



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Opening Remarks by Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance Session II: “Opportunities and Challenges in the Design and Delivery of Counter-Terrorism Technical and Capacity-Building Assistance”

Doha, 28 March 2022

**Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,**

When I took up my appointment two and a half years ago, the thing I was most interested in was having a business model that would allow UNOCT to produce demonstrable and meaningful impact in countering terrorism—to go beyond just providing technical assistance to Member States but to actually “graduate” them so that they can eventually carry forward the work on their own or in concert with other Member States, in line with their responsibilities under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In June last year, following its seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly requested the Office of Counter-Terrorism to assess methodologies and tools for a results framework to ensure comprehensive, balanced and integrated implementation of the Strategy.

While work on this assessment will begin shortly, I would like to highlight three measures we have already taken to strengthen our results culture and improve our capacity-building work since KPMG completed its evaluation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in late 2020.

First, we have undertaken steps to revamp our Programme Management Unit to not only support all UNOCT capacity-building activities, but to do so in line with the UN’s new Integrated Planning and Management Reporting (IPMR) solution. IPMR utilizes a results-based management methodology, enabling clear linkages between resources and results frameworks, and improved management of day-to-day UN operations, including management of substantive and programmatic activities in addition to administrative processes.

Second, after a thorough review of our Programme Review Board process, we have introduced a new, robust policy to reinforce a results-focus for programmes and projects and moved from a quarterly to a monthly meeting cycle. We have adopted a new gender policy and action plan

and established a new Human Rights and Gender Section that must review all programmes and projects that come before the PRB to insure that they have mainstreamed human rights and gender considerations into their design.

Third, we have enhanced our outreach and consultations with civil society organizations—and not just the usual suspects based in New York or London—but terrific local and regional CSOs from areas grappling with terrorism in their communities on a regular basis. In my next roundtable with CSOs we will begin having dedicated sessions where CSOs meet with programme managers to discuss and give input to the programmes and projects in which they express interest.

Additionally, the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the working group for resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, co-chaired by UNOCT and CTED, takes a coordinated ‘One-UN’ approach both to improving the delivery of our support – and to coordinating our new, more relevant and interactive Multi-Year Appeal.

We have strengthened our collaboration with CTED to help ensure UN counter-terrorism programmes are aligned with the analysis and needs identified through their assessment visits. In the process of preparing our joint report to the Security Council and General Assembly, we have identified some additional ways to further enhance alignment between CTED recommendations and related UNOCT projects and programmes.

In response to requests from Member States to be closer to our beneficiaries, UNOCT has established programme offices and liaison officers in several locations supported by host countries and donors that provide some combination of in-kind and funding support for activities that are tailored for a specific region.

Lastly, we have finalized the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Programme Framework, which is supported by a four -year Results Framework and theory of change. The Plan articulates internal strategic goals for the Office that will help ensure that it is fit-for-purpose.

Of course, we are aware that most counter-terrorism assistance occurs bilaterally between Member States or with special donors like the European Union. My colleagues and I have worked hard to increase our collaboration and complementarity with such programmes to avoid duplication and optimize outcomes, as we have done with the Netherlands and Morocco on the GCTF good practices document on countering the financing of terrorism while protecting civic space, or on countering WMD terrorism with the US State Department in Iraq.

These are some of the ways in which we have worked hard to improve the design and delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance of our own as well as larger, UNOCT-led, multi-entity global programmes.

I am looking forward to our discussion today to explore how we can continue to improve our counter-terrorism support to Member States.

Thank you.