# March in Review 2021



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

## Political Leadership



USG Voronkov presented to Member States the Secretary General's initial and update reports (A/74/677 and A/75/729) for the seventh review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. during the first informal consultations convened by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Volkan Bozkır, to kick off the review process facilitated by Oman and Spain. USG Voronkov shared the 7-point vision put forward by the Secretary-General for preventing and countering terrorism during and after the pandemic, including: (i) reinvigorating the multilateral response; (ii) breaking the cycle of terrorist violence; (iii) increasing support for victims of terrorism; (iv)

building forward better for resilient societies; (v) rising to the challenges and opportunities of new technologies; (vi) embedding human rights and gender-equality in counter-terrorism; and (vii) enabling principled humanitarian action. (5 March)

## Highlights

 UNOCT organized the third meeting of the UNOCT co-led GCTF initiative on implementing countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) measures while safeguarding civic space. Participants discussed potential gaps in existing good practices, how to support the legal frameworks on countering the financing of terrorism and how to ensure financial access and inclusion by ensuring multi-stakeholder dialogue. The event was co-led by UNOCT, Morocco and the Netherlands, with 100 participants from CTED, UNODC,

the 1267 Monitoring Team, OHCHR, the World Bank, WCO, INTERPOL, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), 35 different non-profit and civil society organizations, private sector entities and 17 Member States. (9-10 March)

• In March, UNOCT received a generous contribution from Canada (US\$1,139,987) in support of the Gender and Identities Platform, and from India (\$500,000) in support of the Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programmes.

## Capacity Building

### **UN Counter-Terrorism Centre** (UNCCT)

UNCCT, together with UNODC, organized three virtual workshops on childsensitive communication and age. gender and victim-sensitive approaches for returned children affected by the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) phenomenon in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The workshops provided practical guidance to support government efforts already underway to rehabilitate and reintegrate children returning from conflict zones. (1, 17 & 29 March)

UNCCT, in partnership with the Austrian Institute of Technology, organized a virtual panel discussion on the use of contactless biometrics technologies to monitor the cross-border movement of FTFs and returnees. IOM, UNCTED,

UNODC, OSCE, SITA, Qatar Airways and Kenya Airport Authority contributed to this initiative which brought together 45 participants from Member States and research institutes. (3 March)

**UNCCT** and the Eastern & Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) organized a 3-day regional capacity-building workshop on the role of law enforcement and prosecution in



### About UNOCT

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.

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. The Compact operates thanks to the generous contribution of the State of Qatar. 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.



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 counterterrorism across the UN system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy

**UNOCT Office Structure** www.un.org/counterterrorism/office-structure

## March in Review 2021



### Capacity Building (cont'd)



countering the financing of terrorism with around 291 participants from the financial intelligence units and law enforcement and prosecution authorities from 19 countries. (11-12 &15 March)

UNCCT and UNODC organized a threeday virtual regional workshop on fostering judicial and law enforcement cooperation and information sharing, in the framework of the joint UNOCT-UNODC project on preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their illicit supply to terrorists. The workshop brought together officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Taiikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The event was held in partnership with UNRCCA to support the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA). (16-18 March)

UNCCT concluded a virtual training on outbreak containment for Nigerian law enforcement officials, with a focus on bioterrorism, organized in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser and the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN. The training provided an overview of the bioterrorism threat and the role of law enforcement entities in responding to serious public health emergencies. (16-19 March)

UNCCT, in collaboration with UNICRI, convened a 2nd Expert Group Meeting to discuss draft findings of the report on Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Combat the Terrorist Use of the Internet and Social Media - A Focus on South Asia and Southeast Asia. Artificial Intelligence and counter-terrorism experts from South Asia and South East Asia shared their insights on current uses of AI in the region, including the importance of incorporating human rights and addressing transparency concerns. (18 March)

**UNOCT/UNCCT and UNODC** launched four workshops in Tunisia under the Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) project to train prison and Ministry of Justice staff on communication skills. preventing radicalization and recruitment in prisons and to assist the National Prison Service in establishing a Center for Research and Studies on Violent Extremism at the National School of Prison and Rehabilitation. Participants benefited from the participation of experts from Belgium, Germany, Jordan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Uganda and the UK, as well as experts from UNCCT and the UNOCT Doha Hub. The workshops produced a strategic communication plan for the National Prison Service and recommendations for

designing rehabilitation programmes for violent extremist prisoners in Tunisia. (23-24; 25-26; 29-30 Mar; 29 Mar-1 Apr)

UNCCT. in cooperation with CTED. UNODC and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, held a 3-day regional expert consultation on the gender dimensions of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) approaches for persons associated with Boko Haram, with relevant stakeholders and experts from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, as well as international experts. UNCCT' made a presentation on the challenges and opportunities for effective gendersensitive PRR approaches. The outcome of the regional workshop will be a set of expert recommendations to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the implementation of the regional Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategy. (29-31 March)

### **Special Projects & Innovation Branch (SPIB)**

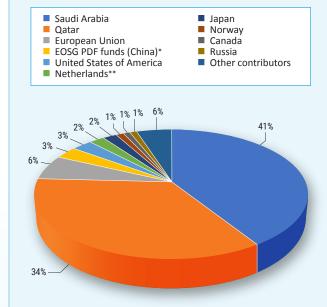
The Countering Terrorist Travel **Programme** (CT Travel) and its partners hosted an introductory webinar with 25 experts from the Programme's Pool of Experts. The webinar provided an overview of the programme to facilitate the experts' participation in beneficiary Member State working groups and training courses under CT Travel. (2 March)





UNOCT cumulative pledges since inception of the Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and from other

funds to date, amount to \$271 million, out of which \$198.8 million has been received from 34 donors. Overall, the top donors to date are:



\* Allocation from the UN Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the EOSG

\*\* The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at USD 11.5 million in 2018.



#### Pillar I Pillar II Addressing the Preventing and condition conducive to the spread of terrorism

### Pillar III **Building States'** capacity and strengthen the role of the UN

combating terrorism

#### **Pillar IV** Ensuring human rights and the rule of law

www.un.org/counterterrorism

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