

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM CONCLUDES WORKSHOP FOR UGANDA ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Entebbe, 20 October 2023 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) through its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT) concluded a 5-day workshop on Strategic Communications for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in Entebbe, Uganda. Organized in partnership with the European Union and the Ugandan National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), the workshop provided technical training in principles of strategic communications.

The workshop was aimed at enhancing synergies across government ministries, departments, and agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to strategic communications for PCVE, as well as whole-of-society responses. Government and civil society representatives attending the workshop were trained to develop PCVE campaigns in line with Uganda’s National Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Strategy. Each campaign included a dissemination plan to promote relevant messages using social and traditional media.

The workshop’s training curriculum was developed by the UNOCT/UNCCT Global PCVE Programme, based on the priority areas identified through a comprehensive needs assessment with the Ugandan Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance, and a survey launched with civil society organizations earlier this year.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Susan Ngongi Namondo, highlighted the collective action between Government and Civil Society over the course of the training to jointly produce innovative and engaging strategic communications campaigns aimed at building community resilience through whole-of-society approaches.

Mr. Guillaume Chartrain, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union in Uganda, stated “As a global leader in the fight against terrorism, the EU is a primary partner of the United Nations and Uganda. We hope that our support will help achieve social cohesion, promote tolerance and resilience in Uganda.”

Lt. Gen. Joseph Musanyufu, Permanent Secretary at the Interior Ministry of Uganda, highlighted the importance of strategic communications to provide accurate, timely, sensitive and informative messages, which address or prevent misinformation/disinformation, and hate speech aimed at legitimizing extremist ideologies hence fueling violent extremist action.

Representing UNOCT/UNCCT, Ms. Liliane Vicente highlighted the Global PCVE Programme’s longstanding collaboration with Uganda on strategic communications, and its commitment to investing in tailored, evidence-based capacity-building solutions to counter terrorist narratives in Uganda and the region.

The workshop contributes to the joint UNOCT project with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on ‘Strengthening efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and enhance Human Rights Safeguards

in Uganda', which aims to support Uganda in mounting an effective response to violent extremism and building resilience against radicalization to violence. The project is funded by the European Union.

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