January in Review 2021

Political Leadership

USG Voronkov underscored at the UN Security Council Ministerial Meeting on the 20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2020) the Counter-Terrorism Committee’s achievements in developing a global framework to counter terrorism while respecting human rights and stress the imperative of counter terrorism multilateral cooperation. (12 Jan)

USG Voronkov participated in the UN Security Council open ‘Arria formula’ meeting on repatriation of children from conflict zones, and urged Member States to fulfill their responsibilities, including the protection and swift, voluntary repatriation of their children. The meeting was organized by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the SRS for Children and Armed Conflict. (29 Jan)

Highlights

- UNOCT and CARICOM IMPACS signed a Memorandum of Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding that provide the foundation for the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme support to CARICOM Member States to enhance their capabilities to detect and counter terrorists and serious criminals’ travel while upholding human rights, in compliance with Security Council resolutions. (13 Jan)

- UNOCT launched its Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets with Programme partners (UNAOC, UNICRI, CTED and INTERPOL) and the Permanent Representative of Qatar, as the main donor of the programme. The event was attended by over 300 participants from 110 Member States, 8 regional organizations and 13 Global CT Compact entities. The launch included a high-level panel on the protection of religious sites where senior experts shared lessons learnt from recent attacks as well as good practices in developing collaborative approaches. (19 Jan)

- UNOCT also presented the Global Programme at the virtual open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the “protection of ‘soft’ targets” (27 Jan).

- At its first Ambassadorial-level Quarterly Briefing to Member States, UNOCT presented its main highlights from 2020 (video + summary) and priorities for 2021. 198 participants from 101 Member States, including 41 Permanent Representatives, the European Union, and 15 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, attended the briefing. (28 Jan)

- UNOCT, in partnership with UNODC and IPU, held the 6th expert meeting to inform the development of model legislative provisions to support and protect victims of terrorism. The event, organized by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the SRS for Children and Armed Conflict. (27 Jan)

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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
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Highlights (cont’d)

- In January 2021, UNOCT received a generous additional contribution from the Kingdom of Morocco (USD 100,000) towards the establishment of the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat, and from the United States (USD 493,826.95) for an “Expert Adviser and rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) programme” in Uzbekistan.

Capacity Building

UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

UNCCT and UNAOC launched the “Young Religious Leaders and Media Makers” project, which brings together young religious’ leaders from the Abrahamic faiths, together with young media makers from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. The project conducts peer-to-peer workshops and round table discussions on interfaith dialogue, mediation, social cohesion, social media, hate speech, and violent extremism. (14 Jan)

UNCCT, in partnership with UNRCCA and the Eurasian Group (EAG) Secretariat, delivered a two-day hybrid capacity-building workshop for Tajikistan on countering the financing of terrorism, with a focus on protecting non-profits from terrorist abuse. (14-15 Jan)

UNCCT conducted the first virtual deep dive assessment mission to Kazakhstan in collaboration with CTED, UNODA and UNODC, as part of the project on addressing the connection between terrorism, organized crime and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Central Asia. (18-25 Jan)

UNCCT launched a one-year project, funded by Germany, to strengthen the capacities of Burkina Faso on cybersecurity and digital forensics for counter-terrorism in the COVID-19 context. The project is implemented under the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, together with UNOPS and UNODC. (27 Jan)

Special Projects & Innovation Branch (SPIB)

The UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme completed a virtual deep dive assessment with Djibouti to identify areas for technical assistance related to Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) across the Programme’s four key pillars: legal, operational, transport industry engagement, and technical support. (18-21 Jan)

The Global Sports Programme held a consultation with youth leaders from 38 countries, with experience in the fields of sport, peacebuilding and PVE alongside 20 National Focal Points representing Member States in the Global Programme. Participants discussed how to advance the use of sport in PVE and the role of youth in key decision- and policy-making processes. (20-21 Jan)

Top Contributors to UNOCT

UNOCT cumulative pledges since inception of the Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and from other funds to date, amount to $267.3 million, out of which $195.7 million has been received from 34 donors. Overall, the top donors to date are:

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

* Allocation from the UN Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the EOSG
** The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at USD 11.5 million in 2018.