

## UNOCT E-learning Course on “Vulnerable Targets Protection on the Occasion of Major Sporting Events” Overview

### **Introduction:**

The United Nations General Assembly resolution of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/77/298) “[c]alls upon Member States to strengthen efforts to improve the security and protection of particularly vulnerable targets, including religious sites, educational institutions, tourist sites, urban centres, cultural and sport events, transport hubs, rallies, processions and convoys, as well as to enhance their resilience to terrorist attacks...” (OP 74).

In addition to the General Assembly, the Security Council has also called on Member States to redouble their efforts to protect critical infrastructure and public places or “soft” targets (e.g. resolutions 2178 (2014), 2341 (2017), 2396 (2017), 2482 (2019) and 2617 (2021) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Madrid Guiding Principles and their 2018 Addendum). Safety, security and service at sports events are the specific focus of the Council of Europe’s Saint-Denis Convention. Other international organizations, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum through its Antalya Memorandum on the Protection of Soft Targets in a Counterterrorism Context, have also provided useful good practices and recommendations on key areas of vulnerable targets protection.

In this context, the United Nations (UN) [Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism](#) (Global Sports Programme) and [Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets](#), implemented by the UN Office of Counter Terrorism in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and in collaboration with INTERPOL, have developed a specialized e-learning course on “*Vulnerable Targets Protection on the Occasion of Major Sporting Events*” to guide on how to best prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks against vulnerable targets requiring enhanced protection measures on the occasion of major sporting events. The e-course complements UNOCT’s existing knowledge products, such as the Guide on the [Security of Major Sporting Events](#) for policymakers and the [Five Thematic Modules on Protecting Vulnerable Targets Against Terrorist Attacks](#).

The e-learning course is supported by generous contributions from the Republic of Korea.

### **Course benefits:**

Whilst completing the different modules, the course takers will:

- Review the basics of sport events venue and non-venue security.
- Explore the difference between soft targets, hard targets, and critical infrastructure.
- Discover stakeholders’ roles in risk mitigation and response.
- Review the vulnerabilities and threats to religious sites, tourist venues, and urban centers.
- Review communication strategies before, during, and after a crisis.
- Generally, discover key considerations that add to the inclusivity, accountability, and sustainability of major sporting events.

Key takeaways:

- Raised awareness of terrorist threats against vulnerable targets in the complex major sports events context.

- Demonstrate an enhanced ability to identify, prevent and mitigate risks, and counter dangers and violent incidents.
- Integrate key considerations for inclusive, ethical, and accountable conduct into the delivery of major sporting events security.
- Access to the Global Sports Programme's online community on the Security of Major Sporting Events and the UN Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection, hosted on UNOCT's [Connect & Learn platform](#), to learn from others with similar challenges, explore synergies, and develop relationships.

### **Target Groups:**

- Major sporting events organising committees, including policy and decision-makers and responsible for vulnerable targets protection and their private partners
- International, regional, and national experts on vulnerable targets protection, including major sports events security
- Sport federations and associations, education, social affairs, health matters, security and justice institutions
- International, inter-governmental, and regional organizations
- Development agencies and funds dedicated to international cooperation and promotion of sport
- Civil society organizations, including human rights bodies and youth-led organizations
- Legislators and national regulatory agencies
- Media and communication sector
- Private entities with a direct interest in major sporting events sponsorship
- Private entities, academia and other stakeholders with a direct interest in the protection of other vulnerable targets

### **Structure:**

The e-learning course is comprised of seven thematic modules and a final, voluntary assessment.

#### *Module 1: Understanding Basic Concepts and Considerations (45 Minutes):*

In Module 1, the characteristics of vulnerable targets are explored, as well as the threats and vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks and the key considerations that must be taken into account when countering terrorist threats in the context of major sporting events.

#### *Module 2: Security Planning, Risk Mitigation and Response (45 Minutes):*

In this module, the role of stakeholders in vulnerable target protection is identified, and ethical leadership and effective management in securing major sporting events and the foundations of integrated security planning are discussed.

#### *Module 3: Religious Sites and Tourist Venues (45 Minutes):*

In Module 3, terrorist threats to religious sites and tourist venues and their vulnerabilities are explored. After this, course takers move on to explore the stakeholders engaged in risk mitigation and response. Furthermore, Module 3 emphasizes community engagement and public-private partnership.

*Module 4: Urban Centres and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) (45 Minutes):*

This module explores terrorist threats to urban centres and their vulnerabilities, specifically focusing on UAS-related threats and how the security of urban centres and the threat of UAS relate to the security of major sporting events.

*Module 5: Event Venue Security (45 Minutes):*

In Module 5, access control and crowd management are examined, and the different types of security zones are discovered. Moreover, course takers will review the key concepts, considerations, and recommended good practices for the effective security of major sporting events.

*Module 6: Communication (45 Minutes):*

In module 6, prevention, crisis management, and communications are tackled. It also provides an overview of key considerations for aligning internal communication channels and external communication.

*Module 7: Preventing Violent Extremism through Major Sporting Events (45 Minutes):*

This module introduces the impact of comprehensive security planning at major sporting events to PVE. After this, youth empowerment and resiliency are discussed, as well as the improved infrastructure and a more resilient society.

*Final assessment (10 Minutes):*

The e-learning course closes with a final assessment, that comprises of 18 questions, covering the content of all modules of the course. If test takers achieve a score of 80% or higher, they will receive an achievement certificate. As the final assessment is voluntary, course-takers will receive a certificate of attendance if they decide not to take the assessment.

**Course Access:**

The course is available on UNOCT Connect & Learn platform, we encourage you to sign up to a Learn account, [by clicking here](#), unless you have already enrolled in the platform. The e-learning course on the “Prevention of Violent Extremism through Sports” is available to all users by [clicking here](#).

For any questions or comments, please contact:

- The Global Sports Programme: [sportsecuritypve@un.org](mailto:sportsecuritypve@un.org)
- The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets: [Oct-Vulnerable-Targets@un.org](mailto:Oct-Vulnerable-Targets@un.org)