



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Mauro Miedico  
Officer-in-Charge,  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Quarterly Briefing to Member States**

**2 July 2024**

**10:00 AM-12:30 PM, Conference Room 3, UNHQ**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the second briefing by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to Member States this year.

I am pleased to be joined here today by Mr. Syndoph Paebi Endoni, Chargé d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, Colonel Mumbi Mulenga, Coordinator of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Counter-Terrorism Center, and Mr. Eldor Aripov, Director of the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I would like to thank them for their availability.

I also welcome Mr. Weixiong Chen, Deputy Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and other senior United Nations officials and colleagues joining today’s briefing.

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

Despite continuous counter-terrorism efforts, Al-Qaida, Da’esh, and their affiliates continue to pose a significant threat to international peace and security, especially in conflict zones. Member States continue to make progress in countering these groups, including by inflicting leadership losses, and degrading their capacities and financing.

However, the risk of resurgence of Da'esh core remains, and its affiliates have retained the capacity to undertake large-scale attacks, as demonstrated by the regretful events in various parts of the world in the past months.

The situation in West Africa and the Sahel remains of significant concern, with increased civilian casualties and continued instability caused by the presence and activities of terrorist groups.

Enhanced international counter-terrorism cooperation is crucial to tackle these threats. In this regard, UNOCT has continued close engagement with Member States, regional organizations, and other key partners to support their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

I especially want to highlight the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting organized by the Federal Government of Nigeria in Abuja on 22-23 April, with the support of UNOCT. It gathered over 350 participants to exchange views on the threat landscape, lessons learned and best practices in preventing and countering terrorism, enhancing regional capacities, and strengthening cooperation between international partners and African Member States.

I am also pleased to inform that the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones held its first meeting on 14 May in Tashkent. This meeting was organized by the Government of Uzbekistan, UNOCT, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Council provides a unique platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned by Central Asian countries on repatriating their nationals from conflict zones.

On 4-5 June, the Kingdom of Morocco and UNOCT co-organized the third High-Level Event of African Counter-Terrorism and Security Agency Heads, known as the Marrakech Platform, in Fez. Representatives from 54 African Member States, international partners and regional organizations discussed the evolving field of intelligence analysis in counter-terrorism.

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact has continued to foster closer coordination and coherence across the UN System and expanded its membership to 47. UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, will add great value to the work of the Compact, particularly on issues related to countering the financing of terrorism and protecting vulnerable targets through strengthening the role of cities and urban development.

In April, as part of our efforts to further foster cooperation with civil society organizations, the Compact organized a joint briefing with the Global Center on Cooperative Security and Rights and Security International. The briefing discussed the outcomes of their Scoping Study on Independent Civil Society-UN Counterterrorism Engagement, which explored ways to strengthen cooperation between civil society and the UN, and which was presented to the UN membership in May.

We also recognize the role of innovation and technology in the implementation of our mandate. I am pleased to note in this regard that the UNOCT "Connect & Learn" e-learning platform, launched with support from the UN International Computing Centre, won the "Learning Platform of the Year" award at the Learning Awards 2024 by the Learning and Performance Institute.

UNOCT is also committed to strengthening its partnerships and collaborative efforts. To this end, we continue to work hand-in-hand with CTED, who are contributing actively to several UNOCT Global Programmes to lead capacity-consultations that pave the way for technical assistance, such as on countering terrorist travel in Gabon and protecting vulnerable targets in Mauritania and Côte d'Ivoire.

CTED is also closely engaged with the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility implemented by UNOCT, which is providing technical assistance, based on CTED's analysis and recommendations, to Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Tajikistan, Togo and Uganda.

I am pleased to note also that CTED has joined the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the newly established programme management team for our Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems, and will lead the first capacity consultations under the AROS programme next month in Senegal.

Furthermore, UNOCT was welcomed as the newest member of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) in recognition of our activities in 154 countries aimed at supporting the achievement of the SDGs 2030, with a particular focus on SDG 16. This landmark development enables now UNOCT to be part of the "new generation of United Nations Country Teams." This reflects the importance of field engagement expressed by Member States in the review resolutions of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

UNOCT continued its efforts to mainstream human rights and gender considerations into policy and programmatic work, by strengthening the implementation of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in support provided to non-UN security forces.

UNOCT also provided technical assistance to Member States on human rights in counter-terrorism and launched its Global Gender Programme. It seeks to further strengthen the Office's internal capacities to mainstream gender, while also providing direct technical assistance to Member States, and supporting the capacities of and engagement with civil society organizations.

Lastly, Spain and UNOCT will co-host the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism in the city Vitoria-Gasteiz, on 8-9 October 2024. As a follow-up to the 2022 UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, this ministerial conference will gather Member States, experts, practitioners, and victims to discuss the role of education in supporting the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism.

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank our 42 funding partners for their generous support that enables the Office to function. Going forward, we will strive to build even stronger partnerships to secure increased investment in UNOCT's work. This will ensure the necessary predictable and sustainable funding to effectively respond to the needs of our beneficiaries and fulfill our mandate.

Thank you.