, and how the programmes engage with representatives of regional organizations and Member States to reflect and respond to their specific needs. In closing, he welcomed the good operational framework that is in place and commended the work that UNOCT and all UN agencies are doing on CT/PCVE.

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## Ms. Laila Ezzarqui

**External Partnerships Section, SPIB, UNOCT**, highlighted the new means of conducting business in UNOCT through the Global Learn & Connect Platform launched in October 2021 as an innovative digital tool that allows programme implementation to adapt to COVID-19 realities, maximizes programme effectiveness and efficiency, and expands UNOCT's reach. Ms. Ezzarqui informed that the Learn & Connect platform provides e-learning and connects diverse stakeholders around wide-ranging thematic areas on CT/PCVE for knowledge sharing and network building through innovative communities of practice. She mentioned that the platform brings together global network of experts from Member States, international and regional organizations, academia, think tanks, the public and private sectors, and civil society organizations (CSOs), complementing in-person capacity-building activities and enhancing UNOCT's ability to deliver impactful results. She noted that going forward the platform will host an online community of practice for CSOs to share information and discuss key topics with all relevant stakeholders including the private sector and academia to foster multifaceted solutions to complex CT/PCVE challenges. She also informed that work will continue to enhance the platform through building in security features and mobile application as well as to enhance its visibility to provide an inclusive, resilient and sustainable platform that reaches maximum beneficiaries around the world. As part of UNOCT's broader strategy to ensure systematic engagement with CSOs, Ms. Ezzarqui informed about the CSO Roundtable Series which provide space for open discussion with UNOCT senior leadership and programme managers to inform the capacity-building work on CT/PCVE. She highlighted UNOCT's CSO Network, a database of global, regional and national CSOs working actively on CT/PCVE issues, which will enable the creation of more partnerships with CSOs, facilitate the regular participation of CSOs in CT/PCVE activities, and deepen the implementation of the whole-of-society approach. In closing, she underscored the importance of support to cement UNOCT's engagement with CSOs through a dedicated CSO Unit to guide the implementation of the Office's CSO engagement strategy.

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## Ms. Ana Izar

**Programme Manager, Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, UNCCT, UNOCT**, highlighted the importance of a victim centric approach, and elaborated on the work of the Victims Programme, including through various events and audio-visual and multimedia products, to provide victims and victims associations representing the most powerful voice with a platform to communicate to Member States and the public their needs and rights and how these can be better addressed and upheld. Second, Ms. Izar underscored that the programme has moved from symbolic solidarity towards robust engagement, noting the importance of General Assembly resolution 73/305 as a milestone to transition towards

more concrete and practical assistance. In this regard, she mentioned that support to Member States will include the provision of technical assistance to the implementation of the model legislative provisions developed in partnership with UNODC and IPU and launched in February 2022 and the development of national comprehensive assistance plans for victims of terrorism. She added that the programme will commence engagement with Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire to provide expert advice to relevant stakeholders to review, harmonize or develop national legislation based on needs identified by national partners. Lastly, Ms. Izar highlighted the importance of 2022 for support to victims of terrorism in that UNOCT will organize the first Global Victims of Terrorism Congress at UN Headquarters in New York in September that will provide victims with a high-level platform to raise their concerns and share their views, and an opportunity to mobilize political support to assist victims of terrorism. In addition, the programme will roll out the pilot phase of the model legislative provisions and hold the fifth International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

## Concluding Reflections by the State of Qatar

### **H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri**

**Ambassador and Director of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar**, referring to the interventions made, acknowledged the significant, efficient, and innovative services already provided by UNOCT. He stressed Qatar's support for the UN's counter-terrorism efforts as part of the country's strategic commitment to international institutions and multilateral cooperation, and informed about the country's active participation in global counter-terrorism efforts, including through its contribution of USD 75 million to UNOCT, and its support for the establishment of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, numerous UNOCT programmes and others addressing root causes of violent extremism, and efforts to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ambassador Al-Mansouri emphasized that UNOCT's programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement are valuable additions to the international representation in Doha which has become a centre of global multilateral action in the region. He noted civil society's appreciation of the positive impact of UNOCT's assistance and the impressive results the sports programme achieved by adopting a comprehensive approach that links the security aspects of major sporting events with the soft power of sport in PVE.

In terms of recommendations, the Ambassador expressed the need to focus on awareness raising efforts, outreach to the public, and field presence, in addition to research and

theoretical studies. He highlighted the importance of increasing the number of beneficiaries of the technical assistance provided by the BI Hub to ensure that it includes the broadest possible spectrum of countries from all geographic regions. He also stressed the need to prioritize prevention efforts by harnessing the media, education, culture and youth engagement, and using modern digital technologies, including social media, to educate the public on the importance of pluralism, tolerance, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations, and the rejection of racist and hatred discourse. Furthermore, he pointed to the need to increase donors to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism through fundraising campaigns. In closing, he appealed UNOCT and relevant organizations to put forward a plan to promote the International Day to Protect Education from Attack and prepare for its commemoration on 9 September.

## Round Table 2

**Round Table 2** was moderated by Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch of UNOCT. It consisted of leading remarks by H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations; H.E. Mr. Jonibek Hikmat, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations; Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT; Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC; and H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri, Ambassador and Director of the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was followed by interactive comments and observations from the floor by providers of technical assistance, including Chiefs of relevant Sections and Programmes of UNOCT, senior representatives of the Counter-Terrorism Compact including Chairs of its Working Groups. The round table participants conducted a 'deep dive' into the effectiveness of UNOCT's support in the areas of policy leadership, coordination and coherence, and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts, including within the Counter-Terrorism Compact framework, delivered through the generous contribution from the State of Qatar. They further assessed the impact of technical assistance provided by the UN system both at Headquarters and in the field, including through the Compact and its working groups, with the financial support of the State of Qatar, highlighting good practices, opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned.

### Key support areas covered in the round table

- Provision of policy leadership on the General Assembly mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General to CT/PCVE (i.e., development of mandated reports, facilitation of the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, provision of policy guidance for UN governing bodies, partner outreach and engagement)
- Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, High-Level Regional Conferences (impact on CT/PCVE policy and programming and multilateral cooperation)
- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (including the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, Counter-Terrorism Compact's partnership with the Global Counterterrorism Forum)
- Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group programmes and projects that benefit from the contribution of the State of Qatar
- UNOCT Programme on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism

### Key questions addressed in the round table

- How do you assess the effectiveness of policy leadership provided by UNOCT to ensure counter-terrorism is given due priority within the United Nations system and to support Member States and other counter-terrorism actors in the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council mandates on CT/PCVE?
- What results and impact have been achieved through the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations and High-Level Regional Conferences?
- How do you assess the efficacy of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact framework to enhance coordination and coherence among Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on CT/PCVE?
- How have Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group projects contributed to meeting CT/PCVE needs of beneficiaries?
- What can be done to further leverage the comparative advantages of and strengthen cooperation among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities?
- What are some of the ways to enhance the impact of UNOCT's policy and coordination work?

## Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah

In introducing the second round table, Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, **Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB) of UNOCT**, highlighted six actions or steps which constitute the process by which the UN system supports Member States' counter-terrorism efforts, including (i) threat assessment on both nature and magnitude of the threat that is a combined effort involving relevant UN agencies such as AQMT, CTED, UNOCT and other entities in addition to Member States; (ii) counter-terrorism mandates created by the different UN governing bodies, namely the General Assembly and the Security Council, which enable the UN system and the international community to contribute to Member States' counter-terrorism efforts; (iii) identification of technical assistance needs through established mandates and assessments and recommendations of CTED; (iv) outreach, coordination and coherence of UN counter-terrorism efforts that benefit from the Counter-Terrorism Compact; (v) resource mobilization; and (vi) delivery of technical and capacity-building support.

## H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations**, shared his assessment of and lessons learned from the process of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in his capacity as the Co-Chair of the seventh review process together with the Sultanate of Oman. He elaborated on the elements that needed to be addressed and challenges faced during the review process that aimed for the adoption of a consensus-based resolution, including the need to (i) reflect all updates in the UN counter-terrorism architecture including activities of UNOCT, CTED, UNAOC and other entities; (ii) address the question of change of paradigm to move the text from a specific understanding of terrorism centring in the Middle East to address all its forms and manifestations to reflect the global picture; (iii) reinforce a common global perspective, solutions and ownership to terrorism; (iv) address new and emerging threats and challenges including new technologies and new ideologies such as far-right extremism; (v) address the question of financing to make counter-terrorism efforts sustainable; (vi) bring in all elements in terms of human rights and the rule of law and the role of and relationship with civil society, while reinforcing States as the main agents in the fight against terrorism; (vii) integrate victims of terrorism as a moral element while addressing the issue of growing falling States that do not have the resources and capacity to fulfil their obligations and that are becoming the new centre of terrorist activities.

In terms of the result, Ambassador Maraver considered the seventh review of the Strategy work in progress given the need to continue working on several aspects specifically operative paragraphs 85 through 87 involving the financing of UNOCT, internal monitoring



and evaluation capacity, and mechanism for provision of grants and payments to implementing partners, which need to be developed and discussed in the next period. He thanked UNOCT for organizing succession of conferences for the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations that are essential to harmonize priorities, and noted that while Member States agreed on many issues, there are still differences that need to be addressed starting with the definition of terrorism which has practical effects. He noted increased coordination regionally and recognized UNOCT's efforts in the field. He highlighted that UNOCT has become one of the pillars of the UN and for this reason, there is a need to increase its capacity and involve UNOCT in the debate on Our Common Agenda as the efforts on building a global consensus on counter-terrorism is linked to the new common agenda. In closing, the Ambassador drew attention to the new centres of terrorism in Africa and stressed the need to integrate and upgrade those countries that are experiencing challenges in responding to terrorism to avoid the spread of the phenomenon.

### **H.E. Mr. Jonibek Hikmat**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations**, underscored that international terrorism and extremism, armed conflict and transnational organized crimes including drug trafficking continue to pose significant threat to international peace and security, and the spread of violent extremist ideology and narratives among youth and other vulnerable groups continue to raise serious concerns at the global, regional and national levels. In this context, he stressed the increasing need to develop innovative approaches to jointly fight terrorism and the spread of extremist ideology including through the use of modern technologies. He highlighted that UNOCT is an important partner of Central Asia in supporting the development and implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. He mentioned that the JPOA, the fourth phase of which was launched in Dushanbe in December 2021, has enabled Central Asian countries to enhance cooperation on cross border issues such as countering the financing of terrorism and border security, and to foster dialogue with religious institutions and leaders, while highlighting role of media in addressing terrorism and violent extremism. He expressed hope that UNOCT and other international partners continue their support to the implementation of the JPOA, called on the international community to do more in assisting Tajikistan which due to its location is at the forefront of threats emanating from Afghanistan, noting that it does not have sufficient resources to confront these challenges alone.

Ambassador Hikmat recalled that in collaboration with the UN, EU, OSCE and other international partners including the State of Qatar, Tajikistan hosted a series of high-level international conferences known as the 'Dushanbe Process' that aims to institutionalize cooperation and dialogue among regional countries and galvanize efforts to address the

issue of terrorism and violent extremism. Building on this successful initiative and taking into consideration Tajikistan's proximity to regions marked by terrorist activity including foreign terrorist fighters, illicit drugs and arms trafficking, and vulnerability to terrorist propaganda and recruitment, he informed that Tajikistan in collaboration with the UN and other international partners will organize a high-level international conference in Dushanbe in October 2022 to discuss these challenges and is working with UNOCT to finalize its modalities. In addition, Ambassador Hikmat referred to the adoption in June 2021 of the new National Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Tajikistan on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for the period 2021-2025 with the technical support of the UN and overall coordination of UNCCT in UNOCT and informed that the Government of Tajikistan, in partnership with UNCCT, will organize a high-level briefing of the national strategy and its action plan on 22 April 2022 in New York to discuss international standards and good practices as well as the ways to support its effective implementation and evaluation. He expressed hope that international partners including the State of Qatar will render support to implement the national strategy and its action plan.

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### **H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri**

**Ambassador and Director of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar**, welcomed UNOCT's achievements in expanding partnerships through its programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement in Doha, operationalizing its field operations, and providing essential capacity-building assistance to Member States. He commended UNOCT for its political leadership and support to information sharing and coordination to ensure the prioritization of the global CT agenda. In this regard, he noted that the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations and high-level regional conferences serve as key platforms through which Member States can identify priority areas. He recognized UNOCT's role in strengthening coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism through the Counter-Terrorism Compact, UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism, and the UN Global Framework and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. He also acknowledged the Compact's efforts to increase coordination with UN field presences and regional organizations for stronger impact on the ground. In terms of observations and suggestions, Ambassador Al-Mansouri highlighted the need to adapt to the emerging threats and the continuous change in global terrorism trends in a timely manner. He emphasized the importance of strengthening efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the peaceful resolution of conflicts to eradicate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. And lastly, he stressed the need to increase support for victims of terrorism.

## Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva

**Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation (RMME)**, shared her assessment of the benefits and challenges in relation to voluntary contributions as well as initiatives on joint resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts. In this regard, she highlighted that voluntary funding allows UN agencies to grow their operational activities and provides a competitive boost for efficiency. In terms of challenges, she mentioned that it is difficult to predict the receipt of funds for certain activities and the lack of predictability does not allow forward planning and sustainable operations. She noted that to allow unimpeded activity, UNOCT and other Compact partners have multi-year contribution agreements with Member States; however, most of these agreements are strictly earmarked for specific projects. Another challenge she highlighted was that the donor base for voluntary contributions is narrow which carries inherent vulnerabilities for programme delivery especially when major donors limit the funding or completely withdraw. Ms. Niyazberdiyeva also pointed to the conditionalities that earmarked funding has attached to it which reduce the flexibility in the delivery of activities and at times determine or shift programme priorities. She highlighted that earmarked contributions do not cover core resources which lead to shortage of resources to cover critical functions and affect the ability to deliver on the mandate.

While noting the competition for resources in the current operational context, Ms. Niyazberdiyeva underscored the importance of working together to present to donors joint programmes that leverage respective comparative advantages and reduce duplication of effort and highlighted the benefits and effectiveness of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in supporting joint resource mobilization efforts. She recalled the launch of the first multi-year appeal in 2019, which was followed by the launch in 2021 of an improved “United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism” that allows donors to enquire projects implemented jointly by UN entities in specific regions and themes that they may wish to fund through a dynamic dashboard available online on the UNOCT website. In addition, she informed about upcoming initiatives within the Counter-Terrorism Compact framework such as specialized donor briefings and the creation of a Group of Friends of Donors, and encouraged donors and providers of technical assistance to join the meetings and activities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact RMME Working Group.

## Mr. Masood Karimipour

**Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, noted the importance of events such as the Beneficiaries Forum

as they enable reflection on the impact of what we deliver. He observed that the UN system is working better together now thanks to UNOCT's leadership and coordination as well as the mechanisms in place under the Counter-Terrorism Compact, while noting that more can be done to identify comparative advantages and develop platforms to deliver as 'one-UN' and avoid duplication of effort. He commended the progress that the RMME Working Group has made but noted that the products that have come out of this working group deserve closer attention and appreciation by donors, also in view that despite the work that went into the multi-year appeal we have not seen the anticipated positive response that would translate to actual funding. He noted that all Compact working groups are working to share information and identify new areas and thanked UNOCT's seed funding that has enabled UNODC to take these ideas to deliver results including as Chair of the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

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Regarding the outcomes of the Counter-Terrorism Week and the seventh review resolution, Mr. Karimipour noted that some of those demonstrated reaffirmation and commitment by Member States to the respective missions of UN entities on CT/PCVE, and in that context, UNODC was pleased to see that it was called on to build the capacity of Member States to become party to and implement international conventions on counter-terrorism, to step up efforts to counter the threat posed by the illicit cultivation, production, and trafficking of narcotic drugs that can contribute to financing of terrorism, to help build national capacity to strengthen criminal justice systems, and to provide comprehensive response to terrorism. Having delivered capacity-building over the past 20 years across these workstreams, he informed that UNODC has trained some 37,000 criminal justice professionals and produced 70 products, tools, manuals and guidelines.

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In terms of challenges, Mr. Karimipour highlighted the need to continue to be alert to the evolving nature of the threat and to become more agile and responsive to the needs of Member States in terms of having the capacity to deploy expertise quickly and having experts already delivering programmes while based in the field. Referring to UNODC's extensive presence in many countries Mr. Karimipour offered UNODC's assets and infrastructure in the field to the entire UN family for the implementation of programmes to avoid duplication of structures and staffing. In addition, he highlighted that more Member States have been reaching out to the UN requesting assistance and expertise on deployment and use of technology to prevent and counter terrorism and informed that UNODC developed leading expertise on electronic evidence through the establishment of the electronic evidence hub, development of a data disclosure framework, and production with CTED and the International Association of Prosecutors a guide for requesting electronic evidence across borders. Mr. Karimipour concluded by recognizing the importance of UNOCT's role in policy, coordination and practical levels as well as the improvements in the counter-terrorism work of the UN system and thanked UNOCT, CTED, UNDP and UNICRI present in the round table for their collaboration.

## Interactive Comments

### Mr. Ahmed Seif El-Dawla

**Chief of Section covering Europe, Middle East and Central Asia, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and Co-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies (NARS),** highlighted that the efforts of the Working Group have been successful as it represents and consolidates both the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions, recalling the evolution of the counter-terrorism mandate from its initial focus on law enforcement angle to incorporate measures addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism. In this context, building on the 2013 Bogota principles that set out a comprehensive methodology for national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, he noted that the NARS Working Group has brought added value by supporting Member States and regional organizations in the development of integrated counter-terrorism strategies which are tailored to their specific needs thereby ensuring ownership. In addition, the NARS Working Group has helped to integrate into the counter-terrorism strategies human rights across all counter-terrorism measures, gender considerations as a cross-cutting theme, as well as non-governmental bodies including civil society organizations, ensuring both a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach. This work included support to Member States such as Iraq, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in the development of comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies as well as to Central Asian countries in the development of the JPoA and to the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) in the development of the Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy, among others, which have been appreciated by all partners. In terms of lessons learned, Mr. El-Dawla underscored the need for sustainable dialogue and delivery, noting that the process involves helping Member States and regional organizations to develop the strategy and then to implement the strategy through the establishment of an implementing mechanism that ensures and sustains internal coordination among both government and non-government bodies.

Regarding key messages, Mr. El-Dawla thanked the Counter-Terrorism Compact through its Platform for disseminating CTED's assessments and encouraged technical assistance providers to use these assessments which provide critical and holistic findings and recommendations on various CT/PCVE thematic areas and are developed and adopted through a meticulous and consensus-based methodology. He expressed hope that more Member States agree to share their assessment reports that ensure the impactful and targeted delivery of technical assistance, and informed that the NARS Working Group is now working on providing dedicated briefings to Compact entities regarding the findings of these assessments to support their programmatic activities.

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## Ms. Elisabeth Neugebauer

**Lead of Counter-Terrorism Compact Team, PKMCB, UNOCT**, shared good practices and suggestions on how to increase the impact of the Counter-Terrorism Compact. In this regard, she highlighted the benefit of holding more joint meetings of the Compact working groups, referring to a recent meeting of the PCVE, Gender and Human Rights Working Groups. Second, she stressed the need to enhance Member States' engagement with the Compact through briefings by Member States in working group meetings on their national priorities and challenges so that the Compact can better support them in targeted way. Third, she pointed to the need to increase Member States' use of the online Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, and in that regard, referred to ongoing work on developing a dedicated section on the Platform for Member States. Fourth, she underscored the importance of strengthening the impact on the ground through the implementation of the seven practical steps to strengthen regional coordination adopted at the Compact Committee Coordination Meeting in December 2021, and to this effect, she noted as a good practice the holding of thematic and regional briefings involving field officers, as was done by the Compact Working Group on Criminal Justice under the chairmanship of UNODC for Iraq with the participation of UNOCT and UNITAD. Fifth, she stressed the impact of the Compact's cooperation with the GCTF at the strategic and operational levels which has helped to align priorities and carry out joint work on key topics such as the GCTF Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit and informed about ongoing work on a joint options paper to strengthen cooperation between the working groups of the GCTF and the Counter-Terrorism Compact. And lastly, she underlined the importance of fostering cooperation with regional organizations as part of the efforts to enhance the Compact's regional focus, noting that the Compact has been encouraging regional organizations to actively engage with the Compact and as a result, more organizations are nominating focal points to access the Platform. In closing, she informed that UNITAD and FATF will soon join the Compact which will contribute to strengthening the work on accountability of crimes committed by Da'esh and counter measures to disrupt terrorist financing and which further demonstrates the importance of the Compact as a well-respected mechanism that brings added value to inter-agency CT/PCVE work.

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## Ms. Seh Lih Long

**Human Rights Officer, Equality, Development, and Rule of Law, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Chair (ad interim) of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights, the Rule of Law & Supporting Victims of Terrorism**, delivered an assessment of how the Compact Working Group projects have contributed to Member States CT/PCVE efforts from a human rights perspective. In this regard, she mentioned that over the years the Working Group has

produced seminal human rights guidance on various issues on CT/PCVE which contributed to mainstreaming human rights across all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. These include the production of guidance on human rights compliant responses to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters in line with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law; a guide on proscription of terrorist organizations with guiding principles to ensure that legislators and criminal justice officials can proscribe terrorist organizations in full compliance with international human rights standards; and the launch together with UNOCT, UNODC and IPU of the model legislative provisions to support the needs and protect the rights of victims of terrorism that serve as a guide and basis for developing national provisions in line with national constitutional and legal frameworks. In closing, Ms. Long noted that these products demonstrate that by pooling joint expertise in a collaborative way, outcomes are better refined, sharper, and ensure that human rights is mainstreamed across all projects and initiatives.

### **Ms. Iman Sayed Taha**

**Policy Specialist, UN Women**, stressed that gender mainstreaming has always been a challenge in different thematic areas of the UN system. She commended UNOCT's efforts to pay more attention to gender issues by putting in place a robust team, which is a recognition that gender mainstreaming is a challenging area of work that requires a lot of capacity and resources. He highlighted that a key challenge has been ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups, which is not only a capacity issue but also one that pertains to the complicated nature of the work. She noted the challenges involved in integrating gender considerations in different thematic areas, including prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration, as well as the challenge during the review process to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and allocating adequate resources to fourth pillar. At the same time, Ms. Taha highlighted some of the good work that has been done in partnership with UN Women and specialized entities to bring in voices of civil society in terms of informing discussions about how the role of women as political agents and equal citizens is taken into account. She reiterated the importance of complementarity and working together systematically to ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Compact reaches its objective in leveraging comparative advantages in-country, noting that UN Women is present in 80 country offices. She also noted that the Counter-Terrorism Compact digital platform provides an excellent opportunity to bring together relevant mandates to support gender mainstreaming and ensure Member States uphold their obligations on the Women Peace and Security agenda in the context of CT/PCVE, welcoming the recognition of WPS agenda in the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In closing, she observed that despite the good work

that has been done, more needs to be done on mainstreaming gender and bringing in civil society to ensure the full implementation of the Strategy.

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## Mr. Luis Carrilho

**United Nations Police Adviser and Police Commissioner, Director of the Police Division, United Nations Police (UNPOL)**, informed that UNPOL has been working closely with UNOCT, Member States and other partners on the Fusion Cells Programme, which has proven to be an important vehicle for sharing common experiences and lessons learned and for supporting Member States that are interested in establishing their own fusion cells. He noted that the UN Police Division contributed to the Fusion Cells programme by providing technical expertise during the “deep dive” visits to beneficiaries to assess their national cooperation mechanisms and intelligence and analysis capabilities and to enhance law enforcement capacities in several countries throughout Africa. He also mentioned engagement with UNOCT to develop a compendium for the establishment of fusion centres to ensure compatibility with manuals on crime intelligence and intelligence-led policing. He highlighted that this cooperation allowed for the use of the modules produced under the UN Police Training Architecture Programme to train instructors, managers and staff of fusion cells in compliance with the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Policing.

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Mr. Carrilho highlighted that the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), as the focal point in the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) on CT/PCVE efforts, brings a comprehensive and diversified approach to building CT/PCVE capacities in UN peace operations, as well as in non-mission settings, in accordance with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and the recently signed UNOCT-DPO Strategic Partnership Framework Action Plan (2022-2023). He noted that within the framework of the UNOCT-DPO Action Plan, options are being explored to deepen cooperation in support of the national police in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He mentioned that UNPOL experts address terrorism by implementing community-oriented policing activities, undertaking intelligence-led policing, strengthening national law enforcement in crime scene management, forensics and investigations, professionalizing the host country police and helping reduce corrupt practices, fostering human rights awareness, and building national capacities to combat organized crime and its linkages to terrorism financing.

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In addition, Mr. Carrilho informed about the recent establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing co-chaired by DPO and UNODC to strengthen strategic-level coordination



on policing and law enforcement matters across the UN system. He underscored that the fruitful collaboration with UNOCT and other entities through the Counter-Terrorism Compact framework as well as joint efforts in the area of transnational organized crime will provide a useful blueprint for further operationalizing the Task Force. He concluded by expressing UNPOL's commitment to continue enhancing collaboration with UNOCT, drawing on complementary roles and comparative advantages, expertise and resources.

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### **Ms. Aynabat Atayeva**

**Chief, International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, PKMCB, UNOCT,** delivered an overview of how behavioural insights (BI) can support effective policy and programmatic support for the UN's CT/PCVE work and the contribution of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism to this effort. She recalled the UN Secretary-General's emphasis, as part of the UN system-wide reform, on behavioural science as a critical tool for the UN to progress on its mandate and a key area to invest in. From the perspective of policy effectiveness, she highlighted the importance of BI as an evidence-based rigorous approach that employs a combination of disciplines to understand behaviour and decision making, including barriers to behavioural change and ways to overcome them, and to identify risk and resilience factors. She noted that behavioural knowledge helps promote a better understanding of factors associated with violent extremism and behaviourally informed policies are likely to be more effective. In this context, Ms. Atayeva informed that the Doha BI Hub works with researchers and the academia and leverages the expertise of practitioners, policymakers and UN entities to help partners develop and implement CT/PCVE policy and programmatic interventions through the application of BI. She highlighted that the Counter-Terrorism Compact has provided the Hub with an opportunity to have access to providers and beneficiaries of technical assistance and the meetings of its RMME Working Group has resulted in increased interest and awareness among participants on the use of BI for monitoring and evaluation purposes. She also informed about upcoming projects in the area of capacity-building including the launch of the BI Academy in the second half of 2022, knowledge products, and podcast.

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### **Ms. Nadja Wuensche**

**Team Leader, PVE Team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),** shared UNDP's insights from a development perspective on the policy, coordination and programmatic support provided to implement the global counter-terrorism framework. She underscored that underdevelopment underpins radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and terrorist incidents are on the rise in areas with weak or no formal state structure. She further noted that since UNDP's Journey to Extremism in

Africa report in 2017, research shows that exclusively security-dominated approaches undermine resilience to violent extremism, and state heavy-handedness is a key driver for radicalization. In this context, she stressed that the way forward must prioritize development-based approaches. She referred to a forthcoming study on the dynamics of violent extremist groups in Sub-Saharan Africa that finds that violent extremist groups gain legitimacy with elites and communities both through mobilization of grievance and ideological appeal. She mentioned that building on the findings of this study recently shared with the Counter-Terrorism Compact PCVE Working Group, the Compact can leverage comparative advantages of inter-agency collaboration for development-based solutions to violent extremism by focusing on three key points.

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First, she highlighted the need to ensure that development interventions are comprehensive, referring to the meta-synthesis of evaluations conducted by the RMME Working Group which concluded that comprehensive programming that integrate different types of interventions are most effective in promoting resilience to radicalization. In this regard, she noted that the Compact should promote and invest in human-centred peacebuilding approaches to address violent extremism. Second, she highlighted that these comprehensive interventions must be delivered in partnership with UN entities, private sector, civil society, academia, human rights, women and youth peacebuilding organizations. As an example, she mentioned UNDP's partnership with UNOCT to deliver joint programmes that bring together government, a civil society organizations, business and academic institutions to reduce violent extremism and its drivers in Central Asia and South-East Asia. Third, she highlighted the need to enhance work with digital technologies to better understand the grievances underpinning violent extremism through big data, share positive narratives that can promote resilience, and convene digital dialogues that enable more actors to participate in whole-of-society discussions on how to address the spike of extremist content online. She noted UNDP's online counter-narrative initiative "Extreme Lives" and its production of a policy brief and guidance note on the risk-informed use of online data and artificial intelligence for PVE building on discussions during the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week. In closing, Ms. Wuensche thanked UNOCT for its coordination role and expressed UNDP's commitment as the PCVE Working Group Co-Chair to promote coordinated, integrated and effective development-based responses to violent extremism.

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### **Mr. Leif Villadsen**

**Deputy Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), underlined that the Working Group chaired by INTERPOL and vice-chaired by UNICRI,** together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), has been an extremely strong tool to strengthen coordination and ensure coherence among its members in the

field of research and technical cooperation as well as to leverage respective comparative advantages. In addition to regular quarterly meetings and thematic briefings organized by the working group, Mr. Villadsen provided three concrete examples to illustrate how the working group has promoted cooperation and coordination among its members. First, he highlighted that the working group prepared and published a comprehensive resource document that provided detailed insight into the way in which all working group members are supporting Member States in line with their mandates, including description of work related to programmes, projects, research and analysis, and support to regional and national planning. Second, he recalled that UNICRI in cooperation with UNOCT prepared and launched during the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week a comprehensive research report entitled “Science, Technology and Innovation: Understanding Advancements from the Perspective of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism, which presented an analysis of how advances in science and technology can support terrorist capabilities to acquire and deploy WMD and how technology can be applied to counter WMD threats. He noted that the report was developed within the working group and benefited from a process of peer review among its members, and therefore serves as a good example of how the working group can be used to support evidence-based approach to research and technical assistance. Third, he highlighted several initiatives coordinated within the working group framework including projects on the protection of critical infrastructure from a terrorist attack, ensuring effective interagency interoperability and coordinated communication in case of chemical and/or biological attack, and enhancing capacities to prevent trafficking of radiological and nuclear material.

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### **Ms. Nihal Saad**

**Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative, and Vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC),** underscored the importance of the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which emphasized the role of and encouraged UNAOC in pursuing initiatives that promote diversity, pluralism and tolerance as an important element in CT/PCVE, and thanked Spain in its capacity as co-facilitator for supporting UNAOC in this regard. Ms. Saad highlighted the importance UNAOC attaches to its vice-chairmanship of the Counter-Terrorism Compact PCVE Working Group as it provides an important platform to showcase UNAOC’s work and broaden the scope of its impact and outreach. She also stressed the importance of benefiting from the regional offices of other Compact entities to expand UNAOC’s outreach, as an entity with no regional offices, and in that regard, expressed interest in working closely with UNOCT’s new regional offices that would further

contribute to delivering on UNAOC's mandate focused on addressing the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism particularly those that are racially, ethnically and ideologically motivated.

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## Mr. Rajiv Ramlal

**Chief of Regional Conferences Section, PKMCB, UNOCT**, provided an overview of the origin, evolution, objectives and future planning of UNOCT regional conferences, and shared an assessment of their performance and impact. In this regard, he recalled that the basis of these events started in 2018 with a call by the United Nations Secretary-General at the first High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in New York that the United Nations liaise with Member States to organize regional conferences on key thematic counter-terrorism issues and address region-specific challenges as part of a comprehensive CT/PCVE approach. Mr. Ramlal mentioned that through this mandate, UNOCT has successfully delivered a number of high-level regional conferences that have covered different thematic CT/PCVE issues and geographic regions, in partnership with Member States, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, as well as civil society and human rights partners. He noted that UNOCT will organize a regional conference in the Caribbean later in 2022, which will address the Latin America and Caribbean geographic focus that has not yet been covered. He highlighted the 2020 Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week as an important accomplishment that brought together over 1,000 participants in discussions on the impact of the pandemic in the counter-terrorism context, which was followed by the Virtual Dialogue with Human Rights and Civil Society partners in May 2021 and the 2021 Second Counter-Terrorism Week held in hybrid format on the transformative impact of new technologies on terrorism and counter-terrorism.

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In terms of key takeaways, Mr. Ramlal emphasized that regional conferences are an important vehicle for promoting international and regional cooperation on CT/PCVE; maintaining the momentum on multilateralism in counter-terrorism; strengthening ownership of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at global, regional and national levels; providing a platform for Member States and stakeholders to exchange information, best practices, expertise, resources to develop practical solutions to a range of counter-terrorism priorities; and establishing and deepening partnerships with host countries and international, national, regional, subregional and local actors on CT/PCVE. He thanked the State of Qatar for its financial and political support, without which the work in this area would not have been possible. In closing, he highlighted the upcoming high-level conference on human rights, civil society and counter-terrorism in Malaga in May 2022, planned high-level conference on border security management in Dushanbe in October 2022, and the high-level conference on implementation of the CARICOM counter-terrorism strategy in Port-of-Spain in the fourth quarter of 2022.

## Ms. Alice Mungwa

**Chief, Regional Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT**, expressed appreciation to the State of Qatar for its generous financial contribution that in large part supports the work of the Section as well as its provision of technical expertise through sponsoring a qualified junior professional officer deployed to the Section. She highlighted the Section's contributions to the three strands of UNOCT's mandate, including policy leadership, coordination and capacity-building, noting that most of this work begins with the political engagement of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT. In this regard, she informed that the Section supports the diplomatic and political engagements of the Under-Secretary-General and other UNOCT and UN senior leadership, including through the preparation of briefing materials in close consultation with other parts of UNOCT, noting that the interest of Member States, regional organizations, think tanks and other stakeholders in these engagements demonstrate the impact of this work in promoting the implementation of the mandate of the Office. She also highlighted the three quarterly briefings and one Ambassadorial level briefing to Member States organized each year by the Section, as well as the Section's substantive support for the biennial Counter-Terrorism Week, as important platforms for UNOCT and the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to share information on the CT/PCVE work of the United Nations system and to build understanding on the evolving priorities of Member States. In addition, Ms. Mungwa mentioned the Section's role and work on monitoring and reporting on high-level events including the UN General Debate and Security Council briefings to identify CT/PCVE angles from these meetings and update the Secretary-General on emerging priorities and issues. She highlighted the Section's support to the participation of the Under-Secretary-General, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, and other UNOCT senior leadership in inter-agency fora such as the meetings of the Executive Committee and Deputies Committees, Interagency Task Forces, and Regional Monthly Reviews. She also mentioned the support the Section provides to enhancing partnership engagement with regional organizations, noting for example the organization of the EU-UN Leaders' Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism and engagement with partners such as the OSCE to ensure the updating of plans of actions. In closing, she expressed the Section's readiness to continue to work with Member States, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, regional organizations, and other counter-terrorism stakeholders in advancing the policy and coordination mandate of the Office.

## Mr. Carlos Alexandre Monteiro Reis

**Head of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa in Rabat, SPIB, UNOCT**, stressed that field offices should have a more active role in resource mobilization efforts through a clear strategy and multi-year appeal framework that needs to be discussed not only with donors and strategic partners but also with beneficiaries.

He highlighted that beneficiaries have a major role in sharing the outcomes and impact of assistance and informing providers what is and what is not working, and that it is particularly relevant for the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat to obtain the feedback of law enforcement and border agencies on the impact of the training provided. Second, he highlighted that field offices can and should do more in terms of outreach and engagement with other Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to leverage the best practices, research, training materials and other products produced by other agencies, avoid duplication of effort, and ensure sustainability. As a training centre, he mentioned that one relevant result for the Rabat office is to be the guardian of knowledge that already exists to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'. In closing, he expressed readiness to continue to work with other programmes and field presences as well as Compact entities.

### **Ms. Tamara Anderson**

**Chief, Knowledge Management and Strategic Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT**, informed that the Section is focused on thematic areas of policy leadership and aims to foster common and united positions on persistent or emerging terrorist threats across the UN, Member States, civil society organizations, and other key counter-terrorism stakeholders. She mentioned that the Section is responsible for developing the Secretary-General's reports on CT/PCVE, supporting the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General in executive level fora, and providing secretariat support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review process. In terms of areas that need strengthening, Ms. Anderson informed that the Section is looking into reinvigorating the approach to the development of the Secretary-General's reports by seeking to build consensus internally in support of Member States work and garnering inputs from new group of stakeholders. In this regard, she referred to the Section's ongoing work on the development of the Secretary-General's first report on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, through the consolidation of contributions from Member States, international and regional organizations, UN entities, civil society organizations, think tanks, and private companies, and by holding mechanisms such as round tables and expert briefings to solicit inputs. She highlighted that another gap is the need to strengthen the prioritization of CT/PCVE at the senior level at the UN in terms of making sure that CT/PCVE is addressed not only in leadership discussions on peace and security but across other UN pillars such as development, human rights and humanitarian areas, and that nexus with terrorism and impact of terrorism is taken into account at senior level discussions, including on issues where CT is typically not included such as peace operations, or new areas such as development of Our Common Agenda and the New Agenda for Peace as part of it.

## Mr. Nigel Lazarus

**Law Enforcement Expert and Programme Manager, SPIB, UNOCT**, shared his observations on how to translate policy mandates into concrete programme outcomes through the fusion cells programme. He thanked the State of Qatar for providing seed funding that allowed the development and implementation of the three-year fusion cells programme with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement. He mentioned that Member States have identified lack of inter-agency cooperation and coordination at national level as a key challenge in preventing and countering terrorism and that the fusion cells programme directly responds to several Security Council resolutions and CTED assessments and supports Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He explained that the programme does this by conducting national level deep dive missions that reviews and identifies gaps in Member States' legal and institutional frameworks and assesses their operational readiness and other mechanisms related to establishing and operating national fusion or counter-terrorism centres. He noted that the process enables the UN to determine Member States' needs, capacities and measurements of success such as baselines and targets to allow reporting to donors in an accurate manner. He added that this is followed by the provision of focused capacity-building support and training based on international good practices. He stressed the benefit of drawing comparative advantages among implementing partners and using existing good practices.



H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations delivering a speech.

# Session IV

## Beneficiary Perspectives: Enhancing the Impact of Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance to Prevent and Counter Terrorism

### Day 2 29 March 2022

Session IV of the Beneficiaries Forum was chaired by:

- **H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2020-2021

It featured remarks from the panel by:

- **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations
- **H.E. Collen V. Kelapile**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations
- **H.E. Gennaro Migliore**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
- **H.E. Major General Peljee Odonbaatar**, Director General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia
- **Mr. Javad Gasimov**, Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Ms. Engelberta Kisting**, Political and Security Threats Analyst, the Regional Early Warning Centre of the Southern African Development Community
- **Mr. Imrana Buba**, Founder of the Youth Initiative Against Terrorism



The panel discussion was followed by an interactive segment with interventions from India, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Counter Extremism Project. Speakers shared their assessments of the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of technical and capacity-building assistance received by UNOCT and its implementing partners in CT/PCVE as well as recommendations on how to enhance the impact of this assistance. The Session provided an opportunity for beneficiaries to update on their counter-terrorism priorities and suggest areas for continued or new technical and capacity-building assistance.

#### Key questions/issues addressed

- To what extent does the programme address identified needs? How well does the programme align with government/agency/organization priorities?
- To what extent is the programme achieving the expected results (outputs, outcomes, impact) in the short, medium and long term?
- How are the target populations impacted by the programme? What effect, whether intended or unintended, has the programmatic activities produced?
- Is the problem/issue that the programme sought to address resolved or alleviated?
- To what extent are programme results timely and cost-effective? Do programme results meet expected quality standards?
- Are human rights and gender considerations effectively mainstreamed and addressed?
- What could be done differently (in terms of project design and scope, management, implementation, reporting, communication, closure, etc.) and what alternative practices could be adopted to improve programme delivery?
- Are there other thematic and geographic areas that you would like UNOCT and its implementing partners to provide technical and capacity-building support? What are the pressing CT/PCVE issues that you would like the United Nations to address?

#### H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for 2020-2021**, highlighted the importance of the Beneficiaries Forum in contributing to the visibility,

advocacy, and resource mobilization for the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, and thanked the State of Qatar for its contributions to counter-terrorism efforts as well as UNOCT for its work and active role in enhancing international cooperation in CT/PCVE. He recalled that the United Nations Secretary-General described UNOCT's role as harnessing the power of multilateralism to find practical solutions, and noted that prior to the Office's establishment, efforts to enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation lacked consistency and harmonization. In this context, UNOCT's creation constituted a changing point for multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation as the Office paved the way for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to CT/PCVE across all Member States, sectors, and disciplines. He further acknowledged that with the contributions of the State of Qatar, such coordination was strengthened with the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Compact consisting of 43 different entities which bring their own comparative advantages, enabling a 'whole of UN' approach to CT/PCVE.

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Recalling Tunisia's mandate in the United Nations Security Council for 2020-2021 and its chairmanship of the CTC mandated to assess Member States' compliance with their international obligations and commitments, Ambassador Ladeb stressed the importance of partnership and complementarity between UNOCT and the CTC supported by its Executive Directorate particularly in the field of capacity-building. He highlighted that terrorism can only be defeated collectively, observing that the threat is becoming more complex, multifaceted, geographically diffused, and ideologically diverse, with growing malicious use of artificial intelligence and social media for terrorist purposes. He mentioned that the country assessment reports adopted following CTED's visits on behalf of the CTC allow a comprehensive evaluation of existing frameworks and mechanisms and help identify recommendations for technical assistance priorities, noting that 705 technical assessment needs that have been identified until December 2021 are posted on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform for use by UN implementing partners. He added that UNOCT is regularly invited to attend CTED's briefings to the CTC on the findings of their country assessment visits and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov briefs the CTC at least twice a year. In this context, he underscored that the cooperation between UNOCT and the CTC is crucial to ensure capacity-building programmes are aligned with the expert assessment offered by CTED, to help avoid duplication and overlap between Security Council and General Assembly mechanisms, and to build synergies between the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

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Ambassador Ladeb highlighted that technical assistance and capacity-building programmes need to be tailored to the specific contexts and needs of Member States, informed by locally driven priorities, and ensure national ownership. They should consistently ensure full compliance with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. He noted that Tunisia, during its CTC chairmanship and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, advocated for greater integration of human rights and gender

considerations in counter-terrorism efforts specifically in addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism and for the meaningful participation of civil society and local communities impacted by terrorism and counter-terrorism measures and whose contributions are essential to achieve comprehensive, human rights-based and inclusive outcomes and deliverables. In closing, he pointed to the need to keep the momentum in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to continue investing in the counter-terrorism capabilities of countries most need of assistance.

### **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations,** expressed appreciation for the efforts of UNOCT and its Counter-Terrorism Centre and all relevant UN bodies assisting Iraq in its war against terrorism. He mentioned that Iraq is one of the countries that has suffered the most from terrorist acts, as terrorist organizations have repeated their attempts to destabilize the country by targeting State facilities, killing civilians and intimidating them with heinous acts of abuse and torture. He underscored that the Government is committed to cooperating with the international community to combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms, as stipulated in the Constitution of Iraq, and as evidenced by the formation of the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) established in pursuant to Security Council resolution 2379 (2017) to support domestic efforts to hold Da'esh accountable by collecting, storing and presenting evidence to Iraqi authorities. He reiterated the Government's call for unifying and coordinating the efforts of all international and regional actors to combat terrorism, whatever its origins and name, as well as for strengthening security and intelligence cooperation between Iraq and the international community, both States and organizations, at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Ambassador Aluloom highlighted Iraq's work to develop its national counter-terrorism strategy in line with emerging global trends and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through a holistic approach from combating extremist ideology to drying up sources of terrorist financing, and expressed appreciation to the efforts of UNOCT and its Counter-Terrorism Centre in coordinating international efforts and strengthening national capacities through workshops and capacity-building programmes. He emphasized Iraq's readiness to exchange experiences in various fields of combating terrorism and outlined the priority areas for Iraq as follows: (i) suppressing the financing of terrorism, including financial risk assessment and investigation; (ii) repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration; (iii) cybersecurity; (iv) border control; (v) organized crime related to terrorism; (vi) preventing terrorists' access to chemical and biological weapons; (vii) strategic communications and preventing violent extremism; (viii) Countering Terrorist Travel Programme; (ix) support for victims of terrorism; (x) support for national legislation; and (xi) exchange of information

and experiences. He expressed Iraq's interest in cooperating with UNOCT to establish the National Counter-Terrorism Centre as a pivotal step to enhance Iraq's capabilities towards implementing its counter-terrorism priorities and strengthening ties with foreign counterparts at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

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Referring to the humanitarian and security implications of FTFs and their families in Syria, the Ambassador informed that Iraq returned 1,900 terrorist fighters detained in Syria and 450 Iraqi families, consisting of 1,796 individuals, during the second half of 2021, and that Iraqi institutions are supervising the implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration plan for returnees from Syria. He urged concerned countries to move quickly to repatriate their citizens from Iraq and Syria and expressed Iraq's commitment to strengthening cooperation and coordination with the UN in this area, especially in psychological preparation, dealing with trauma and combating violent extremism.

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Ambassador Aluloom informed that Iraq facilitated and coordinated with UNOCT and its Counter-Terrorism Centre the organization of more than 20 training courses and workshops to support the country in 2021 and that they saw significant progress on many priority areas despite obstacles related to the pandemic such as prevention of WMD terrorism, the Global Framework, countering the financing of terrorism, border security, strategic communications, and youth empowerment. He outlined the areas that Iraq would like to enhance cooperation with UNOCT as follows: (i) updating the action plan to support Iraq to confront new and emerging threats related to terrorism; (ii) establishing a national centre to combat terrorism in Iraq; (iii) exchanging Iraqi experiences and good practices with other Member States and relevant UN bodies; (iv) exchange of high-level and expert visits; and (v) strengthening UNOCT's field presence in Iraq, to support Iraq's counter-terrorism efforts in line with its national strategy, particularly through capacity-building assistance and promoting broader regional cooperation.

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### **H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations**, welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Beneficiaries Forum to share Botswana's experiences on technical and capacity-building assistance provided by UNOCT and partnering entities and to learn from best practices, noting that the Forum serves as an accountability platform for those that are providing support and also to hear from recipient countries on how they are utilizing capacity-building efforts. He commended the State of Qatar for the visible and dedicated support it continues to provide not only to UNOCT but for multilateralism, and provided key highlights of Botswana's journey with UNOCT to strengthen the capacities of the country's newly established National Counter-Terrorism

Analysis and Fusion Agency within the scope of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) and the Threat Assessment Models (TAM) Programme.

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Referring to the process of receiving technical assistance, he informed that through several meetings held between Botswana and UNOCT since 2019, the country's priorities were identified for intervention in the areas of countering terrorist travel and interagency coordination, which paved the way for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2021 that formally launched the partnership with respect to the implementation of the CTTP in the country and led to the licensing of the goTravel software to the country that was rolled out in October the same year. Recognizing the need for capacity building in interagency cooperation and coordination, Botswana also joined the TAM Programme launched in September 2021 as one of its first beneficiaries. Ambassador Kelapile commended the strong determination and commitment demonstrated by both parties that enabled the consultations, MoU, trainings, and implementation of programmes to take place despite the pandemic.

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He observed that while it is early to make an assessment of the impact of technical assistance received, the two programmes are off to a good start to strengthen organizational capacities of the national counter-terrorism agency and enhancing cooperation and coordination among relevant agencies and stakeholders at national level in line with the 'whole-of-government' approach that can be a serious struggle in many countries. He noted that such support is also crucial for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions which encourages countries to strengthen relevant national institutions including through international cooperation for building capacity to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime. He further observed that the programmes are relevant and helpful to Botswana due not only to the active terrorist threats at the global level but also given the country's particular geographical status as a landlocked country and its central location in southern Africa that exposes it to vulnerabilities including travel of terrorists and serious criminals. In this context, Ambassador Kelapile encouraged UNOCT to continue on the path of strengthening a regional and subregional approach to the provision of technical assistance to reinforce the full impact of these programmes. He also appreciated that the programmes enhance Botswana's compliance to international obligations, including for example Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the aviation security and facilitation targets of the African Union.

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In closing, Ambassador Kelapile recognized UNOCT's capacity constraints due to its reliance on voluntary contributions which impacts the sustainability of its programmes, and in this regard, he stressed that putting UNOCT on a sustainable financial footing through the Regular Budget must remain a priority to enable UNOCT to continue to support beneficiaries. He also emphasized the crucial coordination role of Ministries of Foreign

Affairs and their Embassies and Missions in ensuring adequate follow-up of programmes with national agencies, noting the Mission's active engagement in this regard.

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## **H.E. Mr. Gennaro Migliore**

**President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)**, stressed the importance of parliamentary engagement and the cooperation between parliamentary assemblies, national parliaments and international organizations in the fight against terrorism, noting that PAM since its inception has adopted many resolutions with legislative and policy recommendations for PAM national parliaments to effectively synchronize their legislative efforts with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and supported the translation of Security Council resolutions into national laws. As part of its counter-terrorism efforts, Mr. Migliore informed that PAM in 2008 adopted by consensus a working definition of terrorism, established in 2019 a Special Parliamentary Committee on Counterterrorism, and adopted in March 2022 on the occasion of its 16th plenary session in Dubai a significant resolution on counter-terrorism laying out the priorities of work of PAM in the coming period, highlighting the importance of multilateralism and strong collaboration to succeed in the fight against terrorism.

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Referring to PAM's counter-terrorism priorities, Mr. Migliore informed that PAM parliaments will work under the framework of the "Call of the Sahel" initiative to implement a holistic approach to address the root causes of instability in the Sahel region that has seen a surge of terrorist activities and become the epicentre of global terrorism. Second, he highlighted that PAM, through the UN's dedicated mechanism and working closely with UNOCT, is engaged in supporting member countries in the repatriation and rehabilitation of FTFs and their family members in camps and detention facilities in northeast Syria. Third, he noted that PAM is monitoring the degradation of the security and humanitarian situation especially for women's rights in Afghanistan and the implications that related developments might have on the future of the terrorist threat in the region. Fourth, he highlighted the persistent threat of the Houthis in Yemen as a factor of destabilization and insecurity especially for the Gulf countries in the PAM region and the suffering of civilians in the country. Fifth, he stressed the threat posed by misuse of cyberspace and ICT on the stability of several countries and the persistent and growing threat of the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime. And finally, he informed about an important conference organized jointly with UNOCT in Rome in June 2022 on the victims of terrorism, which the Office has put at the centre of debate for the first time.

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In closing, Mr. Migliore recalled the signing in 2021 of a cooperation agreement between PAM and UNOCT which formalized the partnership between the two organizations and

paved the way for a closer working relationship on counter-terrorism and stressed that this partnership is timely and effective. He informed that PAM contributed to the launch of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Doha and its activities and that it joined efforts with UNOCT to develop a parliamentary guide to facilitate the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He reiterated the role of parliamentarians in adopting the laws needed to counter terrorism and emphasized the need to take joint action against terrorism.

### **H.E. Major General Peljee Odonbaatar**

**Director General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia**, underlined the significant role of the Beneficiaries Forum in enhancing UNOCT's technical and capacity-building assistance by providing a platform for assessing the impact of its programmes. He recalled that Mongolia improved its counter-terrorism legal framework by adopting a new law on countering WMD proliferation and terrorism in October 2019 that renewed its 2004 counter-terrorism law. He elaborated on the implementation of the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) in Mongolia, including through the establishment of related working groups that closely collaborate with UNOCT counterparts, while informing that legislative amendment and establishment of a passenger information unit through a centralized operational model for efficient API/PNR data usage are also on the country's agenda. Noting that meetings regarding the implementation of the CTTP are online based in parallel with a shift to a new normal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Odonbaatar assessed that physical meetings are more effective and expressed hope to have physical meetings more often in the near future. He observed that the implementation of the CTTP brings achievements and positive consequences and informed that cooperation among government agencies in Mongolia reached a new level specifically among middle and upper-level officers, illustrating the significant results the programme has achieved in a relative short period. He indicated that Mongolia will continue to ensure the programme's successful implementation to strengthen the national capacity to detect the travel of terrorists and serious criminals. In addition, Mr. Odonbaatar mentioned that Mongolia has been proactive in ensuring human rights and freedoms and the protection of personal data, and in this context, noted the adoption of the law on personal data protection and law on cybersecurity in December 2021. He emphasized the importance that Mongolia's National Counter-Terrorism Council places on international cooperation and its commitment to collaborate with the international community to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism. In concluding, Mr. Odonbaatar expressed Mongolia's interest in getting technical assistance on cybersecurity and implementing available programmes and projects in this area that would help the country build its capacity to counter this threat.

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## Mr. Javad Gasimov

**Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan**, noted that the favourable geographical position of Azerbaijan and its transit role between East and West and North and South plays an important role in the country's economic development, which in turn requires the implementation of effective measures to ensure security and combat terrorism, as well as investment in use of modern technologies. He underscored that Azerbaijan has always supported the efforts of the international community in the fight against terrorism and has demonstrated an uncompromising position against all forms and manifestations of terrorism, regardless of political, economic, religious or other motives. He informed that Azerbaijan is effectively fighting smuggling and preventing illicit trafficking in drugs and their precursors, and as a result of measures taken, in 2019-2021 alone, the country prevented the smuggling of 6 tons 523 kilograms of drugs and psychotropic substances to Europe and neutralized several criminal groups. Mr. Gasimov stressed the importance of modern innovations that play a positive role in the application of border control methods and of international cooperation aimed at the use and promotion of modern management methods and technologies.

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In this context, Mr. Gasimov informed that Azerbaijan has been effectively collaborating with the UN through the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP) since 2020 and that its Customs Service leads working groups consisting of representatives of relevant state bodies to create and deploy API/PNR systems in the country based on the principles of the road map prepared by UN experts. He highlighted that Azerbaijan's long-term goals in this area include implementation of API/PNR systems in Azerbaijan in accordance with international standards and improvement of legislation, creation of a single risk mechanism to meet the needs and competencies of all relevant state bodies, studying and implementation of international experiences on coordination among law enforcement agencies, proper data processing, as well as strengthening skills in effective analysis. He informed that as a result of joint cooperation, Azerbaijan established its Passenger Information Center on 25 January 2022 within the Customs Service and aims to complete the implementation of the goTravel risk management system as soon as possible.

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Mr. Gasimov thanked UNOCT for its support in improving the knowledge and skills of staff in the field of pre-information and data analysis, as well as in creating opportunities to learn from the experiences of other countries in this area. In concluding, he underlined that the successful creation and use of API/PNR systems in Azerbaijan contributes to simplifying procedures for customs and other border agencies, increasing effectiveness of control through the deployment of an effective risk management system, ensuring the rapid passage of persons and goods through customs posts while ensuring timely identification of malicious persons and goods, preventing terrorism and smuggling, including the fight



against money laundering, as well as bringing national legislation in line with UN Security Council resolutions, WCO and other international standards.

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## Ms. Engelberta Kisting

**Political and Security Threats Analyst, the Regional Early Warning Centre, Southern African Development Community (SADC)**, recalled the role of UNCCT in partnership with the ACSRT in the development of the SADC Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action approved in 2015 and that of UNOCT and CTED during its revision in September 2021. She informed that as part of the implementation of the regional strategy and its action plan, SADC has benefited from UNOCT programmes on Countering Terrorist Travel (CTTP), Border Security and Management, Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM), Countering the Financing of Terrorism, Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism or Fusion Cells, and Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Vulnerable Targets. To illustrate the cooperation between UNOCT and SADC, she highlighted the successful organization of a joint regional workshop in October 2021 that brought together experts from aviation security and national counter terrorism centres of SADC Member States on interagency coordination and cooperation on aviation security matters, and the participation of experts from the recently launched Regional Counter Terrorism Centre and the Regional Early Warning Centre in a 10-course programme offered by the Fusion Cells Programme, noting that the programme plays an integral part in the operationalization of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre.

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Based on the feedback obtained from both the SADC Secretariat and beneficiary Member States, Ms. Kisting shared the following observations on programmatic activities delivered in the SADC region over the past year: (1) Generally, the programmes have been highly beneficial to SADC Member States; (2) The training programmes both in terms of content and approach were highly informative and address the needs confronting Member States; (3) Training interventions were received at the right time as Member States are developing their national strategies to respond the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism at regional, continental and international levels; (4) In terms of outputs, there has been significant success as the knowledge acquired is being utilized or applied. However, it is yet to be established how efficient and impactful the programmes have been in the medium to long-term. (5) Human rights and gender considerations are effectively mainstreamed and addressed; (6) The programmes are well structured and met the desired results; (7) For future capacity-building activities, SADC Member States would welcome the inclusion of practical exercises wherever possible; and (8) The interactive component, even though it can be a little bit challenging virtually, is critical to the success of any event.

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Ms. Kisting also shared several recommendations regarding the delivery of programmatic activities as follows: (1) Continued assistance to Member States in developing their national counter terrorism strategies and action plans, as well as in the implementation of these plans; (2) Continuation of capacity building and awareness raising events to enhance regional and domestic coordination and information sharing, protecting the non-profit sector from terrorist financing abuse, and raise awareness and strengthen political will; (3) Further support for strengthening inter-agency exchange of information for effective prevention and combatting of terrorism, including through the CTPP and other structurally-oriented programmes such as Fusion Cells and TAM; (4) Training on negotiations and peacebuilding; (5) Assistance with development of training manuals; (6) Assistance to the newly launched SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre to ensure that it fully takes on its role as a regional coordinating structure. In concluding, Ms. Kisting stressed the need for all interventions to take into consideration the important contributions by women and youth to prevent and counter terrorism and promote peace and security in the region, and the importance of the role of the media, civil society, religious actors, the business community and educational institutions in enhancing dialogue and broadening understanding, promoting pluralism, tolerance and coexistence, fostering an environment not conducive to incitement of terrorism, as well as in countering terrorist narratives as reflected in the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

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### **Mr. Imrana Buba**

**Founder of the Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT)**, informed that as a volunteer-based coalition of young victims of terrorism that supports young people affected by terrorism and prevents them from getting radicalized and engaging in violent extremism, the organization has participated in several capacity-building programmes and high-level events of UNOCT since 2016. He highlighted the organization's participation in media and communications training for civil society and victims of terrorism in 2016, which supported its work in amplifying the voices of victims and getting their stories out, and in turn, helped a lot of young people from joining Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in northeast Nigeria. He also informed about his organization's participation in consultation meetings for the development of a handbook to support victims of terrorism associations in Africa and the Middle East, which provided an opportunity to co-create knowledge with other civil society groups and to learn about good practices that improved the activities of the organization. As a result, the Youth Initiative introduced its own programme facilitating meetings with stakeholders at local level including religious leaders to encourage dialogue between young people and religious leaders. Mr. Buba stressed that while young people might be vulnerable to extremism, they are also playing an active role in preventing extremism in their communities. He also recalled the organization's participation in the

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism which provided an opportunity to highlight its work, obtain support and recognition from the global audience, and build partnerships. In this regard, Mr. Buba suggested creating opportunities to facilitate dialogue, understanding and partnership between civil society organizations and national governments, as civil society would be able to share its local knowledge of the vulnerabilities in their communities and they would also learn more about what governments are doing.

## Interactive Discussion

### H.E. Mr. Deepak Mittal

**Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar**, welcomed the consensus of perspectives that the terrorist threat is universal and needs collective action and approach including the provision of necessary technical and capacity-building support to Member States facing related challenges. He shared that while terrorist groups are seeking to gain lost grounds in Syria and Iraq, their regional affiliates continue to strengthen their expansion in South Asia and Africa. He further indicated that the terrorism threat has increased with terrorists adapting to new and emerging technologies, such as social media, video games, encrypted messaging services and drones, the use of virtual assets and new payment methods for terrorist financing, cross-border trafficking of arms and drugs, and targeting of critical infrastructure and soft targets, noting that most countries do not have adequate response capabilities to address these threats. In this context, he highlighted that the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities led by UNOCT have a crucial role to play to identify gaps and provide Member States with the necessary capacity-building support.

The Ambassador informed that India is a member of the UNCCT Advisory Board, contributed more than USD 1 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism for capacity-building in East and Southern Africa regions in areas of countering the financing of terrorism and border security management, and contributed to the deliberation of the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Referring to India's term in the Security Council for 2021-2022 and its chairmanship of the CTC for 2022, the Ambassador informed that the country's priorities include bringing back the focus on terrorism, keeping divisive narratives at bay, preserving the unity of multilateral response to terrorism, enhancing implementation of global counter-terrorism financing standards advocated by FATF, and supporting Member States' capacities to combat terrorism effectively. In pursuit of a zero-tolerance policy to terrorism, he underscored that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be condemned and there cannot be exception or justification for any act of terrorism wherever, whenever, and by whomever committed. He

highlighted the focus areas of India's CTC chairmanship by recalling the eight action points against terrorism proposed by India's Foreign Minister at the UN Security Council in 2021 as follows: (i) summon political will, (ii) say no to double standards, (iii) reform working methods of committees dealing with counter-terrorism, (iv) discourage exclusivist thinking that encourages radicalization, (v) objective listing and delisting under UN sanctions regimes, (vi) address linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, (vii) identify and remedy weaknesses in anti-money laundering regime under FATF, and (viii) adequately fund UN counter-terrorism bodies.

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### **H.E. Mr. Amr El Sherbiny**

**Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Qatar**, highlighted the importance of coherence with national priorities of Member States based on the principle of national ownership when providing technical support for capacity building in counter-terrorism, noting the primary responsibility of the State in combating terrorism and extremism and the need to ensure that national institutions have sustained capacity to address the terrorism threat. He expressed Egypt's commitment to enhance international and regional cooperation in combating terrorism and to support African countries to confront the growing terrorism threats including through the provision of technical assistance in capacity building and transfer of expertise. He informed that the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) organized eight training courses in 2021 with the participation of 300 trainees from 34 African countries in various counter-terrorism areas, and the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa (CCCPA) organized six workshops and training courses in 2021 with the participation of 100 trainees from 24 countries in combating extremist ideology, building institutional capacity, supporting resilience of societies, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and addressing repercussions arising from terrorist threats. He also informed that Egypt hosts the Sahel-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Centre to support the counter-terrorism capacities of Sahelian countries. The Ambassador highlighted the cooperation with UNCCT in organizing several regional workshops to build capacity in combating terrorist financing including financial investigation mechanisms and addressing the use of crypto and virtual currencies. In closing, he reiterated Egypt's readiness to engage with UNOCT and donors in counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts including through the provision of training courses by Egyptian agencies, emphasizing the importance of building national capacities in counter-terrorism as a fundamental pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

## Mr. Hans-Jakob Schindler

**Senior Director, Counter Extremism Project (CEP)**, informed that CEP as a transatlantic think tank and advocacy organization focusing on issues of extremism and terrorism has been monitoring the misuse of online services by extremists and terrorists not only for propaganda, radicalization, recruitment, communication or coordination but also for financial activities including illicit trade. He highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the role that large scale online platforms, mobile payment mechanisms and cryptocurrencies play for the organization of this trade due to physical movement restrictions. He mentioned that globally legislation and regulation of the online sphere is progressing including through the introduction of greater transparency requirements for the trade in cryptocurrencies in some regions. However, he observed that as legislation and regulation develop, the capacities and capabilities of investigative authorities are not developing with the same speed. He indicated that investigating online financial activities, including those linked to illicit trade that finance extremism and terrorism, is a very different challenge than investigating terrorism financing activities offline, requiring both specific technical capabilities and IT expertise, and recommended that this should become a central issue of global capacity-building programmes including through UNOCT. He added that since technical capabilities are expensive and the specific IT expertise is scarce, regional capability hubs servicing investigative authorities in a number of countries may be one way to achieve efficiently an increase in capacities and capabilities in this area.



Session IV panelists and the interactive discussion

# Session V

## Integrating Behavioural Insights and Parliamentary Engagement for Effective CT/PVE Programming

### Highlights

Session V of the Beneficiaries Forum was moderated by Mr. Chris O'Donnell, Chief of the Field Coordination Section, Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG). It featured the screening of two introductory videos on UNOCT Programme Offices based in Doha on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement, which was followed by remarks from the panel by Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, Chief of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, UNOCT, and Mr. David Alamos, Acting Chief of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism. Speakers shed light on the role and importance of behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement in CT/PCVE efforts, and shared the strategic goals, areas of work, key achievements, and future priorities of the two programme offices. During the subsequent question and answer session, speakers addressed how behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement programmes contribute to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and how both programmes complement UNOCT's other global programmes.

### Mr. Chris O'Donnell

**Chief of the Field Coordination Section, OUSG, UNOCT**, thanked the State of Qatar for its support to the innovative programmes on behavioural insights (BI) and parliamentary engagement and for the opportunity to highlight the advantages of the two approaches to

CT/PCVE efforts. He shared reflections from his own field experience with UN peacekeeping when as a DDR Officer he engaged with many non-state armed group members, many of whom were considered terrorists, he felt it important to examine the motivations and psychology driving their behaviour. In this sense, he highlighted that BI marks an important step forward in thinking and facing some of the core issues of terrorism and demonstrates a change whereby counter-terrorism actors now understand the value of examining the psychological factors and drivers at play in preventing and countering violent extremism. Recognizing the human element of the radicalization process that needs to be understood and incorporated, he emphasized the importance of BI as a cross-cutting methodology which should be integrated and used in all UNOCT activities. Mr. O'Donnell underscored that the opening of the Doha BI Hub is in line with the UN Secretary-General's vision to explore and apply behavioural science in programmatic areas to ensure that interventions are data driven and based on the scientific method. He added that a BI approach enables the identification of risk and resilience factors and development of empirically validated interventions for policymakers and practitioners to effectively prevent and counter violent extremism.

In addition, Mr. O'Donnell underlined the importance of making sure that the realities of violent extremism and terrorism on the ground are well understood by governments and of empowering and engaging parliamentarians to counter these threats. In this regard, he highlighted that the parliamentary engagement programme helps to focus government decision-making bodies on the priority issues of preventing and countering terrorism in their respective countries. He informed that the programme supports parliamentarians worldwide in developing efficient and robust CT/PCVE legislation and strengthens and promotes their legislative oversight and representative functions in CT/PCVE. He also commended the insight of the State of Qatar in seeing the value of co-locating these programmes in Doha given that they are mutually reinforcing, noting that a BI approach is a means to effective law making.

### **Ms. Aynabat Atayeva**

**Chief of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, UNOCT,** stressed that the launch of the BI Hub in Doha is in line with UN Secretary-General's vision "One Common Agenda" which place behavioural science among the five cross-cutting pillars to inform UN system-wide solutions to the challenges of the twenty-first century and call for its systematic application to increase effectiveness in policy, programme and mandate delivery. In this context, she explained that the BI Hub launched in December 2020 operationalizes this vision through a range of multisectoral skill sets that it offers in the areas of communications, strategic advocacy and networking, technical expertise, training, and programme management. She highlighted the importance of BI as an evidence-based approach to understand how people behave, make decisions and respond to policies, as

well as the barriers that prevent people from adopting certain behaviour, which is crucial for designing impactful programmes. She also noted the wide range of applications and adaptability of BI across disciplines which make it cross-cutting. She informed about the Hub's strategic goals as mainstreaming the application of BI in policy and programmes, familiarizing beneficiaries with the BI approach to cultivate programmatic activities; and promoting BI skill sets across all actors from civil society organizations to policymakers.

In terms of key milestones achieved over the past eight months, she informed that the BI Hub established an expert network specializing in various disciplines that led to outreach meetings, consultations, round tables, and dialogues that in turn helped the programme's operationalization. Further, the Hub conducted five high-level events including an awareness raising workshop for diplomatic missions in Doha and a workshop on using BI to address the intersection of the Internet, mental health and radicalization to violent extremism in Europe; led the creation of UNOCT-wide cluster consultation mechanism based on thematic and geographic areas to facilitate engagement with experts and partners to lay the foundation for research and capacity-building programming; and initiated joint programming with UNOCT programme offices in Rabat and Madrid on how the BI approach can be used to strengthen law enforcement capabilities to protect vulnerable targets. She noted that the Hub started working closely with other UN agencies and regional organizations providing technical assistance in PCVE and will continue to strengthen these partnerships through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups. In terms of planned activities in the coming period, Ms. Atayeva informed that the Hub will launch the first of a podcast series to bridge the theoretical and practical application of BI to CT/PCVE focusing on the theory of radicalization and use of counter narratives; inaugurate the first BI Academy in the second half of 2022 that will provide hands-on knowledge for government and non-government actors on the application of BI for PCVE; continue brainstorming and training sessions dedicated to specific geographic regions, namely Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa; and support national and international non-governmental organizations on engaging with local communities in developing behaviourally informed strategies and interventions to counter violent extremist narratives.

## Mr. David Alamos

**Acting Chief of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism**, highlighted the benefit of the Beneficiaries Forum to hear from beneficiaries on the performance and results of the technical assistance provided, and thanked the Shura Council of the State of Qatar for its support to the establishment and operationalization of the parliamentary engagement programme office. Mr. Alamos recalled that the programme office was launched in June 2021 to respond to the need and request for technical assistance by Member States to enhance legislative, oversight and representative parliamentary functions and the capacities of parliaments and parliamentarians in CT/



PCVE. He highlighted that the office aims to support parliaments to ensure the balanced and integrated implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions in accordance with the ‘whole-of-society’ approach. In terms of strategic goals, Mr. Alamos explained that the programme office is fully dedicated to building the capacities of parliaments to enhance CT/PCVE responses across parliamentary functions; provides specialized technical assistance for the development of modern and effective counter-terrorism legislation; serves as a centre of expertise for parliaments, Member States and parliamentary assemblies by developing tools, handbooks and guidelines, conducting research, and facilitating sharing of good practices; and facilitates and fosters cooperation and coordination between parliaments and governments and among parliaments and parliamentary assemblies.

Mr. Alamos stressed the programme’s comprehensive approach to ensure sustainable initiatives, and elaborated on the results achieved over the past nine months of implementation. In the area of capacity-building, he informed that the programme has been enhancing capacities of parliaments of the five Central Asian States on the implementation of their national action plans on CT/PCVE. In terms of research, the programme enhanced the national counter-terrorism legislation of four Member States in Africa and Latin America and launched the model legislative provisions on the victims of terrorism. Regarding coordination, the programme established the first joint strategic coordination mechanism of parliamentary assemblies to enhance dialogue, cooperation and joint decision making among parliamentary assemblies in CT/PCVE. In the area of raising awareness, the programme office held the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism in Vienna in September 2021 and is holding the high-level parliamentary conference for African countries in Doha in addition to launching an online global parliamentary network that will be used to promote partnerships and share multimedia resources to build parliamentarian capacities worldwide. In terms of priorities for 2022, Mr. Alamos informed that the programme office will enhance the role of youth and women parliamentarians; support counter-terrorism efforts in Africa by setting up a working group dedicated to African countries to help them respond to the terrorism threat; continue the operationalization of the coordination mechanism and networking tools; and strengthen parliamentary functions. And lastly, he invited participants to make use of the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform to access available materials on parliamentary engagement.

## Question & Answer

### Question 1

To what extent does the programme address identified needs? How well does the programme align with government/agency/organization priorities?

**Ms. Atayeva** highlighted that BI contributes to the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy. In terms of the first pillar, she explained that behaviourally informed research helps build understanding and knowledge about the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism that can be used for the formulation of policies and development of interventions on prevention addressing underlying drivers of violent extremism. She noted that such research enables the disaggregation of different target groups and geographies and produces information tailored to specific contexts which informs the development and delivery of programmatic support. Referring to the second pillar, she mentioned that BI can be applied across the lifecycle of terrorism from the stage of radicalization to reintegration. Regarding the third pillar on building capacities to prevent and combat terrorism, she referred to the various capacity-building initiatives of the BI Hub including the upcoming launch of the BI Academy that will provide training workshops on the application of BI in CT/PCVE for a wide range of stakeholders including research institutions, think tanks and other users. With respect to the fourth pillar, she underscored that mainstreaming human rights and the rule of law are a central element of the BI approach given the need to apply BI responsibly. She informed that the BI Hub will be developing a code of conduct for providers and beneficiaries of BI services that will address ethical considerations.

**Mr. Alamos** underscored the importance of strengthening the rule of law, respecting human rights, and including gender sensitive approaches in addressing the threat of terrorism, and in this regard, highlighted the contributions of the parliamentary engagement office to achieving stronger parliaments as basis to foster, ensure and promote effective governance in CT/PCVE. He emphasized that having a solid and transparent legal framework that is compliant with international legal obligations is essential to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and that the programme supports the balanced and integrated implementation of the Strategy by providing technical assistance to develop human rights compliant and gender responsive legislation on CT/PCVE. In addition, he indicated that the programme promotes dialogue and cooperation between parliaments and governments and among parliaments and parliamentary assemblies to strengthen parliamentary functions and support and harmonize legislative efforts in support of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

## Question 2

How do the behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement programmes complement other UNOCT global programmes?

**Ms. Atayeva** emphasized the cross-cutting nature of BI that makes the programme well placed to support all other programmes so that they are better informed and more effective and impactful. She elaborated on how BI can help inform other programmes

including by providing information to understand and identify behavioural change and to use for strategic messaging on CT/PCVE, creating incentives for disengaging from violent extremism, and supporting the design of tools and systems to measure the impact of preventative programmes focusing on behavioural change rather than cognitive change. She informed that the Hub will develop a new toolkit that will bring BI in monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

**Mr. Alamos** emphasized that the parliamentary engagement programme does not only complement but also engages actively with other global programmes and projects implemented by UNOCT around the world. He highlighted that all efforts to enhance national responses to counter-terrorism should be based on a solid and robust legal framework and that it is important to strengthen the oversight functions of parliaments to ensure the implementation of the rule of law in CT/PCVE. He provided concrete examples of horizontal cooperation with programmes implemented by other parts of UNOCT, including: engagement with the Support to Victims of Terrorism Programme on the launch of the model legislative provisions for victims of terrorism; work with the Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism on promoting the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT); collaboration with UNOCT-UNCCT Central Asia Unit on the implementation of the EU-UN Joint Programme for Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Central, South and South-East Asia (STRIVE Asia); support to surge capacity in the field through the provision of legal analysis on affected countries; development of a joint proposal with the UNOCT Gender Unit to establish a network of women parliamentarians and cooperation on the organization of a global women's parliamentary forum; engagement with the Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS) Programme to advance legislation on new technologies and drones; and ongoing dialogue with the Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets to develop a tool on global experiences in drafting legislation in this area. In addition, he mentioned that the high-level conference organized for the parliaments of African countries will have a dedicated session for UNOCT programmes to share not only the outcomes of their programmes but to identify how the parliamentary dimension can be integrated in those programmes.

In conclusion, Mr. O'Donnell underscored the comprehensive and complementary package of technical assistance received by UNOCT global programmes that are both vertically integrated in terms of benefiting from the support provided by the UN Headquarters and horizontally integrated through the synergies and partnerships established with other programmes. He highlighted that the presences in the field are not standalone structures but are part of a bigger UNOCT family. He also thanked the State of Qatar for its insight on how BI and parliamentary engagement programmes can drive innovation around the world and its support for UNOCT's programming in these areas.

# Session VI

## Reporting of Outcomes and the Vision Forward

### Highlights

Session VI of the Beneficiaries Forum was moderated by Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT. It featured presentations by the moderators of the two deep dive round tables of Session III, Mr. Mauro Miedico, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch, and Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch of UNOCT. Speakers shared the main highlights and conclusions, including key guiding principles, good practices and recommendations, which emerged from the discussions held during the round tables of Session III that assessed the performance and results of global flagship technical and capacity-building assistance programmes implemented by UNOCT in partnership with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and national and regional partners, as well as the policy and coordination support provided by UNOCT, with the financial support of the State of Qatar.

## Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva

**Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), UNOCT**, thanked the State of Qatar for supporting the work of UNOCT and its implementing partners and for providing this opportunity, as host of the Beneficiaries Forum, to discuss the collaboration on and ways to improve programme development and implementation. Referring to the two deep dive round tables conducted under Session III with internal and external partners that looked into the effectiveness of our activities, opportunities and challenges in implementation, as well as ways in which to strengthen CT/PCVE policy, coordination and programming work, she highlighted the session's objective to report on the outcomes of discussions held with beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical assistance and share some of the action points that have emerged for reflection going forward. In this context, she underscored three key messages that have come out of the discussions specifically as related to her capacity which is responsible for the coordination of resource mobilization and evaluation in UNOCT.

First, Ms. Niyazberdiyeva highlighted the role and engagement of beneficiaries as co-creators of UNOCT's programmes and the importance of ensuring that their perspectives and feedback are reflected at all stages of the programme management cycle including needs assessments, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and fundraising with donors. Second, she underscored the need to empower field staff as co-developers so that they help drive programme design and implementation processes based on their first-hand knowledge of the local culture and context and to include them in core coordination groups to build a closer relationship between headquarters and the field. Third, she emphasized that the project-based funding model emerged as one of most significant challenges to adopting a strategic programmatic approach to counter-terrorism, and recalled the appeals made during the Forum to institutionalize the funding for CT/PCVE efforts through the Regular Budget and multi-year frameworks with donors to allow for the sustainability of technical assistance and capacity-building support. As moderator, she posed the below questions to speakers.

## Question & Answer

### Question 1

Round Table 1 focused on the assessment of technical and capacity-building programmes implemented by UNOCT in collaboration with its programming partners. How did beneficiaries assess the relevance and impact of our programmes and the extent to which they meet their needs and expectations? Are there any areas that need adjustment and improvement?

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## Mr. Mauro Miedico

**Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT**, thanked all speakers in Round Table 1 that focused on the assessment of technical and capacity-building programmes implemented by UNOCT and its programming partners with the generous contribution of the State of Qatar. In terms of key guiding principles, Mr. Miedico observed that beneficiaries and partners stressed their satisfaction with the ‘inclusivity’ of the programmes that ensured ‘all-of-government’ and ‘all-of-society’ approaches, in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, enabling the creation and promotion of partnerships and synergies among various stakeholders. In addition, he emphasized that participants recognized the mainstreaming of human rights considerations and gender sensitive approaches in all UNOCT programmes.

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Regarding key observations and good practices, he highlighted the positive feedback received from beneficiaries and partners on programmatic support and that all programmes were found relevant in terms of matching and addressing the critical needs of Member States, which gave a clear indication that the Office is on the right path. Second, he mentioned that participants stressed the innovative and comprehensive approach of the programmes and their ability to address complex problems in a wide range of areas such as countering terrorist travel, aviation security, counter-terrorism investigations, fusion cells, among others. Third, he noted that the ‘complementary’ approach of the programmes was met positively by participants as demonstrated through the sports programme that addresses both the security and prevention aspects of sports-based interventions. Fourth, he emphasized that there was a clear recognition of UNOCT’s leadership and coordination role. He highlighted as examples the Parliamentary Engagement Programme that was commended for the establishment of the first joint coordination mechanism for parliamentary assemblies that helps parliamentarians learn about new CT/PCVE approaches, assist in development of adequate legislation, and exchange good practices, as well as the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme that effectively coordinates important technical expertise and inputs from other UN entities. And lastly, he informed that participants recognized the quality and benefit of technical assistance, capacity building and tools provided through UNOCT programmes, including software, manuals, curricula, training products, and the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform.

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Mr. Miedico also shared the key messages and recommendations from beneficiaries and partners as follows: (i) continue the implementation of programmes and expand their geographic coverage; (ii) maintain the comprehensive nature of programmes and ensure the integration of regional and subregional dimensions through a multi-level approach; (iii) ensure that programmes embed both CT and PVE aspects for a holistic and integrated approach; (iv) ensure quickness of action given the need for technical assistance to

address urgent priorities and developments; (v) enhance local, national and regional ownership of programmes; (vi) continue engagement with and empowerment of civil society organizations and youth, and ensure that inputs from civil society, academia and other non-governmental actors are considered in the design of programmes; (vii) ensure horizontal cooperation including through South-South cooperation; (viii) continue to provide more technical and technological solutions including the development and outreach of digital tools; and (ix) continue efforts to ensure funding for programmes and sustainability of impact including through the use of field presences.

## Question 2

Round Table 2 focused on the assessment of the policy, coordination and programmatic support provided by UNOCT in collaboration with its implementing partners, including within the Counter-Terrorism Compact framework. What can be done to further leverage the comparative advantages of counter-terrorism entities to strengthen cooperation? What are the ways to enhance the impact of our policy and coordination work?

## Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah

**Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), UNOCT,** thanked the participants of Round Table 2, and recalled that the session started with an overview of the UN support process for Member States in CT/PCVE and included a review of the work conducted by UNOCT and its relevant Counter-Terrorism Compact partners in six support areas: (i) threat assessment including reporting to the Security Council and General Assembly; (ii) creation of counter-terrorism mandates through the provision of substantive secretariat support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review process; (iii) identification of technical assistance needs based on established mandates and CTED assessments and recommendations; (iv) coordination and outreach supported by the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the organization of international and regional conferences; (v) joint resource mobilization; and (vi) delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance. He underscored that UNOCT is the only entity within the UN system and the State of Qatar is the only donor country contributing to all of the six steps. He informed that discussions highlighted the key contributions of the UN's CT/PCVE work, including the role of high-level events in building greater multilateral cooperation and analysing critical thematic subjects, while enabling participants to look into challenges and gaps in policy, coordination, and programmatic support.

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In this context, Mr. Shah shared some observations and recommendations that emerged from the discussions. First, he highlighted the clear consensus among participants on the need to increase partnership in the field and the emphasis on using field offices in an effective manner not only for delivering capacity building and training but also to contribute to policy analysis and resource mobilization. He mentioned that in reinforcing field presences and activities we should avoid duplication of work between the field and headquarters. Second, he expressed the need to systematically identify comparative advantages and avoid duplication of efforts among UN entities with similar mandates. Third, he pointed to discussions around making better use of coordination platforms in that while there is good progress in using such platforms at headquarters there are deficiencies in coordination with field-based partners. Fourth, he shared the observation that there are a number of UN entities that already have a high number of field presences around the world which UNOCT and other partners can benefit from in the conduct of joint activities in CT/PCVE. And lastly, referring to the discussion with UNICRI, he highlighted the need for credible research when designing programmes, projects and activities and deciding whether to invest in a given area, noting that some high-visibility initiatives that were not based on solid research failed to deliver their anticipated impact. Mr. Shah commended the unique setup of the Forum that enabled for the first time the sharing of observations and recommendations by beneficiaries and providers on the UN's CT/PCVE support and emphasized the benefit of continuing this exercise in the future.

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In conclusion, Ms. Niyazberdiyeva highlighted the importance of the Beneficiaries Forum in providing a platform for honest and critical feedback that will enable UNOCT to improve its work moving forward. She informed that the OUSG Secretariat has taken note of the challenges and gaps identified which will be given close and due attention so that the Office takes the necessary steps to adjust and strengthen its implementation and is in an even better position next year when we reconvene for the next Beneficiaries Forum.



# Closing Session

## Highlights

This session featured closing remarks by H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

### H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations,** highlighted the tireless efforts of UNOCT and its Counter-Terrorism Compact partners in providing CT/PCVE assistance that benefits a wide range of recipients and Qatar's support to these efforts including through its USD 75 million contribution from 2019-2023 and a new contribution of USD 45 million from 2024-2026 financing UNOCT's core resources. She underscored that Qatar's effective partnership with UNOCT strengthened the core leadership, policy and coordination role of the Office within the UN system and related efforts, including the organization of high-level regional conferences and the Counter-Terrorism Week at the UN, as well as the implementation of the Compact and the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform.

Ambassador Al-Thani emphasized that the Beneficiaries Forum evidenced the significant impact of UNOCT programmes implemented with relevant UN entities in addressing the most pressing and emerging terrorism challenges and helping build legislative, operational and technical capabilities of countries, including the programmes on aviation security, autonomous and remotely operated systems, countering terrorist travel, protection of vulnerable targets, and fusion cells. She also mentioned that the Forum showed the

importance of UNOCT's approach to strengthening its field presence to implement programmes closer to recipients, enhance their impact and cost-effectiveness, and promote cooperation with local, national, and regional actors, noting the Doha-based programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement.

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The Ambassador underscored that this first annual international forum organized jointly with UNOCT achieved its desired outcome of maximizing the benefit of programmes, projects and initiatives implemented by UNOCT and its partners, improving their efficiency and effectiveness, and ensuring that financial contributions achieve the greatest impact, by providing a platform to assess the results-based performance and progress, explore opportunities and address challenges. She noted that the forum demonstrated UNOCT's commitment to the principles of accountability, transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency, and that its programmes respond to beneficiaries' needs and priorities. She expressed hope that the good practices and recommendations from the Forum serve as a guiding principle for enhancing programme design and implementation, while noting that performance evaluation and improvement is a continuous process. In closing, Ambassador Al-Thani reaffirmed Qatar's continued support to UNOCT and expressed hope that the strong bilateral partnership sets an example for other countries to contribute to UNOCT's core resources.

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### **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

**Under Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**, at the outset, expressed appreciation for the close and strong bilateral partnership with the State of Qatar which sets an example for moving international cooperation forward based on multilateralism. He observed that through the discussions held during the Beneficiaries Forum, we managed to accomplish one of the main tasks of the exercise which was to set a standard on how recipients of assistance, contributing partners, and UN entities could work together to ensure the utilization of resources in a proper and effective manner. He expressed gratitude to all speakers and participants for their contributions in building up this cooperation model which engaged all counter-terrorism actors from different parts of the world in intensive, rich and frank discussions on various aspects of the CT/PCVE agenda. He also noted that the Forum convened UNOCT's entire leadership in Doha to represent all our counter-terrorism activities, signifying the need from time to time to move from Headquarters to national destinations leading the counter-terrorism agenda.

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Under-Secretary-General Voronkov recalled that the State of Qatar and UNOCT embarked on this joint initiative by recognizing the need to hear directly from beneficiaries, providers and donors of assistance to assess the impact of the policy, coordination, and technical and

capacity-building assistance on CT/PCVE to ensure that UNOCT delivers on its mandate in an effective and efficient manner.

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In terms of initial observations and conclusions from the Forum, referring to the seventh Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review resolution that provides a strong, comprehensive and forward-looking counter-terrorism mandate, he underscored the need to continue to develop a shared understanding of emerging threats in the global terrorist landscape, set priorities, and share information about threat assessments and respective policies, programmes and initiatives. He highlighted the importance of stronger multilateral cooperation to ensure counter-terrorism responses are coherent, targeted and complementary and expressed UNOCT's commitment to continue supporting the Secretary-General's vision for an inclusive and networked multilateralism in CT/PCVE through the Counter-Terrorism Week, conferences, and briefings and reporting to Member States.

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Second, referring to the CT/PCVE priorities shared during the Forum, he welcomed that UNOCT global programmes addressed these priorities and responded to recipient needs, and noted that the Office will continue its comprehensive approach to CT/PCVE programming that both enhances operational law enforcement capacities and supports prevention efforts through a human rights-compliant, rule of law-based, gender and age sensitive approach. Third, he welcomed that the assistance provided is delivering concrete results on the ground and highlighted that implementation will continue to be grounded in results-based management and that work will continue to strengthen systems to track programmatic performance and financial management to report on results achieved. He underlined the need to support the Counter-Terrorism Compact which has institutionalized coordinated and coherent 'all-of-UN' delivery of support that leverages comparative advantages through its working groups while respecting respective mandates. In addition, he underscored the importance of partnership with civil society actors and encouraged all partners to benefit from the UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform. Fourth, he pointed to the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for UN counter-terrorism efforts and ensure sufficient and sustained resources to allow mandate delivery and appealed to the donor community to support the UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism. And lastly, he expressed the need to continue efforts to deliver tailored capacity-building assistance closer to beneficiaries in a cost-effective manner to sustain impact through the UN programme offices in the field.

**In closing, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed gratitude to Ambassador Al-Thani for her consistent and strong support to UNOCT and the State of Qatar for the next pledge of USD 45 million for the period 2024-2026. Until the next Beneficiaries Forum, he concluded with an appeal to continue to work together in a consultative and collaborative manner to help build a future without terrorism.**

# Key guiding principles, main observations, and recommendations

## I. Key guiding principles

Speakers highlighted the below key guiding principles as basis for the UN's design and delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support in CT/PCVE:

- Importance of strengthening international cooperation and multilateralism at all levels to ensure counter-terrorism responses are coherent, coordinated and complementary and as a core imperative in the fight against terrorism
- Recognition that respect for human rights and the rule of law is the foundation of the fight against terrorism and that human rights and gender mainstreaming is integral to the design and delivery of counter-terrorism measures
- Ensuring comprehensive, multifaceted, and integrated CT/PCVE programming that enhances both law enforcement and prevention capacities and addresses all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, through a human rights-compliant, rule of law-based, gender and age sensitive approach
- Importance of UN coordination and coherence, and the adoption of a “whole-of-UN” approach to the design and delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes and projects that leverages respective comparative advantages and strengthens synergies, while avoiding duplication of efforts
- Recognition of the importance of using the analysis and recommendations from the expert assessments conducted by CTED on behalf of the CTC in the design of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions
- Ensuring that technical assistance and capacity-building programmes are tailored to the needs and requests of Member States, informed by locally driven priorities, and context-specific to address both the realities on the ground and challenges that may exist for beneficiaries

- Recognition of the importance of field-based implementation in designing and delivering tailored programmes that bring expertise and assets closer to beneficiaries, as essential to provide more flexible and agile assistance that respond to urgent needs and realities on the ground

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- Emphasis on adopting an inclusive “whole-of-Government” and “whole-of-society” perspectives and approaches that ensure the meaningful participation of civil society, particularly women and youth, local communities, academia, and other private sector actors in the development and execution of CT/PCVE policies and programmes

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- Recognition of the need to take a multi-tier approach through closer and active engagement and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations and bodies

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- Importance of ensuring that technical assistance and capacity-building support are grounded on effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and responsiveness to evolving terrorism threats, while ensuring national and regional ownership to achieve impactful delivery

## II. Main observations

Speakers shared the below assessments and observations to guide and inform the design and delivery of CT/PCVE technical assistance and capacity-building support.

### Strategic programming and alignment

1. The General Assembly’s seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus in June 2021, provides a comprehensive and forward-looking strategic framework for global counter-terrorism efforts. The international community should continue to develop a shared understanding of emerging threats, set priorities, and share information about threat assessments and respective policies, programmes and initiatives.

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2. Guided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, strategies and policy frameworks should be coherent and coordinated, based on evidence, clear concepts, universal norms and shared values, and translate into effective operational level capacity-building efforts through tailored programmes that draw on comparative advantages of key players, mainstream human rights and gender considerations, and measure results against international norms and standards.

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3. Member States have primary responsibility for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international legal obligations to prevent and counter

terrorism. It is critical to respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity in supporting Member States' CT/PCVE efforts at their request, and to ensure that technical assistance and capacity-building support is aligned with national priorities and that national institutions are equipped with sustained capacity to address terrorism threats based on the principle of national ownership.

4. It is important to continue the momentum in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations without exception or justification for any act of terrorism wherever, whenever, and by whomever committed. It is vital to reject stereotypes linking terrorism to a religion, doctrine, sect, race, or group, and to avoid double standards in addressing and combating terrorism as well as the politicization of counter-terrorism support.

### **Counter-terrorism priorities**

5. Recognizing that the threats of terrorism have become more complex, interconnected, multifaceted, geographically diffused, and ideologically diverse, there is a need to 'stay ahead of the curve' by analysing the changing global terrorism trends in a timely manner and adapting to the emerging and evolving threats.
6. Technical cooperation addressing the structural root causes of conflicts has critical relevance to prevent the rise of terrorism and violent extremism. There is a need to approach inclusive and sustainable development as a tool for conflict prevention and durable peace given higher incidence of conflict resurgence in countries that fall behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Technical assistance and capacity-building support should focus on enhancing prevention capabilities, building resilience, and integrating comprehensive development-based solutions delivered in partnership with UN entities, private sector, civil society, academia, human rights, women and youth peacebuilding organizations.
8. The pressing and emerging counter-terrorism threats and challenges that were highlighted include: misuse of cyber space and digital platforms such as social media, online video games, and encrypted messaging services; complex technologies such as drones, 3D printing, cryptocurrencies, virtual assets, new payment methods, and crowdfunding; nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crimes, including trafficking of arms and drugs; terrorists' access to small arms and light weapons and CBRN capabilities; targeting of critical infrastructure and soft targets; and terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief.

### Impact of UNOCT policy, coordination and capacity-building support

9. UNOCT has enhanced its overall performance in the delivery of its core mandated functions in the areas of policy leadership, coordination and coherence, capacity-building, as well as visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization.

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10. UNOCT's policy leadership for UN counter-terrorism efforts including through the provision of substantive secretariat support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review process, the development of the Secretary-General's reports on CT/PCVE to the UN governing bodies, diplomatic outreach and engagement with Member States and regional organizations, and the organization of international and regional conferences, including the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, is useful to identify and harmonize CT/PCVE priorities, build momentum for the global CT agenda, and promote multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

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11. There is recognition of UNOCT's leading role in ensuring coordination and coherence of CT/PCVE efforts within the UN system through the Counter-Terrorism Compact. The Compact and its working groups have been helpful in aligning CT/PCVE efforts, identifying priorities and gaps, implementing joint programmes and projects, leveraging respective comparative advantages, minimizing duplication of counter-terrorism efforts, strengthening partnerships, and achieving a 'one-UN' approach to programme design and delivery.

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12. CTED continues to be an important partner for all Counter-Terrorism Compact providers due to its country expert assessments, analysis and recommendations which inform technical assistance and capacity-building programming to ensure alignment with Security Council counter-terrorism mandates. The partnership and complementarity between UNOCT and the CTC supported by its Executive Directorate is crucial to ensure capacity-building programmes are aligned with CTED assessments and recommendations, avoid duplication and overlaps between Security Council and General Assembly mechanisms, and build synergies between the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

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13. UNOCT programmes (e.g., Protection of Vulnerable Targets, Sports, Fusion Cells, Countering Terrorist Travel, Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security, Support to Victims of Terrorism, Parliamentary Engagement) are relevant in terms of addressing and meeting the needs of Member States; unique, innovative, comprehensive, and complementing in tackling complex priority issues, addressing both security and prevention aspects, and building partnerships among diverse stakeholders; and beneficial and impactful in delivering tangible and quality results, such as establishing national and regional structures, producing software, curricula, modules, guides, manuals, compendiums and digital platforms, providing specialized trainings, and enabling the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. They generate a multiplier effect in that the support provided and expertise developed is used to expand the scope and scale of impact at the regional and global levels.

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14. Specifically, reflecting the feedback from the SADC Secretariat and its Member States, the training programmes both in terms of content and approach are highly informative and address Member States' needs; training interventions are timely as States are developing their national CT/PCVE strategies; the knowledge acquired is being utilized and applied; human rights and gender considerations are effectively mainstreamed; and the programmes are well structured and meet the desired results.

#### **Opportunities and challenges in the design and delivery of CT/PCVE assistance**

15. There is a need to embed local and community-based approaches in CT/PCVE programming. Cities, local authorities, and civil society actors can play an important role in preventing and countering violent extremism both in policy and practice, including by building social capital, developing locally led approaches for PVE that can draw on a range of resources, and ensuring that national strategies are informed by local practice and local action.

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16. There is need for continued efforts to involve parliamentarians in CT/PCVE work, engage with parliamentary assemblies, bring more visibility to the work of parliamentarians, and enhance the impact of their actions to implement effective programmes. UNOCT's dedicated technical support in the implementation of the international counter-terrorism framework is crucial given the lack the resources and expertise at the disposal of parliaments and parliamentary assemblies to implement long-term technical assistance projects. The Doha-based UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism provides an important opportunity to continue addressing these needs.

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17. Parliamentary coordination meetings are useful as they enable parliamentarians to obtain more information about latest trends and the UN's work, share experiences, identify priorities, and avoid duplication, while presenting an opportunity to interact multilaterally under the auspices of the UN. The establishment of the first coordination mechanism among parliamentary assemblies through the facilitation of UNOCT's parliamentary engagement office serves as good practice for helping parliamentarians learn about new approaches to CT/PCVE, assist in the development of adequate CT/PCVE legislation, and exchange good practices.

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18. UNOCT's approach to consolidating its field presence at the regional level facilitates cost-effective programme implementation closer to beneficiaries, develops cooperation with local, national and regional actors, and enhances impact and sustainability of assistance. The UN should more effectively leverage field capacities to quickly deliver expertise and programmes to better respond to the immediate needs of Member States.

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19. Behavioural insights offers an evidence-based, scientific, multidisciplinary and cross-cutting approach to understand how people behave, make decisions and respond to policies, and to identify risk and resilience factors to violent extremism conducive to



terrorism. The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism based in Doha provides an opportunity to mainstream the application of BI in CT/PCVE policies and programmes.

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20. While the UN is working better together thanks to UNOCT's coordination leadership and the mechanisms in place under the Counter-Terrorism Compact, challenges remain in terms of duplicating efforts and overlapping roles that may create confusion from a beneficiary perspective. More can be done to identify comparative advantages and develop platforms to deliver as 'one-UN' and avoid duplication of effort.
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21. Recognizing that human rights violations are a key driver of radicalization and programming that is not human rights and rule of law compliant is counterproductive, there is a need to better incorporate human rights in CT/PCVE policies and programming. At the same time, ensuring gender sensitivity, awareness and responsiveness in the CT/PCVE context remains a challenge. There is a need to ensure Member States uphold the principles of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, while women civil society actors are not drawn into CT/PCVE programming in a way that distracts them from their local priorities or puts them at risk of losing their legitimacy. More can be done especially by criminal justice systems around the world to mainstream both human rights and gender considerations in counter-terrorism measures.
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22. Robust and in-depth research is crucial to gather sound knowledge of local and wider political, economic and cultural dynamics to design programmes that deliver context-specific tailored interventions. Recognizing that it takes time to carry out research, design projects, mobilize funding, and launch implementation, which may lead to a situation where the situation on the ground may no longer match initial assumptions, programming should be flexible to adapt to changing conditions, trends, and vulnerabilities in a timely manner.
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23. Monitoring and evaluation of CT/PCVE programmes is critical to ensure accountability, draw lessons learned, and amplify best practices. There is a need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for UN counter-terrorism efforts.

#### **Resource mobilization and management**

24. Strategic programming and the sustainability of CT/PCVE programmes and activities require predictable, diversified, and flexible funding. Recognizing UNOCT's capacity constraints due to its reliance on voluntary and mostly earmarked contributions, the Office needs to be put on a sustainable financial footing through the Regular Budget and multi-year donor frameworks.
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25. It is important that technical assistance and capacity-building programmes are identified and developed in a manner that reflects the needs of recipients rather than

the priorities of donors towards the balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

26. Recognizing the important work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, including the Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism and the meta-synthesis of project findings implemented by all UN entities under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the products of this working group deserve closer attention by donors.

### III. Recommendations

Speakers proposed the below recommendations to guide and inform the design and delivery of CT/PCVE technical assistance and capacity-building support:

#### Thematic priorities

- Integrate CT/PCVE across all UN pillars, including security, human rights, rule of law, and development
- Strengthen efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the peaceful resolution of conflicts to eradicate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism
- Prioritize efforts aimed at building resilience and enhancing prevention capabilities including by harnessing social media, education, culture, and youth engagement
- Develop innovative approaches to prevent and counter terrorism through the deployment and use of modern technologies, and advance research on using new technologies for CT/PCVE
- Develop knowledge and mechanisms to address linkages between terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime networks associated with drug trafficking, money laundering and human trafficking
- Continue to support Member States in the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members in camps and detention facilities in Syria and Iraq through the promotion of age- and gender-sensitive good practices
- Continue assistance in the development and implementation of comprehensive national and regional counter-terrorism strategies and action plans
- Continue support for strengthening national and regional inter-agency coordination and information exchange to prevent and combat terrorism, including through the programmes on countering terrorist travel, fusion cells, and aviation security

- Continue support in countering the financing of terrorism, including protecting the non-profit sector from terrorist financing abuse, financial risk assessment and investigation, and providing capacity building on investigating online financial activities, including those linked to illicit trade that finance extremism and terrorism

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- Provide training on negotiations and peacebuilding

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- Provide assistance with development of training manuals

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- Provide support to the establishment and/or operationalization of national and regional counter-terrorism centres (e.g., Iraq National Counter-Terrorism Centre; SADC Regional Counter Terrorism Centre)

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- Increase support for victims of terrorism

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- Apply BI as a cross-cutting discipline across CT/PCVE efforts, including for monitoring and evaluation approaches, and increase the number and scope of its beneficiaries

#### **Geographic priorities**

- Expand the geographic coverage of programmes

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- Invest more in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation, including through enhancing cooperation with and activities in the Americas and the Caribbean;

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- Enhance support to Member States in Africa most affected by terrorism and address the root causes of instability in the Sahel region

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- Continue support for the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia.

#### **Approaches, methodologies, and tools in the delivery of assistance**

- Ensure that CT/PCVE programmes embed both CT and PVE aspects for a comprehensive, holistic and integrated approach

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- Ensure that human rights and gender considerations are mainstreamed in programme design and delivery

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- Ensure that assistance is tailored and context specific; quick and flexible to address urgent priorities and developments; responsive to evolving terrorism threats; sustainable for long-term impact; and ensures local, national and regional ownership

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- Assist and encourage Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to make better use of CTED assessments and recommendations in the design of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes

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- Strengthen engagement with and empowerment of civil society and local actors, and ensure that inputs from women, youth, civil society, academia, business community and other private sector actors are included in the design and implementation of interventions to ensure impact, sustainability and ownership
- Enhance partnerships between civil society and government agencies by creating opportunities to facilitate dialogue, understanding and cooperation that would enable civil society to share its local knowledge and learn more about efforts undertaken by governments, while identifying the ways in which civil society can contribute to the design and delivery of national strategies and action plans
- Ensure that regional and subregional dimensions are integrated in CT/PCVE programming, and strengthen engagement and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations in programme design and delivery to benefit from their expertise and experiences and to enhance the multiplier effect of support
- Prioritize the conduct of credible and in-depth research when designing programmes, projects and activities and deciding whether to invest time and resources in a given area
- Ensure a rigorous approach to monitoring and evaluation of programmes to measure impact
- Enhance visibility, public outreach, and awareness raising efforts related to programmatic work
- Include more practical exercises and interactive elements in the delivery of trainings and other capacity-building support
- Continue to apply 'training of trainers' approach to ensure local ownership and sustainability
- Encourage beneficiaries to make use of the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform

### **Counter-Terrorism Compact**

- Systematically identify comparative advantages and avoid duplication of efforts among UN entities with similar mandates
- Hold joint meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups
- Enhance the Counter-Terrorism Compact's engagement with Member States, including by increasing Member States' use of the online Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, and through briefings by Member States in working group meetings on their national priorities and challenges

- Foster cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and regional organizations as part of efforts to enhance the Compact's regional focus
- Strengthen the impact of the Counter-Terrorism Compact on the ground, including by increasing its engagement with UN field presences and holding thematic and regional briefings involving field officers
- Continue to institutionalize the Counter-Terrorism Compact's cooperation with the GCTF and its working groups at the strategic and operational levels to align priorities and carry out joint work

#### **Field-based implementation**

- Consider reinforcing field presences and activities so that they deliver not only tailored capacity building, but also contribute to policy analysis and risk identification, as well as resource mobilization efforts, while avoiding duplication of work between UN Headquarters and the field
- Leverage existing field presences of UN entities around the world to deliver quick responses to urgent needs and realities on the ground, and to conduct joint CT/PCVE activities
- Enhance the use of coordination platforms by field-based partners (e.g., Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform)

#### **Resource mobilization and management**

- Ensure more sustainable, predictable and diversified funding for strategic planning and programming in CT/PCVE
- Institutionalize the funding for UNOCT's CT/PCVE efforts through the Regular Budget and multi-year frameworks with donors to ensure the sustainability of technical assistance and capacity-building support
- Increase the number of donors to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism through fundraising campaigns
- Encourage donors and beneficiaries to participate in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
- Encourage the use of the UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism to support joint resource mobilization for UN CT/PCVE projects

# Annex I

## Final Programme

<b>DAY 1</b> Monday, 28 March 2022	
8:00-9:00 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Registration</b>
	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator: Mr. Vladimir Voronkov</b>, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Keynote speech: H.E. Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi</b>, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>H.E. Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari</b>, Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, the State of Qatar <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi</b>, Secretary General, Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, 2022 FIFA World Cup, the State of Qatar <a href="#">[Pre-recorded]</a></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Cristina Duarte</b>, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa <a href="#">[Pre-recorded]</a></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Weixong Chen</b>, Acting Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate <a href="#">[Pre-recorded]</a></li> </ul>
9:45-9:50	<b>Intermission</b>
<b>SESSION I</b> Strategic Priorities for Programming to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism	
9:50-11:00	

<sup>1</sup> The programme follows time in Qatar, using Arabia Standard Time (AST) (UTC + 3).

**Session I** of the Beneficiaries Forum seeks to understand how the global counter-terrorism community, including intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and civil society organizations, identifies and prioritizes technical and capacity-building assistance in counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (CT/PCVE) to address and respond to diverse and evolving counter-terrorism needs of Member States and other beneficiaries. This Session will explore the strategic and policy frameworks and priorities that inform and guide planning and programming in CT/PCVE to understand how counter-terrorism goals can be effectively translated into operational-level programme design and delivery, while ensuring coherence and coordination in multilateral capacity-building efforts. The Session will lay the ground for subsequent sessions of the Forum focused on how to improve programme development and implementation in CT/PCVE.

**Key issues to be addressed include:**

- How do existing global and regional policy frameworks guide and shape CT/PCVE planning and programming in specific countries and regions affected by terrorism?
- What are the key thematic and geographic priorities, guiding principles and operational modalities that inform CT/PCVE programme design and delivery in the context of the global terrorism landscape?
- How should the international community identify and prioritize CT/PCVE technical and capacity-building assistance within resource and operational constraints posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic?
- Where do the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and civil society actors fit within the overall counter-terrorism capacity-building architecture?
- How effective are existing strategic and policy instruments in ensuring coherence and coordination in the delivery of CT/PCVE assistance to achieve counter-terrorism goals?
- What are some of the ways to strengthen strategic and operational alignment in multilateral CT/PCVE efforts?

**SESSION I**

9:50-11:00

- **Chair: Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism [\[In-person\]](#)
- **Remarks by Panel Members**
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori**, Director General, Head of Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, the Kingdom of Morocco, Co-Chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) [\[Virtual\]](#)
  - ▶ **H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna**, Director of the Transnational Threats Department, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) [\[Virtual\]](#)
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Hassan**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations [\[Virtual\]](#)
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Huib Mijnaerends**, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Netherlands, Head of Counter-Terrorism and Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands [\[Virtual\]](#)

9:50-11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos</b>, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Mauro Miedico</b>, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown</b>, Coordinator of the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Azadeh Moaveni</b>, Director, Gender and Conflict Project, International Crisis Group <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Interactive discussion</b>
11:00-11:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>SESSION II</b> Opportunities and Challenges in the Design and Delivery of Counter-Terrorism Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance	
11:15-12:30	
<p><b>Session II</b> of the Beneficiaries Forum will bring together UNOCT programming partners to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the design and implementation of CT/PCVE capacity-building and technical assistance to beneficiaries. It will also assess the quality and impact of collaboration arrangements and cooperation instruments between UNOCT and its implementing partners and reflect upon their efforts to monitor and evaluate the progress and performance of joint programmes, projects and activities, while identifying future cooperation opportunities.</p>	
<p><b>Key issues to be addressed include:</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted #000;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the comparative advantages offered by UNOCT and its implementing partners in responding to the counter-terrorism needs of beneficiaries?</li> <li>• Are there gaps and/or challenges in the delivery of CT/PCVE assistance to beneficiaries? How can these be best addressed?</li> <li>• What are some of the opportunities and practices that can be adopted to improve and/or strengthen programme design and delivery?</li> <li>• How effective are cooperation agreements and instruments (e.g., memoranda of understanding/agreement, strategic programme frameworks, action plans)? What are some of the ways to maximize their operationalization?</li> <li>• What are some of the considerations in optimizing the impact of CT/PCVE assistance in the field?</li> <li>• How effective are monitoring and evaluation tools to assess the results and impact of CT/PCVE assistance to beneficiaries?</li> <li>• What are some of the tools and good practices to mobilize resources for joint CT/PCVE programmes and activities? Are there ways to improve their effectiveness?</li> </ul>	



<b>SESSION II</b>	
11:15-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair: Mr. Raffi Gregorian</b>, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Panel Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka</b>, Vice-President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Gregory Hinds</b>, Counter-Terrorism Director, International Criminal Police Organization to the United Nations (INTERPOL) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Jesper Pedersen</b>, Deputy Head of Unit, Service for Policy Instruments, Stability and Peace – Global and Transregional Threats, European Commission <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo</b>, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Masood Karimipour</b>, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Interactive discussion</b>
12:30-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>SESSION III</b>	
‘Deep Dive’ Round Tables of Providers, Beneficiaries and Donors of Counter-Terrorism Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance	
14:00-17:45	<p><b>Session III</b> of the Beneficiaries Forum will bring together providers, beneficiaries and donors of CT/PCVE technical and capacity-building assistance in two ‘deep dive’ round tables: the first focusing on the assessment of flagship capacity-building programmes implemented in partnership with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities and other external partners with the financial support of the State of Qatar; and the second focusing on the assessment of the policy, coordination and programmatic work carried out by UNOCT and its implementing partners supported by the financial contribution of the State of Qatar, including within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups. The round tables will be moderated by the Chiefs of UNOCT Branches responsible for capacity-building, as well as policy and coordination work, respectively, who will provide an overview of UNOCT programmes and activities and subsequently open the floor for contributions from round table participants on their views regarding the issues and questions provided in the agenda, as relevant. Each round table will produce an outcome summary on key principles, good practices and recommendations that will inform the design, implementation, adjustment, and enhancement of UNOCT’s capacity-building, policy and coordination assistance. Given the interactive nature of the round tables, moderators will manage the speaking order and time to ensure that all round table participants in the programme have an opportunity to make interventions. Speakers are kindly asked to limit their interventions to three to four minutes to allow other speakers to contribute to the discussion.</p>

14:00-15:45	<b>Round Table #1</b>
<p><b>The round table</b> participants will ‘deep dive’ into the support areas, implementation structures and modalities, as well as the progress and performance of the capacity-building programmes listed below and implemented with the financial support of the State of Qatar. They will also discuss the challenges and opportunities in programmatic cooperation. The moderator will introduce the round table, provide an overview of UNOCT’s capacity-building assistance, and commence the ‘deep dive’ into each programme by giving the floor to round table participants, including beneficiaries and national and regional partners of technical assistance, as well as technical assistance providers, including UNOCT programme managers and Counter-Terrorism Compact representatives, to share their assessments and observations on the implementation of respective programmes. In addition to global programmes, the round table will feature an intervention on the application and impact of the UNOCT Connect &amp; Learn Platform, and assessments by civil society organizations on programmatic cooperation with UNOCT and its partners. It will conclude with an intervention from a senior representative of the State of Qatar who will provide feedback on the benefits and impact of the contribution from the State of Qatar to programmes implemented by UNOCT and its implementing partners and share expectations for the use of its financial contribution for 2022.</p>	
<p><b>Programmes and other issues to be covered:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Programme on Protection of Vulnerable Targets</li> <li>• United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme</li> <li>• United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM Programme)</li> <li>• Global Programme on National Interagency Coordination Mechanism - Fusion Cells</li> <li>• Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism</li> <li>• UNOCT Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism</li> <li>• Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme</li> <li>• UNOCT Connect &amp; Learn Platform</li> <li>• Role of civil society in CT/PCVE programming and NGO assessment</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key questions to be addressed include:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you assess the relevance and impact of these programmes in addressing the counter-terrorism priorities, needs and expectations of beneficiaries and supporting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council CT/PCVE mandates?</li> <li>• To what extent have technical assessments and recommendations of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee informed programme planning and design?</li> <li>• What benefits and results have the programmes had in respective regions and countries of implementation?</li> <li>• What factors have impacted the achievement or non-achievement of programmatic goals and outcomes?</li> <li>• What methods are used to monitor and evaluate impact? How effective are these?</li> </ul>	

- How well do collaboration arrangements and implementation structures facilitate and support programme delivery? What changes can be made to strengthen synergies and cooperation among implementing partners?
- What is the role of civil society in CT/PCVE programming and execution and how can we further benefit from the expertise, experiences and networks of civil society actors?
- How has programme implementation adapted to realities in the COVID-19 operating environment?
- What areas, if any, need adjustment and/or improvement in programme design and delivery?
- What practices can be adopted to ensure or maximize programme effectiveness and efficiency?
- How do you assess overall programmatic cooperation with UNOCT? What are the ways to strengthen programmatic cooperation?

### ROUND TABLE #1

14:00-15:45

- **Moderator: Mr. Mauro Miedico**, Deputy Director of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT [\[In-person\]](#)
- **Interventions/Interactive Discussion**
  - Voices of beneficiary Governments and Regional Partners**
    - ▶ **Advocate Ernest Mosate**, Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency, the Republic of Botswana [\[In-person\]](#)
    - ▶ **Ms. Tonya Ayow**, Director, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) [\[In-person\]](#)
    - ▶ **Ms. Mercedes Quesada**, Intelligence Officer, Intelligence and National Security Directorate, Republic of Costa Rica [\[In-person\]](#)
    - ▶ **Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali**, Deputy Director and Acting (Interim) Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) [\[Virtual\]](#)
  - Voices of Parliaments**
    - ▶ **H.E. Gennaro Migliore**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) [\[In-person\]](#)
    - ▶ **Mr. Stanislav Korostelyov**, Executive Secretary of the Joint Commission for the Harmonization of National Laws Related to Security, Countering Emerging Threats and Challenges, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States [\[Virtual\]](#)
    - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka**, Vice-President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism [\[In-person\]](#)
  - Voices of Civil Society Organizations**
    - ▶ **Mr. Massimiliano Montanari**, Chief Executive Officer, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) [\[In-person\]](#)
    - ▶ **Mr. Christian Emeruwa**, Head of Security and Safety, Confederation of African Football (CAF) [\[In-person\]](#)

14:00-15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Ekoko Caroline</b>, Project Officer, Local Youth Corner Cameroon <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Kato Ssekah Abdu</b>, Executive Director, Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICODI), Uganda <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Imrana Buba</b>, Founder, Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT), Nigeria <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Reflections/Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Guadalupe Abreu Megre Pires</b>, Chief of Special Projects Section, SPIB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Anne-Maria Seesmaa</b>, Senior Legal Officer, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Christine Erika Bradley</b>, Chief of Countering Terrorist Travel Section, SPIB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Valerio De Divitiis</b>, Programme Manager, Sports Programme, SPIB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Duccio Carlo Mazarese</b>, Programme Officer, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. David Alamos</b>, Acting Chief, UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Ana Izar</b>, Programme Manager, Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, UNCCT, UNOCT <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Laila Ezzarqui</b>, Chief of External Partnerships Section, SPIB, UNOCT <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Concluding Reflections by the State of Qatar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri</b>, Director of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul>
15:45-16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00-17:45	<b>Round Table #2</b>
<p><b>The round table</b> participants will ‘deep dive’ into the effectiveness of policy, coordination and programmatic support provided by UNOCT, in collaboration with its implementing partners, with the financial contribution of the State of Qatar. The moderator will introduce the round table, provide an overview of the policy and coordination work carried out by UNOCT, and commence the ‘deep dive’ into each of the below support areas by giving the floor to senior representatives from partner Member States and technical assistance providers, to share their assessments and observations on the policy, coordination and programmatic support provided. This will be followed by interactive comments from the floor by providers of technical assistance, including Compact partners and Chairs of its Working Groups, addressing the questions in the agenda and issues raised during the discussion, as relevant. The round table will conclude with an intervention from a senior representative of the State of Qatar who will provide feedback on the benefits and impact of the contribution from the State of Qatar to policy, coordination and programmatic work undertaken by UNOCT and its implementing partners and share expectations for the use of its financial contribution for 2022.</p>	

### Key support areas to be covered:

- Provision of policy leadership on the General Assembly mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General to CT/PCVE (i.e., development of mandated reports, facilitation of the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, provision of policy guidance for UN governing bodies, partner outreach and engagement)
- Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, High-Level Regional Conferences (impact on CT/PCVE policy and programming and multilateral cooperation)
- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (including the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, Counter-Terrorism Compact's partnership with the Global Counterterrorism Forum)
- Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group programmes and projects that benefit from the contribution of the State of Qatar
- UNOCT Programme on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism

### Key questions to be addressed include:

- How do you assess the effectiveness of policy leadership provided by UNOCT to ensure counter-terrorism is given due priority within the United Nations system and to support Member States and other counter-terrorism actors in the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council mandates on CT/PCVE?
- What results and impact have been achieved through the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations and High-Level Regional Conferences?
- How do you assess the efficacy of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact framework to enhance coordination and coherence among Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on CT/PCVE?
- How have Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group projects contributed to meeting CT/PCVE needs of beneficiaries?
- What can be done to further leverage the comparative advantages of and strengthen cooperation among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities?
- What are some of the ways to enhance the impact of UNOCT's policy and coordination work?

## ROUND TABLE #2

16:00-17:45

- **Moderator: Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah**, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), UNOCT [\[In-person\]](#)
- **Interventions/Discussion**
  - ▶ **Leading Remarks**
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations [\[In-person\]](#)
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Jonibek Hikmat**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations [\[Virtual\]](#)
  - ▶ **H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri**, Director of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar [\[In-person\]](#)

16:00-17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva</b>, Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), UNOCT, and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Masood Karimipour</b>, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses &amp; Countering the Financing of Terrorism <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Ahmed Essmat Seif El-Dawla</b>, Chief of Section covering Europe, Middle East and Central Asia, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and Co-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Elisabeth Neugebauer</b>, Lead of Global Compact Team, PKMCB, UNOCT <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Seh Lih Long</b>, Human Rights Officer, Equality, Development, and Rule of Law, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Chair (ad interim) of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights, the Rule of Law &amp; Supporting Victims of Terrorism <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Iman Sayed Taha</b>, Policy Specialist, UN Women, Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Adopting a Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Luis Carrilho</b>, United Nations Police Adviser and Police Commissioner, Director of the Police Division, United Nations Police (UNPOL) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Aynabat Atayeva</b>, Chief, International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, PKMCB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Nadja Wuensche</b>, Team Leader, PVE Team, Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Leif Villadsen</b>, Deputy Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Nihal Saad</b>, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative, and Vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Rajiv Ramlal</b>, Chief, Regional Conferences Team, PKMCB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Alice Mungwa</b>, Chief, Regional Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul>
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16:00-17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Carlos Alexandre Monteiro Reis</b>, Head of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, SPIB, UNOCT [<a href="#">In-person</a>]</li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Tamara Anderson</b>, Chief, Knowledge Management and Strategic Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT [<a href="#">Virtual</a>]</li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Nigel Lazarus</b>, Law Enforcement Expert and Programme Manager, Fusion Cells Programme, SPIB, UNOCT [<a href="#">Virtual</a>]</li> </ul>
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## DAY 2

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

### SESSION IV

‘Deep Dive’ Round Tables of Providers, Beneficiaries and Donors of Counter-Terrorism  
Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance

9:00-10:15

**Session IV** of the Beneficiaries Forum will bring together beneficiaries from Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations to provide their assessments of the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of technical and capacity-building assistance received by UNOCT and its implementing partners in CT/PCVE as well as recommendations on how to enhance the impact of this assistance. It will also provide an opportunity for beneficiaries to update on their counter-terrorism priorities and seek technical and capacity-building assistance, building on previous or ongoing programmes/projects and initiatives.

#### **Key issues to be addressed include:**

- To what extent does the programme address identified needs? How well does the programme align with government/agency/organization priorities?
- To what extent is the programme achieving the expected results (outputs, outcomes, impact) in the short, medium and long term?
- How are the target populations impacted by the programme? What effect, whether intended or unintended, has the programmatic activities produced?
- Is the problem/issue that the programme sought to address resolved or alleviated?
- To what extent are programme results timely and cost-effective? Do programme results meet expected quality standards?
- Are human rights and gender considerations effectively mainstreamed and addressed?
- What could be done differently (in terms of project design and scope, management, implementation, reporting, communication, closure, etc.) and what alternative practices could be adopted to improve programme delivery?
- Are there other thematic and geographic areas that you would like UNOCT and its implementing partners to provide technical and capacity-building support? What are the pressing CT/PCVE issues that you would like the United Nations to address?

<b>SESSION IV</b>	
9:00-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair: H.E. Ambassador Tarek Ladeb</b>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2020-2021 <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Remarks by Panel Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom</b>, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile</b>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Gennaro Migliore</b>, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>H.E. Major General Peljee Odonbaatar</b>, Director-General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia <a href="#">[Pre-recorded]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Javad Gasimov</b>, Deputy Chairman, State Customs Committee, the Republic of Azerbaijan <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Ms. Engelberta Kisting</b>, Political and Security Threats Analyst, Regional Early Warning Centre, Southern African Development Community (SADC) <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Imrana Buba</b>, Founder, Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT), Nigeria <a href="#">[Virtual]</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Interactive discussion</b>
10:15-10:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>SESSION V</b> Integrating Behavioural Insights and Parliamentary Engagement for Effective CT/PVE Programming	
10:30-11:30	
<p><b>Session V</b> of the Beneficiaries Forum will feature presentations by the Chiefs of two UNOCT Programme Offices based in Doha focusing on behavioural insights to counter terrorism and parliamentary engagement in preventing and countering terrorism, respectively. This session will inform about programmatic priorities, key achievements, planned activities, opportunities and challenges in programme design and implementation, as well as engagement with field-based partners, with an aim to assess the impact of and identify recommendations to strengthen results-oriented programme delivery in the field. The audience will also have an opportunity to provide comments, make suggestions, and pose questions during the interactive discussion.</p>	



<b>SESSION V</b>	
10:30-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator: Mr. Chris O'Donnell</b>, Chief of the Field Coordination Section, OUSG, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Aynabat Atayeva</b>, Chief of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, PKMCB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Mr. David Alamos</b>, Acting Chief, UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement to Counter Terrorism, SPIB, UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Interactive discussion</b>
<b>SESSION VI</b> Reporting of Outcomes and the Vision Forward	
11:30-12:45	<p><b>Session VI</b> of the Beneficiaries Forum will feature presentations from the moderators of the two Round Tables of Session III on outcomes and action points of the discussions held during the third session. These summary outcomes, together with discussion points and outcomes from other sessions, will be used to produce one outcome document of the Beneficiaries Forum (to be prepared after the Forum in coordination with implementing partners). This outcome document will include key guiding principles, good practices and recommendations for consideration in the design and implementation of technical and capacity-building assistance by UNOCT and its implementing partners and will provide overall programmatic direction and approach to managing and utilizing donor resources going forward. The session will be followed by an interactive discussion to obtain feedback on outcomes and action points presented and provide comments and suggestions on the Beneficiaries Forum.</p>
<b>SESSION VI</b>	
11:30-12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderator: Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva</b>, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mauro Miedico</b>, Deputy Director of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reporting of outcomes and recommendations for Round Table #1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah</b>, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), UNOCT <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Reporting of outcomes and recommendations for Round Table #2</i></p>
	<b>Interactive discussion</b>
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	
12:45-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani</b>, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vladimir Voronkov</b>, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism <a href="#">[In-person]</a></li> </ul>

# Annex II

## List of Speakers and Participants

### List of Speakers

(by order of taking the floor as per programme)

1. **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

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2. **H.E. Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar

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3. **H.E. Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari**, Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, the State of Qatar

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4. **H.E. Hassan Al Thawadi**, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the State of Qatar

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5. **Ms. Cristina Duarte**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General

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6. **Mr. Weixong Chen**, Acting Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

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7. **H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori**, Director General, Head of Global Affairs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, the Kingdom of Morocco

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8. **H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna**, Director of the Transnational Threats Department and Coordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

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9. **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al-Hassan**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations

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10. **H.E. Mr. Huib Mijnarends**, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Netherlands, Head of Counter-Terrorism and Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

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11. **H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

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12. **Mr. Mauro Miedico**, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT

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13. **Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown**, Coordinator, the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

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14. **Ms. Azadeh Moaveni**, Director, Gender and Conflict Project, the International Crisis Group (ICG)

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15. **H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

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16. **H.E. Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin**, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for International Anti-Terrorist Cooperation, Director of Department on Issues of New Challenges and Threats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Federation

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17. **H.E. Mr. Guillermo Fernandez De Soto**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

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18. **H.E. Ms. Nancy Jamal**, Ambassador and Chief of Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain

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19. **Mr. Constantin Nicolaysen Karame**, Senior Adviser, Section for Global Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

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20. **Mr. Frank Borchers**, Chief of the Division for Peace Office, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

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21. **Ms. Sabine Barton**, Head of Policy, Strong Cities Network (SCN)

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22. **Mr. Raffi Gregorian**, Director and Deputy to the Under Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

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23. **H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka**, Vice-President of the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of its Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Union High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

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24. **Mr. Gregory Hinds**, Counter-Terrorism Director, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

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25. **Mr. Jesper Pedersen**, Deputy Head of Unit, Service for Policy Instruments, Stability and Peace – Global and Transregional Threats, European Commission

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26. **Ms. Antonia Marie De Meo**, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

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27. **Mr. Masood Karimipour**, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

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28. **Advocate Erneste Mosate**, Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency, the Republic of Botswana

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29. **Ms. Tonya Ayow**, Director, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS)

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30. **Ms. Mercedes Quesada**, Intelligence Officer, Intelligence and National Security Directorate, the Republic of Costa Rica

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31. **Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali**, Deputy Director and Acting (Interim) Director, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT)

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32. **H.E. Gennaro Migliore**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

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33. **H.E. Stanislav Korostelyov**, Executive Secretary of the Joint Commission for the Harmonization of National Laws Related to Security, Countering Emerging Threats and Challenges, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)

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34. **Mr. David Alamos**, Acting Chief, UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, SPIB, UNOCT

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35. **Mr. Massimiliano Montanari**, Chief Executive Officer, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)

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36. **Mr. Christian Emeruwa**, Head of Security and Safety, Confederation of African Football (CAF)

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37. **Ms. Ekoko Caroline**, Project Officer, Local Youth Corner Cameroon (LOYOC)

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38. **Mr. Kato Ssekha Abdu**, Executive Director, Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICODI), Uganda

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39. **Mr. Imrana Buba**, Founder, Youth Initiative Against Terrorism (YIAT), Nigeria

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40. **Mr. Guadalupe Abreu Megre Pires**, Chief of Special Projects Section, SPIB, UNOCT

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41. **Ms. Anne-Maria Seesmaa**, Legal Officer, United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

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42. **Ms. Christine Erika Bradley**, Chief of Countering Terrorist Travel Section, SPIB, UNOCT

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43. **Mr. Valerio De Divitiis**, Programme Manager, Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, SPIB, UNOCT

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44. **Mr. Duccio Carlo Mazarese**, Programme Officer, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

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45. **Ms. Laila Ezzarqui**, Chief, External Partnerships Section, SPIB, UNOCT

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46. **Ms. Ana Izar**, Programme Manager, Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, UNCCT, UNOCT

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47. **H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Mansouri**, Director of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar

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48. **Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah**, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), UNOCT

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49. **H.E. Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations

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50. **H.E. Mr. Jonibek Hikmat**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations

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51. **Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva**, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, OUSG, UNOCT

---

52. **Mr. Ahmed Essmat Seif El-Dawla**, Chief of Section covering Europe, Middle East and Central Asia, United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

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53. **Ms. Elisabeth Neugebauer**, Lead of Counter-Terrorism Compact Team, PKMCB, UNOCT

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54. **Ms. Seh Lih Long**, Human Rights Officer, Equality, Development, and Rule of Law, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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55. **Ms. Iman Sayed Taha**, Policy Specialist, UN Women

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56. **Mr. Luis Carrilho**, United Nations Police Adviser and Police Commissioner, Director of the Police Division, United Nations Police (UNPOL)

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57. **Ms. Aynabat Atayeva**, Chief, International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, PKMCB, UNOCT

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58. **Ms. Nadja Wuensche**, Team Leader, PVE Team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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59. **Mr. Leif Villadsen**, Deputy Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

---

60. **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Chief of Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

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61. **Mr. Rajiv Ramlal**, Chief of Regional Conferences Section, PKMCB, UNOCT

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62. **Ms. Alice Mungwa**, Chief, Regional Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT
63. **Mr. Carlos Alexandre Monteiro Reis**, Head of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa in Rabat, SPIB, UNOCT
64. **Ms. Tamara Anderson**, Chief, Knowledge Management and Strategic Support Section, PKMCB, UNOCT
65. **Mr. Nigel Lazarus**, Law Enforcement Expert and Programme Manager, SPIB, UNOCT
66. **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations
67. **H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations
68. **H.E. Major General Peljee Odonbaatar**, Director General of the National Counter-Terrorism Council, Mongolia
69. **Mr. Javad Gasimov**, Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee, the Republic of Azerbaijan
70. **Ms. Engelberta Kisting**, Political and Security Threats Analyst, the Regional Early Warning Centre, the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
71. **H.E. Mr. Deepak Mittal**, Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar
72. **H.E. Mr. Amr El Sherbiny**, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Qatar
73. **Dr. Hans-Jakob Schindler**, Senior Director, Counter Extremism Project (CEP)
74. **Mr. Chris O'Donnell**, Chief of the Field Coordination Section, OUSG, UNOCT
75. **H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

## Participants in the Beneficiaries Forum

- Member States, including Permanent Missions and Capitals
- International and regional organizations
- Parliamentary assemblies
- Civil society organizations
- United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities

## Organizing Team

### UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

#### Event Coordinators & Substantive Focal Points

- **Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva**, Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), UNOCT
- **Ms. Derin Kayalar-Alasulu**, Political Affairs Officer, Front Office, OUSG, UNOCT
- **Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah**, Chief, Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB), UNOCT

#### Event facilitation, logistical coordination & technical support

- **Ms. Aynabat Atayeva**, Chief, International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, PKMCB, UNOCT
- **Mr. Rajiv Ramlal**, Chief, Regional Conferences Section, PKMCB, UNOCT
- **Mr. George Kostakis**, Programme Management Assistant, PKMCB, UNOCT

#### Media and public information

- **Ms. Laurence Gerard**, Public Information Officer, Communications Unit, OUSG, UNOCT
- **Ms. Helen Lai**, Public Information Officer, Communications Unit, OUSG, UNOCT

### STATE OF QATAR

- **Mr. Ali Almansouri**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

# Annex III

## Statements by UNOCT and the State of Qatar

### Opening Remarks

#### **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance

Monday, 28 March 2022 • Doha

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance, which we are convening together with our partner, the State of Qatar.

I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for its generous hospitality and for hosting this important event.

I am honoured that His Excellency Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, is with us today.

I am also pleased to be joined by His Excellency Major General Abdulaziz Al-Ansari, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee at the Ministry of Interior of Qatar.

I would like to welcome His Excellency Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, as well as my fellow colleagues, Under-Secretary-



General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General, and Mr. Weixong Chen, Acting Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with whom I have the pleasure to deliver opening remarks.

I also welcome my colleague His Excellency Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and Her Excellency Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, who are joining us at this opening session.

And my sincere appreciation to all our distinguished speakers and participants joining us today, both in-person and virtually from around the world, as we launch this important initiative with Qatar, which we would like to hold on a regular basis.

Dear participants,

Over the past few years, despite the operational challenges imposed by the coronavirus and its variants, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has continued to deliver on its mandated functions of policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, and visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization, to support Member States and other beneficiaries in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

This would not have been possible without the strong political, financial and technical support of the State of Qatar, a leading donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

We are also grateful to our 34 other donors, in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as our national, regional and international partners, either benefiting from or providing assistance to our programmes and activities, whose support have been crucial in our implementation.

Thanks to Qatar's generous contribution, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, with its 43 member and observer entities, eight thematic working groups, 131 participating Member States and renewed focus on field engagement, continues to serve as the largest United Nations coordination framework to support the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform, maintained with Qatar's support, now benefits from 914 focal points of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, participating Member States, the European Union, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

Our partnership with Qatar paved the way for our enhanced presence in the field, which enables us to deliver tailored, impactful and cost-effective assistance to beneficiaries. We have established and operationalized the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, both of which are fully funded by Qatar, for which we are very grateful.

Qatar's support also extends to our Programme Office in Budapest hosting our global programmes on Countering Terrorist Travel and Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security, as well as to our Programme Office in Madrid, which supports the implementation of our other global programmes on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, Sports Security and Prevention of Violent Extremism, and Support to the Victims of Terrorism.

We will leverage our presence in Doha this week on the occasion of our Beneficiaries Forum to hold a field retreat that will bring together colleagues from all UNOCT programme offices around the world to assess our field-based implementation.

All of our flagship programmes that I have just outlined, in addition to other innovative programmes launched last year with Qatar's support, such as the global programmes on unmanned aircraft systems and counter-terrorism investigations, continue to deliver tangible results.

For example, the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme currently has 51 beneficiaries, with 12 countries joining in 2021, and continues to support technical implementation with the United Nations 'goTravel' software now in use by 21 countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

The success of our implementation can only be measured through an honest and inclusive assessment and evaluation of impact of our interventions, grounded on transparency, accountability, and sustainability. These principles are at the heart of UNOCT's results-based delivery.

The Beneficiaries Forum is the first large-scale UNOCT event, which brings together beneficiaries, providers and donors of technical assistance, to assess the progress and performance of the policy, coordination and capacity-building work carried out with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and our national, regional and global partners.

Over the course of the next two days, we will hear directly from you, the beneficiaries, and implementing partners, to assess where we are and what can be done better.

Under the six sessions, we will address the strategic thematic and geographic priorities for counter-terrorism programming; coordination and coherence of multilateral efforts; opportunities and challenges in the delivery of assistance; and field-based implementation.

We will hear beneficiary perspectives and assessments of the impact of our technical and capacity-building support, as well as their priorities and needs.

We will 'deep dive' into the policy, coordination and programmatic activities implemented in close collaboration with our Counter-Terrorism Compact partners with the financial support of the State of Qatar, and report on the outcomes and the vision forward.

Based on your insights and assessments, the Forum will produce an outcome document with guiding principles, good practices and recommendations for programme design and implementation to provide overall programmatic direction and approach to impactful delivery and resource utilization.

Let me close by thanking all our distinguished speakers and participating Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society partners for their interest in the Forum and contributions to its success.

I look forward to a productive event.

Thank you.

## Statement: Opening Session

### **His Excellency Mr. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance  
Co-organized by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of  
Counter-Terrorism

Monday, 28 March 2022 • Doha

I welcome your presence with us, be it in person or virtually, and I am pleased to be part of the opening of the First International Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNCTO) with a contribution from the State of Qatar. We are pleased to collaborate with the UNCTO in convening this meeting as part of our shared belief in the importance of coordination between providers and beneficiaries of technical assistance and donors based on the principles of accountability, efficiency and comprehensive response in program management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The State of Qatar attaches an importance to countering the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. It is committed to the relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions, and to the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As part of its belief that preventing and countering terrorism are areas that require international coordination and cooperation, the State of Qatar actively participates in various relevant international mechanisms, and in cooperation between national authorities and their counterparts in friendly states. Since the United Nations plays a central role in activating multilateral cooperation, the State of Qatar has been keen to support the UN activities in various fields, including countering terrorism. In that context, it has strengthened close cooperation with various relevant UN bodies, including the *United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate*, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Program, as well as the UNOCT.

In this context, the contribution agreement, signed on 16 December 2018, between the State of Qatar and UNCTO to support the latter's strategic initiatives, covering the five-year period 2019-2023, constitutes a nucleus of an expanded and extended partnership between the two sides. The State of Qatar's contribution to the Trust Fund for Counter-

Terrorism, amounting to \$15 million annually, provided by virtue of that agreement, places my country at the forefront of states financing the core resources of the UNOCT.

By using that grant, UNOCT has strengthened the performance of its core mandate, including assuming its leadership, public policy and coordination role across the United Nations system, organizing international and regional meetings, implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and planning and implementing new initiatives and various integrated projects and programs in capacity-building and technical assistance, that have been implemented in collaboration with relevant UN stakeholders, and cover diverse areas, like legislative activity, law enforcement and coordination between national agencies.

As a funder of, and participant in, the activities implemented by UNCTO, the State of Qatar is pleased to see the tangible and increasing impact of such activities in identifying the most prominent risks and the most pressing challenges, developing and implementing solutions, promoting international and regional cooperation, and improving the activities of the United Nations in areas of interest to Member States. Technical assistance and capacity building programs benefit many countries so much so that the number of States participating in the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Program has reached nearly 50 states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to make the most of and enhance those activities, we intend, through this forum, to bring together the beneficiaries and providers of technical assistance, in order to assess the progress made and discuss the way forward to improve the design and implementation of programs, while taking into account the needs and priorities of Member States, as well as assess the positive impact of the financial contributions and allocate resources accordingly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The national expertise and capabilities of the State of Qatar contribute to the activities carried out by the UNOCT, such as the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, which is implemented in partnership with the International Center for Sport Security in Doha. Doha hosts two UNOCT program offices. The first one is the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism, which was opened in December 2020, and has become a world-class center of excellence for research, knowledge, and capacity building in this emerging field. The second one is the Office of Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism, which was opened in June 2021, in cooperation with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and aims to strengthen the capacities of

parliamentarians and facilitate dialogue and cooperation between parliaments on taking human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive counter-terrorism measures.

Those two offices are part of UNOCT's drive to consolidate its field presence at the regional level through program offices in Hungary, Kenya, Morocco and Spain, in addition to the State of Qatar. We welcome this trend that facilitates the implementation of programs closer to the beneficiaries, enhances their impact and cost-effectiveness, and develops cooperation with national, local and regional actors, be they assistance providers or beneficiaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to seize the opportunity of convening this forum to announce the decision of the State of Qatar to renew support for UNOCT with an annual amount of \$15 million for a period of three years, from 2024 to 2026, as part of the major priority that the State of Qatar attaches to supporting counterterrorism efforts at the national, regional and international levels and to the central role of the United Nations therein.

In conclusion,

We wish that the discussions during the six sessions of the Forum will achieve the desired results. We look forward to the outcome of the Forum in terms of guidelines, best practices and recommendations for designing, implementing and promoting the technical assistance and capacity building provided by UNOCT and its implementing partners in the future.

Finally, we reiterate the commitment of the State of Qatar to making all possible efforts, in continuous collaboration with the United Nations and various international partners, to get rid of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism.

I thank you.

## Statement: Opening Session

### **His Excellency Major-General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Ansari**

Chair of the National Counterterrorism Committee of the State of Qatar

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance  
Co-organized by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Monday, 28 March 2022 • Doha

*In the name of God the Compassionate the Merciful*

Your Excellency Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Your Excellency Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism,

Your Excellency Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations,

Distinguished audience,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the State of Qatar, which is hosting the Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance, in partnership with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). This event presents us with a good opportunity that we hope would allow us to draw a clear picture of efforts by the State of Qatar in the fields of counter-terrorism and combatting its financing, countering violent extremism, and reviewing the State's achievements in that regard.

Distinguished audience,

In order to prevent the threat of terrorism, our country has updated and developed various regulations and legislation, including the promulgation of a new counter-terrorism legislation, Law No. 27 of 2019 on Counter-terrorism, Decision No. 1 of 2020 by the Attorney General on the implementation of targeted financial sanctions related to preventing terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in accordance with the

United Nations Security Council resolutions, and Decision No. 59 of 2020 promulgating the guidelines for the effective implementation of the targeted financial sanctions regime.

Furthermore, Law No. 20 of 2019 on anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism, amended by Decree Law No. 19 of 2021, as well as Cabinet Resolution No. 41 of 2019 on the operational regulations of the law on anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism, have also been promulgated and they are among the most recently enacted laws in this field. Those two legislations have taken into account the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, various international standards and recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as well as the adherence requirements to many international conventions and treaties.

The State of Qatar has also contributed to strengthening the global counter-terrorism legal system through the implementation of all international and regional decisions and strategies related to counter-terrorism, and has been keen, in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to fully respect international conventions on human rights, international humanitarian law, and all other international instruments that protect human dignity and fundamental freedoms.

In view of the State of Qatar's aspiration for continuous cooperation with the United Nations, and in line with its vision in establishing the United Nations House in Doha, we have supported various offices by concluding multiple agreements related to various United Nations offices. It is our belief that such offices provide the most significant umbrella for consolidating the concept of international peace and security. Most prominent among those agreements are the agreement with UNOCT that paved the way to the signing of a Contribution Agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and UNOCT to support United Nations initiatives, under the direction of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of UNOCT, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and supporting and establishing a center affiliated to UNOCT, the International Hub for Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism, based in Doha. Furthermore, a new index, the Global Violent Extremism Index, has been developed and was launched in the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Executive Director of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in cooperation with Qatar University.

The Office for the Parliamentary Engagement in Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism was recently inaugurated in Doha as an affiliated bureau to UNOCT.

While working hard on organizing the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the State of Qatar has been keen to coordinate and engage with international organizations in order to use that tournament to reject violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to promote the noble values of all the youth of the world, who will be coming to the State of Qatar to celebrate



that sport event and establish programs that serve this trend on the sidelines of this major tournament in the State of Qatar.

As for countering the travel of foreign fighters, advanced systems have been developed in cooperation with friendly states at their various border crossings.

Distinguished audience,

The State of Qatar is keen to follow up on all developments related to counter-terrorism. Therefore, the State of Qatar will make sure that its efforts are not confined to countering that phenomenon at the local level. To that end, it has established strategic partnerships with UNOCT to assist, support and stand by states to achieve the pillars of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, ensure the protection of human rights, consolidate good governance, and develop systems so they would become international actors that support international peace and security.

In conclusion, I wish your conference success and fruitful results in the topics under discussion.

*May peace and God's mercy be upon you.*

## Remarks: Session I

### **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance

Session I: “Strategic Priorities for Programming to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism”

Monday, 28 March 2022 • Doha

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

According to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy and for countering terrorism.

But despite comprehensive efforts of Member States, United Nations entities, international, regional and civil society organizations, terrorism continues to pose new and emerging threats to international peace and security.

Today’s threats include new challenges in cyber space, including its use by terrorists to communicate, recruit, plan, raise funds and even train. But also as an attack vector.

Digital platforms such as social media, online video games and their adjacent applications have become hotbeds of terrorist propaganda and recruitment.

Terrorists have also gained access to increasingly complex technologies such as unmanned aerial systems and 3D printing.

Terrorist access to small arms and light weapons continues to pose risks, particularly in conflict zones like Afghanistan, where government weapon stocks came up for grabs during the Taliban takeover. And we must remain constantly alert to efforts by terrorists to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

Terrorists continue to find new ways to finance their activities, including through cryptocurrencies and digital assets, mobile payments systems, and even crowd-funding.

And we have seen how COVID-19 has exacerbated grievances and polarization that terrorists manipulate to attract new members to their ranks.

The result is alarming: Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their regional affiliates have intensified their activities and expanded their geographical presence, while terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief, continues to grow.

All this poses a significant threat to international peace and security and risks slowing or reversing hard-won gains.

It is therefore crucial to identify and articulate strategic priorities for programming and to ensure our operational activities and outputs align with those priorities.

Human rights and gender considerations are central in this regard: the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures is significantly improved when human rights are respected, protected, promoted and when our actions are gender responsive.

That is why this session is timely– serving as an opportunity to review our performance and identify the areas that need strengthening.

We need to invest in policy coherence at all levels, cooperation with and between regional and sub regional organizations, and collaboration with civil society and private sector actors.

This will provide a basis for subsequent discussions during this forum and help to improve and calibrate our cooperation and support.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The international community has made important gains to counter terrorism, and it is crucial to sustain this progress while remaining vigilant and monitoring the evolving threat.

The United Nations system, through the Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact, continues to support Member States in their implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We need to make the Compact platform available to all partners to strengthen policy coherence and streamline collaboration around our counter-terrorism efforts.

Inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism serves as a solid foundation for international counter-terrorism efforts – and the United Nations system is committed to assisting requesting Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

Because together, we can build a future without terrorism.

I look forward to your thoughts and a discussion that sets the stage for coherent policy, coordination and programmatic priorities as well as innovative solutions.

Thank you.

**Statement: Concluding Reflections, Round Table #1****His Excellency Ambassador Ali Khalfan Al-Mansouri**

Director of the Department of International Organizations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance  
Convened by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of  
Counter-Terrorism

Monday, 28 March 2022 • Doha

Mr. Mauro Medico, Chair of the session,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Distinguished participants,

I thank the Deputy Director Mr. Mauro Miedico for organizing Round Table #1 entitled "Providers, Beneficiaries and Donors of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building in Counter-Terrorism". I thank you for the interactive round table discussion that took place and for the contributions made by the participants who shared their assessments and observations on the implementation of the respective programs.

It has become clear from the interventions of all the speakers that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) is already providing significant, efficient and innovative services.

I am pleased to participate in this round table dealing with areas of support, implementation structures and modalities, capacity building programs to prevent and counter terrorism that are implemented with financial support from the State of Qatar, and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Colleagues who spoke before me have outlined a full picture of those aspects, and I would like to add the following observations:

The State of Qatar's support for the efforts of the United Nations in counter-terrorism is part of my country's broader support for the United Nations, as well as an expression of its deep belief in the role of pluralism in multilateral action to address common challenges to humanity. The State of Qatar's belief in international institutions and multilateral cooperation

is a strategic choice. My country actively participates in international efforts to counter terrorism and address its causes, and has contributed 75 million dollars, to be spent over five years, in support of the UNOCT's strategy. It also signed an agreement with the Office in 2019 to establish the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism, a center that we are honored today to hold the first annual forum for the beneficiaries of its technical assistance. Furthermore, the State of Qatar supports numerous other programs that address the root causes of violent extremism and terrorism, including programs that promote education, address poverty and unemployment among the youth, and support efforts by developing countries and the least developed countries to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in addition to the Vulnerable Targets Program, designed to respond to the basic needs of Member States in order to protect critical infrastructure and public spaces.

In this regard, I would like to point out that both the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, and the UNOCT's *Program Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism* that works closely with parliaments and Member States, including in the field of counter-terrorism legislation, represent an important addition to the numerous international organizations that have established their headquarters in Doha. We are proud that Doha has become the capital of international multilateral action in our region. The State of Qatar will continue to support international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism, based on its religious values, culture and priorities, in which the protection of human rights and society is an essential element.

Civil society organizations also appreciate the positive impact of the UNOCT's assistance. We, in turn, affirm that the Global Sports Program has achieved impressive results by adopting a highly comprehensive approach that links the security aspects of major sporting events with the soft power of sport in preventing violent extremism and radicalization conducive to terrorism.

As for the future prospects of our joint work, we see the need to focus on awareness efforts, outreach to the public, and field presence, which is as important as research and theoretical studies, and constitutes the real criterion for policy success.

It is also appropriate to increase the number of States and organizations beneficiaries of the technical assistance provided by the International Hub on Behavioral Insights. So long as the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism remains a global phenomenon that is not confined to a region, religion or nationality, and so long as capacity-building in all countries remains an essential element in the global efforts to combat terrorism as stipulated in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it would be appropriate that the work of the International Hub includes the broadest spectrum possible of countries from all geographical regions.

I would also like to stress the need to urge States and relevant international organizations to prioritize prevention efforts, by harnessing the media, education, culture and youth engagement as critical tools to shield societies from terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and by using modern digital technologies, including social media, to educate the public on the importance of pluralism, tolerance, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations, and the rejection of racist and hatred discourse, which are crucial elements in preventing terrorism and encouraging cooperation to prevent it.

I would also like to point out the need to expand the list of contributors to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, and search for additional sources of funding by organizing campaigns to urge more States and international organizations to provide support to the Fund.

Finally, I call upon the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the International Hub on Behavioral Insights and the relevant organizations to put forward a plan to promote the International Day to Protect Education from Attack and prepare for its commemoration on the ninth of next September. It is noteworthy that this International Day has been proclaimed by virtue of United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/275 that the State of Qatar had the honor to sponsor, and that was adopted unanimously.

I thank you.

## Statement: Round Table #2

### **His Excellency Ambassador Ali Khalfan Al-Mansouri**

Director of the Department of International Organizations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance  
Convened by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of  
Counter-Terrorism

Tuesday, 29 March 2022 • Doha

Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chairman of the Session,  
Excellencies the ambassadors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Distinguished participants,

I am pleased to participate in this round table on assessing the effectiveness of policy, coordination and program support provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in collaboration with its partners and with financial support from the State of Qatar.

My colleagues who spoke before me presented objective assessments and ideas worthy of study, and I would like to add the following observations.

We welcome the UNOCT's recent achievements, made with the support of the State of Qatar, in a number of areas, including: strengthening coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, expansion of its partnerships to include important stakeholders in counter-terrorism, through the *Program Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism* and the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, and the full activation of many of their field operations, while continuing to provide essential capacity-building assistance to Member States.

We also commend the UNOCT for its political leadership, information-sharing and the coordination support it provides, with the support of the State of Qatar, to ensure that counter-terrorism remains high on the agenda of the United Nations to provide Member States with coherent and coordinated support, including through various frameworks. Such frameworks include: (a) The United Nations Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism

Coordination Compact; (b) the *2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism*; and (c) the United Nations Global Framework and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support requesting Member States in the areas of protection, voluntary repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals suspected of links with terrorist groups.

There is no doubt that terrorism represents a changing phenomenon that adapts to changes. It is therefore essential to deal with such changing phenomenon in a timely manner, and to reconsider the order of counter-terrorism priorities so that they would keep pace with the latest developments and take into account the emerging threats and the continuous change in the trends of international terrorism. It is also necessary, in the age of the Corona pandemic and beyond, to emphasize the importance of strengthening efforts aimed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which represent a unique opportunity for Member States and the United Nations to eradicate poverty and ignorance that create an environment conducive to the spread of extremism and terrorism.

We acknowledge the role of the UNOCT in facilitating the recent efforts of the United Nations entities, Member States and other participants in the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and in promoting the use of such efforts within the framework of the Compact in order to take timely and decisive action in response to emerging global developments. We also commend efforts by the Compact to shore up field efforts and increase coordination with the field presence of the United Nations and regional organizations towards a stronger impact on the ground. We note that Counter-Terrorism Week and high-level regional conferences remain key productive platforms through which Member States can identify priority areas, some of which could contribute to strengthening cooperation between the State of Qatar and the UNOCT. We express our gratitude to the UNOCT for the successful organization of the 2021 Counter-Terrorism Week, and we look forward to strengthening our cooperation with the Office and the United Nations system in the joint fight against terrorism.

As everyone knows, intra-state and inter-state conflicts, especially those that have remained unresolved for a long time, create conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. There is a need therefore to intensify efforts by the international community to resolve such conflicts. In this regard, I note that the State of Qatar, and as part of its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the principle of the peaceful resolution of conflicts, has made peaceful resolution of conflicts through mediation a priority of its foreign policy.

Finally, we stress the need for increasing support and rehabilitation for victims of terrorism.



## Statement: Closing Session

### **Her Excellency Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance  
Co-organized by the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of  
Counter-Terrorism

Tuesday, 29 March 2022 • Doha

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past two days, constructive and useful discussions have been held in throughout the six sessions of this Forum, highlighting the tireless efforts of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and its implementing partners, notably the members of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to provide technical and capacity-building assistance in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism for the benefit of a wide range of recipients around the world.

The State of Qatar is pleased to be one of the major contributors to enabling and supporting such efforts, for it has been at the forefront of States financing the core resources of UNOCT from extrabudgetary resources of the regular budget of the United Nations. The State of Qatar has contributed to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism with a financial grant amounting to 15 million dollars annually, by virtue of the Contribution Agreement concluded between both sides in support the Office's strategic initiatives during the five-year period from 2019 to 2023.

The State of Qatar is proud of its extended and effective partnership with UNOCT, which has contributed to facilitating the Office's fulfilment of its mandate and strengthening its core activities, namely assuming a leadership, public policy and coordination role across the United Nations system with regard to all counter-terrorism efforts, organizing and facilitating high-level regional conferences, organizing the Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, and the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform. This partnership further facilitates planning and implementing many new initiatives and projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the Forum's sessions, the significant impact of the diverse and integrated UNOCT projects and programs, which are implemented in cooperation with relevant UN agencies at the international and regional levels, has been evident, especially since such projects aim to address the most prominent current challenges and emerging risks in the field of countering terrorism and violent extremism, such as the United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security, the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems, and the United Nations Global Program on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets. Such diverse programs, like the Programme on Threat Assessment Models "Fusion Cells" help improve the capabilities of countries in various fields such as the legislative, operational and technical areas, as well as coordination between national agencies. Technical assistance and capacity building programs also benefit many countries so much so that the number of States participating, for example, in the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Program is approximately 50 states.

The discussions have also shown the importance of the approach adopted by UNOCT towards strengthening its field presence at the regional level in order to implement the programs closer to the recipients, enhance their impact and cost-effectiveness, and promote cooperation with national, local and regional actors, be they assistance providers or recipients, including through the program offices in Hungary, Kenya, Morocco and Spain, in addition to the two program offices that have been inaugurated in Doha, namely the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism and the Global Program on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have collaborated with the UNOCT in organizing this international forum, which is the first annual forum of its kind prompted by the desire of both parties to formulate the strategic priorities so as to maximize the benefit derived from the initiatives, programs and projects undertaken by the UNOCT and its implementing partners. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such activities, and ensuring that their supporting financial contributions achieve the greatest impact with the least possible resources, require assessing the results-based performance and progress achieved, exploring opportunities and addressing challenges. The exchange of views and the interactive dialogue between technical assistance providers, donors and recipients have had the desired effect in achieving that goal.

The sessions of this Forum have also demonstrated that the UNOCT is committed to the principles of accountability and transparency, and that it is keen to ensure the highest possible effectiveness and efficiency, and that the programs it undertakes respond to the

needs and priorities of the recipients and reflect the mandates entrusted to the Office, including by the General Assembly in its resolutions related to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and be in accordance with the United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and the Terms of Reference of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

We look forward to seeing the main guidelines, best practices and recommendations that emerge from the Forum become a future guide for adjusting and enhancing the design and implementation of UNOCT's technical assistance and capacity-building programs, while it continues to work closely with the recipients and donors, for we believe that performance evaluation and improvement is a work in progress that does not end with the closure of the sessions of this forum.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the State of Qatar, the host country of the meeting, I would like to extend my thanks to the facilitators and keynote speakers for their valuable presentations, and to all other participants in the Forum, whether they attended in person or virtually. Your participation has had the greatest impact on the success of the deliberations and on achieving the desired results. It has been my pleasure to participate in the work of this Forum, as well as the high-level strategic dialogue between the State of Qatar and the UNOCT, which was held last Sunday, and the other sideline meetings. All those events were possible thanks to the continuous coordination and great efforts made by Under-Secretary-General Mr. Voronkov, Deputy Under-Secretary-General Mr. Gregorian and their distinguished team, including the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch, and the Special Projects and Innovation Branch. We look forward to continuing such close collaboration in the various existing joint projects, and we affirm the continued support of the State of Qatar to the UNOCT.

I thank you.

## Closing Remarks

### **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

The Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance

Tuesday, 29 March 2022 • Doha

His Excellency, Major General Abdulaziz Al-Ansari,  
Her Excellency, Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Al-Thani for her insightful and comprehensive remarks and for her strong support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance and the world class support in convening this event together with my Office.

And my special thanks to all our session chairs and speakers for their thoughtful interventions, as well as to the distinguished representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society partners joining virtually for sharing their valuable insights and assessments during the interactive segments of the programme.

We embarked on this joint initiative with a simple question in mind.

How can we assess the impact of and further strengthen our policy, coordination, and technical and capacity-building assistance in preventing and countering terrorism to ensure that we deliver on our mandate in an effective and efficient manner?

The answer was simple: we need to hear directly from our beneficiaries, providers and donors of assistance.

Through six thematic sessions over the course of a day and a half, we saw rich, engaging and constructive discussions covering the following areas:

- The strategic priorities and operational modalities that inform programming in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
- The opportunities and challenges in the design and delivery of counter-terrorism assistance, including the effectiveness of cooperation instruments, monitoring and evaluation tools, and resource mobilization efforts;
- The efficacy of the policy, coordination and programmatic work carried out with the financial support of the State of Qatar, with a deep dive into our global programmes on vulnerable targets, countering terrorist travel, aviation security, fusion cells, sports, parliamentary engagement, and victims of terrorism;
- The perspectives of beneficiary Member States, regional organizations, and civil society partners on enhancing the impact of our counter-terrorism assistance;
- And field-based implementation, including through the integration of behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement in counter-terrorism programming.

I have followed the discussions with great interest and taken note of the issues and suggestions raised.

In the coming days, my Office will produce an outcome report that will provide a summary of discussions and present key guiding principles, good practices, and recommendations for consideration in the development and implementation of technical and capacity-building assistance to prevent and counter terrorism.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to highlight some initial observations and conclusions that emerged from the Beneficiaries Forum.

First, in terms of strategic alignment of multilateral efforts, the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus in June last year, thanks to the co-facilitators and Member States, provides a strong, comprehensive and forward-looking mandate to address the complex and evolving terrorism threats.

UNOCT was able to support the review process of the Strategy as its Secretariat, thanks to funding from the State of Qatar.

A main take away from the Strategy review and our Forum is that we need to continue to develop a shared understanding of emerging threats in the global terrorist landscape, set priorities, and share information about threat assessments and respective policies, programmes and initiatives.

Through stronger multilateral cooperation, we can ensure that our counter-terrorism responses are coherent, targeted and complementary.

My Office will continue to support the Secretary-General's vision for an inclusive and networked multilateralism in counter-terrorism through the organization of the biennial counter-terrorism week at the United Nations, high-level international and regional conferences on key counter-terrorism areas, and regular briefings and reporting to Member States.

Second, several speakers shared key counter-terrorism priorities, highlighting the need for concerted action against transnational organized crime, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, cyber-attacks, terrorist financing, online radicalization and recruitment, and terrorist exploitation of new technologies, including drones.

We were reminded of the importance of addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, especially in view of the challenges compounded by the global pandemic.

I am pleased that our global programmes, some of which were presented during this Forum, address these priorities.

We will continue our comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism that enhances operational law enforcement capacities, while supporting prevention efforts to mitigate risk areas in which terrorists thrive and recruit.

In doing so, a human rights-compliant, rule of law-based, gender and age sensitive approach will be at the core of our programming.

Third, from our round table discussions and our dedicated session on beneficiary perspectives, I am pleased to hear first-hand that our assistance is responsive to the needs of recipients and delivering concrete results on the ground.

And that the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact has successfully institutionalized coordinated and coherent 'all-of-United Nations' delivery of assistance that leverages comparative advantages through the Compact working groups, while respecting existing mandates.

We need to continue our support for the Compact Coordination framework while further strengthening our assistance delivery tools.

Our implementation will continue to be grounded in results-based programme management, while we strengthen our systems to track programmatic performance and financial management and gather evidence to report on the results achieved.

Partnership with civil society actors is paramount for broadening our understanding of issues, developing solutions that work, and expanding the reach of our services.

My Office will continue the civil society dialogue series launched last year. I also encourage all our partners to benefit from the innovative UNOCT Connect & Learn digital platform, which provides e-learning and facilitates networking among experts and practitioners.

Fourth, we need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts and ensure we have sufficient and sustained resources to perform our counter-terrorism mandate.

Through the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, the Compact entities launched the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week in June last year, which coordinates request for funding of 52 projects from 12 entities amounting to \$179 million.

I ask our donor community to support the multi-year appeal to ensure that priority needs of Member States are supported in the most effective and efficient manner.

And lastly, we need to continue our efforts to deliver tailored capacity-building assistance that is closer to beneficiaries in a cost-effective manner to sustain impact through the United Nations' programme offices in the field.

And I take this opportunity to thank the State of Qatar for hosting our programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement, and for its support to our field-based programmes.

My special words of gratitude to our Qatari friends and to you Ambassador Al-Thani for your consistent support of UNOCT activities and Qatar's generous financial contributions. I am very grateful for the next pledge of USD 45 million for 2024-2026.

Dear colleagues,

As we conclude today the first Beneficiaries Forum, the key take away is that we are stronger when we work in a consultative and collaborative manner.

My sincere gratitude to both Qatari and UNOCT teams who put a lot of effort and contributed to making this event – the Beneficiaries Forum – a success. Thank you, dear colleagues. You are great!

Until our next Beneficiaries Forum, let's continue to work together to help build a future without terrorism.

I thank you.



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Convened by the United Nations Office  
of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the  
State of Qatar