

Quarterly Briefing to Member States, 6 May 2019
UNOCT/UNCCT Capacity-Building Assistance

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, has worked in full gear over the past year to meet the capacity-building needs of Member States and regional organizations, always, at their request.

In 2018, under the overall direction and guidance of Mr. Voronkov as UNCCT Executive Director, we implemented 43 capacity-building programmes and projects across all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in close collaboration with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

We provided capacity-building support to 61 Member States and reached over 2,600 individuals. This support included the delivery of 63 capacity-building workshops and activities directly benefiting approximately 1,545 individuals, and the organization of 13 outreach events with the participation of over 1,000 participants.

UNCCT also supported the development of seven (7) key publications, including on supporting victims' associations in Africa and the Middle East; compliance with human rights legal standards related to screening of individuals at borders; the development of national and regional plans of action to prevent violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism; and the responsible use of biometrics in counter-terrorism, in collaboration with CTED and the Biometrics Institute.

This represents a significant expansion of our implementation volume, which increased 66% since the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in 2017.

We recently finalized the 2018 Annual Report that provides a comprehensive overview of our capacity-building assistance and financial performance for the reporting year. A print version of this report will be sent to all Permanent Missions later this month as part of our commitment to full transparency. We are also upgrading our website and will upload the Annual Report, as well as relevant information from our quarterly reports, to this website.

All of this important work would not have been possible without the support of donors that have contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism and other partner countries. We are very grateful for this support and hope that we can continue to rely on it.

We have also benefitted from the useful guidance of the UNCCT Advisory Board, under the able chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia.

Excellencies,

As reflected on the screen before you, we are currently implementing 40 capacity-building programmes and projects benefiting 71 Member States.

These include 20 projects at global level, 13 at regional level and 7 at the national level. In terms of our support to the four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, 13 of our programmes and projects support Pillar I, 14 support Pillar II, 6 support Pillar III, and 7 support Pillar IV.

UNCCT is increasingly consolidating its projects into global multi-year programmes for greater reach and impact. We now have full-fledged programmes in the areas of border security and management, countering the financing of terrorism, WMD/CBRN terrorism, and supporting the victims of terrorism. We are also working to develop programmes on youth and human rights to ensure strategic and strengthened focus on these two areas. The arrival in the coming weeks

of a full-time gender advisor will allow us to prepare a gender programme by the end of the year.

All of our work continues to be guided by the strategic guidance provided in the Centre's 5-Year Programme, while remaining adaptable in our response to new directions from the General Assembly and the Security Council on emerging terrorism issues.

Allow me to share with you today some key highlights from the important capacity-building work that UNCCT has undertaken in early 2019.

In support of the first pillar of the Global Strategy on addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, our Strategic Communications team focused on supporting the Government of the Philippines in their development of a National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism through sensitization and tailored technical expertise in strategic communications.

Together with INTERPOL, UNCCT delivered workshops for Member States in the Middle East and North Africa as well as South Asia which helped raise awareness on the use of the Internet and social media for open source investigations to prevent and counter the FTF

phenomenon, including human rights considerations and private sector perspectives.

In this quarter, the Centre has initiated work on developing a comprehensive Youth Programme to ensure a sustained and strategic approach to youth engagement and to provide an interphase for UN-system wide collaboration on youth-focused initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The first phase of this Programme will consolidate and reinforce existing youth-focused projects and explore new joint initiatives in line with the UN Youth Strategy, leveraging the coordination mandate of UNOCT.

Under the second pillar of the Global Strategy on counter-terrorism, UNCCT launched a new multi-year border security and management programme in January, which already started providing technical expertise to Burkina Faso border authorities for the integration of necessary counter-terrorism elements into its national border strategy.

The Centre introduced this programme to OSCE, IOM and UNODC to explore cooperation, and briefed Member States on the ‘UN Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and

Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism’, jointly produced with CTED.

In addition, UNCCT delivered workshops for Mauritius and Mongolia on terrorist abuse of the local non-profit sector and best practices on targeted financial sanctions and sharing of financial intelligence. I am also pleased to note the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNOCT and Italy’s Guardia di Finanza on capacity-building in the field of countering terrorist financing.

This quarter saw the launch of two important projects under UNCCT’s programme to prevent and respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism.

In March, UNCCT was joined by Ambassador Bahous, the Permanent Representative of Jordan, and Dr. Antonio Missiroli, Assistant Secretary General for NATO’s Emerging Security Challenges, for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our Office and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to launch a joint project to support Jordan’s CBRN preparedness and response capabilities.

And in April, together with Mr. Pedro Serrano, Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defense Policy and Crisis Response of the European External Action Service, and Mr. Masood Karimipour,

the Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, we inaugurated the joint project to ‘promote universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism’.

I am also pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNOCT and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) for the implementation of the Global Compact Working Group project ‘to enhance knowledge about advances in science and technology to combat WMD terrorism’.

This is just one of a broad range of projects supported by the Centre as part of our commitment to ‘All-of-UN’ programming. During the course of 2018 we provided seed funding for six Compact Working Groups in areas as diverse as national counter-terrorism strategies, critical infrastructure and Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism. We are currently looking into how best to continue this model while ensuring co-funding from partners.

Regarding our capacity-building support under Pillar III of the Global Strategy on international counter-terrorism cooperation, UNCT launched a five-year joint project with the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) to support AIMC and its Member States in developing and implementing a new regional counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab

region. This work builds on the Centre's long history of supporting the development and implementation of regional strategies, as we have done in Central Asia, Southern Africa, Central Africa and the Caribbean.

The Centre also launched a project to promote South-South cooperation in counter-terrorism and PCVE at the 2nd UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Buenos Aires in March.

This initiative will map countries and Centres of Excellence with relevant best practices, and create a South-South knowledge sharing platform and Forum of Experts to leverage the valuable counter-terrorism expertise and experience available in the global South.

Under the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative, UNCCT delivered a regional workshop on good practices in community resilience to violent extremism in the G5 Sahel countries. The Centre, together with UNODC, held national training workshops in Mauritania and Burkina Faso on building terrorism cases and witness protection for investigators, prosecutors and investigating judges.

Ensuring human rights and the rule of law, Pillar IV of the Global Strategy, remained a central focus of our capacity-building work.

UNCCT convened Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities in April to finalize a Handbook on key international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law principles concerning the treatment of children affected by the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon. In the coming months we hope to launch a new project with UNODC to support Member States to address this pressing issue.

Also in this quarter, UNCCT held expert meetings in Bangkok and Seoul to discuss the needs of victims of terrorism in relation to recognition, support, protection, access to justice and compensation, to develop guidelines and principles to assist, protect and support victims in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, filmed two documentaries in Chad and Cameroon, under the Victims of Terrorism Documentary Series that serves as a platform to hear first-hand from victims about their experiences of terrorist attacks.

In all of this work we are emphasizing effective monitoring and evaluation and in this connection we are in the process of rolling out comprehensive training to all project managers to ensure that we have the same high level of skill sets. The new UNCCT Programme

Management Unit will also allow us to continue to improve effective M&E for the Centre.

Excellencies,

Through the delivery of these projects we are also raising the profile of UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence. We are increasingly becoming the ‘go-to’ resource on counter-terrorism and PVE capacity-building in areas such as countering the financing of terrorism, supporting victims of terrorism, border security and management, CBRN terrorism, and human rights.

As we continue to expand our programming in the coming months we look forward to working with you, the Member States, at the global, regional and national level to build capacities to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We once again thank all Member States here today for their support and contributions to our capacity-building work and look forward to continuing our close cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.