



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

to the Secretary-General

Executive
Report

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Executive Summary

Since its launch by the Secretary-General in 2018, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (“Counter-Terrorism Compact”) has been steadfast in providing Member States with coherent and coordinated support in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and relevant Security Council resolutions. During 2023, the Counter-Terrorism Compact brought together 46 entities, including 42 UN entities and four non-UN entities, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) joining in May, bringing its expertise in addressing illicit financial flows that support terrorism.

During the reporting period, the Counter-Terrorism Compact’s eight thematic interagency working groups advanced the implementation of their respective work plans, holding a total of 34 meetings to facilitate information flow on initiatives, best practices, joint research, and capacity building to address key issues. Additionally, the working groups continued to implement their joint projects, seed-funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. 15 out of 19 projects have now been successfully completed.

To further enhance coordination, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat continued to utilize the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform as the one-stop-shop for information sharing and needs-based tools. In 2023, the Platform facilitated digital interaction and information exchange among more than 1,050 focal points of 46 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, 137 Member States, and 14 regional organizations.

The Coordination Committee, which steers the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, held its ninth annual meeting on 25-26 January 2023. The meeting served as a platform for information exchange on how to advance global “data action” and achieve better results in preventing and

countering terrorism, in line with the GCTS, the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, and A New Agenda for Peace.

Throughout the reporting period, several strategic leadership engagements and initiatives took place. The Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (PCVE) provided secretariat support to organize the seventh meeting of the Secretary-General’s High Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism on 28 April 2023. In a related effort, through the Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa was launched on the margins of the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week (“CT Week”), in partnership with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria.

The Third CT Week was held from 19 to 23 June 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It comprised the Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Members States on “Addressing Terrorism through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation,” a high-level debate – spotlighting the successful adoption by the General Assembly of the eighth review of the GCTS (June 2023) – and the delivery of 40 side-events. Counter-Terrorism Compact entities actively co-organized 34 out of the 40 side-events to further enhance international and regional cooperation to address the terrorist threat under key themes, such as on aviation security, countering the financing of terrorism and terrorist travel, and gender mainstreaming for more effective PCVE.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact continues to adhere to its strategic priorities and plays a pivotal role in reinforcing global collaboration and bolstering resilience against the threat of terrorism.

Introduction

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (“Counter-Terrorism Compact”), launched by the Secretary-General in 2018, has continued to serve as the primary vehicle for coherent, coordinated, and increased support to Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), as well as other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Throughout 2023, the Counter-Terrorism Compact continued to enjoy strong support from Member States, growing recognition from international partners, and sustained commitment from all its participants towards an “all-of-UN” approach that sought to leverage multi-dimensional expertise and mandates across the United Nations system.

During the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week (“CT Week”) held from 19 to 23 June 2023, Member States called for a reinvigorated multilateralism in preventing and countering terrorism, expressed appreciation for the work of the United Nations system, and reiterated the important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Compact in this regard. The Third CT Week included 40 side events co-organized by over 95 stakeholders, including 18 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.

Also in June, the UN General Assembly adopted without a vote the eighth review resolution of the GCTS (A/RES/77/298), thereby maintaining consensus among Member States behind the Strategy. The resolution refers to the Counter-Terrorism Compact 28 times and provides a strong mandate for the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to sustain counter-terrorism coordination and coherence efforts across the United Nations system.

The interest in the work, and coordination and coherence efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Compact continued to grow throughout the reporting period. In May 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) joined the Counter-Terrorism Compact, contributing significant expertise to address illicit financial flows in support of terrorism and bringing the Counter-Terrorism Compact’s membership to 46 entities, including 42 UN entities as well as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The Counter-Terrorism Compact’s eight thematic interagency working groups advanced the implementation of their 2023 work plans, under the strategic guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee (“Coordination Committee”), chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov. Counter-Terrorism Compact entities continued engaging and collaborating online through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination [Platform](#) (the “Platform”), launched in March 2020.

The implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact was supported by the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, a small yet dedicated team operating in the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB) of UNOCT, in line with its mandated policy and coordination functions. The Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, funded mainly through the contribution of the State of Qatar, provided pivotal substantive and logistical support to enable the effective functioning of the Coordination Committee and its eight thematic

interagency working groups, which are aligned with the four pillars of the GCTS. These efforts also benefitted from financial support from the Kingdom of Spain.

This fifth annual report on the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact was prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, as foreseen by the Counter-Terrorism Compact document. It draws on the 2023 progress reports submitted by the eight thematic working groups to the Chair of the Coordination Committee. The report outlines key progress made in 2023 and provides a summary of accomplishments in three main areas:

- Consolidation of the interagency framework
- Strategic leadership on counter-terrorism
- Capacity-building support to Member States

Key Deliverables in 2023

A. Consolidation of the interagency framework

During the reporting period, the eight Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups progressed in the implementation of their work plans and held 34 meetings (30 regular quarterly meetings and four thematic discussions) to facilitate information flow on initiatives and best practices, joint research, and capacity-building.

The working groups' meetings addressed:

- The eighth review resolution of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in June 2023;
- The increasing terrorist threat in parts of Africa;

- The UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa;
- The technical assistance needs and recommendations identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC);
- Good practices for measuring results in counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
- The commemoration of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism;
- Criminal justice responses to terrorism;
- Countering terrorism financing;
- Countering terrorist use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) and explosive materials;
- Vulnerable targets protection, including critical infrastructure and soft targets;
- The use of new and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS);
- Border security management and countering terrorist travel;
- Strengthening maritime and aviation security;
- Embedding human rights and the rule of law at the center of counter-terrorism policies;
- Support to victims of terrorism;
- Gendered dimensions of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
- The impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space.

The working groups made additional efforts to ensure the participation of Member States, regional organizations, and civil society representatives in their meetings, as well as representatives from UN entities in the field, in line with the seventh and eighth review resolutions of the GCTS.

Since the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in 2018, the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism has provided seed funding to support a total of 19 joint projects implemented by the working groups, 15 of which have been completed. The remaining four joint working group projects continued implementation, focusing on (i) the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, hate speech and hate crime; (ii) good practices on data protection for counter-terrorism purposes; (iii) regional cooperation; and (iv) the human rights aspects of the use of Artificial Intelligence in counter-terrorism.

Working groups have further elaborated enhanced coordination in line with the seven practical steps to enhance regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its impact in the field (**Box 1**), approved by the Coordination Committee in December 2021.

Box 1: Practical steps to enhance regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact

- (1) Take into account country-specific recommendations from entities that have developed a strong knowledge and expertise in country situations
- (2) Include agenda items focused on addressing thematic issues in specific countries or regions
- (3) Invite field staff of entities to their meetings, including Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) of countries affected by terrorism
- (4) Engage with civil society organizations (CSOs), women-led organizations and networks, youth, academic institutions, and private sector representatives

- (5) Strengthen their engagements with Member States and regional organizations, and invite them to brief during their sessions and/or meetings
- (6) Explore concrete options for collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) working groups
- (7) Leverage the Platform to increase the online collaboration between Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Member States' focal points, and to grant access of field representatives of the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to working groups' spaces

Throughout the reporting period, working groups also held meetings focusing on specific countries and regions, as well as strengthened their engagements with Member States, regional organizations, and civil society partners. This progress further contributed to strengthening regional coordination within the Counter-Terrorism Compact.



To further increase communication on and visibility of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, its Secretariat developed and disseminated promotional materials, including six bi-monthly [newsletters](#) and an [annual newsletter](#) for 2023, public web stories on the Coordination Committee meeting, X posts regarding joint engagement with the GCTF, and several news posts on the Platform (**Box 2**).



UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the meeting by stressing that “[d]ata is the oil of the 21st century” and warned against a lawless cyberspace in which data fuels the increasingly intertwined worlds of terror and crime – including drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illicit financing – all of which require data-driven tools and strategies. He called on the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and its working groups “to continue building close ties to Member States and other partners to gather, analyze and deploy data for insight, impact and integrity.”

The meeting was attended by 33 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia in their capacity as co-facilitators of the eighth review of the GCTS, high-level representatives from the African Union, the European Union, as well as the Chairs, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the eight Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups. For the first time, representatives from the private sector (Google), civil society, think tanks and the GCTF participated in a Coordination Committee meeting.

This meeting saw the highest level of engagement of the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities since the launch of the Coordination Committee in December 2018.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov shared his concern about the recent increase in terrorist attacks globally and underlined that “[n]ow more than ever, evidence-based and data-centric approaches are paramount to confront the terrorist threat with an effective response,” adding that such responses “are also a



precondition for devising and implementing effective, sustainable and human rights-compliant efforts aimed at preventing and countering this threat”.

Guest speakers and representatives from Counter-Terrorism Compact entities highlighted the importance of (i) protecting human rights, privacy and data protection, including collection, preservation, storage, use and sharing of data; (ii) utilizing high-quality data, including battlefield evidence, as key for border security, to detect terrorists and for prosecution; (iii) upholding freedom of expression, while also protecting people from harms presented by security risks on digital platforms; (iv) building gender-responsive technology through diverse and cross-functional teams to address the increase in violent misogynistic content, hate speech against women human rights activists and misinformation; and (v) addressing the growth of hate speech online, which remains a largely unresolved issue for tech companies. Moreover, participants agreed that the Counter-Terrorism Compact is critical in enhancing collective situational awareness and coordination assistance to requesting Member States.

The meeting also provided a timely opportunity to inform participants about the achievements, work, and priorities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups.

As Secretariat for the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), the **Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (PCVE)** organized its [seventh meeting](#) on 28 April (**Box 4**).

Box 4: Seventh meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism

The meeting discussed the United Nations response to the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in parts of Africa, and its subsequent global implications on PVE.



It was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Earle Courtenay Rattray, who noted that the Secretary-General's report on Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/77/718) called on Member States to develop a fresh strategic direction to collectively address the terrorist threat in Africa, and to do so by placing prevention, inclusion and human rights at the heart of our approach. He also recalled that the Secretary-General has consistently emphasized the need for a new generation of robust peace-enforcement missions and counter-terrorism

operations, led by regional forces, with a Security Council mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. On the way forward, the Chef de Cabinet noted three broad areas of focus: (i) local solutions with insights and support from local communities to better understand the drivers of terrorism; (ii) addressing the underlying conditions that can drive terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism (poverty, disenfranchisement, inequality, instability, violence and climate disasters); and (iii) embedding human rights and the rule of law across all counter-terrorism policies.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov provided an update on the work and progress made in PCVE over the past few years through the Counter-Terrorism Compact PCVE Working Group; underscored that terrorist groups have increasingly engaged with transnational organized crime to diversify their revenue streams, which is further contributing to instability in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond; and stressed that A New Agenda for Peace provides an opportunity to articulate a new, unifying global response for prevention and peacebuilding, as well as reforge commitment to the United Nations Charter and multilateral solutions for peace and security.

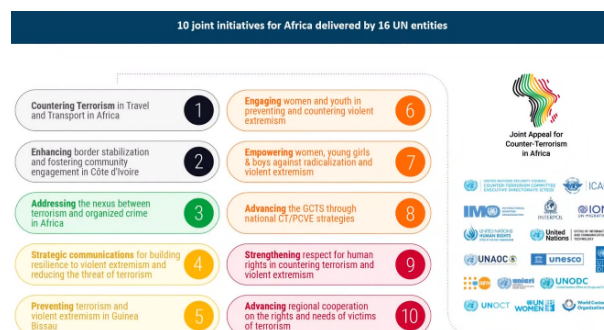
The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Achim Steiner, presented the main findings and recommendations from [UNDP's latest studies on the African continent](#), highlighting the importance of collectively addressing the root causes of violent extremism and strengthening good governance at local levels with community leaders, faith-based actors, youth and women peacebuilders, for maximum sustained impact.

The members of the High-level Action Group emphasized that securitized responses have proven insufficient at best or counter-productive at worst, unless accompanied by holistic preventive engagement, and identified as a key priority moving forward a strategic investment in the African youth demographic population, including more investment in community resilience to mitigate individual radicalization to terrorism, effectively mainstreaming gender in analysis and responses, and include human rights protection as a fundamental element of PCVE. The members of the High-level Action Group recommended greater investment in basic services including education; quality livelihoods; investing in young men and women; fostering intercultural dialogue, communication, and culture; as well as scaling-up exit opportunities and investment in rehabilitation and community-based reintegration services. They also noted the importance of prevention as a shared priority, as well as the role played by the Counter-Terrorism Compact as a dynamic body for cooperation based on different mandates.



During the reporting period, and through the **Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation**, the [UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa](https://www.jointappeal.org) (Joint Appeal – www.jointappeal.org), was launched in June on the margins of the Third CT Week in partnership with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Morocco, Tunisia, and Nigeria. The Joint Appeal seeks to steer and incentivize strategic joint United Nations system action for a more visible, transparent, and effective multilateral contribution to the GCTS in Africa, bringing together 16 Counter-Terrorism Compact

entities behind ten strategic multi-partner flagship initiatives across the continent.



In addition, the working group also launched a [“Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism \(CT/PCVE\)”](#) – a joint European Union-United Nations publication which has been developed to support programme managers, evaluators, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) experts in effectively measuring and evaluating the results of CT/PCVE initiatives.

To further strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism collaboration across international, regional, national and local levels, the mutually reinforcing **partnership between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the GCTF** continued to evolve throughout 2023, including in implementing the [joint options paper](#) adopted in 2022 on “Strengthening Cooperation between the Working Groups of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact”. This included the participation in the GCTF high-level meetings including the [21st](#) GCTF Coordinating Committee meeting (4 May in Cairo); the [22nd](#) GCTF Coordinating Committee meeting (18 September in New York), and the [13th GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting](#) (20 September in New York). The Counter-Terrorism Compact and the GCTF jointly convened the [ninth](#) and [tenth](#) Counter-Terrorism Compact-GCTF Partnership Consultations (21 March and 12 October respectively), aimed at enhancing co-operation between respective working groups on issues such as tackling the terrorist exploitation of

new and emerging technologies, vulnerable targets protection, gender mainstreaming, and unlocking the potential of behavioural insights.



The Partnership Consultations emphasized the need to continue advancing the implementation of the 2022 joint options paper, including through joint work on (i) border security management; (ii) protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets; (iii) terrorist exploitation of new and emerging technologies; and (iv) increasing cooperation with regional organizations, civil society, victims of terrorism, academia, and the private sector.

The **Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism** concluded the seed-funded joint initiative on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons including promoting, through regional workshops, the *Technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) and related international standards and good practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons*, launched in March 2022. The working group also initiated discussions on the threats posed by the use of UAS for terrorist purposes, including by supporting the development of the non-binding “Abu Dhabi guiding principles” adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee in December 2023 as a follow-up to its 2022 Delhi Declaration.

The **Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Supporting Victims of Terrorism** continued to provide support and guidance to Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups and entities in

ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in their counter-terrorism efforts and activities, including strengthening its work on protecting civic space and addressing cases of intimidation and reprisals in the context of counter-terrorism, providing a platform for civil society organizations to discuss issues of concerns with members. Additionally, pursuant to the seventh review of the GCTS (A/RES/75/291, OP98), the working group produced a matrix of counter-terrorism related recommendations of United Nations human rights mechanisms for two pilot regions – the Sahel and Central Asia.

On the **rights of victims of terrorism**, the working group supported activities such as the sixth commemoration of the [International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#) on 21 August; the launch of the [Legacy Project](#), an Instagram gallery hosted by UNOCT where victims and survivors of terrorism share their transformational journeys; the fourth ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism on the margins of the 78th General Assembly session on 20 September; and the dedication of the [Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree](#) in the gardens of the UN Headquarters during the Third CT Week in June 2023.



In line with the Counter-Terrorism Compact-GCTF options paper, the **Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** invited the GCTF Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group to deliver a dedicated presentation and explore synergies between respective working groups; and jointly developed with the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Supporting Victims of Terrorism an initial draft

guidance document on “Ensuring respect for human rights while taking measures to counter the financing of terrorism”, which was shared with all Counter-Terrorism Compact entities for feedback.

To support gender mainstreaming throughout the Counter-Terrorism Compact, the **Working Group on Adopting a Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism** delivered briefings on gender-related issues to other working groups and organized a dialogue between representatives of civil society organizations and Member States to strengthen the voices and participation of women in the eighth review of the GCTS. The Gender Working Group also initiated work around the development of a gender and human rights benchmark guidance tool for the Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups work plans and activities.

Strategic Initiatives

Several initiatives were undertaken in 2023 under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Compact to provide strategic leadership for UN counter-terrorism efforts, including:

- The [first Commemoration of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism](#) held on 13 February, in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution [77/243](#). The Working Group on PCVE held a special meeting in commemoration of the International PVE Day, highlighting joint UN initiatives in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, the integration of the rule of law, human rights and gender as cross-cutting elements in PCVE interventions, and exploring opportunities on how the United Nations system could further enhance collaboration with civil society organizations.



- Furthermore, UNOCT organized a [virtual roundtable on the power of sport to prevent violent extremism](#), including the launch of the “[Power of the Pitch](#)” podcast series that examines how behavioural insights (BI) are being applied to sports and when addressing violent extremism factors that may be conducive to terrorism.



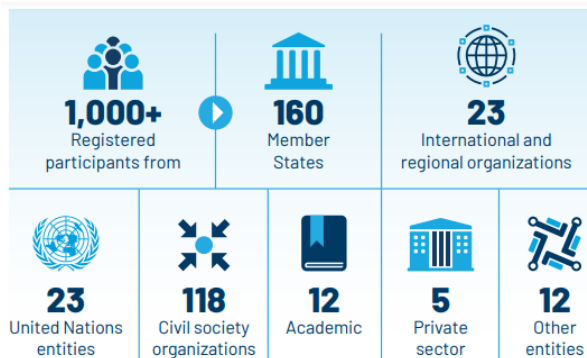
- The [Third CT Week](#) held from 19 to 23 June at the UN Headquarters in New York. It comprised the Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States on 19-20 June organized under the theme of “Addressing Terrorism Through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation”; the debate and successful adoption by the General Assembly of the eighth review resolution on the GCTS on 22 June (A/RES/77/298); and the delivery of 40 side events co-organized by 95 stakeholders (including 18 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities) from all geographical regions and covering a diverse array of CT and PCVE related issues to foster common ground. The High-Level Conference demonstrated the convening power of the United Nations to bring



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the world together, and generated high interest across all its four thematic sessions demonstrating that counter-terrorism remains a shared priority.



- It featured 58 experts, chairs, and panelists, ten eminent speakers, ten youth and civil society voices, 85 interventions from the floor, including 11 ministers and vice-ministers, and over 50 heads of counter-terrorism/intelligence agencies.

Box 5: Engagement of the Counter-Terrorism Compact during the Third CT Week and the eighth review process of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

During the Third CT Week, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities were actively engaged and co-organized 34 out of 40 side events to further enhance international and regional cooperation to address the terrorist threat, under the following themes:

- Acquisition, weaponization, and deployment of UAS;
- Aviation security;
- Best practices to address threat and enhance regional cooperation in Africa;
- Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Countering Violent Extremism;
- Countering the financing of terrorism;
- Countering terrorist travel;
- Gender mainstreaming to more effectively counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

- Global Study on the Impact of Counter-Terrorism on Civil Society and Civic Space;
- Inclusion of civil society engagement in counter-terrorism efforts;
- Institutional cooperation;
- New and emerging technologies, including generative artificial intelligence;
- Preventing violent extremism;
- Promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT);
- Screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of persons;
- Strengthening cooperation to enhance terrorism responses in Africa; and
- UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa.



On 22 June, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, jointly with the African Union and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held a [side event](#) on “Addressing the Evolving Terrorist Threat by Strengthening Cooperation between the United Nation Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and Regional Organizations.” The event provided an opportunity to reflect on ways to enhance and strengthen cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and regional organizations, discuss main current challenges and priorities for joint engagement, and stimulate institutional cooperation within and between Member States.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov reiterated the importance of enhancing the preventive approach based on regional early warning mechanisms as well as cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations and regional organizations, and noted that “now more than ever, the effectiveness of the United Nations rests on a deeper and more robust cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations.” The OIC commended the Counter-Terrorism Compact’s valuable role in supporting Member States implementation of the GCTS while facilitating coordination and coherence; highlighted their intention to establish stronger cooperation with global and regional partners; and informed that the OIC was the first inter-governmental organization to unanimously adopt an agreed definition of terrorism and a comprehensive policy to counter-terrorism, which includes measures targeting organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption, money laundering and human trafficking. The African Union highlighted the engagement between Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti as an example of regional cooperation to defeat Al-Shabaab, as well as the work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as another example of coordinated efforts to address terrorism together with the United Nations and the Federal Government of Somalia.

The summary of all events held on the margins of the Third CT Week is available in the [2023 Counter-Terrorism Week Visibility Report](#).



- The Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat held different briefings to Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to contribute to the eighth review process of the GCTS:
 - A [virtual expert-level briefing to Member States](#), held on 17 March, aimed at showcasing the central role of the Counter-Terrorism Compact in support of Member States’ balanced and integrated implementation of the GCTS. Chairs of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups also presented their priorities related to the eighth review of the GCTS, such as human rights and gender mainstreaming.



- Following the adoption of the eighth GCTS review resolution, a briefing with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities was held on 11 October to provide an overview of the review process and brief on technical updates and other developments, including specific language referring to the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

- Counter-Terrorism Compact expert-level events aimed at enhancing further cooperation with Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society at:
 - An online briefing with the Global Center on Cooperative Security to discuss its “**Scoping Project on Independent Civil Society – UN Counterterrorism Engagement**” (26 July); and
 - The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets

briefing in collaboration with the GCTF and the United States on the “**GCTF Antalya Memorandum on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context: Key Areas of Interest Six Years after its Adoption**” (5 September).

- The preparation of the Secretary-General’s [16th](#) and [17th](#) reports on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.

C. Capacity-building support to Member States

One of the key objectives of the Counter-Terrorism Compact is to improve joint planning, prioritization, monitoring and evaluation of technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States. Specific progress achieved in 2023 in this regard, under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation (RMME), includes:

- Technical assessment recommendations and country assessment visit reports of CTED, on behalf of the CTC, were monitored, updated, and made available through the Platform to all Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to inform the development and provision of capacity-building support, in line with Security Council resolutions 2395 (2017) and 2617 (2021).
- The application to facilitate mapping of existing CT/PCVE activities across the United Nations system at the global, regional, sub-regional, and national levels – a “Project Matrix” was further enhanced. The “Project Matrix” consists of (i) a data management application where focal points can input information regarding their entity’s projects; and (ii) a Power BI report, where users can access that information through interactive

visualizations. The database currently includes information on 440 projects from 11 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and is accessible on the Platform to Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and Member States through a dashboard.

- Increased information exchange and interaction through the Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups has translated into a growing number of joint projects and activities. During the reporting period, the Counter-Terrorism Compact served as a forum to coordinate information sharing, and contributions and discussions on multi-agency capacity-building initiatives, including:
- The implementation of the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme), led by UNOCT together with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), and INTERPOL, to assist Member States in building their capabilities to detect and counter terrorists and serious criminals. The CT Travel Programme continued to attract interest from Member States with nine new beneficiaries joining in the current reporting period, with a total of 69 Member States having officially joined the Programme. A major milestone achieved in 2023 was the establishment and inauguration of Passenger Information Units (PIUs) in four beneficiary Member States: Azerbaijan, Botswana, Mongolia, and Norway. In addition, Botswana and Norway went live with the United Nations-owned goTravel software solution and now have the operational and technical capabilities to collect and analyze passenger data. The CT Travel Programme also enabled the pre-production of the software and deployment in a testing environment for ten beneficiaries: Azerbaijan, Cote d’Ivoire, Georgia, Luxembourg, Moldova, Namibia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, and CARICOM on behalf of its 15 Member States; and provided technical support and expertise to

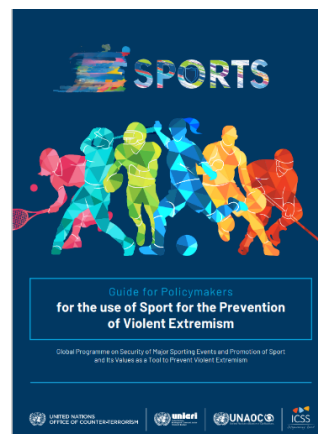
deploy and install the goTravel software solution. In 2023, a [mid-term independent joint evaluation](#) of the CT Travel Programme was commissioned and managed jointly by UNOCT and UNODC, highlighting (i) progress achieved since 2019; and (ii) recommendations to improve implementation and attainment of programme objectives.



- The further implementation of the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR), led by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) in UNOCT, in close cooperation with UNODC and CTED.
- Under the CT TECH Initiative, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, experts from private sector, civil society, academia, and other international and regional organizations collaborated to develop [seven CT TECH knowledge products](#) to (i) lead to more effective national counter-terrorism policy responses towards the challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies, as well as (ii) increasing law enforcement and criminal justice operational capacities to counter the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes and leverage the use of new technologies to prevent and counter terrorism, respecting inter-national human rights law and the rule of law.



- The Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, with support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Centre for Sport Security, launched a [Guide for Policymakers for the Use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism](#).



- The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, led by UNOCT in cooperation with CTED, UNICRI and UNAOC and in close consultation with INTERPOL, produced six new technical tools, expanded its Global Network of Experts to over 200 experts, provided tailored technical assistance for the development of national action plans or roadmaps, operationalized re-recommendations in Indonesia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Togo and Tunisia, and launched several new initiatives, such as safeguarding religious sites and protecting tourism and cultural sites. The Global Programme also developed a Training Curriculum on Vulnerable Targets Protection for Trainers (available in English and French) and conducted an online three-day training course (11-13 December) which strengthened the capacities of 40 experts globally to better understand how to effectively apply human rights and international humanitarian law considerations in the context of the protection of vulnerable targets.



- The United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (“TAM Programme”), in collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), organized a regional workshop from 3-5 October for national government personnel responsible for aviation security and CT from eight Member States in West Africa: Benin, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. It included foundational materials on interagency cooperation and hosted interactive discussions on current practices for applying threat assessments to aviation security risk management practices. Additionally, in July, the Philippines became the second Member State to complete the TAM Programme (after Botswana in 2022) with the completion of its new national coordination framework for aviation security threat assessments; in September, the Kingdom of Morocco completed a joint case study showcasing the Government’s approach to national coordination on threats to civil aviation, which has since been promoted as a best practice with other beneficiaries; in October Nigeria finished remaining activities to institutionalize interagency cooperation to address threats to aviation, and, in December, Viet Nam also completed the TAM Programme.



Joint projects seed-funded by UNOCT to incentivize ‘all-of-UN’ efforts remained an important aspect of the collaborative efforts undertaken through the Counter-Terrorism Compact in 2023. Working groups completed three projects on the gender dimensions of counter-terrorism, interagency coordinated communication in case of chemical and/or biological attacks, and good practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, and continued their collaboration on four other projects.

Box 6: Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group projects seed-funded by UNOCT

Key results from Completed Projects

- **BMLE WG:** Development of Guidelines for Member States to Facilitate the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2370 and the Relevant International Standards and Good Practices [CTED-UNOCT-United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)]-collected expertise and good practices through a series of regional workshops to produce guidelines aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons and improve the capacity of Member States.

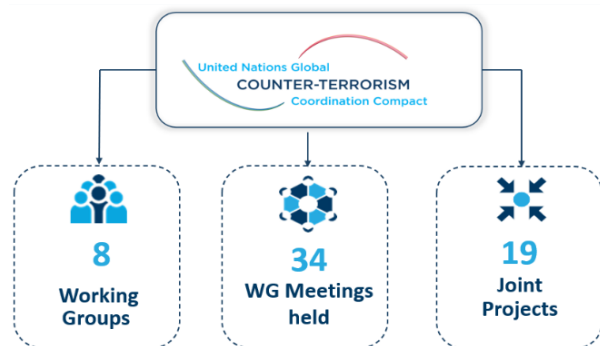
- **ETCIP WG:** Ensuring Effective Interagency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks Phase III [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-UNOCT] – strengthened international cooperation and effective communication in the event of a chemical or biological attack.
- **Gender WG:** As a result of completing advocacy and knowledge exchange workshops in Uzbekistan in 2022, under the Promoting the implementation of UN Guidelines of Gender-sensitive approaches to Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration [UNODC-UN Women-CTED-UNOCT], a final report was produced in 2023, outlining country- and regional specific challenges and strategies to support gender integration in policy frameworks, processes, and measures related to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration in line with international obligations and UN guidelines.

Ongoing Projects

- **PCVE WG:** Unpacking the Nexus: prevention of violent extremism, hate speech and hate crime [Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-UNOCT]
- **CJLR-CFT WG:** Developing a Compendium of Existing Good Practices on Data Protection Rules to Facilitate International Cooperation in CT [UNODC-CTED]
- **NARS WG:** Enhancing regional Counter-Terrorism Cooperation [UNOCT-CTED]
- **HRRoL-VoT WG:** Human Rights aspects of the use of artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)-UNOCT-UNICRI]

Progress in the Work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups

The eight thematic working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact progressed in the implementation of their work plans, including by convening 34 meetings in 2023, comprising regular quarterly meetings and discussion on specific topics, to facilitate information flow on initiatives and best practices, joint research, and capacity-building.



The working groups also made additional efforts to ensure the participation of Member States and civil society representatives in their meetings, as well as representatives from UN entities in the field, in line with the expectation set out in the seventh and eight review resolutions of the GCTS.

Throughout 2023, working groups activities entailed different levels of complexity and efforts, such as the organization of coordination meetings, implementing joint working group projects, and high-level side events during the Third CT Week. The working groups facilitated both dedicated and in-depth thematic briefings on the eighth GCTS review, on identifying areas for collaboration to address emerging threats in Africa, and on CTED's technical assistance needs and recommendations. The working groups also discussed pressing challenges such as countering the financing of terrorism, countering terrorist travel, maritime and aviation security, safeguarding vulnerable targets, and terrorism-related risks related to SALW, UAS, CBRN, and new technologies such as AI.

Furthermore, the working groups examined how some counter-terrorism measures have affected civil society and civic space, as well as how to better support Member States in conducting counter-terrorism efforts in line with international law; explored gender aspects of CT/PCVE and how to support Member States in addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls in those contexts; emphasized the need to support victims of terrorism and ensure that their needs are met and their rights upheld; and discussed monitoring and evaluation tools and needs.

The working groups also drafted technical guidelines; provided support and guidance to Member States and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities in ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in their counter-terrorism efforts; mainstreamed gender throughout the Counter-Terrorism Compact; and updated repositories of data.

Conclusion

The Counter-Terrorism Compact made steady progress throughout 2023 in enhancing coherence and coordination to support Member States' efforts in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in line with the GCTS and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The working groups also made good progress in implementing their corresponding work plans.

Collaboration between Counter-Terrorism Compact entities grew stronger in 2023. The support provided by UNOCT, through the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat, as well as the operationalization and continuous enhancement of the Platform, was key to ensuring and strengthening smooth and solid collaboration online. Continued commitment and shared ownership among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, as well as the leadership of working groups' chairs were instrumental in advancing the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

Key Priorities for 2024

Member States, as beneficiaries of, and donors to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, play a central role in determining the priorities for the Counter-Terrorism Compact and incentivizing progress in coherence and coordination.

With this in mind, and building on the important priorities outlined during the Third CT Week, the eighth GCTS review resolution, and Coordination Committee recommendations, the Counter-Terrorism Compact developed the following strategic priorities of its Joint Programme of Work

for 2024-2026, in close consultation with Member States, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, regional organizations, civil society and academia:

- **Enhance coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts** in supporting Member States, through a strengthened common-action approach. This priority highlights interagency efforts, field engagements, maximizing synergies, avoiding duplication, and undertaking a comprehensive impact assessment.
- **Strengthen engagement with Member States**, aligned with the four pillars of the GCTS and national priorities of Member States. This will entail United Nations support in addressing Member States' counter-terrorism capacity gaps in collaboration with relevant entities, providing best practices, including on new technologies, countering the financing of terrorism, vulnerable targets protection, as well as implementing CTC and CTED assessments and recommendations.
- **Advance partnerships** between the Counter-Terrorism Compact, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, academia, and the private sector, including through field engagement, capacity-building, coordination, and supporting victims of terrorism.
- **Consolidate joint planning and resource mobilization** for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, including through sustainable capacity-building assistance, and sharing of knowledge and best practices.
- **Ensure the mainstreaming of gender, human rights, and the rule of law** in CT/PCVE, including through gender analysis, engaging with Member States on their gender integration, and integrating relevant stakeholders in human rights and rule of law-based initiatives.

In furtherance of the above priorities, the Counter-Terrorism Compact will continue working to address emerging threats and frontier issues to stay ahead of the curve in preventing and countering terrorism, ensuring mainstreaming of gender and human rights, including the delivery of technical assistance rooted in the rule of law. To achieve this goal, additional seed funding for the eight thematic working groups would support the continuation of existing initiatives,

as well as the development of new thematic and operational multi-agency capacity-building projects.

Additionally, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat will also continue to re-tool its Platform to allow for greater effectiveness of joint efforts, as well as increase transparency and visibility of United Nations' counter-terrorism work to better support Member States.

[Click here for the Annexes](#)



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

For more information:

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