October in Review 2020

Political Leadership

USG Voronkov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, signed a Host Country Agreement and a Contribution Agreement for the establishment of a UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat, which will serve as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities in Africa. (6 October)

UNOCT, Morocco and the Netherlands co-led the virtual launch of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) initiative on “Ensuring Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures while Safeguarding Civic Space.” GCTF and 100+ registered attendees from Member States, UN entities, CSOs and inter-governmental organisations participated at the launch event. (13 October)

Highlights

- UNOCT, together with UN WOMEN, organized a side event on the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2005) on Women Peace and Security (WPS). The event discussed gender in contexts impacted by terrorism, violent extremism, and during times of emergencies, including discussions on lessons identified and experiences in supporting gender mainstreaming, as well as partners commitments to promote and advance WPS priorities in contexts impacted by terrorism and violent extremism. (16 October)

- UNCCT held the 21st meeting of its Advisory Board virtually. The meeting agenda included the KPMG evaluation of UNCCT’s 5-Year Programme Framework and a presentation of UNCCT’s work during Q2 and Q3 of 2020. The Advisory Board Members shared views on KPMG’s recommendations welcoming the overall positive result of the evaluation and the Centre’s strong performance in the past six months. (27 October)

- Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the USG, chaired the second virtual Quarterly Briefing to Member States in 2020, attended by 105 Member States and 21 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities. Mr. Gregorian briefed on UNOCT’s work during the last six months and the upcoming UN Counter-Terrorism Week, which will include the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, scheduled to take place in June 2021. (29 October)

- The United States expanded their support and contributed an additional US$500,000 to the UN Countering Terrorist Travel programme. The European Union transferred the second tranche of their contribution towards “Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)”

About UNOCT

The Office provides most of its capacity-building support to Member States through the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), which was established by an initial contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund in 2011. UNCCT has an Advisory Board composed of 21 Member States plus the European Union (EU) as a Guest Member.

To enhance coordination and coherence, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is a coordination framework bringing together 43 entities was launched by the UN Secretary-General in December 2018. The Compact operates thanks to the generous contribution of the State of Qatar. It operates through its Coordination Committee and 8 thematic Inter-Agency Working Groups, which were revitalized in April 2019, providing an ‘All-of-UN approach’ to the system’s work on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism, as conducive to terrorism.

UNOCT Mandate

Established through GA resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017, the Office has 5 functions:

- Provide leadership on the GA counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the UN system

- Enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy

- Strengthen delivery of UN counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States

- Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts

- Ensure that due priority is given to counter-terrorism across the UN system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy
UNOCT cumulative pledges since inception of the Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and from other funds to date, amount to $250.4 million, out of which $190.1 million has been received from 31 donors. Overall the top donors to date are:

- **Pillar I**
  - Addressing the condition conducive to the spread of terrorism

- **Pillar II**
  - Preventing and combating terrorism

- **Pillar III**
  - Building States’ capacity and strengthen the role of the UN

- **Pillar IV**
  - Ensuring human rights and the rule of law

* Allocation from the UN Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the EOSG

** The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at $11.5 million in 2018

### Top Contributors to UNOCT

**UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
State of Qatar
European Union
EOSG PDF funds (China)*
United States of America
Kingdom of the Netherlands**
Japan
Norway
Russian Federation
Spain
Other contributors

* Allocation from the UN Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the EOSG

** The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at $11.5 million in 2018

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### Capacity Building

**UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

In collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNCCT delivered a training session on how to conduct effective open source investigations of a terrorist cyber-attack online as part of this year’s ITU Global Cyber Drill. The event brought together over 200 participants from 77 Member States represented by Computer Emergency and Incident Response Teams (CERTs/C-SIRTs), law enforcement and cybersecurity officials. (13 Oct)

UNCCT and SPIB, together with CTED, convened the first two webinars in a series of expert discussions on ‘enhancing the prevention and suppression of terrorism in the maritime domain’. The expert level webinars included participation from Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, regional organizations and the private sector. (26-27 Oct)

**Special Projects & Innovation Branch (SPIB)**

The CT Travel Programme and its Partners, CTED, UNODC, OACI, OICT and INTERPOL, completed a virtual deep dive assessment in the Republic of The Gambia. This gap analysis exercise identified areas for technical assistance in implementing a national API/PNR programme. (5-8 Oct)

The CT Travel Programme delivered its **first online training course for Botswana** officials on the detection of terrorists and their travel movements using travel information, including API and PNR. (12-16 Oct)

The CT Travel Programme co-organized with OSCE a **Passenger Data Exchange seminar** for approximately 300 participants from Member States, international organizations, airlines, and private IT companies. Discussions highlighted good practices in establishing Passenger Information Units, while CT Travel introduced the Programme, including the goTravel software. Participants also exchanged views on the importance of fostering regional co-operation by establishing Informal Working Groups on API/PNR. (29-30 Oct)

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### October in Review 2020

**UN Counter-Terrorism Centre: January-October 2020**

- **7517** Individuals trained
- **61** Workshops organized

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