



PRESS RELEASE

The UNOCT Rabat Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa marks its first anniversary with a tree planting ceremony

Rabat, 24 June 2021 - Today, H.E. Mr. Nasser BOURITA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) commemorated the first anniversary of the establishment of the Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa with a palm tree planting ceremony at the Rabat Office Premises.

The Rabat Programme Office and Training Center was established to serve as a much-needed training hub to advance UNOCT's counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel.

Since its opening, the Programme Office has been developing capacity-building assistance to African Member States in the form of accredited training programmes that leverage local, regional, and international expertise to develop and strengthen the technical and specialised skills of law enforcement, judicial and other national security officers from African Member States to investigate and combat terrorism.

Most recently, the Office delivered a three-week-long foundational module, as the first part of a more than 10-week Specialized Counter-Terrorism Investigations training programme. This training benefited twenty-four participants coming from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. The Office will train the same group of participants on Intermediate and advanced modules by the end of the year and will develop mentorship programmes at country level, to ensure sustainability and standardization. This will support national law enforcement academies to own and deliver the curriculum on a permanent basis.

The UNOCT Rabat Office was officially inaugurated on 24 June 2021 following the signature of a Host Country Agreement between UNOCT and the Kingdom of Morocco on 6 October 2020.