



United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office

Summary

Briefing to General Membership on UNCCT Activities

16 January 2013

New York

The briefing to the General Membership on UNCCT activities was convened in New York on 16 January 2013. H.E. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia chaired the meeting. The agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex I.

This summary is based on the discussions held during the course of the meeting, but is not intended to be an official or complete record of the minutes of the meeting and does not necessarily reflect the views of all participants.

The Advisory Board (AB) Chairman reminded participants that the meeting was conducted to inform the broader membership of the United Nations about the projects and activities of the UNCCT. The Chairman noted that, at this stage, UNCCT is supporting a few of its own and more initiatives of other Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) entities, which is appropriate and complementary. Next year, the UNCCT will start further developing its own expertise and abilities. He explained that the Contribution Agreement for the creation of the UNCCT was signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UN in September 2011. Resolution 66/10 of the GA was adopted in December 2011, which notes that the UNCCT will operate under the direction of the Secretary-General as part of the CTITF Office and will contribute to promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) through the CTITF. The resolution also encouraged Member States to collaborate with the UNCCT in contributing to the implementation of its activities in support of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. The First Advisory Board meeting took place on 2 April 2012, when CTITF Chairman Orr presented 9 potential strategic priorities. Based on input subsequently provided by AB Members, on 3 June 2012, at the Second Advisory Board meeting, the Secretary General announced **UNCCT's main strategic priorities:**

- 1) **National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies;**
- 2) **I-ACT (Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism);**
- 3) **Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT);**
- 4) **Dialogue, Understanding and Countering the Appeal of Terrorism (DUCAT);**
- 5) **Human Rights; and**
- 6) **Victims of Terrorism.**

Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, OIC, CTITF Office noted the support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy during the open debate in the Security Council session on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts" as well as the work of the CTITF and its UNCCT in the Presidential Statement of the Security Council of 15 January 2013. He highlighted the contours of the selection criteria, the selection limitations and the selection process.

The UNCCT consulted the CTITF entities and received 29 project proposals, and identified 10 specific projects.

The UNCCT Programme Coordinator and CTITF Officers then presented the following ten selected projects, which are ready for implementation.

Projects Presentations:

The **first presentation** (UNCCT-2012-1) related to the International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, which will take place 31 January to 1 February in Bogota, Colombia. Facilitated by the new CTITF Working Group of the Whole on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, which is co-led by the CTITF Office and CTED, the Conference seeks to provide an opportunity to share international experiences and methodologies in the development of comprehensive and integrated national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. The outcome of the Conference may include an expression of political support for the initiative, identification of principles to develop national and regional strategies, identification of possible challenges and their remedies, and identification of technical expertise and resources.

The **second presentation** (UNCCT-2012-3) was about the International Conference on “Engaging Partners for Capacity-Building: United Nations’ Collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Centres” in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 16-17 February 2013. Supported by the Government of Saudi Arabia, this UNCCT conference seeks to support greater collaboration between counter-terrorism centres and initiatives by identifying their expertise, maximize their reach and spread their expertise beyond the boundaries of their regions of activity.

The **third presentation** (UNCCT-2012-4) is entitled “Proposal to assist Nigeria in promoting peace and education and in countering the appeal of terrorism”. It comprises an assessment and the identification of the conditions conducive to terrorism in Nigeria. The CTITF and its UNCCT assist the Government under I-ACT (UNESCO is the lead implementing partner) with in developing long-term and sustainable prevention strategies thanks to an implementation plan that will include practical and focused preventive actions required by key government departments and civil society/private sector actors. It seeks to devise programs to strengthen the capacity of relevant national stakeholders with regard to preventing and countering radicalization and more broadly with regard to preventing conflicts and building peace.

The **fourth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-5) entails a CTED stakeholders’ coordination meeting under the I-ACT initiative for Burkina Faso. This projects seeks to strengthen Burkina Faso’s counter-terrorism coordination and prevention mechanisms; identify practical and effective counter-terrorism coordination measures; raise national agencies’ awareness of the strategies and technologies available to address the identified challenges and threats; and harmonize cross-cutting activities with a view to making optimum use of the limited available resources.

The **fifth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-6-1 and UNCCT-2012-6-2) is focused on the strengthening of the criminal justice capacity to counter terrorism in Burkina Faso and Nigeria under I-ACT. With regard to Burkina Faso, the project aims at enhancing the

country's capacity of the criminal justice system to handle terrorist and related offences. This project is rooted into the National Integrated Programme developed by the Government of Burkina Faso and UNODC, which seeks to develop a strategic framework to support the Government in responding to threats linked to terrorism and transnational organised crime in an integrated manner. Specifically, it follows a methodology that UNODC is implementing to promote sustainability of technical assistance activities, such as specialised workshops that use a train-the-trainers approach and integrating training modules on counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime into national curricula of training schools. With regard to Nigeria, the Government requested UNODC, in collaboration with its Ministry of Justice, to review Nigeria's Terrorism Prevention Act by organizing a national seminar on the proposed new counter-terrorism legislation with various stakeholders. The review is based on shortfalls in the Act, impacting its interpretation by practitioners, that were identified subsequent to its adoption by the National Assembly of Nigeria in June 2011.

The **sixth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-7) engages Somalia diaspora to counter radicalization with the UN Alliance of Civilizations. It seeks to use skills-building media workshops to undermine the use of incendiary narratives among Somali diaspora especially through the Internet, media professionals and thus within the country, and to improve relations among them across clan lines and political differences. Outcomes will include the invitation of trainees to the United Nations to present their views on Somalia and an the creation of an online platform for media professionals, bloggers and other online Somalia Diaspora to enable them to debate constructively across clan and political lines.

The **seventh presentation** (UNCCT-2012-8) seeks to strengthen the capacity of educational institutions in South Asia through promotion of spirit of dialogue and understanding and skills development. The project focuses on buttressing the capacity of public and private educational institutions so as to enable them to equip students with constructive perspectives and proper skills to enter the job market. As a first step, a workshop is being planned in which interested States can discuss needs and propose ideas to improve the quality of the education they provide. The project will ultimately assist with teacher-training programmes, strengthening the curriculum, the supply of education materials, and with monitoring and evaluation.

The **eighth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-9) will further advance the publication of Basic Human Rights Reference Guides that have been developed by the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism. These guides seek to support Member States in their effort to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of countering terrorism. The UNCCT project will support the translation of existing guides (on the "Protection of Security Infrastructure" and the "Stopping and Searching of Persons") into all official UN languages and finalize, publish and translate guides on "Detention", "Proscriptions of organizations" and "Conformity of national counter-terrorism legislation with international human rights law". Moreover, it will develop, publish and translate additional guides.

The **ninth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-11) relates to the implementation of the Road Map and development of an integrated counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms strategy in Central Africa, in collaboration with regional organizations. The UNCCT will support the implementation of commitments undertaken by the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) Member States on the implementation of a Road Map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in the region. The project focuses on strengthening relevant customs, police, economic and social cooperation mechanisms at national, sub-regional and international level. Additionally, the project is intended to culminate in the development of an integrated counter-terrorism and small arms control strategy for Central Africa, while also fulfilling relevant legal and administrative obligations mentioned in UN Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2004) and 1963 (2011), as well as the Global Strategy.

The **tenth presentation** (UNCCT-2012-12) envisions capacity building to improve terrorist designation and asset freezing regimes. The UNCCT will further support activities to tackle the financing of terrorism by developing capacity building programs and providing legal and operational guidance to Member States at the national level. Particularly, it will deliver a variety of curricula, training modules and courses to improve terrorist designation and asset freezing regimes and build up a roster of national and international experts. Member States will be able to choose relevant training modules for their respective financial institutions. Throughout the whole program, respect for human rights considerations will play an essential role.

The delegations participating at the meeting then took the floor to comment on the selected projects. Below is a summary of comments received.

- Participants expressed great interest in the UNCCT and its projects and it was remarked that the next General Membership Meeting should be held in a larger conference room.
- It was raised that projects should have an essential evaluation and monitoring component.
- A participant remarked that the coordination with regional organization should be an important part of the UNCCT.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman noted the great interest of the General Membership in the UNCCT and its projects.

The Chairman of the Advisory Board closed the briefing.

For further information on the UNCCT and its projects, please contact Mr. Marc Porret, UNCCT Programme Coordinator, at porret@un.org, or consult its website at <http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctif/uncct/index.shtml>.

Annex I

Agenda

1. Opening Statement by H.E. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi, Chairman UNCCT Advisory Board;
2. Statement by Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, OIC, CTITF Office;
3. Presentations on the UNCCT Projects:

UNCCT-2012-1	International Workshop on Regional and National Strategies, 31 January-1 February 2013
UNCCT-2012-3	International conference to promote collaboration between national, regional and international counter-terrorism centres and initiatives, 16-17 February 2013
UNCCT-2012-4	Proposal to assist Nigeria in promoting peace and education and to counter the appeal of terrorism
UNCCT-2012-5	Stakeholders' coordination meeting under the I-ACT initiative for Burkina Faso
UNCCT-2012-6-1	Strengthening criminal justice capacity to counter terrorism in Burkina Faso and Nigeria
UNCCT-2012-6-2	
UNCCT-2012-7	Engaging Somalia Diaspora on Countering Radicalization
UNCCT-2012-8	Strengthening of the Capacity of Educational Institutions in South Asia through promotion of spirit of dialogue and understanding and skills development
UNCCT-2012-9	Basic Human Rights Reference Guides
UNCCT-2012-11	Implementation of the Road Map and development of an integrated counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms strategy in Central Africa, in collaboration with regional organizations
UNCCT-2012-12	Capacity Building on Improving Terrorist Designation and Asset Freezing Regimes
4. Q & A.