

THIRD 2022 QUARTERLY BRIEFING TO MEMBER STATES

Monday, 19 December 2022 / 16:00 – 18:30 (CET)

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Distinguished representatives, dear colleagues,

Firstly, I would like to thank OCT for organizing this briefing and for the opportunity to contribute.

With armed conflicts across the globe, we continue to be confronted by security and economic uncertainty. At the same time, inequalities continue to be on the rise. With the world's poorest people bearing the brunt of the consequences. This marginalization combined with poor governance practices, and other factors, create conditions in which radicalization and recruitment can gain traction. At UNODC, we set out to take a critical look and identify gaps, such as this, draw upon lessons learned from the last 20 years of counter terrorism and develop innovative solutions to prevent terrorism.

We consulted our Member States and then broadened the list of stakeholders and consulted civil society, the private sector, women's organizations, and youth organizations, among others - and we asked them what we were missing and what the gaps were in our CT responses. In parallel, we also asked for an independent and in-depth evaluation of our CT Programme.

One common theme emerged and that was that there was not enough investment in prevention. And effective and sustainable prevention requires engagement of stakeholders at the grass-roots level, through whole-of-society approaches.

We developed a new Global Programme based on the lessons learned.

We also learned the near unanimous reject of a false choice between countering terrorism and human rights. Indeed, gross human rights violations were observed as being a driver of radicalization. And human rights compliant terrorism prevention was observed as being more effective and sustainable. We have been integrating human rights in our programmes for years, but we are now scaling up on this front.

Based on these principles, and in line with the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, we developed a new Global Programme to prevent and counter terrorism.

The Programme promotes inclusive, people-centered, prevention-focused, human-rights-based practices reaching women, young people, victims, and civil society. In addition, the new Programme is designed to meet current and emerging trends and threats.

For example, the intersection of technology and terrorism is both a vulnerability and an opportunity. Vulnerability, as terrorism has become more tech-savvy and used digital tools and cyberspace to radicalize, recruit, raise funds, and communicate. At the same time, tech solutions can put tools in the hands of investigators to better detect and disrupt terrorism. Our new programme develops and deploys such tech solutions and capacities for Member States.

Also, terrorism does not happen in a vacuum.

It is often part of a large pattern of other serious crimes, whether organized or transnational in nature, or in collaboration with other criminal networks. Given UNODC's wide range of mandates in crime prevention and criminal justice, we are offering Member States more integrated and comprehensive solutions to strengthen laws, and better detect and prosecute crimes that facilitate terrorism, including illicit financial flows, illicit trafficking, firearms and border violations.

We launched the new Programme in NY in October this year.

With the press of time, please allow me to also share with you some of the latest updates from UNODC's CT programming:

At the **global** level:

- We continue to address the **links between organized crime and terrorism**, a main area of focus within the New Global Programme. In October, UNODC's ED briefed the **UN Security Council** on strengthening the fight against the **financing of terrorist and armed groups** through the **illicit trafficking of natural resources**.

- As part of our **“tech and terror”** initiative, we are expanding UNODC’s **electronic-evidence online hub**, a one-stop-shop for all reference and training materials to provide CJ officials with practical guidance.
- We scaled up efforts to counter **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN)** terrorism.
- Last week, UNODC co-hosted –with Canada and the EU – a **High-Level Event to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)**.

At the **regional** level:

- In **Central Asia**, we **launched a new border security initiative**.
- In **South East-Asia**, in partnership with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEEARCT), we delivered a series of regional trainings on **strategic communications** to prevent violent extremism.
- In **Eastern Africa**, we continue to support the operationalization of the **Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and its regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence (CTCoE)** by organizing regional trainings on human rights and gender-responsive policing.

At the **national** level:

- In **Mozambique**, we provide regular training and mentoring to CJ officials working in Northern Mozambique - recently delivering a train-the-trainers course for prosecutors and investigating judges.

In **Iraq**, we:

- support **victims of terrorism** in criminal proceedings and promote their **rehabilitation and empowerment** – including a recent workshop on the **role of the media** in combatting terrorism and supporting victims of terrorism.

Nigeria:

- UNODC's on-the ground presence in the country since 2012 enabled the delivery of **over 300** capacity-building activities reaching **7,700** CJ officials.
- In the last quarter alone, this support led to the Nigerian defence counsel advocating for the successful release, due to lack of evidence, of **600 persons**, some detained over 10 years.

I would like to conclude by observing that multilateral solutions are working and preventing terrorism. And I join the call by UN Women tonight for more investment in multilateral responses and more inter-agency collaboration. We serve Member States and people better, use resources more efficiently, and produce more impactful and sustainable results when we collaborate than when we work separately.

I wish all partners healthy and happy holidays and wish for peace for all in 2023.

Thank you.