VIRTUAL COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

- On 6 July, the Secretary-General launched the UN Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week to discuss the strategic and practical challenges of countering terrorism during the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions highlighted the need for strengthened international counter-terrorism cooperation, the urgency to ensure full respect to human rights and the rule of law in countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (CT/PCVE), the importance of CSOs as essential CT/PCVE partners, and the need to further invest in prevention. Representatives from 134 Member States, 40 UN entities, 47 international and regional organizations, and 88 civil society and private sector organizations participated in the Week’s events. (6-10 July)

- As part of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, UNCT completed a virtual three-day training for young social media activists in Bangladesh, followed by a Youth Exchange. The training, conducted with UNDP Bangladesh and local CSO Rupantar, enhanced the activists’ ability to better understand, analyse and strengthen resilience to the threats of hate speech and misinformation that influence violent extremism. (8-9 July)

- As part of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, UNCT launched a virtual EXPO showcasing its work as a global capacity-building Center of Excellence. UNCT supports Member States’ efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism through its 45 capacity-building programmes and projects, engaging beneficiaries from 143 countries. https://www.un.org/counter-terrorism-expo/

HIGHLIGHTS

- In UNOCT’s first virtual donor briefing, USG Voronkov thanked the 31 countries contributing to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism for the confidence placed in UNOCT and briefed them on the Office’s priorities for the coming months. (17 July)

- The Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat in UNOCT supported six meetings of the Compact Working Groups, including thematic meetings focused on the misuse of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and a joint project to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

For more information: www.un.org/counterterrorism

CAPACITY-BUILDING

UN COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTRE - From January to July 2020:

- 2754 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED
- 33 WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- UNCT, together with UNODC and CTED, conducted a workshop for prison services officials in Tunisia which covered the basics of communications, sensitive reporting and counter narratives. It will help participants develop a communication strategy to prevent violent extremism in prisons, including by using social media and online communications. (28-29 July)

SPECIAL PROJECTS & INNOVATION BRANCH

- The UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel) conducted a virtual ‘deep-dive’ assessment mission to Botswana, with the active participation of Botswana’s Permanent Mission. Seventeen ministries and agencies participated in this exercise, the outcome of which will be reflected in a roadmap that will pave the way for the implementation of CT Travel in the country. (13-17 July)

- UNOCT, UNODC and IPU co-organized an online expert consultation to develop recommended legislative provisions to protect the rights and address the needs of victims of terrorism. The provisions will be presented at the IPU-UN parliamentary meeting and released at the Victims of Terrorism Congress in 2021. (14-15 July)

- UNOCT and its co-implementing partners ICSS, UNICRI, UNAOC, organized a virtual International Expert Group Meeting (EGM) bringing together over 200 participants, including authorities in charge of the 2020 UEFA finals; the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar; the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon and the 2024 Paris Olympics. (15 July)
To enhance coordination and coherence, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is a coordination framework bringing together 43 entities was launched by the UN Secretary-General in December 2018. It operates through its Coordination Committee and 8 thematic Inter-Agency Working Groups, which were revitalized in April 2019, providing an "All-of-UN approach" to the system’s work on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism, as conducive to terrorism.

The Office provides most of its capacity-building support to Member States through the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), which was established by an initial contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund in 2011. UNCCT has an Advisory Board composed of 21 Member States plus the European Union (EU) as a Guest Member.

**UNOCT MANDATE**

Established through GA resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017, the Office has 5 functions:

- **Provide leadership** on the GA counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the UN system;
- **Enhance coordination and coherence** across the 38 Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy;
- **Strengthen delivery** of UN counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States;
- **Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization** for UN counter-terrorism efforts;
- **Ensure that due priority is given** to counter-terrorism across the UN system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.