



## BRIEFING FOR MEMBER STATES

# on the activities of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, Qatar

**2 NOV**  
**2022**

10:00am – 12:00pm (EST)  
CONFERENCE ROOM 12, UNHQ, NY

### Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Your Excellency, Ambassador Al-Thani,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first interactive briefing to Member States on the work of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York.

I would like to thank Her Excellency, Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York, for co-hosting today's event.

We are grateful to the State of Qatar for its strong support and generous financial contribution to UNOCT and the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism was launched in Doha in December 2020 with the financial support of the State of Qatar. This demonstrated Qatar's pivotal role in promoting cutting-edge research and innovative approaches in counter-terrorism through the effective use of behavioural insights.

The support of the State of Qatar has also been instrumental to the work of the Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is the primary institutional vehicle for coherent and coordinated support to Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

With 45 entities, the Compact has continued to attract new and dynamic members since its establishment in 2018 – making it the largest coordination platform across the three pillars of the United Nations system.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

Today's briefing will inform you about the progress made by the International Hub in the last two years of operation, UNOCT's strategy to incorporate behavioural insights to prevent and counter terrorism, as well as our strategic priorities for the coming year and opportunities for further collaboration in this area.

UNOCT is proud to be one of the first entities within the United Nations system to champion the integration of behavioural insights in its daily work.

The United Nations Secretary-General has long stressed the paramount importance of the systematic application and mainstreaming of behavioural science in policy, programming, and practices across the United Nations, to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency, enhance mandate delivery, and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his landmark report on "Our Common Agenda," the Secretary-General highlights behavioural science as one of the cross-cutting capabilities needed for the United Nations to offer relevant and system-wide solutions to the challenges of the twenty-first century, and reiterates its importance in increasing our effectiveness in policy, programme and mandate delivery.

While terrorism is a global threat to international peace and security, its prevention requires local, tailored and evidence-based solutions.

The behavioural insights approach allows us to increase our understanding of the risks and resilience factors underlying violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to ensure that our responses to this evolving threat are realistic, effective, and sustainable.

To this end, the Hub promotes research, advances knowledge sharing and leverages subject-matter expertise to inform counter-terrorism policy, and strengthen the delivery of capacity-building assistance to Member States.

These efforts contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including its seventh review resolution, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in June last year.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

Allow me to briefly highlight some of the major initiatives that have been undertaken by the Behavioural Insights Hub over the past two years:

First, the Hub has conducted more than forty formal and informal consultations with a broad range of experts, which have resulted in the establishment of a network of focal points on behavioural insights in Qatar and across the globe.

The Hub has also organized a number of awareness-raising workshops on behavioural insights, attended by over 150 representatives from Member States, international organizations, and civil society from Africa, Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. Similar events will also be organized with a focus on South-East Asia, Eastern Africa, and the Balkans.

Second, the Hub has identified behaviourally informed tools, methodologies and techniques that are applicable to preventing and countering terrorism, and has packaged these into knowledge products, communication materials, and training modules, which will be made available to a wide audience.

An example is the Hub's "Guidance Note on the application of the behavioral insights approach to fostering resilience".

The Hub is also building upon the behavioural insights methodology of "active choice", where individuals make decisions based on alternatives, and is developing a workbook of exercises that will be put to trial early next year in pilot countries to support reintegration efforts.

Additionally, a Code of Conduct has been developed to ensure that every engagement with a beneficiary through the Hub is human rights-compliant and ethically sound. It's very important.

Third, the Hub is working on providing capacity-building assistance to Member States to develop and implement programmes, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioural insights to counter terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

Today's event will inform you about the progress made by the United Nations system and its partners in countering radicalization to violent extremism through the use of behavioural insights.

It will also inform you about our vision for the better deployment of "behavioural insights for countering terrorism" expertise in the future as a tool for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

I am confident that today's discussion will provide fruitful insights regarding the work of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights, as well as a deeper understanding of how we can leverage the potential of behavioural insights to prevent and counter the scourge of terrorism.

I thank you for your attention.