



## Press Release

### Graduation Ceremony of the UNOCT specialized training programme on Counter Terrorism Investigations at Al Akhawayn University

**Ifrane (Morocco), 10 March 2023** – Today, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's Rabat Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa held the first graduation ceremony of the Specialised Training Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism Investigations at Al Akhawayn University (AUI).

During the ceremony, 23 law enforcement officers including seven (7) female officers, from 6 six African countries namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal, were honoured with an executive diploma issued by UNOCT and AUI for the successful completion of this training on strengthening technical capacities to investigate terrorism-related crimes.

The 400 hours of in-person training includes 4 modules, covering the foundational, intermediate, advanced and trainer levels over a period of one calendar year. Upon completion of all 4 levels, the graduates will transfer their knowledge by training other law enforcement officers in their home country, with the support of the relevant national training institutions, national police academies, and UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa.

This highly specialized training will also provide a significant opportunity to trainees to build their capacities while sharing experiences, and by building a network of regional cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism.

Designed and delivered by the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat and the Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme, this training is the first Specialised Training Curriculum to be certified by a university.

The certification of this Specialised Training Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism Investigations promotes and advances the standardization of UNOCT capacity-building work through a comprehensive, sustainable, and accredited capacity-building framework.

During the graduation ceremony, Mr. Mauro Miedico, Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and Director of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch at UNOCT, and **Dr. Amine Bensaïd, President of Al Akhawayn University**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between UNOCT and AUI to formalize their partnership through the development of the university accredited programmes and joint research activities.

The President of AUI, Dr. Amine Bensaïd, lauded this multilateral initiative and expressed his full support to UNOCT and to the Government of Morocco.

In a video message, His Excellency Hon. **Tim Watts, Australian** Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, stated: "Terrorism is a global problem that requires a global response. We



owe it to our citizens to bring together collective action to keep them safe. Australia is a committed international partner. We will continue to work with multilateral and regional organizations, such as the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, to shape a safer world”.

In his statement, **Mr. Miedico** highlighted how the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat has become a valuable state-of-the-art training hub in supporting African countries. He underlined its courses are unique for their high-level specialization, accreditation, relevance and impact.

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