



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



19-23 JUNE

2023 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

VISIBILITY REPORT

“Terrorism has cast its shadow over too many lives, in too many communities, for far too long. In the names of all those who have suffered and continue to suffer, and in the names of all victims and survivors, let’s intensify our work to create a future without terrorism.”

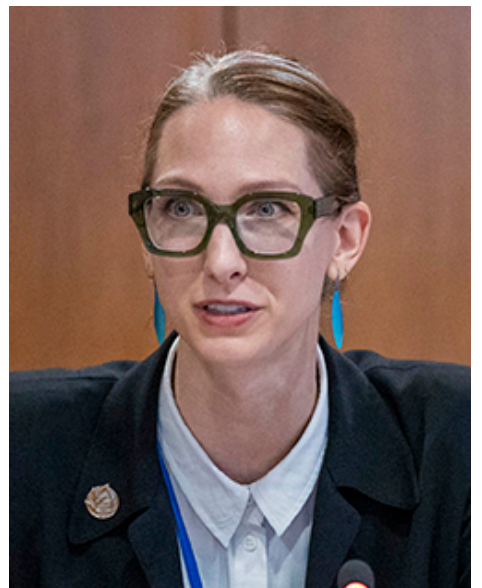
Mr. António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

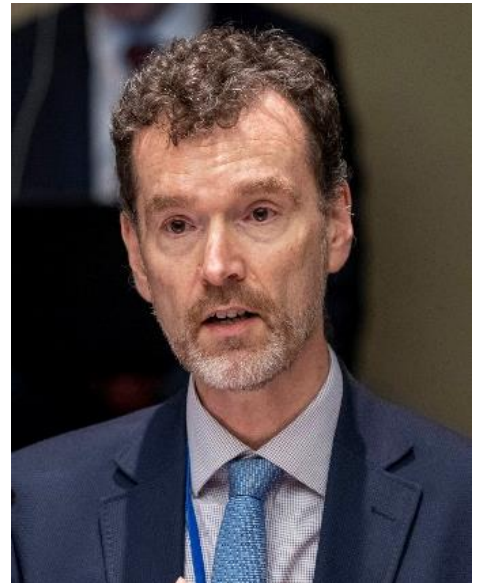
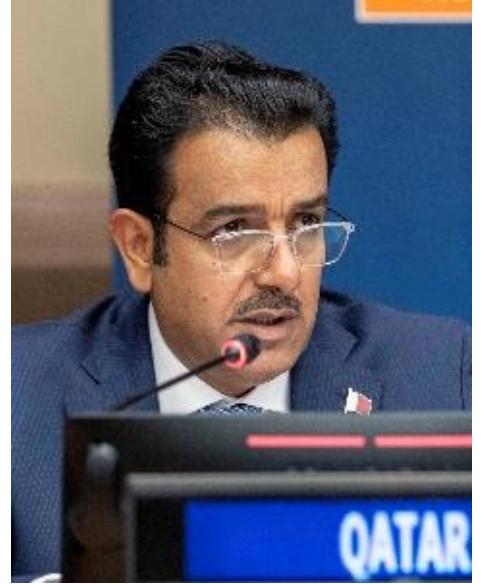












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Abbreviations

ACSRT	African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism
AI	Artificial intelligence
AILCT	International Franco-Ivorian Academy for Combating Terrorism/ Académie Internationale de Lutte contre le Terrorisme
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
API	Advance Passenger Information
AROS	Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
AU	African Union
BI Academy	Behavioural Insights Academy
BI Hub	UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, Qatar
CAR	Conflict Armament Research
CCCPA	Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEP	Counter Extremism Project
CFT	Countering the financing of terrorism
CICTE	Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
Counter-Terrorism Compact	UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact
CPC	Community prevention centre
CPN-Prev	Canadian Practitioners' network for the prevention of violent radicalization and extremist violence
CSO	Civil society organization
CT Travel	Countering Terrorist Travel Programme
CT Week	Counter-Terrorism Week
CT/PCVE	Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Abbreviations	
CTC	Counter-Terrorism Committee
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
ECNL	European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stitching
EGRN	Extremism and Gaming Research Network
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIFPRO	Fédération Internationale des Associations de Footballeurs Professionnels
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FTFs	Foreign terrorist fighters
GAFILAT	Financial Action Task Force of Latin America
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GCTS	Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
GIFCT	Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism
Global Center	Global Center on Cooperative Security
HBKU	Hamad Bin Khalifa University
HUMINT	Human intelligence
IAP	International Association of Prosecutors
ICAN	International Civil Society Action Network
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICSS	International Centre for Sport and Security
ICT	Information and communications technology
IED	Improvised explosive device
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace

Abbreviations	
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ISWAP	Islamic State in West Africa Province
Joint Appeal	United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa
JNIM	Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
OICT	Office of Information and Communication Technology
OPHC	Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes of New York City
ORF	Observer Research Foundation
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PIU	Passenger Information Unit
PREP	Peace, resilience, equality and pluralism
PRR	Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration
Rabat Programme Office	UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa
RAPS	Recherches et Actions sur les Polarisation Sociales of the McGill University
RMME WG	Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
RSI	Rights & Security International
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute

Abbreviations	
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SCO RATS	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SPRR	Screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration
SR HR&CT	UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
STOCTI	Specialized Training Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism Investigations
TOWs	Terrorist-operated websites
TPB	Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UN OSAPG	United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITAD	Investigate Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Abbreviations

UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USG	Under-Secretary-General
VEPs	Violent extremist prisoners
WASL	Women's Alliance for Security Leadership
WHO	World Health Organization
WIIS-HoA	Women in International Security - Horn of Africa
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
XRIRB	Xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief
YEPP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive Summary

The Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States (HLC) was convened by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres under the theme of “Addressing Terrorism Through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation,” on 19 - 20 June 2023, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The HLC was one of the three components of UNOCT’s signature event in 2023, the Third Counter-Terrorism Week (CT Week). Held from 19 - 23 June, CT Week also comprised the debate and successful adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the eighth review resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) on 22 June (A/RES/77/298). *The adoption of the GCTS review resolution by the GA without a vote preserved consensus behind the Strategy.* This continued a tradition of consensus adoption dating back to the General Assembly’s adoption of the first Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006. The resolution addressed significant developments over the past two years in implementation of the Strategy,

The third component of CT week featured the delivery by UNOCT of 40 side events co-organized with 95 stakeholders from all geographical regions and covering a diverse array of CT and PCVE issues, ranging from human rights, to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals associated with terrorism, to new technologies, engagement of civil society, initiatives in some regions of Africa, gender mainstreaming, and other related global CT initiatives. The side-events also saw the launch of the ‘Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa,’ and knowledge products on new technologies and human rights. In addition, a dedication ceremony for the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree was held by UNOCT/UNCCT, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism on 19 June.

The HLC demonstrated the convening power of the United Nations to bring the world together. UNOCT welcomed over 1,000 in-person participants from 160 Member States, 23 international and regional organizations, 23 United Nations entities, 118 civil society organizations, as well as 12 academic and 5 private sector companies. The official reception, co-hosted by the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and the

UNOCT Under-Secretary-General, on the opening evening of 19 June drew over 350 participants, featured remarks of the Secretary-General delivered by his Chef de Cabinet, and provided good visibility for both UNOCT and its key contributor, the State of Qatar.

The keynote address by Secretary-General Guterres and his call for global unity, with a focus on prevention and addressing the factors that help the spread of terrorism, was echoed by several speakers, including expressions of support for A New Agenda for Peace.

Throughout the Conference, there was a palpable energy among participants who strongly supported the call for a *reinvigorated multilateralism in counter-terrorism*. Many participants welcomed the opportunities provided for networking and partnership building through the coming together of the global CT community under the umbrella of the HLC. *Under-Secretary Voronkov in his Summary Conclusions delivered in the Closing Session, underlined the imperative of converting this appeal for a “reinvigorated multilateralism,” into practical plans to achieve this vision.*

The HLC also generated high interest across all four of its thematic sessions, showing that counter-terrorism remains a shared priority among stakeholders and the international community. The inclusion of female returnees, youth and civil society voices, efforts to ensure gender and geographical balance on panels, and pre-Conference consultations with civil society on key Conference documents were well received as part of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to Conference preparations and outcomes. Indeed, the event featured 58 diverse and expert chairs and panelists, 10 eminent speakers, 10 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.

Conference discussions also focused on the practical implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) in line with Member States' priorities, including resilience, building institutions that are fit for purpose, good governance, repatriation, and inclusion, especially on the imperative of human rights, gender equality, youth and civil society engagement, and 'whole-of-society' responses.

Dialogue was also centered on how to better respond to the developing terrorist threat landscape, enhancing action-oriented collaboration, and how to address, through horizontal cross-fertilization, the underlying conditions that can lead to terrorism, including concurrent and converging threats, such as climate change, armed conflict, organized crime, as well as regulatory challenges in cyberspace and the uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HLC also underlined the importance of effective law enforcement mechanisms, implementation of regional counter-terrorism strategies, and the need to continue strengthening the work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Participants emphasized the need to give new impetus and strategic direction to stem the spread of terrorism in the Sahel and other parts of the continent and welcomed the African Counter-Terrorism Summit to be held under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of Nigeria in 2024.

The broad participation and strong engagement in the HLC by a diverse range of participants and decision-makers from Member States, UN Global Compact entities, regional and international organizations, civil society, organizations, human rights actors, and private and academic stakeholders, demonstrated the importance of a reinvigorated and networked multilateralism in addressing the global counter-terrorist threat.

The United Nations will continue to take the lead to leverage and convert the political support, impetus and momentum generated by CT Week on global CT cooperation into more practical, innovative, multi-faceted, inclusive, and coordinated actions.

“Counter-Terrorism Week represents an opportunity for us to synchronize our counter-terrorism watches. It is an opportunity to review the terrorist threat landscape, and to reinvigorate our enduring commitment to effective multilateral cooperation.”

“The magnitude, complexities and evolving nature of terrorism require a robust and coordinated regional and international response.”

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Summary of the High Level Opening Session

“You are at the forefront of a great global effort. Terrorism affects every region of the world: it preys on local and national vulnerabilities, and the instability of political, economic and security systems [...] when it comes to combating terrorism, we must stand as one against this global threat.”

Mr. António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Introductory Remarks

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), noted that CT Week represented an important opportunity to review the terrorist threat landscape and reinvigorate the commitment to multilateral cooperation to address this threat. Adding that complex dimensions to the threat have risen from new technologies, exploitation of cyberspace, and manipulation of social media platforms, he underlined that the magnitude, complexities and evolving nature of terrorism require a robust and coordinated regional and international response. He also underlined that good governance, rule of law, equality and full realization of human rights are central to effective and sustainable counter-terrorism responses, and observed that promoting inclusive participation of various stakeholders and protecting open and safe civic spaces are fundamental to building trust between institutions and people. Mr. Voronkov added that this approach would help lay the foundation for the new and more equitable social contract called for in ‘Our Common Agenda’. He thanked Canada and Tunisia for their efforts to facilitate a new consensus resolution on the 8th review of the Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). Mr. Voronkov underlined that the key word for the GCTS review process was consensus.

Keynote Speakers

Mr. António Guterres,

Secretary-General of the United Nations, noted that terrorism continues to affect every region of the world, pointing to its links with organized crime, and complex crises. He said that *“when it comes to combatting terrorism, we must stand as one against this global threat, ... and that preventing terrorism is not just foiling attacks but addressing the factors that help its spread – poverty, discrimination, disaffection, weak infrastructure and institutions, and gross violations of human rights.* He noted that despite significant gains, terrorism and violent extremism continue to take root and grow. The Secretary-General highlighted the provision of support to Member States through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and highlighted four areas of focus going forward: (i) the GCTS as a central tool, noting that he was looking forward to the adoption by the General Assembly of a consensus resolution later in the week; (ii) prevention as the most effective approach, highlighting in this regard, *A New Agenda for Peace*; (iii) promotion of human rights; and (iv) the need for sufficient resources to meet this common challenge. He called for a new generation of robust peace enforcement missions and counter-terrorism (CT) operations led by the African Union with a Security Council mandate under Chapter VII, and said that he looked forward to co-hosting the African Counter-Terrorism Summit with Nigeria.

Mr. Csaba Kőrösi,

President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, stressed the existence of cascading crises which was eroding confidence in multilateralism. He underlined that terrorism and violent extremism are major challenges, and noted that while multilateralism is the only answer, it must work better. Mr. Kőrösi warned that *“if we cannot work together the terrorists will win,”* and called on Member States to come up with collective, multifaceted, innovative, agile and integrated approaches to address the terrorist threat, which he noted has no respect for international law, norms and national borders; preys on underdevelopment, inequalities and marginalization; and, thrives in conflict-related fragility, where it can expand its influence and control.

Special Guests

Ms. Narmatova Dilnora and Ms. Siddikova Zukhrabonu,

Uzbek nationals, and a mother and daughter returnee, repatriated from the Al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria, provided moving testimonies of their experiences. They shared stories of how and why they had travelled to Syria; their traumatizing experiences in the camp where *“the reality was vastly different from the heaven that was promised, and where they were told they would live without worry.”* They described the conditions in the Al-Hol camp as a dire humanitarian situation where there was never enough food, water and medical care, with poverty, epidemic, fighting, bloodshed, and war prevalent, and children dying from diseases everywhere. *Life was a daily struggle for survival with fear and uncertainty everywhere.* In conversations with their peers from other countries who had been similarly lured to the camp, they learned that everyone regretted coming and harboured the same hope of returning to their home countries. They expressed gratitude for their repatriation and for the excellent care, support, tolerance, and training in life and job skills which they received from the Government of Uzbekistan. They welcomed the rehabilitation and reintegration support from the national authorities and their friends and family which they said had saved them from the “hellish torment” and created opportunities to live in peace and to build a future for themselves.

The presence and interventions of both returnees were well received by Conference participants and their courageous and moving testimonies acknowledged by several subsequent speakers.

Eminent Speakers

H.E. Mr. Albert Kan-Dapaah,

Minister of National Security, Ghana, noted that the theme of the opening session set the perfect tone to seek answers to the difficult question of addressing terrorism amid tensions stemming from the Ukraine-Russia conflict. He noted the evolving terrorist threat in sub-Saharan Africa, especially from the Sahel to the coastal States of the Gulf of Guinea and mentioned the Accra Initiative as a regional security mechanism to address this threat. He emphasized the need to find multilateral solutions and the importance of appropriate funding to finance counter-terrorism efforts across the

continent. The Minister stressed that UN peacekeeping missions have yet to reconfigure to the threat of terrorism in Africa, noting the efforts of Ghana in the Security Council in this regard.

Major General Nasser bin Said Al-Fheed Al-Hajiri,

Vice-Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of the State of Qatar, recalled that the State of Qatar is the largest contributor to UNOCT, with a USD 15 million annual financial contribution to the Office through 2026. In this regard, he highlighted the range of capacity building programmes his country supports, including the two UNOCT programme offices in Doha. Noting that it is only by collective action that we can meet the threat of terrorism and violent extremism, he underlined the increasing scope of Qatar's global cooperation with UNOCT, Member States, and the UN system. He alluded to the annual High Level Strategic Dialogue which his country holds with UNOCT, as well as to the success of the First Beneficiaries Forum of Technical Assistance, held in Doha in March 2022, aimed at assessing and strengthening the effectiveness of capacity building programmes. The Major General underscored that Qatar's national policy takes a global approach, and it attaches priority to peace and resolving conflicts, as well as development and protecting human rights and the rule of law in order to eradicate the deep seated causes of terrorism and violent extremism. Observing that international terrorism is always changing and that the international community must follow it closely to understand the modus operandi of terrorist groups, he underlined that the 3rd CT week is essential to exchanging information, to sharing best practices coordinating efforts to deal with the conflicts, threats and challenges we face. He expressed hope that the Conference would be an opportunity to bolster multilateralism and institutional cooperation in order to eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog,

Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, underlined the European Union's (EU) deep commitment to multilateralism. He quoted the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, who said in the Security Council a year ago that: *"In a globalized world, there is no 'far away'. Everything is close to everyone. A war or major security crisis in one region affects everyone."* He elaborated that these words are also true about the threat of terrorism, noting that the EU believes that international cooperation and effective multilateral institutions are key to addressing an evolving and geographically diffuse terrorist threat

worldwide. He stated that effective multilateralism and international cooperation are crucial, with the United Nations at its core. Mr. Skoog hoped that the 8th review of the GCTS would yield results as a concrete deliverable of enhanced multilateral counter-terrorism efforts. He highlighted three points for consideration going forward: (i) human rights, gender and international law; (ii) whole-of-society approaches and the need to address the conditions conducive to terrorism; and (iii) strengthened institutional framework, coordination, and governance.

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly,

Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), highlighted the role of the GCTS in guiding collective efforts, as well as the need to review and renew counter-terrorism responses. In this regard, she noted that responses need to be agile, to stay ahead of the threat while emphasizing, as lessons learned of decades of involvement, that achieving results requires collective and coordinated action. She welcomed the strong partnership with UNOCT and pointed to areas for further focus, including strengthening resilient societies and people; promotion of human rights; rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, and prevention as a future-proof investment.

H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna,

Ambassador, Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) Coordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, called for robust multilateral cooperation to address the terrorist threat, highlighting the 30th anniversary of the framework document for cooperation between the UN and OSCE. She pointed to several joint initiatives in this regard, including with UNOCT in areas such as API/PNR, foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) as well as the implementation of high-level conferences on counter-terrorism (Tashkent and Dushanbe), and called for further attention to address terrorism in digital spaces, the media and information literacy, particularly for youth, as well as violent misogyny. Ms. Kupchyna voiced strong support for cooperation with the Global Compact and regional actors. She also noted that, by definition, multilateralism is a force multiplier, which ensures a whole of government and whole of society approach to countering terrorism across borders.

Mr. Yousef Al-Dobeay,

Assistant-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), noted that counter-terrorism is a key objective of the OIC Charter, and affirmed the need to step up multilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism. He underscored the threat of terrorism based on xenophobia, racism, intolerance and hate speech, and pointed to the need to promote tolerance, diversity and peaceful coexistence in response. Mr. Al-Dobeay also highlighted terrorist activities online that target youth, stressing the need to invest in youth as a priority.

**Update on Negotiations of the Eighth Review of the United Nations
Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

H.E. Mr. Robert Rae

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator for the 8th GCTS review process, noted that given the current state of multilateralism and limited ability for certain parties to compromise, the level of ambition for this review was not particularly high. Accordingly, he noted that even reflecting substantive developments from the last two years has been a challenge. Mr. Rae added that the need for consensus was the basis of the discussions and this limited the ability to bring in new language on the changing threat landscape, particularly in conflict zones, including in the Sahel which he noted had already been referred to by many speakers in this Opening session. Mr. Rae was grateful to UNOCT for providing expert advice on the GCTS review, and stressed the value of including civil society organizations (CSOs) in the process.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Co-Facilitator for the 8th GCTS review process, noted the central role of the GCTS in multilateral responses to counter-terrorism, adding that consensus will send a clear message of Member States resolve to combat all forms of terrorism while upholding human rights and international law. He added that institutional cooperation is needed more than ever.

“Do not waste your life believing in the false narratives of terrorist organizations. The future is in the hands of our youth. Let’s unite around the creative ideas of peace and peaceful life on Earth.”

Ms. Siddikova Zukhrabonu

Young returnee from Al-Hol camp, northeastern Syria, in her address to HLC Conference participants

“Today, I stand before you as a woman deceived by the false ideas of terrorism. I was told that great rewards and blessings come from “Hijrat.” The promised paradise was not there. Our repatriation was a rescue from hell. On April 30, 2021, my family and I were born again. On this day, 93 women and children were returned from Syria, at the initiative of our President. People can be wrong. They may do wrong. They may be deceived. But no one deserves to stay in this hell: neither children nor adults. Please bring all our children and adults home.

Ms. Narmatova Dilnora

Female returnee from Al-Hol camp, northeastern Syria

Thematic Conference Sessions

SESSION I

Multistakeholder Engagement in Countering Terrorism while Ensuring Compliance
with Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, recalled that terrorism remains a grave threat to international peace, security and development as well as a challenge that knows no borders and requires a comprehensive and concerted response. She underlined that the international community's commitment to counter terrorism must be rooted in the adherence to the principles enshrined in international law, particularly international human rights law and the rule of law. Ambassador Al-Thani referred to Qatar's firm belief in the principles of multilateralism, cooperation, and dialogue as the cornerstones of effective counter-terrorism efforts, and noted Qatar's long-standing commitment to, and active role in global initiatives aimed at countering terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. She emphasized that, as shown by evidence, the path to terrorism and violent extremism is shaped by a lack of engagement, disregard for human rights and that terrorism also grows in conflict settings and deeply fractured or broken social contract environments. Ambassador Al-Thani underlined that multi-stakeholder engagement is crucial, including governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector. She concluded that effective and successful strategies that strike the delicate balance between human rights and security can only be achieved through inclusive and comprehensive approaches.

Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris,

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR, stressed that protecting human rights and upholding the rule of law is one of the vital pillars of counter-terrorism. She underlined that multilateralism and multistakeholder engagement must be grounded in human rights, not as a choice but as a necessity to address today's complex challenges. She recalled that as a core purpose of the UN, Member States have committed to engage in international cooperation to achieve universal respect for human rights, as reflected in Pillar IV of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which emphasizes the integration of human rights, rule of law and gender as cross-cutting elements. Ms. Brands Kehris underscored that a human rights-based approach to multilateralism encourages prevention, rather than response and reaction and recognizes the importance of addressing the socio-economic, political and human rights challenges that contribute to the rise of terrorism. She emphasized that multilateralism requires and thrives on dialogue and inclusive participation and pointed out that technologies and other innovative tools could be better leveraged to enhance active engagement that fosters open, safe and constructive discussions on counter-terrorism challenges, strategies and lessons learned. Ms. Brands Kehris underscored that inclusivity requires an enabling environment for civil society and the meaningful participation of civil society organizations and affected communities to ensure that strategies consider their diverse experiences, as well as feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement. She concluded that effective counter-terrorism measures are not only measured by their immediate impact but also their long-term sustainability and stressed that by grounding counter-terrorism efforts in human rights principles, the international community can ensure that such efforts remain true to its value, preserve the dignity of all individuals and contribute to the establishment of just and peaceful world.

Voices of Youth and Civil Society

Mr. Eelco Kessels,

Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security underlined that the most effective measures to advance peace and security are those anchored in meaningful cooperation between governments and civil society. Mr. Kessels emphasized that impactful and meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement requires an enabling environment for civil society's inclusive, meaningful, and sustainable engagement at all stages of counter-terrorism policies, programmes and processes, from diagnosing the

problem to designing, developing and implementing policy measures and community-centric programming, to evaluating their negative and positive impacts. He recalled that violations of human rights and the rule of law under the auspices of PVE and CT are widespread and well-known, mentioning that the lack of a universally agreed definition of terrorism allows broad application of counter-terrorism legislation, often to the detriment of the most vulnerable communities. He noted that the potential for abuse is greater and more complex with the widespread adoption of new and emerging technologies. Mr. Kessels stressed that many civil society organizations, particularly human rights defenders and women, have faced undue scrutiny and reprisals at home for having raised these issues in international forums, including the UN and that their work to address the underlying drivers of violent extremism and bolster communities' resilience frequently become instrumentalized and securitized. He viewed the CT week, including the expected adoption of the GCTS, as a critical opportunity to produce better peace and security outcomes by right-sizing responses and ensuring an enabling environment for civil society.

Ms. Chido Cleopatra Mpemba,

African Union Youth Envoy, pointed to the evident and urgent need for enhanced cooperation and multilateralism as terrorism continues to adversely affect the pursuit of peace, security and sustainable development. She underlined that the voices of the youth do not seek to address terrorism alone but also the creation of peaceful environments and sustainable development, in the context of the triple nexus of peace, security and development. She explained that youth are both victims – as they are often fallen victims of false promises - and perpetrators of terrorism. Ms. Mpemba further underlined that young people are at higher risk of radicalization, where they have little to lose, often faced with poverty, unemployment, poor governance mechanisms, among others. She highlighted that regions with a high proportion of young people such as Africa are at higher risk of youth radicalization to terrorism. She recalled that according to the 2022 Global Terrorism Index, 50% of deaths attributed to terrorism globally are recorded in Africa, with 43% of global terrorism deaths occurring in the Sahel region, with young people being especially affected. She emphasized that youth engagement in prevention is critical and considered it crucial to revisit the topic of young people's contribution to continental and global sustainable development goals (SDGs), looking at the AU Agenda 2063 and UN SDGs as well as to building trust and ensuring peaceful communities. She explained that an all-hands approach to countering terrorism necessitates ensuring the socio-economic development of communities, including young people. Referring to Article 17 of the AU Youth Charter, Ms. Mpemba pointed to the need for integrated and

comprehensive CT/PCVE strategies that provide young people with opportunities, tools, capacity and constructive platforms where they can jointly contribute to conflict resolution, peacebuilding efforts and ways to counter terrorism.

Interventions by Panellists

Mr. Qassim al-Araji,

National Security Advisor, Republic of Iraq, referred to the adoption by the Iraqi Parliament of the national budget for 2023-2025 which included a clear strategy for rehabilitation, reform and building state institutions in countering terrorism and Da'esh. He recalled Iraq's efforts as part of the Global Coalition against Da'esh as well as its adoption of a national plan to return the displaced, in coordination with the SRSG in Iraq, the UN Country Team and other UN entities. Mr. al-Araji referred to the Al-Hol camp as a dysfunctional environment plagued with violence and a direct threat to national, regional and international security. He stressed that Iraq has repatriated 1,393 families from the camp, 48 of whom have been rehabilitated. He invited the UN to further encourage countries to repatriate their nationals and to close the Al-Hol camp. Mr. al-Araji further underlined Iraq's commitment and efforts to prosecute more than 300 suspected terrorists in line with fair trial guarantees, some of whom had been detained in northeastern Syria. He also highlighted Iraq's efforts to repatriate and support all Yazidi women captured by Da'esh. Mr. al-Araji concluded by underlining Iraq's efforts to cooperate with countries in the region, and called for continued support and partnerships with Iraq, in the interest of regional and international security.

Ms. Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin,

Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, shared her deep conviction that human rights-compliant security and counter-terrorism laws and policies are the only singular and holistic way to advance security of all, and prevent violence in societies. She identified the misuse of counter-terrorism and C/PVE measures to crack-down on civil society, including human rights defenders, political dissident, humanitarian, peacebuilders, ethnic or religious minorities, women and LGBT and gender-diverse persons as one of the most pressing challenges which is central to countering terrorism. Ms. Ní Aoláin pointed out widespread limitations on a range of rights and outright violations, from torture and

arbitrary detention, to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association and the right to privacy. She considered that the mounting and sustained attacks on civil society is deeply connected to a large and mostly unaccountable global counter-terrorism architecture to which civil society and human rights experts are mostly marginal. Referring to her inclusive, data-driven “Global Study on the impact of counter-terrorism on civic space and civil society” [being launched this week during Counter-Terrorism Week], she highlighted the compounding impacts of vague and overbroad counterterrorism laws, intrusive digital surveillance, judicial harassment, direct targeting through arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings as well as increasingly administrative measures being used in countries such as sanctions, organizations dissolution and immigration proceedings, with a particularly detrimental impact on historically marginalized groups, including minorities and women. Ms. Ní Aoláin stressed the need for a fundamental reset of counter-terrorism strategy 20 years on from 9/11 and highlighted three paths forward: (i.) establishing serious robust monitoring, evaluation and oversight of all counter-terrorism policies to be successful; (ii.) breaking the code of silence around human rights violations taking place under the guise of counter-terrorism and PCVE which requires to protect, respect and fulfil human rights in practice and (iii.) ensuring meaningful inclusion of civil society as active, engaged and rightful actors in counter-terrorism, including by having more women involved in national and global security-making field. She concluded that civil society could offer creative and thoughtful solutions to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism and understand their root causes. Ms. Ní Aoláin invited the international community to listen to civil society, and to find common ground partnerships as this might change the counter-terrorism conversation.

Mr. Manuel Navarrete,

Head of the Fusion Centre Against Organized Crime and Counter-Terrorism, (CITCO), Spain, highlighted Spain’s long experience against terrorism, the crucial value of international cooperation, and the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law. He stressed that compliance with human rights and the rule of law is not only a legal duty and a moral obligation but also an important practical tool to build stronger and more resilient societies to better confront the terrorist threat, together with security forces. He emphasized that youth and civil society organizations can and must play an important role to strengthen society’s resilience, analyse the terrorism phenomenon, enable different voices, such as victims of terrorism to counter terrorist narratives. Mr. Navarrete referred to the ongoing revision of Spain’s national counter-terrorism strategy in line with the GCTS, and implementation of its national plan against violent extremism,

with a focus on engaging civil society, promoting citizenship partnerships and tackling the use of Internet for terrorist purposes, in cooperation with the private sector. Referring to the inauguration in 2022 of the Victims of Terrorism Memorial in Vitoria-Gasteiz, he underlined Spain's priority support to victims of terrorism, including addressing their needs and human rights after an attack, ensuring their voices are heard and preserving their memories. He expressed gratitude for the work carried out by UNOCT's Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism, considered the first Global Congress for Victims as a major step to present the diverse experiences of victims, and looked forward to the upcoming Conference in 2024. He also noted the efforts of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, co-chaired by Spain, to advocate for the need and rights of victims and to establish a trust fund. Mr. Navarrete viewed the Malaga Conference and its Outcome Document as good examples of meaningful collaboration between Member States, the United Nations and civil society, and noted the positive effect of multistakeholder involvement.

H.E. Ms. Nathalie Broadhurst Estival,

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, stressed that terrorist groups commit massive violations of human rights and flourish on the lack of respect for human rights, acts of violence, executions against population, including when committed by private military groups. She underlined that multilateral counter terrorism efforts must be rooted in respect for human rights and fighting impunity in order to end terrorist recruitment. She noted that Da'esh and Al-Qaida have been resilient and have expanded their field of actions across many countries and continents, such as Afghanistan and Africa. Noting that socio-economic fragilities, the climate crisis, wars, tensions around natural resources impact the evolution and persistence of the terrorist threat, Ms. Estival stressed that security responses are essential but not sufficient on their own. In this regard, she underlined the need for a holistic response that respects human rights, promotes development, strengthens governance, the rule of law and the fight against corruption. She recalled that all Security Council members have reaffirmed their collective obligations and commitment to human rights in countering terrorism as for example in resolution 1566 (2004). She underlined France's efforts to ensure that: (i) humanitarian action is not obstructed as a result of Security Council actions, noting in this regard progress made with Security Council resolution 2664 (2022); (ii.) all UN bodies place consultations with civil society at the heart of all their activities, stressing the need to ensure better protection for human rights defenders, including their interactions with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities; and (iii.) it strengthens its national system in support of victims of terrorism, welcoming in this

regard the organization by UNOCT of the First Global Congress of Victims. Ms. Estival noted that the UN has an essential role to play in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts at the international level and expressed France's continued support, including an increase of its budget contribution to the UN in 2023.

Mr. Muhammad Tahir Rai,

National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority, Pakistan, underlined that the significant threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism requires diverse and interconnected efforts, that place the core values of respect for human rights and the rule of law at their centre, and involve civil society, academia and the private sector. He recalled that States bear the primary responsibility to counter terrorism, ensure safety of citizens and provide justice for victims of terrorism, and establish robust legislative frameworks and effective law enforcement while safeguarding human rights. Mr. Rai observed that civil society is a key partner as it can promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual respect while providing social services and educational opportunities that help to mitigate the conditions conducive to terrorism. He also noted the crucial role of the private sector, especially technology companies which can help restrict terrorists' access to resources and their ability to spread propaganda while respecting privacy and freedom of expression. Mr. Rai referred to the valuable insights and research of academia into the root causes of terrorism and the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies, which are critical for informed policy and strategy development. He stressed the central role of the UN, including CTC and UNOCT, in fostering international cooperation, promoting good practices and ensuring respect for the rule of law and human rights. Noting that countering terrorism effectively requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, each bringing their unique strength, Mr. Rai called for strengthened international cooperation, broadened partnerships and enhanced efforts to ensure that counter terrorism actions uphold human rights and the rule of law, as this will result in more secure, inclusive and resilient societies.

H.E. Ms. Cecile Hillyer,

Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand, presented concrete actions taken by New Zealand based on 44 recommendations formulated by the Royal Commission of Inquiry following the 2019 Christchurch attacks, including strengthening cooperation between governments, civil society, communities and the private sector in the development of a public-facing

strategy for preventing, detecting, and responding to threats of violent extremism and terrorism. She explained that this strategy was developed by an expert-level Working Group, co-led by the government and civil society representatives, with 1/3 participants from the government, 2/3 from academia, civil society and communities and with the strong involvement of the Chief Human Rights Commissioner and Race Relations Commissioner. She highlighted the Working Group's extensive consultations with 400 members of the public over four months, which provided an opportunity for government officials to be held accountable by the public. While the strategic framework has not yet been released, Ambassador Hillyer was confident that it will be stronger as a result of this approach. She further mentioned the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Strategic Funds that will provide grants over three years to civil society and communities organizations' initiatives building resilience to violent extremism and radicalization. Ms. Hillyer highlighted two additional initiatives by New Zealand to incorporate the voices of civil society: (i.) an annual meeting ("A country at peace") held in 2021 and 2022, led by the Prime Minister, with over 350 attendees and mostly live-streamed to allow for a dialogue and exchange on ways to prevent violent extremism; and (ii) the establishment of an independent National Centre of Research and Excellence for preventing and countering violent extremism, gathering research organizations, civil society and government, with a focus on understanding diversity and promoting social cohesion, in order to inform national approaches. Ms. Hillyer concluded by noting that supporting and enabling civil society-led discussions and activities in the counter-terrorism context will remain a priority for New Zealand.

Ms. Paivi Kannisto,

Chief, Peace and Security Section, UN Women, stressed that in contexts impacted by terrorism, the rights of women and girls, including their very existence in the public sphere, basic rights to life and dignity and freedom from fear are systematically attacked and denied, and referred to a "gender apartheid." She highlighted that terrorist organizations listed by the UN share an unwavering commitment to deny the rights of girls and women. Ms. Kannisto mentioned that these organizations' operations in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Horn of Africa and Afghanistan continue to be enabled by porous borders, organized crime, trafficking in persons and in small arms and light weapons, and cyber exploitation, all of which are exacerbated by socio-economic challenges, including inequalities, especially gender inequality. She considered it critical to address the conditions conducive that have enabled hatred of women and normalization of extremely dangerous ideologies, including removing girls and women from all aspects of life. She underlined the need for a human rights-based approach and referred to general

recommendation 30 of CEDAW that outlines how the Convention applies in a conflict situation with the Women, Peace and Security agenda providing a roadmap to support the protection of women rights in conflicts. She also emphasized the need for a principled, nuanced, people-centred, comprehensive, multi-faceted and multisectoral approach to CT/PVE. She referred to UN Women's activities in the Sahel Region, East and Southern Africa (including Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia and Tanzania), Asia, Europe and Central Asia in promoting the role of women in building peace, their participation in security mechanisms to prevent violent extremism, increasing women and girls' digital literacy against recruitment and to support gender-sensitive reintegration of returnees from conflict zones. Ms. Kannisto called for strengthened strategic partnerships, multilateral and regional cooperation and for more resources allocated to gender equality initiatives in the counter-terrorism field, and she reaffirmed UN Women's continued commitment to support Member States in implementing the GCTS in a gender-responsive manner. In this regard, she thanked UNOCT for always ensuring gender equality and making UN Women a part of these efforts.

Interventions from the floor

H.E. Ms. Catarina Sarmiento e Castro,

Minister of Justice of Portugal, highlighted the importance of a comprehensive multistakeholder approach based on the five pillars (detect, prevent, protect, pursue and respond) of Portugal's National Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including its Action Plan to prevent radicalization and recruitment to terrorism. She underlined that capacity-building and technical assistance at the international level are key to consolidate institutions, enhance national resilience and ultimately strengthen the nexus between security and development. Ms. Sarmiento e Castro briefed on trainings delivered by the Portuguese judiciary police, in cooperation with UNODC as well as in the framework of the EU (in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan and Yemen). She noted that Portugal has been contributing to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism which finances critical UNOCT activities. Ms. Sarmiento e Castro further noted that Portugal's Constitution safeguards human rights, civil liberties and guarantees in line with international and regional human rights instruments, and that Portugal's counter-terrorism activities comply with international humanitarian law, the rule of law, international human rights, including the protection of victims of terrorism. She reaffirmed Portugal's firm commitment to

effective multilateralism and the fundamental role of international cooperation in CT/PCVE, including its financing.

Mr. Rycko Amelza Dahniel,

Head of the National Counter Terrorism Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, presented the key components of Indonesia's rehabilitation programme which aims to: (i.) end the culture of violence and instil values of non-violence, tolerance, respect for dignity as well as strengthen knowledge of the national culture, with guidance from religious leaders; (ii.) provide skills, job opportunities through an entrepreneurship programme aimed at increased prosperity, strengthened resilience and reintegration into society; and, (iii.) provide assistance to families as parents have a key role to play, including by sending children to Islamic schools. He highlighted encouraging results with 80% of terrorists rehabilitated, two-thirds of former terrorists ready to become mentors, and the establishment of an association of former violent extremists who had been through the programme. Mr. Dahniel stressed that a multistakeholder approach is key to success with shared responsibility and resources from governments, civil society, academia and the private sector. He expressed Indonesia's continued commitment to share expertise and strengthen cooperation to foster peace, tolerance and resilience of communities.

Mr. Abdulhamid Albadr,

Assistant General Director for International Cooperation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stressed that the international community should contribute to major capacity-building programmes to address the new challenges and complexities posed by terrorism, noting in that regard UNCCT's large-scale projects, with significant financial support from KSA. Mr. Albadr informed that the partners of the Global Coalition against Da'esh had affirmed earlier this month their continued support for counter-terrorism programmes in Africa, Iraq, Syria, South and Central Asia, and the allocation of sufficient resources to support the Coalition and its partners towards sustainable and long-term solutions. He expressed KSA's readiness to work with Member States in the region and in Africa as well as its support to bilateral and multilateral initiatives to meet basic humanitarian needs, support reintegration of returnees and achieve security and stability. Mr. Albadr stressed that human rights should be the primary focus of development, and noted that the Kingdom through its ambitious Vision 2030, is witnessing major and historic reforms in various fields, including human rights.

SESSION II

Building Effective and Resilience Member States' Institutions in the Evolving Terrorism Landscape

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

Mr. Raffi Gregorian,

Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, UNOCT, stressed the importance of resilience in effectively preventing terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and the crucial role resilient institutions play in confronting and overcoming complex crises. He noted that *A New Agenda for Peace* aims at bringing together the peace and sustainable development agendas, and at addressing the underlying causes of terrorism in a comprehensive manner. Mr. Gregorian also called for counter-terrorism responses to be firmly grounded in international law, including international human rights law, through the engagement of women, youth, civil society and other local actors. He concluded by reiterating the importance of cooperation and concerted action to contain the spread of terrorism, and launched an appeal not to forget the victims of terrorism, stating that **“at every step of the way, we must never forget the crucial role of victims and survivors of terrorism in building resilience and strengthening our prevention efforts to end terrorism”**.

H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations highlighted the importance of a preventative approach in addressing terrorism and violent extremism and the need to build resilient societies and institutions. She underlined the role of the justice and security sectors and of educational institutions, including schools and universities, the latter being particularly important in fostering youth resilience to violent extremism. Emphasizing the important role of civil society organizations, she noted that Malta supports whole-of-society approaches, including partnerships with the private sector, religious actors, local communities, women and youth, and encourages human rights compliant and gender responsive approaches. Ms. Frazier also added that the **“Key to restoring the social contract between citizens and the State are effective, accountable and inclusive institutions – a fact recognised in the UN Global Counter**

Terrorism Strategy.” In this regard, she concluded by reminding of the Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council organized by Malta, Costa Rica, Jordan, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, and Spain, to be held on Monday, 26 June, on “*Enhancing the capacities of Member States to ensure a gender responsive approach to counter-terrorism*”.

Voices of Youth and Civil Society

Ms. Bintang Assyifa,

UNOCT/UNCCT Global PCVE Programme, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEPP) alumna, Indonesia, shared her personal experience of how she found UNOCT’s Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEPP) which uses an innovative peer-to-peer model to train, coach and mentor young people to use their voice and ideas for policy and programming in PCVE. She recalled how an ISIS inspired bombing in her country, prompted her as a 17 year old high school student to engage her peers and community in an interfaith dialogue involving an Imam, Buddhist monk and a pastor. It was the realization then that violent extremism in the name of her faith had arrived in her own home, and that it was no longer just on TV or social media, which took her on this path to becoming engaged in the fight. Ms. Assyifa cited her own grief of having to come to terms with the radicalisation of one of her friends who was engaged in postings of violent and harassing messages on social media, which in turn led to the community holding her and her peers accountable. Feeling defeated that she had lost her friend to violent extremism, it was at this point that she discovered UNOCT’s Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEPP). She stated that the programme helped her to find compassion, to validate her feelings, educated her on the push and pull factors in violent extremism, and above all, taught her skills to lead open and honest dialogues, including making policy recommendations on how to engage young people, especially women, to use inter-faith dialogue to effectively deal with violent extremism. This training inspired her to create Sporteev, a youth leadership programme aimed at fostering empathy, teamwork and social cohesion through Sports. Ms. Assyifa subsequently partnered with a junior high school to introduce this model to about 40 students training them to lead gamified workshops on teamwork and conflict resolution with the aim of combatting loneliness, isolation, and radicalisation. These young students became mentors in their school helping to multiply this youth-led fight against extremism. She highlighted two key messages from her experiences. *Firstly, she underlined that preventing violent extremism is not a one-time effort, and that investment in long term PVE strategies at the community level is required with more young people in*

the driver's seat. And secondly that young people have been playing an important part in building community resilience noting that "we are not simply victims or perpetrators of violent extremism but primarily meaningful partners for prevention and countering efforts. Ms. Assyifa urged immediate action as follows: (i.) For Member States to get in touch with youth Ministries and integrate peer-to-peer models into youth programmes. In this regard, she noted that UNOCT's peer-to-peer model is easy to replicate helping to harvest experiences and innovative solutions from young people. (ii.) Noting that young people are resilient, resourceful, with access to harder to reach populations, she called on civil society working in PCVE to consult, engage and hire young people to develop youth programmes; and, (iii.) Underlining that young people also want a peaceful world, she called on all policy makers present to invite and include young people in the decision-making process. Through that experience, she came across UNOCT's Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) which uses an innovative peer-to-peer model to train, coach and mentor young people to use their voice and ideas for policy and programming in PCVE. She called on all Member States to listen and engage young people, especially at the community level, and to integrate peer to peer model in Youth Ministries' work.

"Violent extremism is not caused by anyone's faith, culture or nationality. If we wish to see a world without violence, without extremism, without terrorism, we must listen to young people and their grievances. We must consider the ecosystem of injustice and marginalization that allow extremism to grow. And we must ensure that young people are included as part of the solution because we are in this together."

Ms. Bintang Assyifa

Global PCVE Programme, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) alumni, Indonesia

Eminent Speakers'

Mr. Babagana Mongono,

National Security Adviser, Nigeria reiterated his country's commitment to strengthening multilateral partnerships. Referring to the evolving threats of terrorism and violent extremism, he noted the importance of having strong, effective and accountable institutions to counter them. He highlighted efforts undertaken at the national level, including the adoption of the terrorism and prevention act (2022) which places prevention at the core of all counter-terrorism efforts, and underlined the ongoing efforts to strengthen support to victims of terrorism and the establishment of a special trust fund to guarantee victims compensation and restitution. Mr. Mongono underlined the transnational nature of terrorism and the importance of international cooperation. In this regard, he concluded by highlighting the organization, together with UNOCT of the African CT Summit in Abuja in the first quarter of 2024 to identify challenges and foster collective action to strengthen institutions to effectively counter the threat of terrorism in Africa. In concluding, he affirmed that **"building resilient institutions is not only essential to denying terrorists the freedom to carry out their heinous activities but also fundamental to bringing them to justice, providing protection for vulnerable communities and addressing the drivers of radicalization."**

Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), praised the collaboration among UN Entities in the Global Compact in preventing and countering terrorism, highlighted the importance of ensuring a holistic UN approach, and also cited UNAOC's collaboration on the Global Sports Programme and the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets. He underscored that the terrorist threat landscape is constantly evolving and changing, and that weak institutions, inequalities, poverty, marginalization and polarization all provide fertile ground for terrorists, enabling them to recruit vulnerable individuals and spread their toxic ideologies. Mr. Moratinos also observed that far right extremist movements have succeeded in mainstreaming and normalizing their extremist ideologies and radical discourse. He underlined the crucial role of the GCTS in eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable development, and the role of human rights and the rule of law in improving intercultural understanding. Mr. Moratinos lamented that unfortunately the preventive tools remain largely underfunded compared to the security

governance measures and called for more investment in prevention rather than reaction. Prevention, he stated, should be our first line of defence. He lauded the role of the Global Compact, which he noted is continuing to support Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts – from technical assistance and capacity-building, to helping build institutions that are people-centred, and grounded in human rights and the rule of law. In this regard, Mr. Moratinos underlined that UNAOC programming activities and initiatives are people centred, based on the notion of primary prevention, and pivots around building prevention models within communities with a focus on youth (women and men) who may be vulnerable targets for recruitment by extremist groups. The aim, he said, is to build resilient, cohesive and inclusive societies. In conclusion, Mr. Moratinos reiterated UNAOC’s commitment to continue the successful collaboration with UNOCT and the Global Compact entities.

Interventions by Panellists’

Ms. Rosalind Nyawira,

Director, National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Republic of Kenya, noted that the evolving threat of terrorism is defying even the most innovative counter-terrorism measures that Member States have instituted over the years and spreading dangerously. In this regard, she emphasized the need to blend democratic practices and good governance with counterterrorism efforts, rather than solely relying on technical measures, whilst also addressing the root causes of terrorism. Ms. Nyawira stated that there was a crucial need for cooperation and information sharing at the regional and global levels, including partnerships with internet providers and social media organizations to disrupt online terrorism activities.

Mr. Colin Smith,

Head of the Counter-Terrorism Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom, noted how a single strategy guides all of the UK government’s counter-terrorism work, at home and overseas, in a coherent and consistent manner, heavily focused on prevention, and working in partnership with a wide range of civil society organisations to safeguard communities from radicalisation and to equip them with the ability to challenge the ideologies of terrorist groups. He underlined that in order for the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy to be effective, a whole of society approach

to counter-terrorism and violent extremism must uphold the protection of human rights, and, include civil society, grass roots organizations, and women in a meaningful way.

Mr. Wu Xin,

Deputy Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China observed how the foundation of counter-terrorism cooperation has been undermined by some individual countries that have politicized and instrumentalized counter-terrorism by pursuing double standards. He added that building resilient institutions is crucial for peace and development and must be addressed by the international community. He called for strengthened international cooperation to combat terrorism not only by military means, and advocated for a common security concept, and new guidance for a comprehensive approach to address the root causes with the UN playing a central and coordinating role. He further called upon Member States to strengthen the capacity to prevent and respond to terrorism, and to proactively preventing terrorists from using and abusing internet and other emerging technologies, and to take integrated measure to sever the link between terrorism organized crime.

Ms. Alison August Treppel,

Executive Secretary, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization of American States, highlighted CICTE's role in fostering greater national and regional resilience through a multi-faceted approach that focuses on policy development, capacity building, awareness raising and practical cooperation at the local, national, regional and international levels. She underlined the special role of multilateral organizations in ensuring that all regions of the world are prepared, resilient, and committed to achieving our collective goal of greater international peace and security.

H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori,

Director of Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Kingdom of Morocco, noted that while terrorism is decreasing in some parts of the world, it is escalating in alarming ways in Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. He called for stronger coordinated actions, greater collaboration and genuine international cooperation. In this regard, Mr. Chekkori highlighted the strong commitment by African countries, recalling the Marrakech Platform, which serves as an annual forum to assess achievements, priorities, and interagency coordination whilst

exchanging experiences among African States. He further mentioned the good partnership with UNOCT, and the capacity building work developed and undertaken by its Training Centre in Rabat to respond to the priorities of African countries. Mr. Chekkori concluded by reaffirming Morocco's commitment to regional and global stability.

Interventions from the floor

This segment witnessed interventions by 16 representatives of Member States and Civil society. In their contributions, speakers echoed the recurrent themes of the need for holistic counter-terrorism approaches, which are inclusive of civil society; stressed the importance of prevention of radicalization; the need for repatriation; and highlighted the increasingly complex nature of the threat landscape.



SESSION III

The Global Threat Landscape: Assessment of Current and Emerging Trends

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

H.E. Ms. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh,

Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, stated that terrorist groups are adapting to changing technological developments and are exploiting new and emerging technologies such as cryptocurrency, social media, and gaming platforms increasing the global reach of terrorist propaganda and recruitment efforts. She noted that collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders is necessary to develop safeguards and regulations to prevent these digital tools from becoming powerful weapons. She also noted the links between terrorism and organized crime as well as diversification of terrorist financing. Ambassador Nusseibeh concluded by saying that the United Nations and international/regional organizations should be utilized as platforms for fostering greater international cooperation in addressing terrorism.

H.E. Mr. Ferit Hoxha,

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations (Co-Chair) highlighted the expansion of terrorist groups in conflict settings, particularly in Africa. He stressed the importance of understanding the evolving nature of terrorism, adopting effective approaches, leveraging new technologies, and utilizing data and knowledge to respond to threats. Mr. Hoxha added that factors such as conflicts, power struggles, socio-economic disparities, inequality, discrimination, lack of education and healthcare, political instability, and extremist ideologies provide fertile ground for radicalization and terrorist activities. In concluding he emphasized the need for a multilateral response commensurate with the evolving terrorist threat.

Special Guests

H.E. Mr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani,

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation Settlement of Disputes, State of Qatar, stressed that the global terrorist threat landscape is constantly evolving and poses a complex challenge. The Special Envoy added that terrorist and extremist groups adapt their structure, methods, and areas of activity, often exploiting factors such as conflicts, political instability, and climate change. He continued by emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, pointing to the evolving threat from misuse of AI, UAS, and 3D printing for terrorist purposes as well as the impetus to use new technologies in the fight against terrorism. The Special Envoy noted the acute situation in sub-Saharan Africa, Da'esh activity in Afghanistan, the humanitarian and security challenges related to FTFs and their family members in camps and detention facilities.

Dr. Tobias Peyerl

Senior Manager, Strategic Intelligence, Google, described how terrorists and violent extremists misuse online platforms, and underlined the challenges of addressing hyperlocal narratives, embedded gamification and generative artificial intelligence. He highlighted the need for leading tech companies to discuss AI in dedicated fora and to avoid fragmentation.

Interventions by Panellists

Mr. David Scharia

On behalf of Ms. Natalia Gherman, Assistant-Secretary-General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Mr. David Scharia outlined four key trends in the evolution of the terrorist threat. The first trend was the decentralization of terrorist groups such as Da'esh and Al-Qaida. The second trend was the increased sophistication and utilization of technology by terrorists, e.g., AI, UAS. Third, Mr. Scharia spoke about the role of the internet, social media platforms, and online spaces in communication. Finally, he noted the growing threat posed by lone actors.

Mr. Khaled Khiari,

Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, United Nations, shared three reflections on the evolving terrorism threat and approaches to addressing it collectively. The first was a significant deterioration of the global security landscape. Second, Mr. Khiari stressed that Africa has become a major battleground for terrorism and that while groups in Africa may have pledged allegiance to a global terrorist network, such as Da'esh, they are driven by local factors and grievances. Third, he stated that the focus needs to shift towards prevention and sustaining peace to build lasting resilience against terrorism before mentioning the upcoming A New Agenda for Peace.

“ The global security landscape has deteriorated significantly in the last few years. This is making the terrorism threat both more complex and decentralized. After two decades of consistent decline, conflicts are on the rise again in number. And, their nature has also changed. Civil wars that start off locally are more likely to become internationalized. And conflict parties are increasingly fragmented.”

Mr. Khaled Khiari

Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific,
United Nations

Mr. Igor Sirotkin,

Colonel General and Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service, Head of the National Antiterrorist Committee, Central Office, Russian Federation, stressed that counter-terrorism must be depoliticized. He pointed to the persistent threat of Da'esh in north and northeastern Syria; the expanding influence of Da'esh in predominantly western Africa which had become an epicentre due to weakened statehood the continuous terrorist threat in Central Asia that was emanating from Afghanistan; the movement of FTFs through illegal migration flows; and, the spread of “neo-Nazi” groups in Europe. The Colonel General also noted the risks associated with weapons being obtained by terrorists and emphasized that States must play the main role in counter-terrorism.

Mr. Gregory LoGerfo,

Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State, United States of America, recalled the achievement of the territorial defeat of Da'esh and continued attrition to its leadership, which had prevented large scale attacks from materializing. He attributed the deteriorating situation in the Sahel and West Africa to both Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates, pointing to the recent attack in Uganda. Mr. LoGerfo stressed the need for a multilateral approach in Afghanistan to ensure it is never again used as a safe haven for terrorists. He also mentioned repatriation, human rights, and whole-of-society approaches as key priorities, as well as the importance of the Security Council terrorist sanctions regime.

Mr. Gregory Hinds

Counter-Terrorism Director, INTERPOL, highlighted three trends. First, groups like Al-Qaida and Da'esh continue to pose a wide-ranging and persistent transnational threat, spreading across Africa and Asia. Second, terrorism linked to "extreme right-wing ideology" has increased significantly over the past decade, particularly in Europe, North America, and parts of the Asia-Pacific region. Third, terrorist actors and violent extremists are exploring and exploiting new and emerging technologies.

"Looking ahead, it is assessed that these developments in artificial intelligence could significantly accelerate propaganda content creation and assist in other worrying aspects, such as recruitment, attack planning and IED construction. A critical threat could come from an entirely different direction from what we have witnessed or experienced previously."

Mr. Gregory Hinds

Counter-Terrorism Director, INTERPOL

Global Outlook

Mr. Justin Hustwitt,

Coordinator of the ISIL (Da'esh)/Al Qaida Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, described a low threat in Europe, and a decreasing threat posed by Da'esh core in Iraq and Syria, depleting finances, leadership attrition, and, reduced violence by their affiliate in Mozambique thanks to the military operation by SADC Member States. Developments in Afghanistan were of greater concern, however, where the Taliban de facto authorities maintained a strong and symbiotic link with Al-Qaida and projected a threat in the region and more widely. He also pointed to the deterioration in West Africa and the Sahel, where the Al-Qaida affiliated JNIM was positioning itself as a political actor, and Da'esh was continuing to expand, despite pressure. Mr. Hustwitt also noted the growing concern in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the risk of terrorist exploitation of the conflict in Sudan. He noted the correlation between a decreasing threat and functional multilateral responses, and vice versa, stressing also the importance of the Security Council terrorist sanctions regime.

Interventions from the floor

36 Member State representatives made interventions from the floor.

Recurrent themes emphasized included:

- A call for Member States to shoulder their responsibilities in repatriating their citizens from the camps in conflict zones;
- The increasing threat posed by the misuse of new technologies for terrorist purposes, including social media platforms and video games;
- The importance of upholding the rule of law, human rights and international law when fighting terrorism, as well as including CSOs;
- Individual steps and measures taken by Member States and regional organizations to counter terrorism and its spread;
- The need to also address conditions conducive to terrorism;
- The need for a greater emphasis on prevention efforts;

- Concern over the spread of violent extremism in Africa;
- Growing worries around proliferation of new technologies susceptible to exploitation by terrorist groups;
- Reaffirmation of the importance of a robust multilateralism in combatting terrorism;
- The importance of building the capacities of Member States to counter the financing of terrorism, addressing FTFs and terrorist travel, protecting vulnerable targets and critical infrastructure, illicit trafficking of SALW, and UAS.
- Many OIC States referenced the acts of *burning of the Quran* and the concomitant need to address growing Islamophobia.

“Where the trend [in terrorist threat] is downward, it is fair to say that a factor is focused and sustained counter-terrorism effort and attention, invariably in some sort of multilateral coalition with a degree of intelligence fusion and complementarity of national capabilities. Generally, this effort is working with a strong hinterland of multilateral political support and engagement. The inverse is also broadly true. Where the trend is broadly upward, the level of multilateral coordination and institutional fusion has not been achieved.”

Mr. Justin Hustwitt

Coordinator of the ISIL (Da'esh) / Al Qaida Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

SESSION IV

Strengthening Capacity Building Programmes – Making Them Fit for Purpose to Meet Resilience Gaps

Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs

H.E. Mr. Abulaziz M. Alwasil,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to the United Nations, emphasized that the international community must contribute to capacity building programmes commensurate with new and developing terrorist threats. He underlined the importance of capacity building programmes being both sustainable and impactful on the ground, and, in this regard, noted that together with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), KSA contributes substantially to the funding of capacity building programmes. Mr. Alwasil called on participants to propose new criteria that will enable better monitoring of the effectiveness of capacity building programmes, and concluded by asking the international community to continue to build capacity and contribute to efforts toward repatriating citizens.

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly,

Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), underlined that terrorism is a transnational threat which targets gaps in institutions wherever it finds them. She noted that UNODC has over 25 years of experience in providing capacity building to counter terrorism in over 70 countries and underscored that responses to terrorism must involve young people, a whole of society approach, and be context-specific so that they can be 'owned' by local communities. Ms. Waly provided the example of UNODC partnership programme with a victims group in Iraq as a good practice of how to engage with a whole of society approach, and informed that UNODC is currently aggregating evaluations of capacity building carried out by a variety of Counter-Terrorism Compact partners. She concluded by emphasising the need to prosecute, repatriate and rehabilitate the several thousands of foreign terrorist fighters who have travelled to Iraq, Syria and other countries, and who have now been detained together with their families. In particular, Ms. Waly noted that prosecution can pose hurdles, and stressed that UNODC provides capacity building on how to gather and digitally store evidence for investigations.

“Terrorism is a transnational threat that targets gaps in institutions, laws, societies, and responses, wherever it can find them. For this reason, capacity building is a crucial element in preventing and countering terrorism in a sustainable manner.”

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly

Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Voices of Youth and Civil Society

Ms. Florence Nakazibwe,

Senior Legal Adviser-Africa, International Center for Not-For Profit Law, noted that current capacity building programming are heavily securitized and not inclusive enough. Furthermore, she stated that capacity building is not as reform-centred as it should be, noting the need to debunk the idea that capacity building is a distinct form of UN programming which does not need to adhere to normal UN programming consistency with human rights obligations and inclusion of civil society – noting that capacity building should adhere to the whole of society approach. Ms. Nakazibwe highlighted the need for more meaningful engagement with civil society, and the need to exercise care in ensuring that vulnerable groups like women and children are not marginalized. In concluding, she underscored the need for capacity building providers to better measure results and human rights impact, including through independent oversight mechanisms to ensure full and due diligence on human rights obligations.

Mr. Achaleke Christian Leke,

Executive Director, Local Youth Corner, Cameroon, informed of his organization’s success in working with prisoners and emphasised the importance of context-specific and innovative capacity building. As an example of innovation, he referenced how Local Youth Corner Cameroon used sports as a means to bring communities together to create a space for people to learn. Mr. Leke called on communities to invest more in young

people and stressed the need for more resources to build greater resilience to radicalization among young people.

“[W]e must debunk ‘capacity building and technical assistance’ on counter terrorism as a special category of UN support to Member States, where we continue to exceptionalize this type of support as distinct or exempt from human rights obligations and standards as well as established UN human rights processes and protections.”

Ms. Florence Nakazibwe

Senior Legal Adviser-Africa, International Center for Not-For Profit Law

Eminent Speakers

H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, briefed participants on the ways in which Kenya’s National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) has transformed responses to terrorism and been a leader in the field, and emphasised the need for learning to be rooted in local, national and global experiences. He characterised today’s capacity building model as a North-to-South flow of money and knowledge, which inadvertently side-lines local and cultural contextual knowledge. Mr. Kimani emphasized the need to move beyond this model to better take advantage of context-specific knowledge. He noted that an interconnected network between centres in every country could better share knowledge and insights and called on the United Nations to facilitate such cooperation together with regional organizations. In relation to this point, Mr. Kimani underlined that UNOCT has already started along this path with its regional offices but stressed that what is lacking is a sufficiently robust flow of knowledge. He also referenced more robust models for collaboration, noting as an example the global scientific community’s cooperation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

“ The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism has started along the path with its regional branches. Regional organisations also have existing capacity building platforms. What is lacking is a sufficiently robust and coordinated flow from turning diverse experiences into knowledge and training materials, effectively advertised to states and practitioners and available on demand.”

H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu,

Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, underscored that the ultimate question for the session pertained to how to build capacity so that communities can resist divisive narratives that disseminate hate and drive atrocity crimes. She emphasized that it is essential for these programmes to be compliant with the highest values of the United Nations Charter, and updated participants on the recent joint launch by her office and UNESCO of the *'Addressing Hate Speech through Education'* guide for policymakers. Ms. Nderitu informed that as UN focal point for the implementation of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, her office has supported more than 20 UN field presences to develop and implement context-specific action plans to address and counter hate speech, and underscored that building capacities within the United Nations is key to address and counter hate speech and divisive narratives that tear communities apart, and generate tensions and violence. Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming a gender-sensitive approach to prevention efforts, Ms. Nderitu also informed about her office's launch on 12 June of a *'Plan of Action for Women in Communities to Counter Hate Speech and Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes'*, also known as the Napoli Plan of Action. This Plan of Action aims to build sustainable support systems around the work of women preventing atrocity crimes at the community level, while recognizing their meaningful role in peace and security efforts.

“ Building capacities within the United Nations is key to address and counter hate speech and divisive narratives that tear communities apart and generate tensions and violence.”

Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu

Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Ms. Asako Okai,

Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP, stressed that UNDP has rallied in support of the *Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE)* and have coordinated efforts through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which stands as the largest coordination framework across the three pillars of work of the United Nations: *peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights*. She noted that currently only 4% of official development assistance (ODA) investments in fragile and conflict-affected contexts are dedicated to conflict prevention, and that investments in peace represent a mere 12% of all ODA. Moreover, Ms. Okai underlined that as per the latest UNDP's 'Journey to Extremism' report, 71% of voluntary recruits mentioned human rights abuses or government actions, such as arrest or killing of loved ones, as a factor in their decision to join terrorist groups. She informed that accordingly, UNDP's PVE work addresses factors conducive to terrorist recruitment through improving access to quality education, employment opportunities and social services. One example of this is the joint EU-UNDP-UNOCT STRIVE Asia programme, which supports and has established 27 PVE Advisory Groups throughout Central Asia. Ms. Okai highlighted the significant cost-saving potential of investments in peacebuilding and prevention noting that for every \$1 invested in these efforts, \$16 is saved on the costs associated with conflict and violent extremism. These savings can then be directed towards addressing critical areas of the SDGs, such as tackling poverty and advancing gender equality.

Interventions by Panellists

Mr. Prakesh Gupta,

Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India, stressed that India has faced the brunt of terrorism flowing across its borders for over 30 years, having lost several thousands of its citizens in the battle against terrorism. He noted that while the 2001 9/11 terrorist attacks had changed the global counter-terrorism architecture, the 2008 Mumbai attacks had shaken the Indian public consciousness. Mr. Gupta pointed to gaps in the Security Council sanctions regime, noting that it would not list a proscribed terrorist who had masterminded the Mumbai attacks. He added that this highlighted the problems with the current global sanctions architecture of the United Nations Security Council, and called for the double standards to be addressed. He observed that in an era of accountability and transparency proposals to the Security Council sanctions regime must not be anonymous, but rather must be evidence based. He called for reform of the sanctions regime to improve its working methods to address the shortcomings and to make it fit for purpose. Citing the potential for misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, he said that terrorist groups have diversified their funding portfolios and expanded their recruitment toolkit. They have also exploited the openness of pluralistic and democratic societies to spread false narratives, disinformation, incite hatred and radicalize ideologies. Mr. Gupta reminded that last year under India's Chairmanship of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, the latter had unanimously adopted the *New Delhi Declaration* which provided a consensus based policy framework, with concrete pathways for capacity building in Member States, strengthening resilience, and making collective efforts fit for purpose. He recalled his Prime Minister's message to the "No Money for Terror Conference", held in November 2022, where the former had stated that *"We consider that even a single terror attack is one too many, and even a single life lost is one too many, so we will not rest till terrorism is uprooted."* In closing, he highlighted what he described as the increasingly disconcerting trend to insert religion or religion phobia into the terrorist discourse. He said that the United Nations global counter-terrorism architecture must treat all religions equally, and avoid any selective singling out that tends to elevate one religion over the other.

Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti,

Head of Cybersecurity, United Arab Emirates, underlined that people are the weakest link in the cyber world, noting the need to make people the strongest link in the cyber world instead. He emphasized the importance of community cyber police, and particularly the

role of women as cyber-educators, and noted the work of the United Nations International Telecommunication Unit (UN ITU) Best Information awareness programme as a good example of how to take initiative to address gaps in the counter-terrorism architecture. He concluded by stressing UAE's willingness to share its experience of how it has used new media and new sources in its counter-terrorism initiatives.

Mr. Florian Laudi,

Director, United Nations and Counterterrorism, Foreign Office, Germany, emphasized three points: (i.) the need for thorough analysis through a consultative process to better understand radicalization processes; (ii.) working harder on integration of holistic approaches that also target other areas like organized crime; and (iii.) the need for joint strategies, joint cooperation and local ownership of efforts. For this, he noted the example of German programming in West Africa and spoke of the importance and value of West Africa as a focus region for considering the impact of capacity building programmes. Additionally, Mr. Laudi highlighted the following problem areas identified by its West Africa working group: (i.) strategic frameworks; (ii.) border management and law enforcement; (iii.) improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS); and (iv.) countering terrorist financing. In this regard, he informed that Germany is funding an integrated border stability mechanism aimed at countering the spread of instability to coastal West Africa.

Mr. Mauro Miedico,

Officer in Charge of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), UNOCT, highlighted that UNOCT's responses revolve around specialization and capacity building efforts that lead in critical niche areas, such as the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which currently supports 66 countries. He noted that UNOCT's response programming revolves around State institutions' resilience and embraces operational prevention, highlighting UNOCT's Global Sports Programme, which simultaneously focuses on the security of major sporting events and on using sport and its values as a powerful tool to prevent violent extremism. Mr. Miedico also underlined the importance of never forgetting the victims of terrorism, whom must remain at the centre of our strategy, guiding our efforts and reminding us of the human cost of terrorism, which is also the most powerful tool to foster resilience. In concluding, he noted that UNOCT proudly stands as the leading provider of counter-terrorism capacity-building within the UN system, and thanked

Member States and UNOCT's donors (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, and the EU) for their continued support.

“ What makes our approach at UNOCT different from traditional UN initiatives is our departure from workshop-centric assistance. Instead, we now provide comprehensive packages that encompass support in regulatory frameworks, assistance with structural changes and institution shaping, specialized training, and the provision of technological solutions.”

Mr. Mauro Miedico, Officer in Charge of UNCCT and Chief of SPIB, UNOCT

Mr. Michael Collins,

Director of Americas, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), observed that terrorism has the propensity to spread to wherever governance is weakest, and that this explains the spread from the MENA region to the Sahel. He outlined how terrorism in non-OECD States is less correlated to institutional failures around trust, whereas in borders to OECD States it is more correlated; and argued that often investment in sustainable development and improvement in free communication is essential to preventing terrorism. Mr. Collins concluded by noting that more analysis is needed, and that IEP offers tools to consider the impact of particular investments or phenomena.

Ms. Tasha Gill,

Senior Advisor, Child Protection in Emergencies, UNICEF, underscored that the impact of terrorism and conflict on women and children is not always understood, noting that whether they are victims of grooming, recruitment, trafficking or simply born in places controlled by these groups, children face huge challenges, and are, above all, victims. She observed that international humanitarian law provides a framework that shows these children are victims who need protection, regardless of association with a terrorist organization, underlining that where children have been removed from their families, it is best to reunite them with their families., Ms. Gill also noted the crucial importance of providing assistance to help children gain the legal documents that they need, and underlined that collective engagement can build positive coping skills.

Interventions from the floor

There were 21 interventions in this segment by representatives of Member States, regional and international organisations, and civil society organizations. The broad range of views expressed are broadly captured in the under-mentioned themes below:

- Calls for new approaches to build better capacity to counter the ever-evolving nature and innovative methods used by terrorists;
- Reaffirmation of the crucial need to employ holistic and multi-stakeholder approaches to countering terrorism, intolerance and extremism, including better programming to address youth at risk, and to reach marginal communities through a whole of society approach, as well as support for repatriation;
- Investing in building greater community resilience, through capacity building programmes to make funding more effective, and to ensure sustainability, empower women, and turn localization into a lesson for all;
- Building community resilience through stronger engagement with community and religious leaders, particularly women, to effectively steer individuals at risk in a positive direction;
- Tailoring capacity building programme design to have greater impact and effect real change by meaningfully engaging civil society and affected communities in the development, implementation and evaluation of capacity building and technical assistance programmes, and, in making Government institutions more effective and accountable;
- Commitment to a strong rules-based order, and to working with international partners in countering terrorism;
- Working towards better data to enable different countries with different capacities to use data more efficiently and effectively;
- Preventing nuclear terrorism by ensuring that nuclear facilities and materials throughout the world are protected;
- Addressing hate and online extremism by bringing greater pressure to bear on tech companies to remove hate speech and to hold political leaders accountable for their incendiary rhetoric; and
- Sharing of information on tools developed for countering Daesh's techniques as well as a "blueprint" on how countries might repatriate their citizens.

Summary of the Closing Session

Eminent Guest

Mr. Eric L. Adams,

Mayor of New York City, recalled the deadly attacks of 9/11, the lives lost, and the devastation inflicted on New York City, but also stressed how in the aftermath New Yorkers came together, displaying resilience and unity. He underlined that it is only through collaboration that hate, intolerance and revenge can be defeated, and emphasized also the importance of partnership and unity across the globe. He stated that countries must stand united in the fight against terrorism, against Islamophobia, against Anti-Semitism, and added that prevention and intelligence sharing are crucial. He also noted the importance of fighting food insecurity, climate change, and attacks on women, and called for unity in spirit, and for the world to come together as one.



Honouring the First UNCCT Director

Dr. Jehangir Khan,

Secretary-General of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, shared his experience of leading UN counter-terrorism efforts for 10 years, referenced the establishment of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre in 2011, and acknowledged the support of donor countries, in particular, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Recalling the seven successive consensus resolutions of the General Assembly on the GCTS, he underlined the fundamental importance of consensus among Member States in counter-terrorism efforts. He also emphasized the need to learn the lessons from the rich experiences of developing countries in combatting terrorism. Dr. Khan lauded the Conference Chair and the Secretary-General for making multilateralism the keynote theme of the HLC and appealed for greater investment in counter-terrorism prevention efforts. He reiterated the important role of the GA in strengthening the multilateral architecture of CT, including through more collaborative early warning, intelligence sharing, and joint action to prevent the next surprise attack.

Summary Conclusions and Closing Remarks

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), noted that senior counter-terrorism representatives from all regions, as well as partner stakeholders, strongly supported the Conference's call for a *Reinvigorated Multilateralism in Counter-Terrorism*. He underlined the imperative of converting this call into practical plans to achieve this vision and highlighted four cross-cutting issues raised during the Conference: *the importance of human rights, gender mainstreaming, the rights of victims, and the need to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement mechanisms*.

Mr. Voronkov also reminded of the acute urgency to repatriate women and children from the camps in conflict zones, and outlined Conference proposals for reinvigorating multilateralism in counter-terrorism as including the following: the implementation of regional counter-terrorism strategies; the need to continue strengthening the work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; the importance of

engaging stakeholders; and, strengthening capacity-building programmes on CT and PCVE.

He also highlighted the Conference's strong call for the international community to keep pace and get ahead of the evolving terrorism threat. This included addressing terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, as well as the terrorist use of new and emerging technologies.

Mr. Voronkov further emphasized the need to give new impetus and strategic direction to stem the spread of terrorism in the Sahel and other parts of the continent and welcomed the African Counter-Terrorism Summit planned for 2024 under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations jointly with the President of Nigeria. He reminded that A New Agenda for Peace offers an opportunity to strengthen existing capacities and boost synergies across the United Nations' prevention efforts. Mr. Voronkov stressed, in conclusion, that the General Assembly's plenary session on 22 June will formally review and adopt the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, taking stock of the current terrorist landscape, and serving as a guide for counter-terrorism efforts over the next few years. He recalled that preserving consensus behind the Strategy will symbolize the unity of stakeholders and the significance of multilateral cooperation in efforts to prevent and counter-terrorism.



Annexes

ANNEX I

Programme of the High-Level Conference

19 June 2023 – Opening Session

High-Level Opening Session – Addressing Terrorism through Reinigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation

Introductory Remarks:

- **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, United Nations

Keynote Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General
- **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi**, President of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (*Video Message*)

Special Guests:

- **Ms. Narmatova Dilnora**, Returnee from Al-Hol camp
- **Ms. Siddikova Zukhrabonu**, Young-returnee from Al-Hol camp

Eminent Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Albert Kan-Dapaah**, Minister of National Security, Ghana
- **Major General Nasser bin Saeed Al-Fheed Al-Hajri**, Vice-Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, State of Qatar
- **H.E. Mr. Björn Olof Skoog**, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
- **Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **H.E. Ms. Alena Kupchyna**, Ambassador, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats (OSCE)
- **H.E. Mr. Yousef Al-Dobeay**, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

10:00–
11:30

	<p>Update on Negotiations of the Eighth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Robert Rae, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations • H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations
<p>11:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>SESSION I: Multistakeholder Engagement in Countering Terrorism while Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights and the Rule of Law</p>
	<p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations • Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, United Nations
	<p>Voices of Youth and Civil Society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Eelco Kessels, Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security • Ms. Chido Cleopatra Mpemba, African Union Youth Envoy <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Qassim al Araji, National Security Advisor, Republic of Iraq • Professor Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism • Mr. Manuel Navarrete, Head of Fusion Centre Against Organized Crime and Counter-Terrorism, (CITCO), Spain • H.E. Mrs. Nathalie Broadhurst Estival, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations • Mr. Muhammad Tahir Rai, National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Pakistan • H.E. Ms. Cecile Hillyer, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand • Ms. Paivi Kannisto, Chief, Peace and Security Section, UN Women
	<p>Questions and Observations from the Floor (3 minutes max. per intervention)</p>
<p>13:00 – 15:00</p>	<p>Side Events and Lunch Break</p>

	<p>SESSION II: Building Effective and Resilient Member States' Institutions in the Evolving Global Terrorism Landscape</p>
	<p>Co-Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism • H.E. Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations
	<p>Voices of Youth and Civil Society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bintang Assyifa, Global PCVE Programme, Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) alumni, Indonesia
<p>15:00- 17:00</p>	<p>Eminent Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Babagana Mongono, National Security Adviser, Nigeria • Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rosalinda Nyawira, Director, National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Republic of Kenya (5 min) • Mr. Colin Smith, Head of Counter-Terrorism Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom • Mr. Wu Xin, Deputy Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau, Ministry of Public Security, People's Republic of China • Ms. Alison August Treppel, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), Organization of American States • H.E. Mr. Ismail Chekkori, Director of Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Kingdom of Morocco
	<p>Questions and Observations from the Floor (3 minutes max. per intervention)</p>
<p>18:30</p>	<p>Official Ambassadorial-Level Reception hosted by UNOCT and the State of Qatar (South Dining Room, 4th Floor, UN Secretariat Building)</p>

	<p>SESSION IV: Strengthening Capacity Building Programmes – Making Them Fit for Purpose to Meet Resilience Gaps</p>
	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations • Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
	<p>Voices of Youth and Civil Society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Florence Nakazibwe, Senior Legal Adviser-Africa, International Center for Not-For Profit Law • Mr. Achaleke Christian Leke, Executive Director, Local Youth Corner, Cameroon
<p>15:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>Eminent Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Martin Kimani, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations • Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide • Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP
	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Prakesh Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India • H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cybersecurity, United Arab Emirates • Mr. Florian Laudi, Director, United Nations and Counterterrorism, Foreign Office, Germany • Mr. Mauro Miedico, Officer in Charge of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) • Ms. Michael Collins, Director of Americas at Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) • Ms. Tasha Gill, Senior Advisor, Child Protection in Emergencies, UNICEF
	<p>Questions and Observations from the Floor (3 minutes max. per intervention)</p>
<p>16:30 – 16:45</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>

16:45- 17:00	Closing Session
	Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, United Nations
	Eminent Guest <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hon. Mr. Eric L. Adams, Mayor of New York City
	Honouring the First UNCCT Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Jehangir Khan, Secretary General, Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly (UNCPGA) Summary Conclusions and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, United Nations



ANNEX II

United Nations Victims of Terrorism Tree Dedication Ceremony

On 19 June, UNOCT/UNCCT held, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, a dedication ceremony for the [United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree](#). The ceremony convened more than 70 representatives of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, as well as victims and survivors of terrorism. Participants included three victims/survivors of terrorism from the US, India, and Algeria, who acknowledged the significance of the tree as a permanent symbol of remembrance erected on the grounds of the United Nations Headquarters. USG Voronkov stated, ‘the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has never lost sight of the situation of the victims; of their needs, and of their rights... we will continue to place victims at the heart of our counter-terrorism efforts.’ The Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations delivered a statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which Spain co-chairs with Iraq. The National Security Advisor of Iraq unveiled the dedication plaque for the Solidarity Tree and the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia delivered remarks at the ceremony, as key funding partners. At the close of the ceremony, each head of delegation laid a white rose at the foot of the tree in a gesture of peace, unity, and remembrance.



ANNEX III

Summary of Side Events

During the Third Counter-Terrorism Week, 40 side events were co-organized by over 95 stakeholders comprising 41 Member States, 18 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, 10 intergovernmental organizations, as well as 27 civil society, academia and faith-based organizations from all geographical regions to enhance multilateral efforts and common approach to tackle terrorism and violent extremism. Side events covered topics relevant to the overarching theme of the Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and have gathered an impressive number of participants, providing a compelling testimony of the full breadth of the United Nations' commitment to supporting Member States in their fight against terrorism. All side events were followed by over 4,500 participants both in-person and online. In addition, 33 side events are available on UN WebTV which allows more people to connect and get insights into the joint efforts and discussions about enhancing multilateralism to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

19 June 2023

1. CT Travel Programme Donors Forum: Highlighting Achievements, Impact and Lessons Learned

This side event, co-organized by the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel) partners including UNOCT, CTED, UNODC, ICAO, OICT, INTERPOL and IOM, highlighted the successful 'All-of-UN' approach which enables comprehensive and tailored support to beneficiary Member States across the globe, noting key achievements, lessons learned, and priorities for the coming years. USG Voronkov opened the event, where programme partners outlined CT Travel's comprehensive package of support under four key areas of work: legislative, operational, transport industry engagement, and technology support as well as ensuring integration of gender considerations and a comprehensive human rights strategy. The event noted major achievements over the past four years including the drafting of comprehensive road maps, supporting the drafting of more than 15 pieces of legislation, establishing the foundations for three Passenger Information Units (PIUs), delivering capacity building

training to ensure that PIUs can use the data for intelligence-led targeting, and the deployment of the goTravel software. The event featured the CT Travel Programme's independent midterm evaluation that highlighted the Programme's continued relevance, coherence, efficiency, and impact on the ground and recommended its further strengthening including with closer cooperation with donors. Botswana and Norway shared their expertise and experiences in national implementation of passenger data systems using the goTravel software solution. An interactive segment with the Donor Community outlined various avenues for cooperation, including the need for sustainable financial support, provision of in-kind expertise, and establishing strategic partnerships. Hungary emphasized its partnership with the CT Travel to accommodate the Programme Office in Budapest, strategic cooperation including on hosting study visits, the provision of expertise and training and financial support. The U.S. expressed its satisfaction with the Programme, referring to its additional contribution plans for 2023 providing assistance for 23 countries for PIUs, technical integration and regional working groups. The Netherlands expressed its satisfaction for contributing the software solution in 2018 to develop what is now called the goTravel software, and its continued contribution to promote privacy awareness and data protection. Switzerland recalled the value of a study visit to the Norwegian PIU and expressed gratitude for the incredible support provided by the CT Travel Programme partners. Mongolia highlighted the successful establishment of its PIU and the adoption of legislation that will soon allow the Mongolian Government to operationalize it with 26 staff and conduct multi-agency cooperation. The event noted that the success of the Programme depends on building strong, strategic partnerships with Member States, with sufficient resources to address ever-evolving threats and meet ever-growing capacity building requests from Member States.

2. Enhancing multilateralism and reinforcing nuclear security: EU support to the UN in promoting the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT

This side event, co-organized by the EU, UNOCT and UNODC, raised awareness on the importance of the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and demonstrated the strong EU-UN partnership on enhancing multilateralism and strengthening nuclear security through its four-and-a-half-year outreach, legislative and technical assistance project. UNOCT DUSG, UNODC Chief of TPB and Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the UN provided the opening remarks. ICSANT is one of the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, essential for international peace and security. As of June 2023, ICSANT had 120 Parties, while more than one third of the world

is not yet protected by the Convention. In order to reach its full potential, and to avoid safe havens, universalization of ICSANT remains a key goal. The EU delegation to the UN pointed out that one of the challenges the world is facing today is the real risk of nuclear and other radioactive material falling into the wrong hands. France, Ghana, Nigeria, Paraguay, and Saint Kitts and Nevis shared their experiences in becoming party to and implementing ICSANT. France highlighted the regional table-top exercise and workshop on radiological/nuclear detection for the effective implementation of ICSANT. Ghana emphasized the effective incorporation of ICSANT's requirements into national legislation. Nigeria noted the importance of ICSANT for some African countries which are facing surges in terrorism and greater sophistication in modes of attack. Paraguay informed about measures to criminalize and suppress acts of nuclear terrorism. Saint Kitts and Nevis stressed the importance of multilateralism on this effort. Participants got insights into the progress made under the current project. In addition, the EU, UNOCT and UNODC also featured the main priorities to be addressed by the next three-year joint project on supporting the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT in July 2023. This project continues to provide support to Member States by increasing their awareness about the Convention, improving the national legislation and capacities of criminal justice officials and relevant national stakeholders to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate related cases.

3. A new way of doing training in Africa: The successful example of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa based in Rabat

This side event was co-organized by UNOCT and Morocco to present and take stock of the progress made by the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa (Rabat Programme Office) since its establishment in June 2021, and to discuss the development of the Specialized Training Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI) by the UNOCT Global Programme on Counter-Terrorism Investigations and the Rabat Programme Office, as well as introduce new training activities. The event was co-chaired by the USG UNOCT and the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the U.N. The Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs opened the event with a pre-recorded video message. The unique and innovative approach of the Rabat Programme Office to counter-terrorism capacity building was widely appreciated by the participants. The Rabat Counter-Terrorism Training Centre was recognized to have the ability to be the first UN Counter-Terrorism academy for law enforcement and security officers in Africa. The Center produces trainers and supports the development of career pathways through partnerships with universities for certified and accredited trainings. In

2022, 23 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal benefited from the first cycle of STOCTI. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Senegal underlined the high value of the theoretical and practical components of the course and its applicability to the daily work of the law enforcement officers. From 2023, the Global Fusion Cells Programme has joined forces with Moroccan partner agencies and expanded this crucial capacity-building support to 23 African Member States. The Programme is fully operating from Rabat in assisting Member States to strengthen their national inter-agency coordination mechanisms. Speakers also noted that the added value of the Rabat Counter-Terrorism Training Center lies not only in its provision of specialized training, mentoring and institution building, but also in its commitment to supporting Member States' experts in networking and partnership building. The annual Marrakesh Platform, established by UNOCT and Morocco in June 2022 was highlighted. The Platform gathered 38 heads of intelligence and counter-terrorism agencies from Africa to discuss terrorist threats and capacity building initiatives. During the event, new initiatives and sub-projects under the umbrella of the Global CT Investigations Programme (Kidnap for Ransom, HUMINT and Investigative Interviewing Lab) were also showcased.

4. Good practices for managing violent extremist prisoners: preventing radicalisation to violence while promoting disengagement and rehabilitation

This side event, co-organized by CTED and the Council of Europe, in partnership with Austria, Finland, UNODC, and the OSCE, highlighted the unique challenges encountered in managing violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) and described respective initiatives taken by UNODC, the Council of Europe, OSCE and CTED. The Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN provided an overview of the country's program of repatriation of persons associated with ISIL from Syria and Iraq, highlighting its counter-radicalization program in detention centres and post-release, with the active involvement of local communities. An academic expert from the Council of Europe described a special project that aims to compile and review relevant programs in Council of Europe Member States, and to identify good practices. The project noted that approaches are deeply cultural and context dependent, and that more local actors are being involved in program implementation, highlighting on the need for more progress on defining success criteria and addressing relevant gender and human rights issues. An expert with the Federal Ministry of Justice of Austria stressed the importance of the cooperation between state protection authorities and intelligence services. A senior official of the Uganda Prisons Service described the challenges that arise from a growing prison population. Major

challenges include prison overcrowding, delayed trials especially due to the complexity of terrorism cases, and continued terrorist incidents in the country. The representative from OSCE focused on the importance of a gender perspective, consideration of different power relationships determined by gender and addressing the needs of prisoners, including those of women and children. Gender stereotypes might affect both prosecutions and the delivery of rehabilitation support systems. In addition, the stigma associated with terrorist crimes can have a major impact on program effectiveness. Participants expressed interest in ensuring that initiatives in managing VEPs involved not only security and prison professionals, but a broad range of actors from civil society, academia and other non-governmental resources.

5. Launch of the Flagship Capacity Building Behavioural Insights Academy (BI Academy) - its Role in Enhancing Institutional Cooperation and Multilateralism

This side event, co-organized by Qatar, the HBKU, UNICRI and UNOCT, provided a unique opportunity to introduce a novel and interdisciplinary capacity-building project on using behavioural science, designed and implemented by the BI Hub. The USG (UNOCT) and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN co-chaired the event. The event briefed the Member States on the feedback received from beneficiaries of the BI Academy's pilot phase that took place in Doha in May 2023. Beneficiaries informed that the Academy helped in deepening their knowledge, expertise and understanding of behavioural science, and learning how to best harness its potential in PCVE/CT efforts; as well as in benefiting from establishing strategic partnerships with academia and civil society. Furthermore, an update was provided on the next editions of the BI Academy, including its mentorship and certification approach, and its innovative approaches in capacity building, and value for promoting further use of behavioural science in shaping effective programming and policy development. Future editions of the Academy will promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration in CT and PCVE, as well as facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices on how to address the evolving global terrorism threat through behavioural insights lenses. The event contributed to the wider promotion of innovative approaches to PCVE-focused capacity building and strengthening international cooperation. As a result, Member States enhanced understanding of the potential of behavioural science, increased their awareness of the BI Hub's work, acknowledged the impact of the BI Academy, and encouraged collaboration among diverse actors in PCVE/CT efforts to advance the implementation of the GCTS. The BI Academy has a comparative advantage in promoting innovative approaches to capacity-building, fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, identifying good

practices in countering terrorism, and strengthening international cooperation. The diverse participation at the event resulted fruitful discussions, knowledge-sharing and a recognition of the BI Academy approach as one of good practices in capacity building and countering terrorism. Feedback received from Member States and participants of the event will inform the design and implementation of the next edition of BI academy in a customized to different needs approach.

6. Promoting the Role of Women in Security and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa

This side event was co-organized by the EU and UNODC, building on the UN Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, the UN GCTS, UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 and the EU's Action Plan on WPS 2019-2024, and aimed at promoting global, regional and national efforts and priorities in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in efforts to CT/PCVE. Speakers noted that the terrorist groups often exploit gender stereotypes to their advantages and highlighted that addressing the root causes of violent extremism, which has systematically put women and girls at a disadvantage, is key to these efforts. The event further highlighted that gender balance in the criminal justice responses to terrorism is a moral and legal imperative. Empowering women has a positive impact on the rule of law, which contributes to a more gender-sensitive approach, especially when dealing with women perpetrators, victims, and survivors. Women can be very effective in detecting early signs of radicalization, but their roles should extend to community shaping, and resilience building against radicalization. Women's role in intelligence is key, particularly in communities where they have trusted relationships. The event highlighted positive examples of integrating the roles of women in counter-terrorism efforts in Africa. The EU recalled its guidelines that provide a practical guide to be used by practitioners. They presented 10 recommendations: including the need to inspire and attract women to work in the field; demonstrate the operational benefits of more women in counter-terrorism, and sustain a gender approach in the long term. UNODC briefed on its Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism which was tailored to the Nigerian context in mainstreaming gender into criminal justice responses. CCCPA's standalone programme on WPS and gender mainstreaming across their other work was highlighted. The AU has been actively engaged in advancing women participants, making it a point to ensure CSOs, women and youth are involved at the policy setting stage. Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization created a specialized gender sub-committee and is actively working with UNODC and UN Women to advance gender mainstreaming in counter-terrorism. Women in International Security – Horn of Africa

hosted a conference in September 2022 and is considering how to create a transformative approach, including awareness raising with the parliamentarians. The event provided insights to conduct more gendered research on CT/PCVE, collect disaggregated data on the different impacts and roles of women and men as well as strengthen legal frameworks and capacity in the criminal justice institutions, among others.

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7. Launch of the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A Joint EU-UN Publication – Sharing Experiences from the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the European Union, and Member States

This side event, co-organized by the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (UNOCT, UNODC, CTED and UNICRI), the EU, and the State of Qatar, launched the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in CT/PCVE– a joint EU-UN publication developed to support programme managers, evaluators and M&E experts in effectively monitoring and evaluating the results of CT/PCVE initiatives for more targeted, efficient and impactful interventions. UNOCT commended the strong partnership between the U.N. and the EU in M&E and recalled that the development of the Compendium was informed by the independent UN system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluation results under the U.N. GCTS commissioned by the RMME WG in 2021, which recommended strengthening evaluation knowledge and capacities among internal and external stakeholders. UNOCT highlighted that the Compendium would serve as an important knowledge product to build the Community of Practice on M&E for CT/PCVE created in response to the meta-synthesis recommendation to establish a knowledge platform for sharing M&E good practices and lessons learned. The European Commission emphasized that the recommendations contained in the Compendium were the results of the collective work between a variety of actors: the UN, CSOs, GCTF-inspired institutions, and the EU. The representative from Qatar stated that the Compendium came at an opportune time when Member States are eager for Compact entities to demonstrate the results of interventions in the area of CT/PCVE and congratulated all contributors in producing the valuable resource that implements one of the recommendations of the meta-synthesis study funded by Qatar. representatives from Iraq, the UK, and UNOCT BI Hub commended

the publication, highlighted the importance and challenges of measuring impact, and expressed interest in continuing engagements to effectively measure results in CT/PCVE. The Compendium is a living document, which provides a robust basis to identify, analyse, and include M&E good practices within the framework of the Community of Practice in CT/PCVE interventions.

8. Inclusive Civil Society Engagement to Support Rights-based Counterterrorism Efforts at the United Nations: A Vision Forward

This side event, co-organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security, OHCHR, Costa Rica, Denmark, and the Netherlands, focused on opportunities, challenges, and practical recommendations to achieve meaningful, inclusive, and safe civil society engagement in all UN counter-terrorism efforts and across all pillars of the GCTS. The event was opened by the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Denmark to the U.N. and the ASG OHCHR. Panellists agreed that current conditions are not conducive for diverse civil society to engage with multilateral organizations, including the UN. Preconditions need to be strengthened, especially for the engagement of those civil society actors most marginalized and targeted, including human rights defenders, activists, and journalists. They reflected on existing examples of self-organized civil society engagement efforts, including the NGO Working Group on WPS, and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and offered insights to support a strengthened, diversified, and regularized engagement between CSOs and the UN. Practical recommendations concentrated on the availability of information, development of better risk assessment and protection measures, as well as supporting more than one method for civil society engagement. Information must be accessible to external stakeholders, including civil society. The UN system and Member States must develop better risk assessment and protection measures for civil society to engage in policy conversations, decision-making and program delivery, to ensure diverse and regular participation. Multilateral actors should support more than one method for civil society engagement, recognizing that cost, travel, and other practical barriers to in-person participation cannot always be overcome in a timely manner. Participants highlighted that the UN counter-terrorism actors must further strengthen their policies and procedures to uphold human rights obligations. To fulfil this effort, speakers expressed the importance of the engagement of civil society in the development of guidance and implementation of programming, including through the invitation to meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and through interactions with and regular interactions with Resident Coordinators through existing frameworks UN's system-wide Community Engagement Guidelines on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, the Secretary General's Our Common

Agenda and his Call to Action for Human Rights, and the UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space. To this end, the Global Center is partnering with Rights & Security International on a scoping project to facilitate civil society exchanges and discussion on the need and potential avenues for, viability of, and interest in, independent engagement with relevant UN bodies and mechanisms on counterterrorism issues, including the Counter-Terrorism Compact. The report will be released around the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023.

9. International Dimension on the Combatting of Terrorism (Challenges and good practices)

This side event was co-organised by the Counter Terrorism Department of the Turkish National Police and the Counter Terrorism Command of the Metropolitan Police Service of the United Kingdom under the special theme of "Strengthening capacity building programs – making them a better fit for purpose to meet resilience needs, including urgent requirements." Türkiye and the UK have longstanding cooperation on counter-terrorism matters; both countries continuously share information, experience, and capacity with allied nations to tackle emerging terrorism threats. Recent political, economic, technological, and environmental issues shifted international security into a new era. Terrorist organisations adopt new problems of the world for their propaganda while it is still one of the leading concerns for global safety. Combatting terrorism has to address emerging issues, adopt new methods and discover new areas where needed. International cooperation proved its importance for the latest security threats while it is crucial for counter-terrorism matters. During the meeting, counter-terrorism experts from Türkiye and the UK explained how their respective institutions combat terrorism through multilateralism and cooperation with relevant national and international institutions. Furthermore, observations about emerging threats, the radicalization landscape, the global impact of terrorism, and the importance of international cooperation, good practices, and effective counter-terrorism methods consistent with human rights and the rule of law were discussed. Experts contributions to the field might be helpful to other governments, international institutions, and academia.

10. Building best practice and using human rights-compliant, digital methods to address the evolving threat from terrorist financing

This side event, co-organized by the Netherlands, the UK, UNOCT, OICT, CTED, RUSI, and the ECNL, focused on the shifting terrorist/financing landscape and the importance of reflecting these evolutions in the work of the UN, governments and other stakeholders involved in CT efforts whilst maintaining the key lessons from past efforts against

terrorist financing, notably the importance of maintaining a commitment to ensuring actions are sensitive to unintended consequences (such as de-risking) and human rights. It further highlighted the value of using IT solutions being developed by the UN to enhance the cooperation within and among Member States, through accessible and uniformized and transparent technology, facilitating the consultation of international data bases in the case of the goFintel software. The event shed light into the mechanisms implemented by the UN and Member States to effectively prevent and mitigate the risks associated with the misuse of the technology, ensuring that dedicated risk matrices and due diligence protocols are established and enforced to fully address human rights implications. Highlighting the importance of data privacy and the handling of data in an ethically responsible manner, the Netherlands' FIU shared its experiences on their approach to technically innovate while keeping in mind data privacy handling data in an ethically responsible manner. Increasing challenges faced by FIU to keep up with the fast development of technical innovations, the growth of incoming data and catching criminals was also highlighted. UNOCT highlighted that the human rights-compliant approach is crucial when developing and deploying technological solutions in the context of preventing and countering terrorism, including its financing. OICT briefed on the innovative goFintel application that aims to strengthen Member States' capacity to collect, use, and share financial intelligence with relevant authorities. CTED provided a comprehensive overview of remaining gaps and challenges States continue to face in designing and implementing CFT measures and emphasized its unique role in assessing Member States' CT and CFT measures and identifying areas for improvement, including through technical assistance. The provision of such assistance, including software and other automated systems, is conditioned on the existence of robust legal and operational frameworks that contain necessary procedural safeguards as well as independent oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure adherence to data protection, privacy and other human rights obligations under national legislation as well as applicable international frameworks.

11. High-level Forum on Strengthening Cooperation to Enhance Terrorism Responses in Africa

The side event, co-organized by the African Union, ACSRT/AU, UNODC, CCCPA, WIIS-HoA, focused on showcasing effective local, national, regional, and international responses to terrorism across the African continent, including terrorism prevention, criminal justice responses, and the handling of individuals formerly associated with terrorist group. It took stock of current achievements and best practices, examined persisting challenges and ways to enhance African-led approaches with regional and international support.

Panellists shared stories on successful partnerships and the best practices to reshape the responses to terrorism within a reinvigorated and robust multilateral system. Speakers acknowledged that terrorist groups are capitalizing on weak governance structures, fragile borders, and social inequalities to perpetuate their senseless violence across countries, from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, and across virtually every part of the African continent. Africa's youth, which account for sixty per cent of the continent's population, are especially targeted by extremist groups who exploit their marginalization, frustrations, and limited social and economic opportunities with promises of money, security, and purpose. During the event, UNODC highlighted its work on the frontlines for first responders, together with its partners, to strengthen African States' responses to terrorism and violent extremism. Over the past two years, this work has benefitted over 7,500 criminal justice officials, prosecutors, judges, military personnel, and law enforcement officers across the continent. A forum on sustainable peace and development launched in Egypt in 2019 by CCCPA has been organized for holistic approaches in terms of counter-terrorism also building on the program that focused on community-level resilience and tackled the root causes and the ideological causes of terrorism. ACSRT/AU highlighted the need for a well-established mechanism that will foster regional collaboration and cooperation to respond to terrorism or violent extremism in Africa. WIIS-HoA emphasized that trust, transparency, and mutual respect are important factors for partnerships, including the role of women. Speakers called for enhanced engagement with African CT practitioners and experts in mapping ongoing CT/PCVE efforts to identify policy gaps and challenges and to further collect data to inform evidence-based decisions. They also highlighted the need to employ a comprehensive and inclusive approach, bringing together all sectors of society.

12. Transnational linkages between violence-oriented right-wing extremism/terrorism and organized crime: challenges and opportunities for multilateral and institutional cooperation

This side event, co-organized by Germany, the United States and CEP, presented major findings of a study by CEP entitled "Transnational linkages between violent right-wing extremism, terrorism and organized crime" concerning the patterns of cooperation between violence-oriented extremism and terrorism based on with organized crime in Austria and the US. Many of the cases identified by CEP have a transnational dimension, for example, through cross-border activities like the acquisition of illegal drugs or parallel memberships in XRIRB and transnational organized crime groups. These linkages range from mere operational contacts to a full-scale transformation of XRIRB structures into organized crime structures that follow an XRIRB ideology. During the event, the improvement of data collection, analysis, and of sharing practices related to combating

organized crime activities and strategies by XRIRB was highlighted. In addition, it was expressed that joint national and multilateral XRIRB-organized crime task forces on the operational level could be established to enable targeted investigations. The CEP briefed about the situation in Austria centred on a case study of a violence-oriented XRIRB group that gained prominence in the XRIRB music and event scene in Austria and neighbouring countries, while also serving as a provider of violence for local criminal networks. The U.S. emphasized that some XRIRB-linked prison and illegal motorcycle gangs cooperate with non-ideological criminal entities. Financial profits are the primary motivation in these structures, although members have committed violent crimes, including hate crimes. Given the increasingly transnational nature of both XRIRB as well as organized crime, participants explored opportunities for multilateral cooperation to disrupt financial operations. These linkages and cooperation present an opportunity for Member States to utilize provisions of criminal law to disrupt such financial activities that fuel both violence-oriented extremism and terrorism as well as crime. However, this requires both an awareness of the relevant authorities concerning these links as well as the combination of expertise on organized crime with expertise focused on extremism and terrorism, both at the investigative as well as the judicial level.

13. Online is Offline - The interrelation and interconnection between online extremism and offline terrorism

This side event, co-organized by the World Jewish Congress, together with the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN, focused on the nexus between online extremism and real-world terror attacks, in light of the current world events and prominent trends, including terrorist acts committed by extreme Islamist terrorist groups, terrorism based on antisemitic narratives and violent extremism. It aimed to map out trends and challenges in the terrorism landscape on internet platforms and how they relate to physical harms, as well as to review existing and potential solutions such as current multilateral and multistakeholder initiatives. The DPR of Israel to the UN noted that “Terrorist groups have relentlessly exploited the internet to incite and propagate their extreme ideologies, take advantage of their almost unlimited outreach and anonymous nature. Online platforms serve as the global stage for incitement, recruitment, radicalization, and coordination, presenting formidable challenges in combatting their digital footprint.” It was emphasized that just as terrorism is evolving, and structures are less organized and hierarchical, so is their spread and use of online platforms, and that it is becoming harder to moderate content through the designation of terrorist organizations and individuals and behavioural indicators are key to monitoring the spread of extremist content online. The need for cooperation across companies, governments,

civil society, academia and international organizations was a recurring theme throughout all presentations with several innovative solutions, including the importance of cross-industry collaboration, fostering partnerships to leverage collective expertise and resources. It highlighted on the need for a continued cooperation and collaboration between the multiple stakeholders within the frameworks discussed.

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14. Six Years After United Nations Security Council Resolution 2349: Examining the Implementation of Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Strategies for Persons Associated with Boko Haram/JAS, ISWAP and Other Terrorist Groups

This side event, co-organized by Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad, the LCBC, UNOCT, CTED and UNODC, marked six years since the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2349 on peace and security in Africa, namely the LCB in face of Boko Haram/JAS, the ISWAP, and other terrorist groups. The resolution encouraged Member States of the LCB region to develop and implement strategies for the SPRR of persons who have exited Boko Haram/JAS and ISWAP, either by capture, surrender, or defection. The event, opened and attended by: the USG UNOCT; the ED UNODC; the ASG CTED; the Executive Secretary of LCBC; the PR of Chad to the UN, the Chargé d'affaires of Niger to the UN; the DPR of Cameroon to the UN; and the National CT Coordinator of Nigeria, took stock of achievements made to date, while underlining the challenges and opportunities to ensure the effective implementation of SPRR strategies in the region. UNOCT, UNODC and CTED applauded the efforts made to date by the four countries of the LCB region along with the LCBC. They underlined the commitment of the governments towards ensuring regional coordination in the implementation of SPRR strategies, and larger counter-terrorism efforts. They also thanked the LCBC and the governments of the LCB region for their continued partnership in the implementation of a UNOCT-CTED-UNODC joint programme. Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, as well as the LCBC reflected on key achievements including the LCBC's development of the Regional Stabilization Strategy, the development and adoption of a national SPRR Action Plan in Chad, the identification of priority areas in Cameroon, and a draft MoU between Niger and Nigeria. UNOCT, CTED, and UNODC presented lessons from the joint programme in the LCB region. UNDP, DDR, outlined avenues for strengthened coordination among UN partner agencies, embracing one-UN-approach. Academia, and civil society representatives highlighted the need to undertake strategic communications to raise community awareness of the SPRR of persons associated with terrorist groups, in addition to

strengthening the prospects of sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as the promotion of greater justice and accountability, including for sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

15. Preventing and Countering Terrorist Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Good Practices and Trends in the Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of UAS

The side event, co-organized by the United States, CAR, UAE and UNOCT, aimed to address the rising trends of terrorists acquiring, weaponizing, and deploying Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS), including Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) systems, facilitated by technological advancements, such as AROS, including UAS, and increasing accessibility, necessitates a concerted multilateral counter-terrorism effort. DUSG UNOCT and Advisor to the Foreign Minister, UAE expressed concerns over the increase in the acquisition and use of UAS and related software by non-state actors for terrorism purposes, including the rising threats from advanced technology such as Artificial Intelligence which is expected to enable more sophisticated attacks on critical infrastructures. The principals emphasized the international strategic frameworks and good practices, including UNSC resolution 2370 (2017), the 2022 Delhi Declaration, the GCTF 2019 Berlin memorandum, and the importance of initiatives like the AROS Programme in countering these threats. The Deputy Coordinator of the U.S. CT Bureau, emphasized the importance of transnational approach and partnerships to tackle the use of new technologies by terrorist actors including the need of whole-of-government and whole-of-society collaboration to obstruct the misuse of UAS. During the event, a joint UNOCT-CAR Global Report on the Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of UAS by non-state actors for terrorism-related purposes was presented which serves as a baseline for countries to tailor their responses to terrorist use of UAS. The report emphasizes the need for international cooperation and identifies policy action points to address the evolving threat of UAS, including the need to prevent proliferation through the regulation of sales, and limiting the transfer of knowledge between non-state actors. CTED announced the upcoming non-binding Guiding Principles on the Threats posed by misuse of UAS by terrorists, following the 2022 Delhi Declaration. ICAO stressed the importance of risk assessments, protection of critical infrastructures, public awareness, UAS traffic management system and multi-disciplinary cooperation. The representative from Tekever highlighted the positive uses of UAS in preventing and countering terrorism-related threats and separated their deployment into three categories, including the movement of information, of individuals, and of goods, and stressed the need for public-private sector partnerships.

Pakistan called for the use of AI and machine learning while ensuring compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law.

16. Experience of Implementing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Convention on Combating Extremism

This side event, co-organized by the Russian Federation and China, along with UNOCT and SCO RATS, brought together experts and practitioners from SCO Member States, with representatives from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, and SCO RATS to exchange experiences, share best practices, and discuss challenges related to countering extremism while promoting cooperation among Member States. The event emphasised the complex geopolitical realities and increased extremist threats in Central Asia. Speakers highlighted the need for collective commitment in combating terrorism and extremism and emphasized the leading role of States and their competent authorities in countering these threats. The side event focused on regional experiences and best practices in implementing the SCO Convention. Experts from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan shared successful approaches to combating extremism and highlighted their active participation in anti-extremism cooperation, implementation of the Convention, and domestic de-radicalization efforts to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies. The Convention was acknowledged as an important legal basis for regional security cooperation and a reference for other countries and international organizations in maintaining security and stability. Measures on criminalizing extremist activities were also presented, along with ongoing collaboration among SCO Member States in combating extremism and terrorism. Panellists discussed ways to enhance cooperation among Member States in countering international extremist and terrorist organizations, emphasizing that the Convention is open to the participation of any State sharing its principles. The event further focused on the CT challenges in the SCO region, with a specific focus on the role of the SCO RATS. Participants recognized the expansion of international terrorist and religious extremist organizations' areas of activity and the propaganda of destructive ideologies, especially through the Internet. It was stressed that quick and effective measures, including blocking of online resources promoting extremism and terrorism, are needed. Representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan highlighted the importance of developing relevant national strategies and legislation, rehabilitating returnees, and the role of information centres and expert networks.

17. Towards a Terrorism-Free Society: Peaceful Co-existence for the Promotion of Tolerance and Mutual Respect in Combating Terrorism

This side event, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN, UNOCT and UNAOC examined ways and means towards a terrorism-free society. Oman shared its experiences in working towards the implementation of the four pillars of the GCTS, including its efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent it at early stages, and combat extremism. The USG (UNOCT) stressed the importance of tolerance in countering terrorism and presented UNOCT's capacity-building initiatives to combat hate speech and the terrorist exploitation of divisive narratives. The High Representative for UNAOC reiterated the need to work together to erase hate speech, xenophobia, and intolerance. The Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs outlined Oman's vision of consolidating human ties, at the national, regional, and international levels, as a means of paving the way for sustainable peace. The Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN presented Oman's effective approaches to combating terrorism, its causes and its financing by unifying national efforts in the areas of religion, politics, legislation, security, culture, media, education, economy, international and regional cooperation, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. Participants commended the Sultanate of Oman for promoting tolerance, peaceful co-existence, and preventing terrorism while adding that the work of UNOCT and UNAOC brings coherence and practical support for Member States' efforts in this regard. Participants also highlighted the recent adoption by the UN Security Council of its historic resolution 2686 (2023), co-sponsored by the UAE and the UK, on "Tolerance and International Peace and Security" as the first Security Council resolution to recognize that racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination can contribute to the outbreak, escalation, and recurrence of conflict.

18. Innovative Practices in Implementation of National Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Policies: Example of Kenya's Devolved PCVE Model & Kyrgyzstan's National Programme

This side event, co-organized by Kenya and Kyrgyzstan in partnership with UNOCT, OSCE, UNDP and UNRCCA, aimed to provide an overview of lessons learned in the development and implementation of their national strategies to CT and PCVE. It brought together high-level representatives from Member States, UN agencies, and international organizations to exchange experiences, discuss best practices, and strengthen cooperation in addressing pressing global challenges in the field of CT/PCVE, including to uphold human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized. In 2016, Kenya adopted its National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism with the objective of rallying all sectors of Kenyan social, religious, and economic life to reject violent extremist ideologies and goals emphatically and

continuously. In 2017, Kyrgyzstan adopted its first Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2017-2022 and has since revised and issued a new Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers for 2023-2027, which benefits from experiences learned and was adopted on 15 March 2023. Both Kenya's National Strategy and the Kyrgyz Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism emphasize innovation, dialogue, accountability, synergies across sectors and investment in grassroots participation. DUSG (UNOCT) emphasized the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach highlighting the 'whole-of-society' and 'whole-of-government' approach to effectively address the root causes of terrorism and build resilient communities. Representatives from Kyrgyzstan and Kenya shared their respective experiences including the achievements and lessons learned from the Kyrgyz Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism and good practices and outcomes of Kenya's National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism. The event served as a platform for engaging discussions, fostering partnerships, and exploring new initiatives to enhance cooperation in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. It discussed possibilities of organizing a study tour for Kyrgyzstan to Kenya to exchange the best practices on PCVE and on adoption of the National Plan of Action, and CT/PCVE matrix.

19. Promoting PVE through Fostering Peace, Resilience, Equality and Pluralism (PREP) in collaboration with community-based actors

The side event, co-organized by the EU, UNDP and the ICAN, aimed to convey how the international, national, and local stakeholders, with different but complementary perspectives, effectively collaborate to address violent extremism at the community level with a preventative and human security lens, featuring examples from Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Nigeria. The European Commission highlighted the EU's contribution to CT/PCVE through a four-pillar strategy as defined in the Counter Terrorism Agenda (2020): Anticipate, Prevent, Protect and Respond and called for whole of society interventions adhere to local needs. ICAN highlighted that individuals are propelled to join violent extremism not only from fuelled local grievances but also from aspirations. Representative from Eurasia Foundation, Kyrgyzstan provided specific engagement with the communities through the community prevention centre (CPC) that operate in as per Kyrgyz law on prevention. Through rigorous capacity building of the CPCs, actions plans were developed to implement PVE, peacebuilding and resilience interventions. The Director of Al-Firdaws Society, Iraq and the founding member of WASL showcased the impact of youth previously affiliated with violent extremist groups. UNDP highlighted examples from the northeastern Nigeria affected by the Boko Haram insurgency since 2009. Noting the need for an approach to complement military efforts, programmes in

stabilization; early recovery; reintegration, reconciliation and social cohesion (for example through sports) have complemented each other. Panellist presented practical recommendations for engaging community-level partners, providing guidance to practitioners on how to implement impactful PVE interventions, including: (i.) the need for a comprehensive global review of how to address and engage practitioners working in the PVE field; (ii.) mobilizing and engaging communities to disrupt power relationship that are reproducing the drivers of radicalization, marginalization and inequality; and (iii.) ensuring media's roles to feature women peacebuilders, create spaces for dialogue, and excavate role models to be local superheroes. The side event underscored the need for comprehensive approaches that address root causes, promote peace, resilience, equality, and pluralism, and involve diverse community actors.

20. Violent extremism and families: protecting the children's best interest

The side event, co-organized by Canadian Practitioners' network for the prevention of violent radicalization and extremist violence (CPN-Prev), McGill University Recherches et Actions sur les Polarisations Sociales (RAPS) in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, brought together experts in health and child protection to address the challenges and oversights related to interventions for children raised in extremist families. It addressed child development and wellbeing from a human rights' perspective, examining the ways in which states take into account the child best interest. Panellists highlighted three broad topics, such as challenges of reintegration, field experiences in Canada and France, and directions for the future. Speakers underlined the difficulties in bridging the divide between national security priority and the respect of the child best interest. They emphasized the need to engage states and institutions in interventions which, by respecting and fostering child development and wellbeing and preserving family unity could pave the way to successful reintegration processes. The co-organizers concurred in recognizing the importance of launching a multi-actor international network to produce the much-needed evidence on this issue and evaluate the outcome of institutional and state policies. RAPS and CPN-Prev will organize a workshop in Europe in 2024 to pursue these discussions.

21. Bridging the gap: connecting research, policy and practice on masculinities to more effectively prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism

This side event, co-organized by Canada, Mexico, OSCE, CTED, examined the significance of integrating masculinities in CT/PCVE work and brought together stakeholders to (i.) raise awareness on how violent extremist and terrorist groups use and exploit masculinities, including for recruitment and retention of its members; (ii.) identify research gaps and recommendations on how to integrate gender perspectives, including the consideration of masculinities – in CT and P/CVE policies and programmes; and (iii.) launch the Gender and Identity Factors Platform. Panellists discussed existing research and practice on masculinities and formulated recommendations on the way forward. Mexico shared its experience of bringing the issue of masculinities both to the Security Council and the General Assembly and introducing language on masculinities into the draft review resolutions of the GCTS and related challenges. CTED presented its research on masculinities and discussed how violent extremist and terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum use gender, drawing on ideas of femininity and masculinity and prevailing gender norms in different locations and gendered societal norms and expectations, for recruitment of its members. OSCE presented findings from its policy brief titled “Linkages between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism” that highlights how gender is used in both recruitment and radicalization to violence, for both men and women, and how resistance to or backlash against gender equality and calls for a strict hierarchical and restrictive gender order form a part of a violent extremist/terrorist group’s ideology or mobilization strategies across the ideological spectrum. ICAN provided practical examples and case studies on the role of gender and identity which address the importance of engaging civil society, with emphasis on the specific and innovative work of women peacebuilders in the WASL, and addressing structural factors in shaping positive alternatives to extremism. It recommended to harness the power of locally rooted and globally connected women peacebuilders such as those in WASL, who recognize the early warning signs of extremisms and engage men in developing effective responses. Canada and UNOCT noted that they launched the Gender and Identity Factors Platform, a user-led digital platform, which features a library of human-rights based resources dedicated to gender and intersectionality in CT/PCVE.

22. Climate Security and Violent Extremism: From Research to Climate-based Risk Assessments and Programming

This side event, co-organized by UNOCT, UNICRI, and the IEP and co-sponsored by Canada, Norway and Mozambique, was convened to understand better the impact of climate change on peace, security, and violent extremism, and highlighted a mapping of terrorist and conflict activity, socioeconomic conditions and rainfall patterns in the Sahel, and presented perspectives from farmers, herders, fishers, and youth. IEP, UNICRI, UNIDIR, the Northwestern University and youth representatives from UNOCT Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) alumni discussed how climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities throughout the world, drawing linkages between how climate change can accelerate the same drivers that are also drivers of terrorism and how through use of data and mapping of terrorist and conflict activity, socioeconomic conditions and rainfall patterns in the Sahel. There was evidence that climate vulnerable communities were the same ones dealing with high incidences of violent extremism. The side event contributed to the increase and prominence of climate change on the UN agenda, which complements efforts towards a more global approach on addressing the impact of climate change on peace, security, and violent extremism. In addition, participants were able to increase their understanding on the ongoing discourse around climate and security, in particular the impact of climate change and degradation of natural resources and how this can exacerbate local conflicts. Participants agreed that whilst knowledge around climate change on peace and security is growing, there is still limited empirical research to inform the development of PCVE policies and programming that can effectively integrate climate considerations and climate-based risk assessments.

23. Addressing the Challenges of Fighters and Families Returning from Conflict Zones

This side event, co-organized by the U.S, Uzbekistan, the Netherlands, Tajikistan, Iraq, UNOCT and Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations, brought together Member States, UN entities, practitioners, and CSOs with direct experience working with adults and children returned from conflict zones to discuss their successes and challenges. Participants exchanged best practices and lessons learned in: (i.) ensuring accountability in rehabilitation and reintegration of adults; and (ii.) addressing the humanitarian and protection needs of children and caregivers. Moreover, they learned about the support available to Member States that choose to return their nationals from conflict zones, including through the Global Framework for UN Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees, co-chaired by UNOCT and UNICEF, which provides comprehensive

and tailored human rights-based, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate support to requesting Member States across two distinct yet interconnected pillars. The Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the UN, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to the UN and the Department Head of International Legal Cooperation at the Prosecutor General's Office of Tajikistan informed the participants about the repatriation, rehabilitation, reintegration and, where applicable, prosecution efforts of their respective countries. The DUSG (UNOCT), the Special Envoy for CT at the MoFA of the Netherlands and the Director of Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations shared their perspectives, experiences, good practices, challenges and lessons learned in ensuring accountability for crimes committed by returning adults as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration. The speakers provided examples from various regions as well as pertaining to Global Framework implementation in Iraq and in this regard, the Netherlands called on the partner community to provide additional financial support to the project. To address the humanitarian saturation and protection of children, representatives from UNICEF, Finland and Kazakhstan shared their perspectives, experiences, good practices, challenges and lessons learned, including UNICEF support, a remote school set up by Finland to provide education to children in Al Hol as well as measures adopted by Kazakhstan with regard to returning children.

24. Launch of the Global Study on the Impact of Counter-Terrorism on Civil Society & Civic Space

The side event was co-organized by the SR HR&CT, Germany, Spain, CSO Coalition on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, the Global NPO Coalition on FATF, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation, and the Security Policy Alternatives Network (SPAN). During this event, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism (SR HR&CT) launched the Global Study on the Impact of Counter-Terrorism Measures on Civil Society. The Global Study focuses on the daily, lived experiences for civil society from across the globe operating amidst closing civic space and the widespread misuse of CT and P/CVE measures to restrict their exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms and curb their legitimate activities. The SR HR&CT shared comprehensive data and findings of the Global Study, including the cumulative impacts posed by overlapping and intertwined practices, such as vague and imprecise laws on counter-terrorism and P/CVE, physical, digital, judicial harassment, and administrative measures like sanctions and dissolutions, reprisals and intimidation. The Global Study builds from the ground-up on the collection and collation of data driven by civil society, including through a participatory, civil society-engaged-and-led process alongside a commitment to mainstream gender equality and women's rights from its

inception. The Global Study also recognizes the enormous benefits that an active, diverse, functional, and vibrant civil society brings to communities and societies. The side event also aimed bringing together different stakeholders to discuss the global impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space. Civil society representatives from across continents presented on the specific impacts of these measures in their regions, and how the Global Study resonated with their own experiences.

25. Building an effective and resilient response to the evolving terrorist threat in West Africa: Implementing the Accra Initiative

This side event, co-organised by Ghana, the United States and the GCERF, focused on efforts to build community resilience as a fundamental aspect of ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the Accra Initiative, including through multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity-building. The GCERF highlighted the importance of building an effective and resilient response to the evolving terrorist threat in West Africa through complementarity approaches. The Minister of National Security of Ghana emphasized the need for a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion and stressed on the need to build the capacity of security forces and promote community engagement. The Deputy Coordinator for CT of the U.S. emphasised the importance of intelligence sharing and capacity building in the fight against terrorism, highlighting the role of the US in supporting a holistic approach, by providing technical assistance and training to security forces in West Africa. They also highlighted that lasting solutions require a comprehensive approach that includes both security and development measures, regional cooperation and coordination, economic development, and investment in women and youth to address the terrorist threat in West Africa. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the UN highlighted the challenges faced by West African countries in addressing the terrorist threat, including the lack of resources and capacity. To respond to this threat, Burkina Faso has prioritised the promoting of economic development, expanded access to education, and engaged civil society to prevent the radicalization of young people. The Special Envoy for CT of the Netherlands emphasized the importance in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and job opportunities, highlighting the importance of promoting human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. Think Peace Mali, a GCERF grantee, stressed the need for a bottom-up approach involving local communities and provided concrete examples from the ground. A representative from the EU and GCTF stressed the need for a comprehensive approach

that includes both security and development measures. During the event, the commitment to regional cooperation and coordination in addressing the terrorist threat in West Africa; and communities' significant role in prevention was underscored. Ghana and GCERF plan to launch investment strategy in Ghana and seek partnership with additional Accra Initiative Member and Observer States.

26. Upholding human rights standards in online surveillance and content moderation & regulation in counter-terrorism law and practice

This side event, co-organized by Switzerland, Belgium, OHCHR, SR HR & CT, Article 19, Privacy International and the CSO Coalition on Human Rights and Counter-terrorism explored two worrying trends in the regulation and use of technology in global CT measures: (i.) the increased monitoring of communications on social media and the broader internet, and (ii.) the moderation of online content deemed to be terrorist or violent extremist content. The event noted how states have tasked technology and social media companies instead of independent judicial authorities for policing online communications, leading to the removal of legitimate speech. The event stressed that such collection and analysis of the amount of personal data is staggering, exposing peoples' political affiliation, religious belief, health conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. Numerous human rights experts and bodies have raised concerns over the use of automated systems and algorithms to analyse large amounts of these data that pose significant dangers including bias, discrimination, reliability, false positives and negatives of such technologies. Artificial intelligence is also imprecise in identifying restricted speech and can lead to the removal of protected speech. The event noted that internet surveillance and content moderation in CT is not adequately regulated in law and that high-risk technologies is enabled and justified by CT resolutions in the UN Security Council, General Assembly, and other bodies, creating shortcuts around established precautionary principles and posing significant human rights risks. The event requested Member States to adopt adequate national legislation to govern the collection, analysis, sharing and moderation of social media content with permissible grounds, prerequisites, independent authorization procedures, and effective oversight mechanisms. The speakers emphasized the need for robust human rights safeguards in the use of new technologies in CT measures, with consideration for the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, assembly and freedom from discrimination. Panellists also highlighted the positive opportunities presented by new technologies for human rights defenders.

27. The Nexus between Organized Crime and Terrorism in the Americas

The side event, co-organized by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS), Chile, UNICRI, and CTED, aimed to serve as a platform for Member State delegations to take stock of the modalities and effects of the linkages between terrorism and organized crime in the Americas. ASG CTED, DPR of Chile to the UN, the Executive Secretary of OAS/CICTE and the Deputy Director of UNICRI opened the event. The Under Secretary of Justice and Public Security at Minas Gerais in Brazil and Senior Fellow at UNICRI, briefed participants on the findings and recommendations of a forthcoming joint report by UNICRI and OAS on the crime-terror nexus in Latin America. The research will describe the relevant historical, political and social context and presents case studies that clearly illustrate the interconnected and interdependent nature of criminal and terrorist actions in the region. It builds on UNICRI's work on the subject since 2015 in different regions, and in particular on the UNICRI-GCTF Policy Toolkit: the Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism. UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team on ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban presented selected highlights from the Monitoring Team reports, focusing in specifically on the linkages between ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban and transnational organized crime networks operating in the Americas. The US NYPD presented comparable insights from the perspective of North America. The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) elaborated specifically on the financial aspects of the nexus, highlighting data from the GALIFAT region and its work as regional organization to support Member States to combat money laundering and terrorist financing throughout Latin America. UNICRI and OAS plan to disseminate their forthcoming joint report on the nexus in Latin America with participating delegates upon its finalization and release.

22 June 2023

28. Launch of the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa

This side event, co-organized by the Counter-Terrorism Compact, Qatar, Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria, served to launch the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa. The Joint Appeal seeks to steer and incentivize a new generation of UN system action for a more visible, transparent and effective multilateral contribution to the implementation of the GCTS in Africa. It brings together 16 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities under ten multi-partner flagship initiatives: CTED, ICAO, IMO, INTERPOL, IOM,

OHCHR, OICT, UNAOC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICRI, UNOCT, UNODC, UN Women and WCO. The USG UNOCT opened the event on behalf of the UN system together with USG UNODC, ASG CTED, the Permanent Representatives of the State of Qatar to the UN, Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria. The high-level speakers welcomed the Joint Appeal as both timely and highly relevant as it supports the priorities and spirit of the 8th biennial review of the GCTS with a strong focus on preventive action. The Joint Appeal constituted a significant step forward for the collective efforts to prevent terrorism and promote peace and security on the African continent. The event introduced some of the flagship initiatives supported by the Joint Appeal as well as the coordination role of the new Joint Appeal Secretariat, funded and hosted by UNOCT. Project proposals that are currently being finalized in line with the Joint Appeal's objectives to i) achieve transformative results, ii) demonstrate the value of multiple entities working together, iii) respond to CTC/CTED identified priorities, iv) deliver exceptional value-for money, v) support high innovation potential and vi) ensure strong focus on the meaningful integration of human-rights and gender considerations. The UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya highlighted that the Joint Appeal represents the UN system's collective commitment to address priority challenges jointly, strategically and in innovative ways.

29. The Battle of the Bytes: Confronting the Dark Side of Generative AI and the Prospect of its Malicious Use for Terrorist Purposes

The side event, co-organized by UNICRI, UNOCT, CTED together with Australia and Japan, was a response to the significant technological developments in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), specifically in terms of generative AI, which refers to AI systems that can create new and original content, such as images, text, and audio, that are indistinguishable from content created by humans. While generative AI has numerous positive applications, including in creative industries such as music and art, it also presents potential for malicious use. The side event was also intended as a follow-up to the joint UNICRI-UNOCT publication, "Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious Use of AI for Terrorist Purposes", that highlighted some of the potential malicious uses and abuses of AI by terrorists, including generative AI and which was released at the second Counter-Terrorism week in June 2021. The side-event was opened by an AI generated avatar, Noor Najjar, which was created specifically for the side-event by Synthesia, a UK based synthetic media generation platform. The AI avatar was joined by the Permanent Representative of Japan to the U.N, the Commander of CT and Special Investigations Command in the Australian Federal Police, the UNICRI Deputy Director, the UNOCT Head of the Cybersecurity and New Technologies and the CTED ICT Coordinator. UNOCT and UNICRI presented their work on AI in counter-terrorism and specifically the findings of

their joint report. A geopolitics and AI policy researcher at OpenAI delivered remarks on understanding generative AI, its use and creative potential aimed at priming participants to better understand its potential malicious use. Co-Director of the AILECS Lab Australia gave an overview of why generative AI may be attractive from a malicious perspective, contrasting it with law enforcement's motivations and considerations around the use of such technology, and a Senior Threat Researcher at Trend Micro elaborated on some of the malicious uses coming to the fore, primarily in terms of cybersecurity. Having revealed that Noor Najjar was an AI avatar, Synthesia concluded the substantive part of the side-event with an overview of video generation capabilities and principles that guide them to avoid misuse of the technology. Due to limited time, one question was taken from the floor and fed into ChatGPT to demonstrate its capabilities. UNOCT-UNICRI plan to engage with interested Member States on further advancing the joint work on artificial intelligence.

30. Addressing the linkages between the destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property and terrorism: scope of the threat and responses to the phenomenon

This side event, co-organised by Italy, CTED and UNESCO, discussed the challenges in addressing linkages between destruction and trafficking of cultural property and terrorism. Highlighting the Security Council's recognition, through its resolutions, of how terrorist groups exploit the looting and smuggling of cultural property; presenters noted several legal and policy tools to effectively prevent and counter this phenomenon, including the recently adopted 2022 EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods. Some of the UN initiatives mentioned in this field included the UNESCO's "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" initiative, which aims to rehabilitate cultural and religious landmarks damaged or looted by Da'esh during its occupation, and the work of UNITAD in investigating crimes related to Iraq's cultural heritage. Italy emphasized the value of leveraging intelligence through the Carabinieri's cultural database "Leonardo," containing information on over one million stolen works of art, to identify stolen cultural goods in both legitimate and illicit art markets worldwide. The event also featured operational cases presented by practitioners, highlighting the crucial role of international cooperation and parallel financial investigations, featuring the ongoing work of the Antiquities Trafficking Unit under the Manhattan Assistant District Attorney, which has developed a unique expertise in tracing the international routes to traffic looted cultural goods and related financial flows, from their origin to destination countries. Representatives from Member States emphasized the importance of international partnerships in confronting this ongoing threat. CTED, UNESCO and the International Association of Prosecutors

(IAP) are working to launch a tripartite initiative for a three-year project aimed at conducting a comprehensive analysis of the issue and providing valuable guidance and support to Member States in enhancing criminal justice responses, including investigative and prosecutorial bodies, to address the destruction, looting, and illicit trade of cultural property and their connections to terrorism.

31. Addressing the Evolving Terrorist Threat by Strengthening Cooperation Between the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and Regional Organizations

This side event was co-organized by the African Union (AU), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat. Principals from UNOCT, OIC, OSCE, AU ACSRT, Mozambique and the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN focused on potential joint engagements between Compact and regional organizations and on exploring ways to further enhance international and regional cooperation in addressing the evolving terrorist threat. UNDP, the AU, the 1267 Monitoring Team and UNODC noted that the work of the Compact and regional organizations should be complementary and discussed the main current challenges and priorities for joint engagement, including institutional cooperation within and between Member States. The USG (UNOCT) reiterated the importance of enhancing the preventive approach based on regional early warning mechanisms as well as cooperation and collaboration between the UN and regional organizations and noted that the effectiveness of the UN rests on a deeper and more robust cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations now more than ever. OIC commended the Compact's valuable role in supporting Member States' GCTS implementation while facilitating coordination and coherence; highlighted its intention to establish stronger cooperation with global and regional partners; and informed that it is the first intergovernmental 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 AU 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 AMISOM as another example of coordinated efforts to address terrorism together with the UN and Somalia. Saudi Arabia recalled its role as a leading partner in global counter-terrorism efforts and reaffirmed that Compact entities cooperating with international and regional organizations are key in the GCTS implementation while encouraging them to intensify cooperation, assistance, information-sharing and capacity-building to Member States. OSCE reiterated that strong partnerships within the international community are crucial

to tackle all security threats and expressed its commitment to further develop them as a key element to effectively address terrorism and violent extremism and emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Compact and regional organizations.

32. Preventing and Countering the use of New and Emerging Technologies or Terrorist Purposes: Way Forward for a Holistic Multilateral Response

This side event, co-organized by India and the UAE and supported by CTED and UNOCT, aimed to reinforce the attention of the international community on the pressing issue of the exploitation of new and emerging technologies, particularly ICT. The panel included the Permanent Representative of India, the Head of Cybersecurity for the UAE, the DUSG UNOCT, the CTED Director and a panel of expert. Using technologies such as the Internet, including social media platforms and online financial tools by terrorists and terrorist groups for organizing a wide range of terrorist activities has been an issue of serious concerns for Member States. To this end the side event highlighted the growing need to address the issue and to take stock of progress in addressing this threat since the convening of the Special Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) held in Mumbai and New Delhi on 28-29 October 2022, which adopted the Delhi Declaration. Several speakers and panellists expressed the continued and growing threat of use of new and emerging technologies by terrorist group and an urgent need for implementation of the initiatives contained in the Delhi Declaration, in particular the development of set of guiding principles for Member States as well as the analysis of capacity gaps that exists among different Member States to deal with this threat. It was also emphasized that the implementation of Delhi Declaration will help Member States in better addressing this threat.

33. Fighting terrorism in Africa: building multi-actor approaches and institutional cooperation – The International Franco-Ivorian Academy for Combating Terrorism

This side event, co-organized by France, Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCT, UNODC, and CTED, offered an appropriate opportunity to promote the innovative and partnership-based approach of the project of International Franco-Ivorian Academy for Combating Terrorism (AILCT). France and Côte d'Ivoire established the AILCT in 2019 in Côte d'Ivoire. The Academy has been acknowledged as a reference centre to support African countries in capacity-building and inter-ministerial capacities to counter terrorism and has provided trainings to more than 1,000 trainees and auditors from 30 African countries. The side event underscored that as terrorist groups are developing networks across the African

continent by exploiting existing conflicts and vulnerabilities, a strong and collective response is needed to counter this threat and requires new approaches and innovative tools, which can contribute to face more effectively the cross border security challenges. The AILCT aims at lifting all barriers that can prevent an efficient cooperation in CT, through creating a common CT community and culture, both within public administrations and among African and international partnerships. During the meeting, participants discussed how the internationalization of the Academy could promote an effective and durable tool in the collective fight against terrorism, explore possible synergies with the UN system and help to accelerate its actions within three complementary pillars: (i.) an inter-ministerial executive school for officials in charge of counter-terrorism, (ii.) a training centre for special forces and special intervention units, and (iii.) a strategic research institute.

23 June 2023

34. UNOCT moving closer to Member States – the activity of the UNOCT Programme Offices

This side event, co-organised by Hungary, Qatar, Spain and Morocco as host countries of UNOCT Programme Offices, aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of UNOCT's operations outside of its headquarters in New York, focusing on its programmatic activities. UNOCT opened the discussion by explaining the evolution of this unique structure and its contribution to the work of the UNOCT. High-level speakers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Qatar, Spain, Morocco and Hungary explained the roles of the host countries in the development of the respective Pos. The panel also elaborated on the advantages of having a Programme Office in the country, as well as potential future plans. The panel was completed by the subsequent interactive segment, in which representatives of the Program Offices shared their experience and presented the programmes developed by each office and the progress they have achieved since their opening. Participants learned about the variety of activities that can be hosted in different regions, and the deliverables of those activities. In addition to the abstract advantages of closer cooperation, the speakers also shared their practical considerations, such as the cost-efficiency of this type of structure and the smoother cooperation due to less difference between time zones. Moreover, the event provided a networking opportunity between the representatives of Member States and UNOCT. The comprehensive presentation of the Program Offices provided an insightful reflection to the recently adopted 8th review of the GCTS that also highlights the UNOCT Programme Offices.

35. The Role of Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism Through Sport

This side event, co-organized by the State of Qatar, UNAOC, UNOCT, UNICRI, and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), discussed how sport is a vehicle for youth empowerment and societal resiliency to violent extremism, as well as asserting the value of the youth in fostering sustainable peace and social cohesion. The USG (UNOCT) highlighted the role of sport as a powerful tool for peace and security since its immense potential in building a lasting legacy of peace and positive values, which are critical for sustainable responses to terrorism and violent extremism. He also emphasized the capacity of youth as agents of change in their communities, and in building more resilient societies. The side event gave the opportunity to present the achievements and future goals of the Global Sports Programme. The UNAOC Director stated that sport transcends borders and cultures and has the power to instil values of teamwork, fair play, leadership, and empower youth to become ambassadors of peace while highlighting youth's potential to address the root causes of violent extremism. Generation Amazing Foundation stressed the importance of sport to promote inclusion, social cohesion, and to PVE, as well as reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to using sports as a vehicle for peace and diplomacy, since it resonates with all actors of society beyond borders. UNOCT introduced the Sports Programme's workstreams: security of major sporting events and the use of sports for PVE while acknowledging the value of the youth fora carried out in previous years, and the Guide for Policymakers for the use of sport for PVE. UNAOC presented policy recommendations on PVE-Through-Sport, reflecting the findings of a series of youth-focused regional fora held between 2020-2022, aiming at incorporating youth insights for better integrating sport within PVE strategies and action plans. Young leaders, representatives of the AU Sport Council, the ASEAN and FIFPRO shared their personal stories on how sport has positively changed their lives, demonstrating its potential to steer youth away from violent extremism. Youths from Jordan and Malaysia highlighted how sport is a vehicle of social cohesion and that youth leaders are ambassadors of peace in their respective communities. The ASEAN and AU Sports Council stated that youths are at the centre of their organizations and actively participate in building skills and policymaking including initiatives using sports for SDGs and PVE.

36. A Whole of Society Partnership: Religious Actors as Driver of Change and Preventing Violent Extremism

This side event, co-organized by the Multi-Faith Advisory Council's Peace and Security Working Group, ACT Alliance, World Council of Churches, Bahai International Community, Religions for Peace, and the UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), highlighted the importance of the UN Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors as an essential tool for conflict prevention and countering violent extremism while protecting of human rights. The USG and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide emphasized the importance of collaboration with religious and traditional actors in not only countering violent extremism, but also advancing other key agenda areas of the UN, such as the peace and security, human rights, and resilient and sustainable societies. Speakers showcased good practices and lessons learned, including building effective and holistic partnership between Member States, UN entities, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to sustainable peace. During the side event, participants highlighted that the implementation of the Plan of Action on the Role of Religious Leaders and Actors needs to be based on a bottom-up top-down approach. They agreed that implementation at the community level should reflect and amplify the voices and ingenuities of women and youth. Speakers also called for ensuring the safety and security of religious leaders and actors when engaging in peacebuilding and development.

37. Building More Effective and Resilient Law Enforcement Responses to New Technologies in Countering Terrorism: The CT TECH Initiative

This side event, co-organized by INTERPOL, EU, CTED and UNOCT, served to present to Member States and the wider public, new knowledge products developed under the CT TECH initiative. At the opening session, the DUSG UNOCT, CT Director INTERPOL, Head of Unit, Global and Transregional Threats and Challenges, European Commission and CTED Director stressed the need for continued international cooperation to make best use of new and emerging technologies to respond to terrorist exploitation of these technologies. UNOCT provided an overview of the CT tech initiative and then elaborated on the six knowledge products that were launched during the event, including: (i.) conducting terrorist threat assessments on the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes; (ii.) designing national counter-terrorism policy responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes; (iii.) establishing law enforcement cooperation with technology companies in countering terrorism; (iv.) law enforcement capabilities framework for new technologies in countering terrorism; (v.) human-rights based approaches to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes; and

(vii.) a guide for first responders on the collection of digital devices in the battlefield. UNOCT also gave an insight into upholding human rights in the age of new technologies. Representative from Google's CyberCrime Investigation Group elaborated on the tenets of private sector cooperation with law enforcement in countering terrorism and provided an overview of their office's dealings with law enforcement agencies, showing how many potentially harmful events they have managed to prevent. The event summarized that the promotion of effective rule of law based criminal justice responses to the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, public-private partnerships, and human rights, are vital parts of CT efforts and there is an urgent need to strengthen Member States capacities in this regard. The co-organizers plan to share the six knowledge products among all CT TECH partners including through five regional awareness raising events.

38. Aviation security contribution to the prevention and response to the evolving global terrorism landscape

This side event, co-organized by ICAO, CTED and UNOCT, exchanged views on ways to support the resilience of civil aviation's critical infrastructure against existing, new, and evolving threats and addressing aviation threats through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation: the importance of "All-of-UN" approach to comprehensively assist beneficiary Member States to implement all four pillars of the GCTS and relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular in the area of protection of civil aviation critical infrastructure. The event was opened by Secretary General of ICAO, the USG UNOCT and the ASG CTED. ICAO underlined the importance of the cooperation amongst aviation security authorities and counter-terrorism agencies to work together to put in place effective and sustainable security measures for aviation security, border security and cybersecurity to safeguard aviation against terrorist attacks. To assist in the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 2309, ICAO continues to work with Member States through its available tools, including online resources, in identifying and addressing gaps in compliance with the Chicago Convention Annex 17 and providing capacity building activities to address those deficiencies. UNOCT commended the long term and complementary partnership with ICAO, which exemplifies the 'All-of-UN' approach, in supporting and facilitating Member States in their implementation of critical counter terrorism projects and the use of risk-based assessment tools. CTED stressed the importance of systematic threat and risk assessments and highlighted the cooperation with ICAO and UNOCT on development of the non-binding guiding principles on threats posed by terrorist and criminal use of UAS, following the CTC's adoption of the Delhi Declaration. Interventions by representatives from CTED, the General Civil Aviation Authority of UAE and Transport Canada concentrated on key priorities in

addressing aviation related threats, as well as representatives from the UNOCT, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, the National Coordinator of the Threats Assessment Management Program of Botswana and Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on addressing aviation threats through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation on international and national level.

39. Leveraging the Potential of Cities in P/CVE: The Role of Mayors and other Local Leaders implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

This side event, co-organized by the Strong Cities Network and the EU, highlighted existing city-led innovations against violent extremism, hate and polarization. In particular, it underscored the vital role that local leaders and governments play in identifying, convening and coordinating actors on the ground, and how mayors can reinforce values of inclusion and tolerance through intentionally investing in prevention efforts. The representatives of the Strong Cities Network, EU and the US underscored the role that mayors and the cities they lead (whether urban or rural, small or large) play in preventing violent extremism. Speakers asserted that by virtue of their traditional service delivery responsibilities, local governments have the necessary access to residents to identify and defuse tensions before they escalate to violence. CTED underscored how whole-of-society approaches must include local governments and that the UN and other multilateral bodies should support their involvement in P/CVE. The Netherlands expressed that cities are best placed to ensuring relevant grassroots actors are involved in P/CVE and that their efforts are coordinated to maximize impact. Kenya emphasized the importance of mayoral leadership in P/CVE. The New York City's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) highlighted that they invest heavily in partnerships with local actors, supporting them financially and by connecting them with others across the city to enhance multi-actor collaboration. Representatives of the Asian American Federation shared how OPHC's support has helped scale their work and provides a channel through which they can inform OPHC's priorities when it comes to reducing hate crimes. Finally, the Strong Cities Network reiterated that they would continue to bring the UN and other multilateral bodies together with cities to help scale and sustain city-led efforts to do just that. In this regard, they recalled the upcoming 4th Strong Cities Global Summit, which will take place on 19-21 September 2023, in New York on the margins of the High-level Week of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.

40. Ungoverned Online Spaces and Grey-Area Content: Challenges of Addressing Terrorism-Adjacent and Terrorist-Driven Content Across Jurisdictions and Multistakeholder Solutions

This side event was co-organized by the United States, CTED, RUSI, Tech Against Terrorism, GIFCT, EGRN and UNOCT and offered expertise on the issue of online ungoverned spaces and grey-area content that present challenges to the current counterterrorism framework structure. At the heart of the discussions laid the ever-present danger of terrorist-operated websites (TOWs), virtual dens of extremism that propagate hatred, violence, and recruitment. These websites serve as breeding grounds for terrorism, hosting easily accessible materials and communication platforms that fuel the spread of radicalization. During the side event, the exploitation of online gaming spaces by extremist organizations was highlighted as a perilous dimension of the evolving threat landscape. The gaming world has become a prime target for extremist recruitment, propaganda dissemination, and coordination. Extremist ideologies are spreading through customized video games, modifications, and serious gaming. Gaming and gaming adjacent platforms can become breeding grounds for radicalization, and the influence of gaming and pop culture fuels recruitment with extremist-themed content. Research in those fields is crucial to tackle these emerging threats and safeguard the gaming community from exploitation. The mainstreaming of gender narratives and the proliferation of coded language and symbolism add further complexity to the task at hand. To combat these influences within legal boundaries, the speakers called for a comprehensive approach that embraces diversity, inclusivity, and a deep understanding of the ideological landscape. The side event culminated in a resounding call for international collaboration and access to additional funding to confront the evolving threats in online spaces. It stressed the urgency of fostering awareness, coordinating efforts, and engaging all stakeholders, including governments, technology companies, civil society, and academia. Panellists agreed for an ongoing need for more research for evidence based programming, and broadening opportunities for dialogue that brings together policymakers, the tech industry, civil society, and multilateral organisations.

ANNEX IV

Remarks by
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) at the High-Level
Opening Session

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for convening this conference.

Three years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to hold a virtual High-Level Conference. Two years ago, we held the High-Level Conference in a hybrid format. This year we are finally back to a fully in-person setting, and I thank you all for helping make it possible.

I am delighted that so many representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations entities are here today.

Counter-Terrorism Week represents an opportunity for us to synchronize our counter-terrorism watches. It is an opportunity to review the terrorist threat landscape, and to reinvigorate our enduring commitment to effective multilateral cooperation.

The magnitude, complexities and evolving nature of terrorism require a robust and coordinated regional and international response.

The emergence of new technologies, the exploitation of cyberspace, and the manipulation of social media platforms have added complex dimensions to the threat.

Terrorism is also growing at an alarming rate in conflict zones, particularly in parts of Africa.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will partner with Nigeria to co-organize an African Counter Terrorism Summit in Abuja, in early 2024.

I count on your continued interest and support to make sure the Summit succeeds in opening a new chapter in the fight against terrorism in Africa.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We must also address the complex issue of repatriation. This is a matter not just of security, but also of human decency. I urge all Member States to accelerate their efforts to facilitate the safe and dignified repatriation of the tens of thousands of children, women, and men languishing in camps and detention facilities in northeastern Syria.

In his forthcoming policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, Secretary-General Guterres, has underscored Member States' call to prioritize prevention to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism. The New Agenda for Peace is also a call to ensure that counter-terrorism responses are firmly grounded in international law, international human rights law and gender-responsive approaches.

Good governance, the rule of law, equality, and the full realization of human rights are central to effective and sustainable counter-terrorism responses.

And in keeping the General Assembly's call for whole-of-society responses to countering terrorism, we also need to strengthen our engagement with civil society actors, including women, youth, and community organizations.

Promoting inclusive participation of various stakeholders and protecting open and safe civic space are fundamental to building trust between institutions and people as well as laying the foundations for a new and more equitable social contract called for in Our Common Agenda.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The General Assembly is about to conclude its eighth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The draft resolution under consideration has updated

references to a number of important thematic issues, and enhanced provisions on measuring results and impact of the United Nations' efforts in support of Member States. I thank the co-facilitators of the review, the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia, for their efforts to facilitate a consensual outcome. They will shortly share their observations and conclusions of the review process.

For its part, the United Nations system, through its Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, stands ready to support Member States in implementing relevant outcomes of the eighth review.

The Compact now consists of 46 entities and remains an indispensable and unparalleled platform of expertise to coherently coordinate assistance to requesting Member States to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is currently implementing 17 global flagship programmes on priority counter-terrorism issues, in addition to tailored projects that respond to the specific needs of Member States. During the last two years, more than 21,000 people from 171 Member States participated in our capacity-building activities. We are extremely grateful to the partners who make such assistance possible, including the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through their continued financial, political, and technical support.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the support of the General Assembly last December, in approving the Secretary-General's proposals for the conversion of 25 posts to the Regular Budget. This support provides a greater measure of predictability and sustainability for our core mandated policy and coordination functions.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We continue to attach a high priority to multilateral dialogue and cooperation. Through eleven high-level regional counter-terrorism conferences and outreach events over the past six years, we have brought together diverse stakeholders and sustained the multilateral momentum on counter-terrorism.

We are aiming to further strengthen our efforts to address terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation.

It is now my great honor to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, whose leadership and support has been critical to both creating the Office of Counter-Terrorism and helping sustain the international consensus on multilateral approaches to counter terrorism during this complex and unpredictable time. Mr. Secretary-General, thank you for your participation today; the floor is yours.



ANNEX V

Keynote address at the High-Level Opening session by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the United Nations and thank you for being here.
You are at the forefront of a great global effort.

Terrorism affects every region of the world.

It preys on local and national vulnerabilities and the instability of political, economic and security systems.

Poverty, inequalities and social exclusion give terrorism fuel.

Prejudice and discrimination targeting specific groups, cultures, religions and ethnicities give it flame.

And criminal activities like money laundering, illegal mining, and the trafficking of arms, drugs, antiquities and human beings give it funding.

Terrorism festers in the complex crises engulfing our world.

From the food and energy crisis.

To the growing inferno of climate change that is increasing competition for scarce resources and forcing people away from their homes.

To cyberspace, where prejudice, discrimination, misogyny, societal division and outright hatred run rampant.

Year after year, terrorism has chipped away at the bulwarks we've built up over the decades.

Human rights, humanitarian and refugee law – and the UN Charter itself – are flouted with impunity.

This has grave consequences for the most vulnerable people – including women and girls, who face intimidation and sexual and gender-based violence in communities afflicted with terrorism.

Excellencies,

While we have made some significant gains over the years, terrorism and violent extremism continue to take root and grow.

Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates in Africa are rapidly gaining ground in places like the Sahel and probing southward toward the Gulf of Guinea.

Neo-Nazi and white supremacist movements are fast becoming the primary internal security threats in a number of countries.

And the brutal legacy of Da'esh in Iraq and Syria continue to cast a long shadow over tens of thousands of lives.

But as this conference reminds us, when it comes to combatting terrorism, we must stand as one against this global threat.

And we are.

Through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the UN is providing practical, coordinated support to Member States, and helping countries implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We are working closely with civil society, including victims of terrorism, religious leaders, women and young people to shape counter-terrorism responses, policies and programmes.

We are assisting regional organizations like the African Union in key areas like prevention, legal assistance, investigations, prosecutions, reintegration and rehabilitation, and human rights protection.

We jointly established the Independent High-Level Panel on Security and Development in the Sahel.

We're tirelessly advocating for a new generation of robust peace enforcement missions and counter-terrorism operations, led by the African Union with a Security Council mandate under Chapter VII, and with guaranteed, predictable funding, including through assessed contributions.

And we look forward to co-hosting the African Counter-Terrorism Summit with Nigeria.

Excellencies,

This week marks a critical opportunity to build on this progress.

I see four areas of focus.

1. First – we must continue strengthening the central tool in our efforts: the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I'm deeply grateful to the co-facilitators, Canada and Tunisia, for their strong leadership throughout the eighth review process.

And I look forward to the General Assembly's consensus adoption of the review resolution of the Strategy later this week.

2. Second – we must focus on the most effective approach to ending this menace: prevention.

We will be putting forward a New Agenda for Peace with prevention at its heart.

Prevention means more than just foiling attacks and disrupting plots.

It means addressing the underlying conditions that can lead to terrorism in the first place – such as poverty, discrimination, disaffection, weak infrastructure and institutions and gross violations of human rights.

Prevention also means inclusion.

We must ensure that counter-terrorism strategies and measures reflect all communities, constituencies and voices – especially minorities, women and young people – and do not hinder civil society in carrying out their vital work.

And prevention means placing human rights and the rule of law at the core of all that we do.

3. Which brings me to my third point – human rights.

Terrorism represents the denial and destruction of human rights.

And so the fight against it will never succeed if we perpetuate the same denial and destruction.

In fact, human rights can be the greatest weapon we have in fighting terrorism.

Evidence shows that counter-terrorism efforts that are solely security-focused rather than human-rights based can inadvertently increase marginalization and exclusion, thereby perpetuating the same conditions that can lead to terrorism in the first place.

We need to ground firmly all counter-terrorism policies and initiatives within human rights.

This must include repatriation efforts.

We are joined today by two returnees from Al-Hol camp who have come to share their experiences with us.

Their presence reminds us that, despite the territorial defeat of Da'esh over four years ago, more than 50,000 children, women and men still remain in Al-Hol and other camps and detention centers in northeastern Syria as it was referred by our Under-Secretary-General of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov.

They are subjected to dire security and humanitarian conditions, and human rights abuses.

I commend Iraq and other Member States working to repatriate nationals from the camps – and reiterate my call for all Member States to help accelerate the pace of repatriation as an urgent priority.

As I said when I met with returnees from Al-Hol in Iraq in March – this is a matter of human decency and compassion, and it is also a matter of security.

We must prevent the legacy of yesterday's fights from fueling tomorrow's conflicts.

4. My fourth point today is about funding.

I remain deeply grateful to Member States for their contributions to the work of the United Nations.

But we are facing a worsening funding crunch, with assessed contributions to our organization going unpaid.

This shortfall will have serious implications – both for our peacekeeping efforts and for the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

I call on all Member States to fulfil their funding commitments and ensure that we have the resources to help take on this common challenge.

Excellencies,

Terrorism has cast its shadow over too many lives, in too many communities, for far too long.

In the names of all those who have suffered and continue to suffer, and in the names of all victims and survivors, let's intensify our work to create a future without terrorism.

Thank you.



ANNEX VI

Remarks by Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet, at the Official Ambassadorial-Level Reception hosted by UNOCT and the State of Qatar, 19 June

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, it's an honour to join you here, and to welcome you to the United Nations.

Let me begin by thanking our hosts – Her Excellency

Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism – for bringing us together.

As the Secretary-General said earlier today, you are all at the forefront of a great global effort – the fight against terrorism.

One week ago, residents of New York City – and millions across North America – felt the effects of the wildfires in Canada as an orange haze enveloped the city.

The scourge of terrorism is like so many other challenges we face today.

It is like a gigantic wildfire – one lit by human hands – respecting no borders or boundaries.

Terrorism affects people of all ages, cultures, religions and nationalities.

And it stands in the way of our efforts to end poverty, hunger and discrimination, and make progress towards the peaceful and sustainable future our world needs.

As we kick off this week of comprehensive deliberations, I echo the Secretary-General's four main points in his remarks earlier today:

The need to strengthen the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy now under review, led by Canada and Tunisia.

The importance of anchoring our efforts in prevention – including by addressing the underlying conditions that can lead to terrorism in the first place.

The vital need to firmly ground all counter-terrorism policies and initiatives within human rights – always and without exception.

And the need to strengthen our support to Member States to counter terrorism. To this end, the Secretary-General has increased assessed funding to the Office.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

All of you are critical to progress in these areas.

By standing and acting as one, we are sending a signal of unity and common purpose in the fight against terrorism.

Let's keep going.

Let's honour the victims of terrorism over the decades in the best possible way – by ensuring that our world becomes a safer, better, more cohesive and trusting place for all people, everywhere, in the years ahead.

Thank you.

ANNEX VII

Remarks at the Closing session by Mr. Eric Adams,
Mayor of New York City, 20 June

Thank you so much Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for allowing me to be here today to address you and the distinguished men and women here. And to your excellencies, distinguished delegates, and guests. Those three numbers, 9/11, are permanently part of the history of our city, and oftentimes we look at the lives that were lost during the September 11th attacks, and many people believe that the loss of lives ended on that day. But it was only the beginning of a thousand other New Yorkers who died from the devastation that came when we witnessed two of the symbols of our strength in the city and the country, a place we called the World Trade Center.

It was a symbol of trade throughout the world, and we watched it collapsed before our eyes. One of the greatest levels of terrorism that took place on America's soil. But we want to be clear here today, as we have a moment of silence for those we've lost across the country, we did not allow the collapse of the building to collapse our spirits. We would not remain silent to terrorism.

September 11th was devastating, and we mourned the loss for many years. Took place September 11th, 2001. But something happened on September 12th. We got up. We showed our resiliency. We showed our unwillingness to surrender. Our teachers went to school to teach. Our retailers sold goods, our builders built. We saw that it was an important moment in American history. When New York City got up, America got up. The globe got up and realized we would never surrender to terrorism, and we would never surrender to fear.

We know how important it is to ensure not only did we get up out of the pain of terrorism, but we also turned it into purpose. We knew we could not demonize groups based on the small number of people who inflicted violence on our country. We should not attack women who wear hijabs or speak a different language, or part of a different religion. We should not seek out vengeance based on the individuals who participated in this act, and attempt to blanketly hate all groups from the communities they came from. It took a level of boldness and patience and fortitude to state that we are much better than the terrorists who attacked us and thought we were going to turn to hate.

We did just the opposite. We partnered with countries across the globe, sending 14 officers across the globe to ensure that we created a partnership. We created the Joint Terrorist Task Force, and partnered with the FBI and local municipalities across the globe, and stated, "How do we come together to fight terrorism without harming the innocent people who are the victim of terrorist acts?" We also used the intelligence to fight and stop attacks. In October of several years ago, we had the individual who drove a vehicle on the west side of Manhattan in a terrorist act. Within hours, we were on the plane going to his homeland to identify if there were any other acts or threats because of the collaboration and the partnership and the relationship.

If we are going to fight terrorism, we cannot only be in a building called the United Nations. We must unite as nations. We must stand together as one to state that the violence is not the answer to the challenges that we are facing.

But we have to go beyond that. We have to stop the climates that create hate in the first place. We have to ensure that we utilize the resources from the major countries to go into those atmospheres and countries where people see that only violence is the only way to go. The best prevention to terrorism is in the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "We spend a lifetime pulling people out of the river. No one goes upstream to prevent them from falling in in the first place." If we want to fight terrorism, we need to fight homelessness. We need to fight food insecurity. We need to fight attacks on women. We need to fight to make sure that education is globally, and opportunities are there. We need to fight the climate changes that we are facing. We need to fight the over-proliferation of weapons that are finding itself inside our countries across the globe.

The fight against terrorism can't be downstream with just law enforcement. It must be upstream and prevent the conditions that make people believe they must act in a terrorist way. That's the world we're fighting for here in New York City. That is what we learned on September 11th. That is what we walked away with on September 12th when we understood the resiliency of not only our country, but the resiliency of the spirit of the greatest race alive, and that's the human race. We are members of that race.

The challenge before us now is to make sure we create climates where no one will believe terrorism is the answer, but humanitarian responses to each other is the answer. Fighting against anti-Muslim attacks, fighting against anti-Semitism, fighting against "Anti" of all groups. That is how we will stop terrorism.

That is my role as the mayor of this city. I spent my life as a man who wore a bulletproof vest to protect children and families of this city as a police officer. I was there on September 11th. I saw the smoldering grounds. I saw what happened to our buildings. I saw the spirit that we felt that we would not get up. But I was also there on September 12th, and we did get up. And because we got up, I'm allowed to be the mayor of the largest city in America. And I'm taking that energy and spirit with me as I unite across the globe on how we can come together as one and we can be a united nation together. I thank you for allowing me to come and speak with you today.



ANNEX VIII

Summary Conclusions by
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), at the Closing session.

Excellencies,
Mayor Adams,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now time to conclude what I hope you all agree has been a rich and productive Conference.

I am grateful to all those who helped make it a success – from our 58 session chairs and panellists to our 10 eminent speakers, as well as the 60 interventions from the floor.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for convening this Conference, and for his leadership and support in reinvigorating multilateralism to counterterrorism.

And to you – the more than 1,000 participants who attended this Conference, representing 160 Member States, 23 regional and international organizations, 23 United Nations entities, as well as 135 representatives from academia, civil society, and private sector.

I am thankful to everyone who travelled to New York to make this Week a success, including the co-organizers of the 40 side events.

The side events cover a wide range of issues, including Counter Terrorism Travel; Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism; programmes in terrorism-affected regions of Africa, Support for Victims of Terrorism; Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration; new technologies; engagement of Civil Society Organizations, and other related global initiatives.

We are grateful to all co-organizers for sharing their success stories, lessons learned, and good practices, and collaborating in a robust whole-of-society approach to address

our common Counter-Terrorism challenges. This is a great example of multilateralism in action.

Dear Colleagues,

In September, my Office will provide a detailed report of the Conference, summarizing the discussions and outcomes in consultation with our partners.

For now, let me highlight some initial conclusions and recommendations that emerged over the course of the two days. I will begin with the five most important cross-cutting issues emphasized by participants.

First, throughout the Conference, we exchanged views on the importance of effective law enforcement mechanisms. Equally important is the capacity building for law enforcement officials through technical assistance and institutional cooperation. All Member States, International and Regional Organizations, private sector, and civil society partners need to join hands to ensure that critical capacity-building assistance is available for those who need it the most, especially in the extremely challenged and vulnerable regions of the world.

Second, as noted by the Secretary-General during his opening remarks, “Human rights can be the greatest weapon we have in fighting terrorism”.

Indeed, grounding our individual and joint actions in good governance, the rule of law, and the full realization of human rights is a precondition for successful and sustainable efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Third, it is essential that we continue to mainstream gender perspectives, advance gender equality and ensure women’s meaningful participation in our common fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Fourth, we must stand in solidarity with, and strengthen support to, victims of terrorism, building on the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism held in September last year.

Yesterday’s dedication of a Solidarity Tree in the gardens of the United Nations Headquarters honors victims of terrorism around the world and symbolizes the resolve of the international community to put victims at the center of global counter-terrorism efforts.

Lastly, we heard yesterday from two female returnees from the Al Hol camp. Their testimony was a strong reminder that more needs to be done to bring foreign terrorist fighters to justice, as well as address the comprehensive and complex issues faced by tens of thousands of individuals, especially children and women, stranded in camps and detention facilities in dire circumstances.

I commend the progress in repatriating nationals from conflict zones and encourage Member States to strengthen their efforts in this respect. The United Nations stands ready to provide support to ensure human-rights-based and gender-responsive prosecution, as appropriate, as well as the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

Dear Colleagues,

Throughout the Conference, we heard about the necessity of reinvigorated multilateralism in counter-terrorism. It is important that we convert that sentiment into practical plans to achieve this vision.

Since its launch five years ago, the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact has demonstrated that effective coordination and meaningful cooperation are essential to counter-terrorism.

To advance multilateral collaboration in support of Member States, the Compact will continue strengthening partnerships and cooperation with regional organizations and fostering joint planning and resource mobilization.

A number of participants emphasized the importance of implementation of regional counter-terrorism strategies, including by establishing new regional fora and structures and holding joint counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism initiatives.

Participants also underscored the importance of engagement with, and ownership by different stakeholders to strengthen whole-of-society approaches, including working closely with civil society, victims of terrorism, religious leaders, women, and young people to shape more effective counter-terrorism responses, policies, and programmes.

There was a strong call for the international community to keep pace and even get ahead of with the evolving terrorism threat.

This includes addressing terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, as well as the terrorist use of new and emerging technologies.

Participants encouraged strengthened financial support for United Nations capacity-building programmes, to make them fit for purpose.

They also emphasized the need to give new impetus and strategic direction to address the terrorist threat in Africa. My Office stands ready to deliver more capacity-building and technical assistance to African Member States, in collaboration with UN Global Compact entities, the African Union, and other regional and sub regional organizations in the continent.

In this regard, the African Counter-Terrorism Summit in Nigeria next year will be instrumental in gathering more international support for these efforts.

There were also strong appeals for a new generation of robust peace enforcement missions and counter-terrorism operations, led by the African Union with a Security Council mandate under Chapter VII and with guaranteed, predictable funding.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is emblematic of the multilateral resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Tomorrow, the General Assembly will hold a plenary session to formally review the Strategy and adopt a review resolution to take stock of the current terrorist landscape and guide our counter-terrorism efforts over the next few years.

Recognizing the significant advances that were made during the seventh review two years ago, Member States have opted for a less ambitious review this year, as noted by Ambassador Rae yesterday. I understand the new resolution is set to cover significant developments since 2021, while making some progress in a few substantive areas.

I congratulate the co-facilitators of the review of the Strategy, Ambassador Rae of Canada and Ambassador Ladeb of Tunisia, who have taken us to this point under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly.

I am also deeply grateful to Member States for their willingness to negotiate in good faith, as well as for their unwavering commitment to maintain consensus.

Preserving this consensus behind the Strategy will symbolize our unity and the significance of multilateral cooperation in our efforts to prevent and counter-terrorism.

It is in this spirit that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, as one of the four co-leads, contributed to the development of the New Agenda for Peace, proposed by the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda.

The New Agenda for Peace offers us an opportunity to strengthen existing capacities and boost synergies across the United Nations' prevention efforts.

To ensure that it reflects Member States' aspirations to strengthen multilateral responses to terrorism, we have sought common ground to address this threat in all its forms and manifestations, by advancing bold yet realistic ideas for more effective responses across the United Nations system.

Allow me to also express my sincere gratitude to our donors, especially the two largest contributors to UNOCT's budget and programmes: the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Dear Participants, A future without terrorism is possible. I strongly believe in this vision. I am profoundly grateful to you for your contributions and engagement in the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations.

Thank you.



ANNEX IX

List of HLC and Side Event Participants

Member States:

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Benin
- Plurinational State of Bolivia
- Botswana
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Equatorial Guinea
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guyana
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Lao, People's Democratic Republic
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Lithuania
- Libya
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Moldova
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman

- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- San Marino
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Somalia
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu

- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United Republic of Tanzania
- USA
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Viet Nam
- Venezeula
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- State of Palestine
- Holy See

International and Regional Organizations:

- African Union
- Arab States, League of
- Arab Interior Ministers Council
- CARICOM
- Commonwealth of Independent States
- Council of Europe
- European Union
- Financial Action Task Force
- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- Gulf Cooperation Council
- Hedayah
- International Air Transport Association
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

- International Committee of the Red Cross
- INTERPOL
- International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ)
- Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (RATS SCO)

United Nations

Entities:

- 1267 Monitoring Team
- Council of Presidents of the United Nations General (UNCPGA) Assembly
- CTED
- DGC
- DPO
- DPPA
- EOSG
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- IOM

- Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
- OHCHR
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
- UNAOC
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNICRI
- UNOCT
- UNODA
- UNODC
- UNOPS
- UN-Women
- Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies (AITAS)
- ARTICLE 19
- Association Djazairouna des familles victimes du terrorisme islamiste
- Association of War Affected Women
- Balamu Community Outreach Program
- Beyond Conflict
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- CISA
- CAMOJET
- Carefronting Nigeria
- Center for Analysis and Development of Interfaith Relations
- Center for Youth Dialogue (CYD)
- Center on International Cooperation
- Centr for Human Rights and Policy Studies
- central Mozambique Youth development (CDJM)
- Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa
- CEP
- Charity & Security Network
- Children and Young People Living for Peace (CYPLP)
- Children and Young People Living For Peace (CYPLP)
- CIJA
- Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics Trust
- Collective AMKA Congo
- College of Youth Activism and Development
- College of Youth Activism and Development (CYAAD)
- Common Action for Gender Development COMAGEND
- Community Development and Sustainability Organization (CDS) NGO
- Conflict Armament Research
- Counter Extremism Project
- Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative
- EducommuniK
- European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)
- Extremism and Gaming Research Network (EGRN)
- Faith Associates
- Freedom House
- FSI-Iraqi Law Firm
- Generations For Peace
- Girlkind kenya
- Global Alert for Defence of Youth and the Less Privileged (GADYLP)UN ECOSOC NGO 2014
- Global Center On Cooperative Security
- Global Project Against Hate and Extremism
- Gray Child Foundation

Civil Society

Organizations:

- AFARD-MALI
- African Youth Together
- Al Hayat Consultancy for Development Research
- Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development
- Alliance for Peacebuilding
- Allied Muslim Youth Uganda (AMYU)
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Amnesty International

- Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)
 - HAKI Africa
 - Human Rights Agenda (HURIA)
 - Human Rights Watch
 - Inganta Rayuwa Peace Network
 - Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Humanos
 - Initiatives for International Dialogue
 - Institute for Economics & Peace
 - Institute for Economics and Peace
 - International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
 - International Civil Society Action Network
 - International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
 - ISIRIKA
 - Justice Project Pakistan
 - Konekt
 - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.
 - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung New York
 - Labo' Démocratique
 - Local Youth Corner Cameroon
 - Maat for Peace Development and Human Rights
 - Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights
 - Make the Road New York
 - Malaysian Youth Council
 - MENA Rights Group
 - Nala Feminist Collective (Nalafem)
 - Network of Estonian Non-profit organizations
 - National Organisation of Deported Migrants
 - NGO Javononi Peshsaf
 - NGO National Coordinating Coalition Inc.
 - NGO National Coordinating Coalition Incorporated
 - Nonviolent Network of Africa Peace Builders
 - NOVACT / OPEV
 - Open Society Foundation
 - Organization for the Prevention of Violence (OPV)
 - Peace Direct
 - Peace Track Initiative
 - PeaceGeneration Indonesia
 - People's Empowerment Foundation
 - Privacy International
 - Public association "Belarusian Fund of Peace"
 - Public Organization Javononi peshsaf (Young leaders)
 - Quaker United Nations Office
 - Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
 - Ryu Dan Empowerment Foundation & FISCAL
 - Search For Common Ground
 - Semillas para la Democracia
 - Shoura for Building National Consensus
 - Social Enterprise
 - Solidarité pour l'encadrement et lutte contre la pauvreté
 - Somali Women Development Centre SWDC
 - Strong Cities Network
 - Suara Rakyat Malaysia
 - Tech Against Terrorism
 - The Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations
 - The Freedom Initiative
 - The Organization for the Prevention of Violence
 - The Soufan Center
 - The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy
 - Think Peace Sahel
 - Tuesday's Children
 - UNIDOSC
 - UNMICY + ICRD- International Center for Religion & Diplomacy
 - Women Fighting For America
 - Women in International Security – Horn of Africa
 - Women without Borders
 - World Jewish Congress
 - Yeep Alumni
 - Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)
- Academia:**
- Adelphi University
 - DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

- Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Georgetown University
- Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
- McGill University
- Northwestern University
- Royal United Services Institute
- University of Geneva
- University of Quebec in Montreal/UNESCO Task Force on Youth and Sport
- Warsaw School of Economics / Fundacja Akademia Antykorupcyjna

Private Sector

- Community Environmental Network
- établissement SMT
- Google
- Microsoft
- Numbers and People Synergy

Others

- American Counterterrorism Targeting and Resilience Institute (ACTRI)
- Avicenne Hospital
- Busia Municipality, Kenya

- City of Mogadishu, Somalia
- City of Nansana, Uganda
- FIFPRO
- Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT)
- ICSS (International Centre for Sport Security)
- International tribal games
- Jordan Olympic Committee
- Manhattan District Attorney
- NYPD





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