



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
Programme Office in Rabat

Counter-Terrorism  
and Training in Africa



## Press Release

### UN PIONEER PROGRAM ON COUNTER-TERRORISM TRAINING BRINGS TOGETHER 12 COUNTRIES TO TACKLE TERRORIST THREATS IN AFRICA

**Rabat, Morocco, 25 February 2022** –The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office in Rabat for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa concluded a 2-day expert level kick-off meeting in Africa. The event brought together law enforcement and counter-terrorism training institutions from 12 Member States on the continent to assess existing national counter-terrorism investigation capacities in the participating countries and identify training requirements for the wider Sahel region. The meeting enabled dialogue among UNOCT and representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

In his opening statement, Mr. **Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism noted that “This event will mark the beginning of a long-term relationship between the Rabat Programme Office and African Member States seeking to gain the capabilities they need to prevent and counter terrorism and to protect their populations.”

Mr. **Mauro Miedico**, Deputy Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch, noted that UNOCT and its Programme Office in Rabat are determined to support African countries and their national training institutions for counter-terrorism. He added that the Rabat Office and Training Center are at their full disposal in offering specialized, long term, practitioner-oriented training programmes.

The kickoff meeting was organized in three parts. Session One, moderated by Ms. **Guadalupe Megre**, Chief of UNOCT’s Special Projects Section, outlined the mandate, tasks, and training curriculum of the Rabat Programme Office and provided an opportunity to learn from the participating delegations about their existing training capacities and counter-terrorism learning needs. During the second session, thematic experts and practitioners shared their experiences with approaches and methodologies in counter-terrorism trainings, and participants discussed opportunities to develop joint training initiatives and partnerships. The last round table session gathered feedback from participating delegations on the presented training curriculum.

Keynote speakers from different institutional backgrounds took part in the meeting in person and online, among them, Mr. **Ismail Chekkori**, Director General for Global Affairs at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates; Mr. **Bruce Hoffman**, senior fellow for counterterrorism and homeland security at the Council on Foreign Relations and Mr. **Khalid Alharfash**, Vice President for External Relations from Naif Arab University for Security Studies (NAUSS). Other participants included the Brazilian Intelligence Agency Academy (ABIN) and the Mozambican Center for Judicial and Legal Studies (CFJJ).

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 will help enhance counterterrorism knowledge, skills and tools of law enforcement and border security officers and promote 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 Sahel region.

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