



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Remarks by Ms. Oguljeren (Jerena) Niyazberdiyeva, Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, UNOCT delivered by Mr. Senyo Agbohlah, Chief, Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations Section, OUSG**

**Session III: Updates on the progress of UNOCT in supporting Member States to confront the evolving threat of terrorism**

**UNOCT Quarterly Briefing to Member States  
Trusteeship Council and Webex  
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Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to update you today, on behalf of Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism of our work under two key workstreams – programme evaluation and resource mobilization – which are integral to UNOCT’s efforts in supporting Member States against the threat of terrorism.

In the area of programme evaluation – a priority area for our Office in promoting accountability, transparency, and learning; strengthening evidence- and results-based delivery – we have made meaningful progress.

The programme work of UNOCT is supported by an independent evaluation function based in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. Our evaluation framework – Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Handbook – provide comprehensive guidance for the planning, prioritization, implementation, and utilization of evaluations across the Office. We plan and prioritize evaluation assignments through an Evaluation Plan, which is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

This year, we initiated evaluations of three global programmes in the areas of countering terrorist use of weapons, border security and management, and behavioural insights, as well as one project on prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons – all of which are at various levels of implementation.

Evaluations play a central part in informing the management of our programmes and projects. A good example is our global programme on countering terrorist travel, for which we finalized the mid-term joint evaluation earlier this year.

For those unfamiliar with this Programme, CT travel was launched in 2019, and is a ‘one-UN’ capacity-building initiative that provides comprehensive support to Member States in establishing or strengthening their capabilities in collecting and analysing passenger data for countering terrorism.

An independent evaluation of the Programme was carried out between July 2022 and March 2023, which involved over 40 interviewees including from beneficiary and funding partner Member States, as well as document reviews, observation of activities, and surveys. This resulted in a 65-page report with important findings, observations, and six core recommendations.

While it is too early to measure the impact of the implementation of these recommendations, we have made progress in their implementation.

For example, on gender – the evaluation recommended improving the understanding, approaches and practices regarding effective gender mainstreaming and equity. And therefore, thanks to the work of a specialist consultant and UNOCT’s Human Rights and Gender Section, a dedicated training module with scenarios has been developed and will be rolled out next year.

The evaluation also recommended improving engagement with funding partners to discuss programme and donor priorities and streamline donor reporting requirements. Therefore, a dedicated meeting with funding partners was arranged as a side event during the Third Counter-Terrorism Week in June. Of course, we are hoping through meetings like this one, that donors will continue to have their attention drawn to the value of the Programme and the concrete impact that it is having on Member States.

All of these evaluations are conducted independently through external evaluators and strictly adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms and Standards – including the integration of human rights, gender equality, disability inclusion and “leave no one behind” into all evaluation phases.

To ensure full transparency, just as our evaluation guidance, all evaluation reports, along with the management response, and their summaries in the form of an evaluation brief, are publicly available on the UNOCT website.

Next year, UNOCT will complete those evaluations that are already underway and initiate other planned evaluations of global programmes in the areas of CT investigations, PCVE, and protection of vulnerable targets, subject to availability of funds.

Our Office will also continue to enhance evaluation knowledge and capacities within the UN system as chair of the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

In this capacity, we will work closely with our Compact partners to support the implementation of the General Assembly's mandate, in the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, on the conduct of an impact assessment of activities by UN entities towards the Strategy's implementation based on a results framework. As we undertake this important, resource intensive task, we will count on the technical and financial support of all Member States.

Now turning to our work under the resource mobilization workstream – I would first like to thank our funding partners for their vital support that enables the Office to deliver its mandate.

As of now, we are 91% dependent on voluntary contributions for our budget.

Beginning with the founding contribution by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we are very proud that our outreach and partnership building has now resulted in the receipt of funding from 41 funding partners.

To date, the UN Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism has received \$369.9 million of funding since its creation in 2009. Let me give special thanks to our top 10 leading funding partners, namely the State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, European Union, UN Peace, and Development Fund (China), United States of America, the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Japan, and the Russian Federation.

I am also happy to report that this year alone, we have mobilized \$17.6 million from 19 funding partners. Our funding base keeps growing, with a number of beneficiary states now becoming funding partners. This year we have welcomed five new funding partners to our ranks, namely, the Philippines, Turkmenistan, Oman, Uzbekistan and UNODC for a joint project funded by the European Union.

Our resource mobilization approach is anchored in proactive, coherent, and informed outreach, alongside more effective and transparent grant management, as well as timely results reporting that clearly articulates the impact of our work.

It is also informed by a robust evaluation, monitoring and lessons learned framework presented to you today.

We are also currently taking forward the implementation of the recommendations of OIOS's recent audit of the Trust Fund, including its recommendation on consolidated reporting to funding partners.

As we go forward, we will seek to deepen, broaden, and diversify our partnerships to support effective mandate delivery.

Thank you.