



Press Release

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism launches 2024 Edition of Specialised Counter-Terrorism Investigations Training Programme (STOCTI) for Law Enforcement Officers across Africa

Rabat, Morocco, 23 April 2024 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), through its Rabat-based Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, launched the 2024 edition of its flagship Specialised Counter-Terrorism Investigations Training Programme (STOCTI). This university accredited training course was developed in 2022 to enhance the specialized technical skills of law enforcement officials to conduct counter-terrorism investigations within a framework based on the rule of law and human rights.

22 law enforcement officers from seven countries across Africa (Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, the Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, and Togo) attended the opening ceremony and join the third iteration of the STOCTI course.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, welcomed the STOCTI class of 2024 in a video message and highlighted *“Our STOCTI programme is an opportunity to build working relations with other African and international colleagues and strengthen our collective response to terrorism.(...) I encourage you to embrace every day as an opportunity for advancement and progress in your respective countries’ fight against an enemy that too often strikes our communities.”* He also expressed his gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting UNOCT’s Programme Office in Rabat and for its continuous support for the development of this initiative, and thanked the Governments of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, and Portugal for their financial contributions.

In a pre-recorded message, **H.E. Mr. Richard Feakes, Australia's Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism**, noted that as the terrorism threats evolve in Africa, building the capacity of regional law enforcement agencies is critical to ensure security and stability. He underlined that Australia has been proud to support STOCTI since its inception.

H.E. Ms. Isabelle Valois, Ambassador of Canada to Morocco, noted *“It is very important for Canada to support and participate in furthering the development of counter-terrorism capacity at the United Nations along with African Member States.”* She stressed that the training will provide participants with vital skills to protect themselves, their law enforcement colleagues and their communities.

The 2024 edition iteration of STOCTI has been accredited by the New England Committee for Higher Education and will be delivered in partnership with Al-Akhwayan University. The course entails 450 hours of in-person training, covering the foundational, intermediate, and advanced modules. Upon successful

completion of the training, graduates will receive an Executive Master's degree from the University. 40 law enforcement officers, 11 of them female, from 11 African member states have successfully concluded previous editions of STOCTI.

UNOCT's Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, based in Rabat, serves as a regional counter-terrorism training hub. Together with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Programme Office develops capacity-building assistance in the form of accredited training programmes that leverage local, regional, and international expertise. The Office helps enhance counterterrorism knowledge, skills and tools of law enforcement and border security officers and promotes regional counter-terrorism cooperation and information sharing, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel, where terrorist groups threaten the security, lives, and livelihoods of people across the region.

For more information:

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