



HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

STATE OF TERRORISM 2023: INSIGHTS AND TRENDS TOWARDS MORE ROBUST RESPONSES IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

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PRESS RELEASE

Joint UNOCT-IEP High-Level Event underscores the importance of data and trend analysis to develop robust and comprehensive responses to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism

New York, 16 March 2023 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) co-organized a high-level event to discuss the current terrorist threat landscape, identify emerging and existing trends for the 2022-2023 period, as well as explore how knowledge-informed data and trend analysis on terrorism and counter-terrorism issues can contribute to effectively addressing this complex and multifaceted phenomenon.

The event took place as a follow-up to the ninth meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee focused on evidence-based and data-centric responses to terrorism threats. Approximately 150 participants, including representatives from Member States, United Nations and Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, attended the event both virtually and in person.

Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Officer-in-Charge of UNOCT, and **Ms. Natalia Gherman**, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) opened the event with a strategic discussion on emerging and existing trends in the terrorism landscape.

Mr. Gregorian stressed that data-driven and evidence-based approaches must underpin efforts to stay ahead of the curve in preventing and countering terrorism, including by addressing the conditions conducive to its spread. He also noted that such approaches must be firmly grounded in human rights, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, as applicable.

Ms. Gherman highlighted that terrorism continues to evolve and undergo changes” and “the varying drivers of terrorism create additional challenges, which can only be fully understood through empirical research, knowledge-sharing, and dissemination of good practices. Against

the backdrop of these ongoing and developing challenges, multilateralism is more important than ever”.

During the second session of the event, experts from IEP introduced key findings from the tenth annual Global Terrorism Index (GTI) for 2023. **Mr. Serge Stroobants**, Director of Europe and the Middle East and North Africa region (IEP) and **Ms. Briahna Tandoh**, Research Fellow (IEP), underscored that there had been no improvement in terrorism over the last three years, with the Sahel region described as the “epicenter of terrorism” and Sub-Saharan Africa recording the largest increase in deaths. IEP experts further stressed that Da’esh and its affiliates was the deadliest terrorist group over the reporting period and for the eighth consecutive year, while Afghanistan recorded the highest impact of terrorism for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Burkina Faso, Somalia, Mali, Syria, Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Myanmar, and Niger, according to the GTI ranking.

Experts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented key findings from its latest reports on the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in Africa. **Ms. Nirina Kiplagat**, Regional Peacebuilding Advisor (UNDP), underlined that effective oversight of human rights compliance, rule of law and accountability to militarized and state-centric counter-terrorism responses is important to ensure such efforts are not counter-productive. **Ms. Heesu Chung**, PVE Programme Analyst (UNDP), presented key takeaways from a complementary study looking at how violent extremist groups have managed to penetrate new areas as ‘local grievance entrepreneurs’, exploiting the political ecology and political economy to position themselves as ‘proto-state’ competitors and as alternative service providers to the formal State.

During the interactive segment, the representatives from Botswana, Canada, India, Libya, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) made interventions.

This high-level event took place at a critical juncture for the United Nations, as the eighth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and preparations for the Secretary-General’s *New Agenda for Peace* are currently underway.

For more information:

- **Read:** [web story](#)
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