UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

THIRD QUARTER
1 July– 30 September 2023

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Abbreviations

1267 MT	Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the "Da'esh and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee"[a] of the United Nations Security Council
AIMC	Arab Interior Ministers' Council
AROS	Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
DGC	United Nations Department of Global Communications
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money-laundering and Financing of Terrorism
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FTFs	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
FVT	Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IIJ	International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NCB	INTERPOL National Central Bureau
NCTC	National Counter-Terrorism Centre
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open-Source Intelligence
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PRR	Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
Rosfinmonitoring	The Federal Service for Financial Monitoring of the Russian Federation
R/N	Radiological / Nuclear
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPIB	UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch

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[a] *Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities*

UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNPDF	United Nations Peace and Development Fund
VoT	Victims of Terrorism
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YEEP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive summary and key highlights

During the third quarter of 2023, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) continued to support Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. In August, UNCCT co-hosted the EAG-Rosfin[b] monitoring seminar on the use of virtual assets for committing crimes and terrorism financing. In addition, the Centre implemented twenty-five different activities, including twelve workshops and training exercises that increased the knowledge and capacities of over 600 participants.

UNCCT held two regional activities on countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes, one in Africa and one in Central Asiaon page 17, as part of the CT TECH Initiative. The Centre further conducted four activities to provide advice, advocacy, outreach, and knowledge products. These included support to the development of strategic and crisis communications development plans, briefings to Member States on rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as a follow up to projects on countering the terrorist use of weapons.

The Centre also held regional workshops and a virtual seminar for Sub-Saharan African countries under its Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons. The focus of this work was on countering terrorist use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and small arms and light weapons (SALW), and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) exercise and exercise programmes, respectively, with over 100 participants from Cameroon, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

This is the second year of the **UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022 – 2025** that operationalizes the mandate given to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/291 (2017) and successive reviews of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The structure of this report reflects the contributions of UNCCT within the context of the Strategic Plan and Results Framework, and in furtherance of its role as a results-oriented Global Centre of Excellence.

High-level events

- Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov led the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact delegation (UNOCT, CTED, UNODC, 1267 MT) at the **13th Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Ministerial Plenary Meeting**, which discussed rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and welcomed Kenya and Kuwait as new GCTF members *(20 September)*.
- The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Raffi Gregorian, led the Compact delegation (UNOCT, CTED, UNODC, 1267 MT) at the **22nd GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting**, which discussed community action against terrorism, engaging local leaders from Iraq, Kenya and Morocco. *(18 September).*
- Under-Secretary-General Voronkov paid an official visit to Nigeria to advance preparations for the African Counter-Terrorism Summit on *"Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building*

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[b] Eurasian Group on Combating Money-laundering and Financing of Terrorism ('EAG') and the Russian Federation's Federal Service for Financial Monitoring ('Rosfinmonitoring')

to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa". During the visit, he met with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Bola Tinubu, as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. The African Counter-Terrorism Summit is scheduled to be held on 22-23 April 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria. *(28 August – 2 September).*

- UNOCT and the Federal Republic of Nigeria convened a Ministerial meeting of African Member States on the margins of the High-level Week of the 78th United Nations General Assembly (*21 September*). The meeting presented an opportunity to exchange views on the terrorist threat in Africa and hear from African Member States on the expected outcome of the African Counter-Terrorism Summit in 2024.

- UNCCT worked with the 'Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism' (a group that includes representatives of Member States and regional organizations, with UNOCT and UNODC as observers) to organize the annual *International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism ('International Day'),* under this year's theme 'The Legacy Project: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future' – see on page 10. The United Nations Secretary-General provided a recorded video-message for the event.

Outreach

- UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT Programme) participated in the Eradicate Hate Global Summit 2023 in Pittsburgh, United States, presenting its work to more than 1,200 people. This event allowed UNCCT to explain and showcase the United Nations system's work in support of victims of terrorism, for their rights and protection, to an international audience that included representatives of governments, civil society, and the private sector – see on page 21.

Key facts and figures

40

Member States supported through capacity building activities

12

Capacity building activities delivered

633

Participants trained

2

High-level conferences on counter-terrorism-related issues

1 275

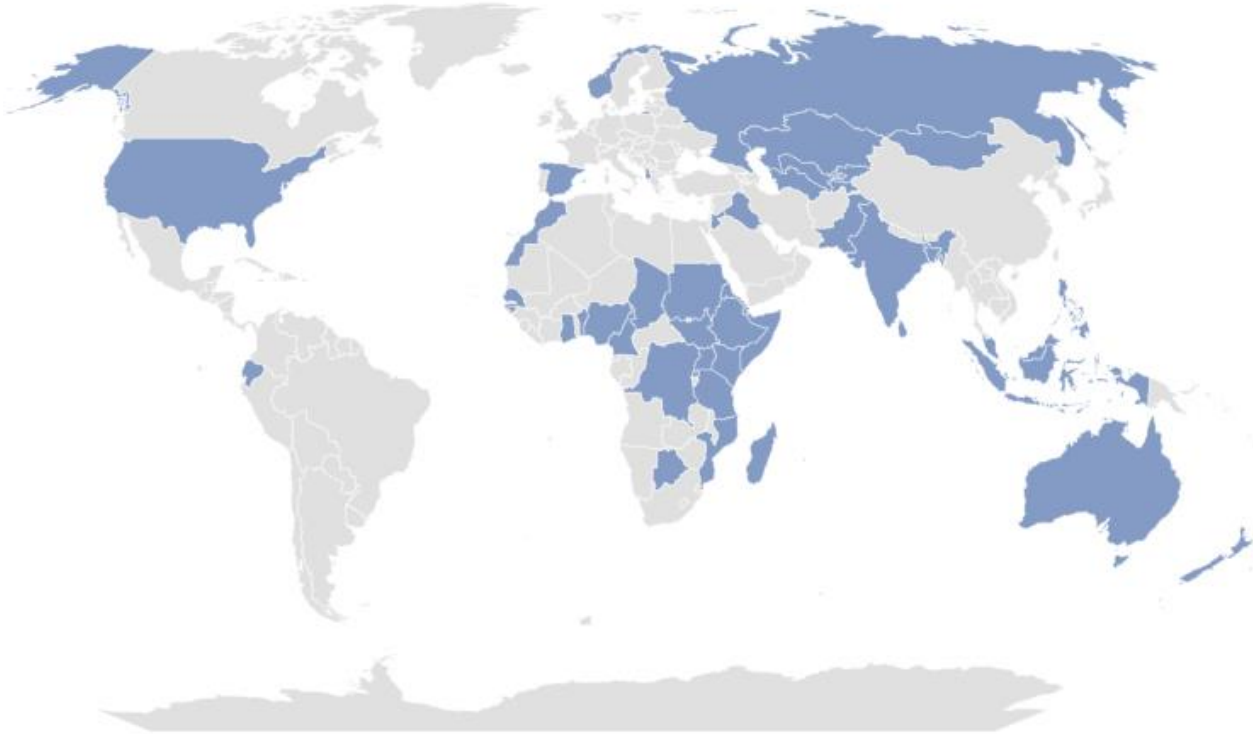Participants in activities for consultation, advocacy, outreach, and special events

34% *

Women participants in capacity building activities

* Not including activities where participants' gender was not reported

Member States supported in the third quarter of 2023*

* Map does not imply official endorsement

Key international partners for UNCCT's work in the third quarter 2023

United Nations entities
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC)
- United Nations Department of Operational Support (DOS)
- United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of Terrorism
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)
- UN Women

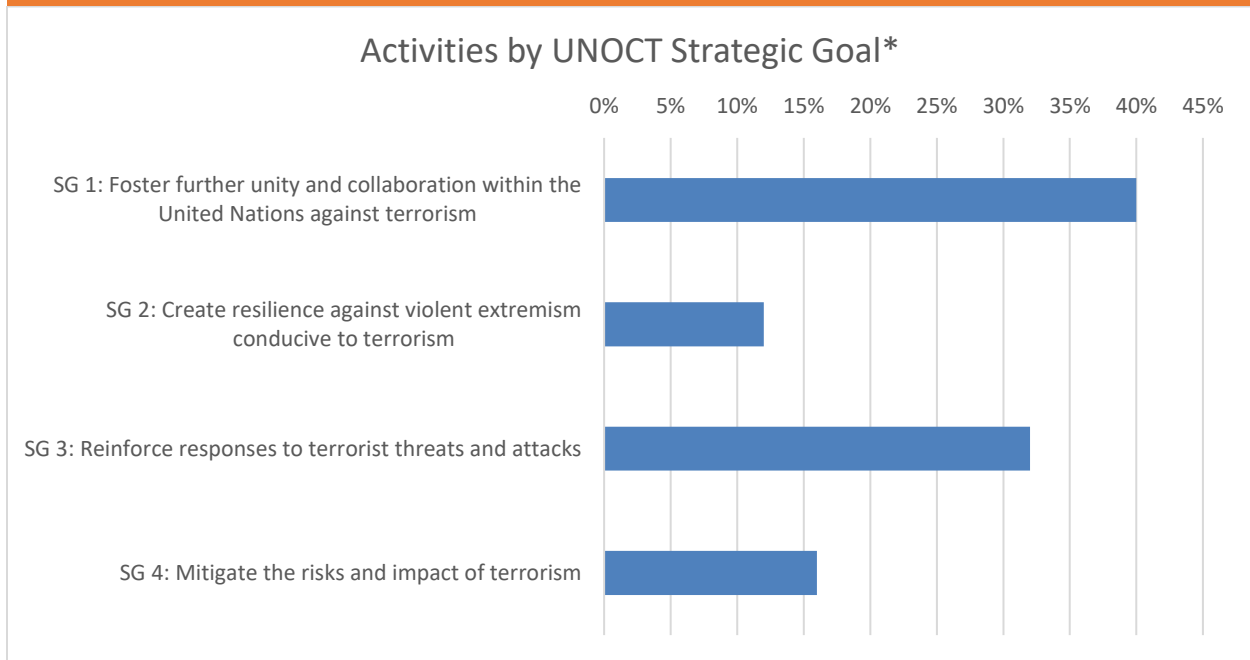**Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations**
- Eurasian Group on Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (EAG)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
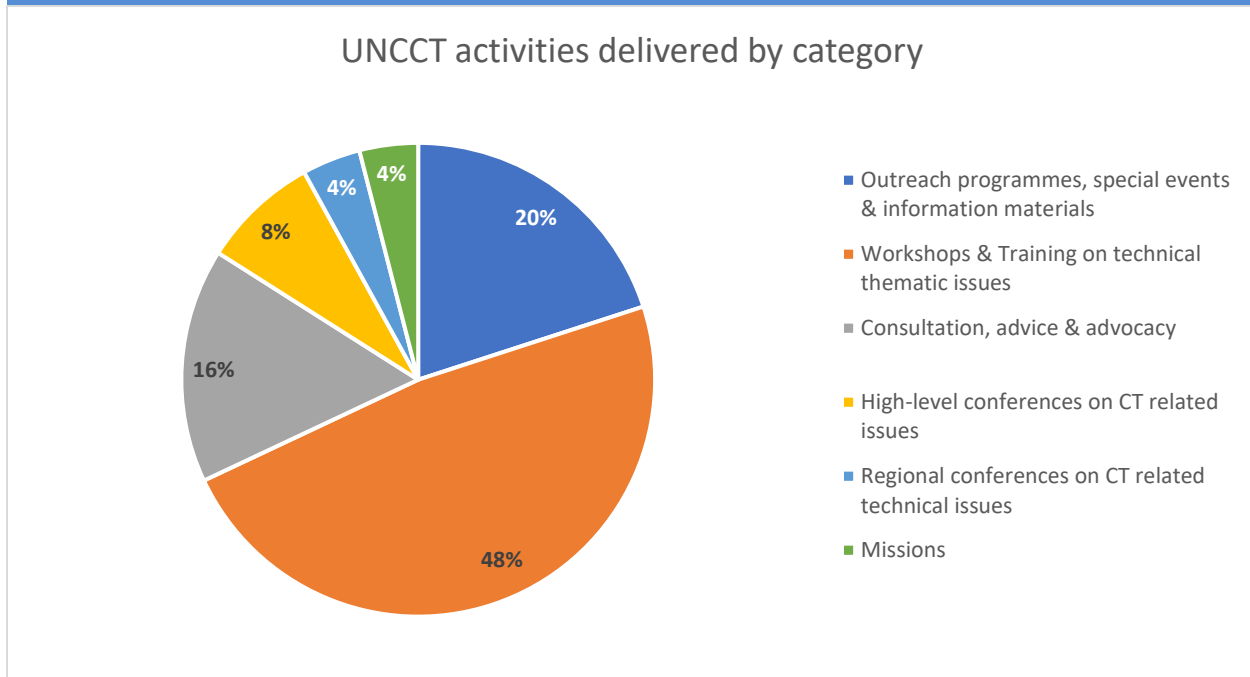
Other stakeholders
- Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo (Victims of Terrorism Foundation, Spain – FVT)
- Global Compact Working Group on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of TerrorismGroup of Friends of Victims of Terrorism
- Kenyan National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
- Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre (Spain)

Breakdown of activities*

Activities by UNOCT Strategic Goal*

Strategic Goal	Percentage
SG 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism	~40%
SG 2: Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism	~12%
SG 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks	~32%
SG 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism	~15%

UNCCT Technical Assistance Delivered to Member States

UNCCT activities delivered by category

- Outreach programmes, special events & information materials — 20%
- Workshops & Training on technical thematic issues — 48%
- Consultation, advice & advocacy — 16%
- High-level conferences on CT related issues — 8%
- Regional conferences on CT related technical issues — 4%
- Missions — 4%

* Note that human rights and gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout UNCCT programming

Overview of Programme Implementation under UNOCT's Results Framework (2022-2025)

Strategic Goal 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT, in fulfilling its leadership and coordination roles, fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on CT/PCVE among all stakeholders. UNCCT works to ensure that the United Nations system is further unified in its focus and support to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that Member States recognize the importance of tackling terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and that CT/PCVE programmes are coherent, duplications of intervention are avoided, and comparative advantages are fully leveraged, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In line with its mandate, UNCCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Outcome 1.1: Demonstrated leadership in engaging with Member States and mobilizing the United Nations System on CT/PCVE.

No activities to report during the third quarter of 2023. Note that work on this outcome is also performed by other branches and sections of UNOCT and may therefore not appear in this UNCCT report.

Outcome 1.2: Relevant, effective, coherent, integrated, human rights compliant and gender responsive capacity development support provided by UNCCT at national, regional and global levels.

No activities to report during the third quarter of 2023. Note that work on this outcome is also performed by other branches and sections of UNOCT and may therefore not appear in this UNCCT report.

Outcome 1.3: Visibility of United Nations CT/PCVE efforts enhanced as a United Nations and global priority.

Launch of the 'Legacy Gallery' in support of victims of terrorism

On 21 August, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT Programme) launched the *"The Legacy Project"* aimed at Inspiring and raising awareness about the legacy of victims and survivors of terrorism. This project, inspired by the popular 'Humans of New York' photoblog, seeks to inspire others and to pay tribute to those whose lives have been lost or forever transformed by terrorism,

as well as to reach out to new generations to transform their understanding of the impact of terrorism. The Legacy Project was launched by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov during the high-level online event for the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism through a short film explaining its aims and objectives.

The social media campaign to promote the International Day and launch The Legacy Project Gallery on Instagram attracted a high level of interest on social media platforms, including the UNOCT X account, and the main United Nations Facebook, X and Instagram accounts, with data from 14 – 28 August highlighting the following: #VictimsofTerrorism reached 7,500 mentions, and @UN_OCT received 41 million impressions on 21 August, compared to 3.3 million in 2022. A total of 122 accounts on X and Instagram, with a total of almost 14 million followers, posted at least once about International Day, including 11 official United Nations accounts. The launch was organized in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the Global Compact Working Group on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of Terrorism.

Unveiling of the 'Memories' exhibition to remember the victims of terrorism and raise awareness about their experiences

On 18 September, the UNCCT VoT Programme unveiled the 'Memories Exhibition' in Valladolid, Spain. The exhibition, undertaken in partnership with the Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre and the Victims of Terrorism Foundation (Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo – FVT), features testimonies from victims of terrorism worldwide, and aims to give a voice to these victims, showcasing their courage and resilience. During the event, representatives of national and regional authorities, victims of terrorism, civil society organizations, and UNOCT reflected on the importance of memorialization and the power of victims' narratives and testimonies. The event also included the screening of the 'Memories' film and a walkthrough and guided tour of the photographic exhibition. During the launch event, several key interventions highlighted the significance of supporting victims and promoting a truthful narrative in the fight against terrorism, including from the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid and the President of the FVT. An additional exhibition in Pamplona was also announced during the event, helping to further strengthen sensitisation and support for victims and survivors of terrorism.

An op-ed in the Spanish newspaper 'ABC', authored by the Head of the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid, with the support of the VoT Programme, aimed to raise awareness about the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism and the activities carried out by UNCCT, as well as to recognize the cooperation between Spain and UNCCT in this area.

Outcome 1.4: Increased coherence and coordination within the United Nations system to support Member States CT/PCVE efforts including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

UNCCT helps improve understanding of relationship between mental health and rehabilitation and reintegration

From 18 - 20 July, the UNCCT Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR Programme) organized a workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Enhancing Psychosocial Support and Resilience of Returnees from Conflict Zones, in collaboration with UNODC. This workshop, part of the Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration project and funded by the United States' Department of State's Bureau of Counter-Terrorism, brought together a total of 40 participants (20 men

and 20 women). It targeted mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) practitioners from Uzbek civil society, as well as the Government of Uzbekistan, who are providing ongoing support to persons allegedly associated with Da'esh returning from Iraq and Syria. The workshop gathered global and local experts in the areas of MHPSS and PCVE to raise participant's awareness of the linkages between rehabilitation and reintegration with mental health.

Outcome 1.5: Fostered multilateral and multisectoral collaboration and cooperation against terrorism.

In fostering multi-sectorial, inter-agency and regional cooperation in the Arab region, the UNCCT Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) Programme supported two regional workshops organised by the Nayef Arab University for Security Studies (NAUSS) on the use of culture and art in counter-terrorism and prevention of violence and extremism (Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, July 2023) as well as a regional workshop on promoting security awareness of media and media representatives (Doha, State of Qatar, August 2023). Both activities gathered different institutions from Member States in the Arab region and focused on issues pertaining to the prevention and countering of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The activities contributed to the implementation of the Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy, developed by AIMC with technical support of UNCCT.

Outcome 1.6: Increased strategic support from donors on CT/PCVE priorities with, sustainable, predictable & flexible funding contributing to resource needs towards for UNOCT's CT/PCVE response.

No activities to report during the third quarter of 2023. Note that work on this outcome is also performed by other branches and sections of UNOCT and may therefore not appear in this UNCCT report.

Strategic Goal 2:   Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT supports Member States through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaboration in support of complementary learning and information-sharing to create societal resilience to terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism. Global programmes and projects are offered across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars of the United Nations, and through interventions that support in particular the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on "promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Through an evidence-informed, gender sensitive and context-specific approach, interventions to build community resilience and cohesion, are designed and prioritized, including in consultation with local stakeholders.

Outcome 2.1: Member States engaged and supported to effectively develop, implement and monitor their own PCVE strategies and action plans in human rights complaint and gender responsive approaches.

UNCCT engages with Uganda to develop a road map for building strategic and crisis communications capabilities

On 9 August, the UNCCT Global PCVE Programme organized a workshop on strategic communications in Kampala, Uganda. The co-design workshop brought together representatives from across government and civil society (18 men and 5 women), as part of the delivery of the joint European Union-UNOCT-UNODC project on *'Strengthening efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and enhance Human Rights Safeguards in Uganda'*. The aim of the workshop was to engage Ugandan counterparts with the identification of the most relevant tools and resources that can be used for the planned capacity building workshops and ongoing technical support for Uganda through the establishment of the country's new CT/PCVE strategy. The workshop built upon lessons learned from workshops that took place in May 2022, helped identify areas for technical support for strategic and crisis communication in support of Uganda's national PCVE strategy, and allowed for the planning and design of in-person strategic and crisis communication capacity building in the country. It resulted in a clear road map and action plan for the delivery of strategic and crisis communications workshops with the Government of Uganda and civil society in 2023 and 2024.

Outcome 2.2: Increased implementation of evidence-informed, coherent, context specific, human rights compliant and gender responsive PCVE initiatives by partners engaged and supported.

First of three African National Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) projects launched in Nigeria

Between 10 - 31 August, the UNCCT Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Global PCVE Programme held an introductory session and three online workshops for the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Nigeria. Through the sessions, a total of 24 participants (12 men and 12 women) were provided with a platform for young leaders from Nigeria to exchange views about prevalent narratives on youth's role in prevention of violent extremism efforts, challenges, and opportunities. The first workshop facilitated a discussion on violent extremism in the local context and the role of ideology. In the following workshops, the YEEP Nigeria participants engaged in discussions on the root causes and the push and pull factors of violent extremism. YEEP trainees were also given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism and to exchange ideas on its implementation within the local context. Ahead of the workshops, participants were asked to submit a written assignment on their understanding of the root causes of violent extremism within their local contexts. This online phase of the training offers a platform for young leaders from Nigeria to exchange views about prevalent narratives on youth's role in prevention of violent extremism efforts, challenges, and opportunities. As a result, the participants have a better understanding of violent extremism, including in its local manifestations, as well as the root causes and factors that attract to or repel people from violent extremism. This is the first in a series of three African national YEEP projects, funded by the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF), with two more to follow in Somalia and Mozambique in 2024.

Outcome 2.3: Fostered collaborations, partnerships and networks in support of complementary peer learning and joint efforts on PCVE at global, regional and national levels.

No results to report during the third quarter of 2023.

Strategic Goal 3:   Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

Description of Goal

UNCCT and its partners support and enhance Member State capacities to prevent, manage and respond to terrorist attacks. Through strengthened regulatory, security, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, operating in accordance with international standards and in compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, Member States' abilities to deter, detect, disrupt, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorists are significantly, and demonstrably improved. This includes addressing the full spectrum of terrorism-related offenses, from the acquisition and use by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, to addressing the evolving linkages between terrorism and organized crime or the use of Internet and other information and communications technologies. This support is delivered through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaborations in support of complementary learning and information-sharing.

Outcome 3.1: Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.

No results to report during the third quarter of 2023.

Outcome 3.2. State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists

The UNCCT CFT Programme helps Eurasian Group countries improve their understanding of the use of virtual assets for committing crimes and terrorism

In Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 24 August, the UNCCT Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme) held a joint seminar with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money-laundering and Financing of Terrorism ('EAG') and Russia's Federal Service for Financial Monitoring ('Rosfinmonitoring'). The seminar, entitled *"The use of virtual assets for committing crimes and terrorism financing"*, brought together 300 participants (200 men and 100 women) from Albania, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and India, representing government agencies, academia, and the private sector. The introductory session of the seminar, on recent developments in counter-terrorism and the misuse of virtual assets for terrorist financing purposes, efforts, was held by the CFT Programme, setting the scene to ensure accurate context and development of the planned knowledge product. The remaining seminar focused on two key areas – the risks of misuse of virtual assets for criminal purposes, including terrorism financing, and on mitigating measures from both a public and private sector perspective. The event further featured workshops and exchanges on Know-Your-Customer and customer due diligence requirements for crypto exchanges, regulatory of virtual assets, transaction verification technologies and technological developments posing higher risks of misuse for illicit purposes, with a specific focus on Non-Fungible Tokens and gaming crypto products. As a result of the seminar, representatives of Member State agencies are able to collect and share best practices and increase their understanding of virtual asset and CFT-related challenges.

The UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme assists African Member States identify Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks and threats in support of capacity building prioritisation

On 7 September, the UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme held a virtual seminar on CBRN exercises and programmes, in cooperation with the United States' Department of State Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation. The event gathered 35 representatives from 12 African Member States (Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, and Senegal). The purpose of this seminar was to familiarize the participants with the Programme and to identify and prioritize CBRN risks and threats at the national and regional level. Participants discussed the gaps that they would like to see addressed and learned about the experiences of the other Member States present. The results of this seminar will inform the content of a regional workshop to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Outcome 3.3: Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights obligations, and gender equality standards.

UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme supports capacity building and interagency coordination in East Africa

From 12 - 14 September, the UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme held a regional workshop for East African Member States with the aim of increasing awareness of threats posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as support available for the region from various United Nations and non-United Nations agencies (in line with UNOCT's coordination role). The main conclusions from the workshop include: The need for more capacity-building on detection, response, investigation, and prosecution; the necessity to foster interagency coordination; the importance of regional information and intelligence sharing; the need for the development of technical standard operating procedures (SOPs), particularly in the counter-IED sphere; and regular reporting from the region is necessary to enable broader trends analysis.

Outcome 3.4: Effective response developed and implemented addressing the counter-terrorism challenges and opportunities as related to new technologies, including information and communications technologies, in accordance with the rule of law, and human rights obligations, and gender equality standards.

UNCCT delivers training on the use of international facial image exchange and best practices for seven countries in Africa

UNCCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies ('Cyber Programme'), together with INTERPOL, organized a three-day training course on international facial image exchange and best practice guidance, from 25 - 27 July in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The training brought together representatives from seven African Member States (Botswana, Chad, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania). The course incorporated a 'train the trainer' element, providing all 19 attendees (16 men and 3 women) with the knowledge and skills to provide training on facial recognition to their peers. There were several practical exercises throughout the course focused on both facial image collection and extraction skills as well as effective training skills. Following this course, one participating country has submitted two facial images for search requests against INTERPOL databases – that country's first such request to date.

UNCCT provides training on countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in Africa and Central Asia

On 12 – 15 September in Nairobi, Kenya, the UNCCT Global Cyber Programme organized a regional awareness raising workshop for Africa on *"Developing national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes while protecting human rights"*, implemented under the CT TECH Initiative. Representatives from nine African Member States took part (Botswana, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, the United

Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda). The workshop, organized together with Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), brought together national counter-terrorism policy makers, legislators, counter-terrorism agencies, law enforcement and criminal justice authorities mandated with countering terrorism, as well as civil society, academia, and the private sector. A total of 34 participants (23 men and 11 women) shared their practices in developing national CT policies and operational responses to strengthen law enforcement approaches to countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes, and discussed ways to address challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including by adopting a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach. The presentation focused on the handbooks and reference guides developed during the project and launched during the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. Two representatives of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS) participated in the workshop and delivered two 40-minute presentations on the human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to the use of technology in counter-terrorism, including in the context of countering terrorist exploitation of new technologies. All participants were surveyed and reported that the knowledge gained will lead to changes in work processes, implementation of new techniques and solutions, and lead to better collaboration among national agencies and private sector. Additionally, further capacity building needs were discussed for future sessions.

The UNCCT Cyber Programme organized another regional workshop under the CT TECH Initiative in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 25 and 26 September, in cooperation with INTERPOL and OSCE. As with the meeting in Kenya mentioned above, this workshop supported the development of national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses. It further supported the strengthening of law enforcement approaches to countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes and the use of new technologies to prevent and counter terrorism, and discussed ways to address challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including by adopting a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach. A total of 28 participants (22 men and 6 women) from five Central Asian member States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and Mongolia were introduced to knowledge products and new practices in:

- Conducting terrorist threat assessments on the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes;
- Designing national counter-terrorism policy responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes
- Establishing law enforcement cooperation with technology companies in countering terrorism;
- Law enforcement capabilities framework for new technologies in countering terrorism;
- Human-rights based approaches to countering use of new technologies for terrorist purposes;
- Establishing legislative frameworks, transparency mechanisms and oversight for online data collection;
- First responders' collection of digital devices in the battlefield

A representative of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section participated in the workshop and delivered two 40-minute presentations on the human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches the use of technology in counter-terrorism, including in the context of countering terrorist exploitation of new technologies. Both sessions were highly interactive with active participation of Member States, highlighting the relevance of human rights and gender to counter-terrorism.

Each participating Member State further shared their good practices on countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes and other organizations in the region. All participants were surveyed, reporting that the workshop was informative and comprehensive, and it helped improve skills on the

issues related to countering cyber terrorism and the use of new technologies while respecting human rights and incorporating gender perspectives.

UNCCT supports Member States in deepening skills in Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) investigative techniques

From 4 – 8 September, UNCCT's Cyber Programme, together with INTERPOL, organized a five-day training course focusing on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) investigative techniques. The course also incorporated a module on how to secure the working environment, providing all attendees with the knowledge and skills to set up their own virtual machine for safe OSINT work. There were several practical exercises throughout the course focused on both virtual machine setup and specific OSINT techniques. In total, 21 participants (17 men and 4 women) from 11 Member States (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan) took part in the course. Following the training, 97% of participants reported improved practical skills related to OSINT work.

Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with its victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure the impacts of terrorism on individuals, families and societies can be mitigated through the recognition, respect and protection of the victims' rights and needs. This includes supporting Member States to be better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts, as well as the development of comprehensive and gender-sensitive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and their families. UNCCT also works to support the application of empirically validated and human rights compliant, age and gender responsive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, with the aim of ensuring accountability and breaking the cycle of terrorism for the future.

Outcome 4.1: The needs and human rights of victims of terrorism are addressed and promoted including victims of sexual and gender-based violence and children affected by terrorism.

High-level pre-recorded event for the 'International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism'

UNCCT commemorated the sixth International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism ('International Day') on 21 August with a high-level recorded event. The scope and purpose of the International Day came through General Assembly resolution 72/165 (2017), which recognizes the role that victims can play in countering terrorism, and the importance of respecting the human rights of victims of terrorism and providing them with appropriate support and assistance. The theme for 2023's International Day, which was selected following consultations with victims and victims' associations, was *"The Legacy Project: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future"*. The theme recognized the manner in which many victims and survivors of terrorism use their experiences and journeys to create meaningful and positive change by educating people about the long-lasting impact of terrorism and by honouring those whose lives were lost and those whose lives were forever altered. This event reached an audience of 677 views on UN Web TV and 1,700 views on the United Nations YouTube channel. The activities around this event included:

- A montage of testimonies about the distinct legacy of several victims and survivors of terrorism from across the world, considering gender, geography, and types of terrorism
- Pre-recorded video messages from the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, who also launched the *"Legacy Gallery Project"* (see description on page 10)
- Interventions by the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (Iraq and Spain)
- Interventions by four victims of terrorism
- Footage of the dedication of the Solidarity Tree, shown during the one-minute silence

In addition, UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme worked together with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) to display the *"Memories"* campaign on the wall of the Visitors Lobby at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Through a short documentary and photographic exhibition featuring the stories of 17 victims, the campaign aimed to raise awareness about the human stories that lie at the heart of each victim and survivor of terrorism, as well as the long-lasting

impacts that each terrorist attack has on its surviving victims. It also sought to highlight the commonalities that connect victims across the world and to emphasize the importance of preventing terrorist attacks and the emergence of new victims. There is a link to the campaign on DGC's website and communications materials are available for distribution to interested civil society organizations.

UNCCT presents on the rights and needs of victims of terrorism during the 2023 Eradicate Hate Global Summit

From 26 – 29 September, the UNCCT VoT Programme participated in the *Eradicate Hate Summit 2023*, held annually in Pittsburgh, United States, through a remote panel intervention and in-person participation in two working group sessions focused on the voices of victims and survivors. The Summit brought together a wide range of participants from across the world, including representatives from government, civil society, media, faith-based organizations, and the private sector. In the public Plenary Panel *"Voices of Survivors"*, the VoT Programme briefed 1,200 participants on the evolution of the international victims of terrorism agenda through the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant General Assembly resolutions to address the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism. The VoT Programme noted the importance of the role of victims and survivors of terrorism in building narratives for prevention and community resilience and referred to recent high-level advocacy events to provide victims with a platform to advocate for their own rights, including the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and the dedication ceremony of the United Nations Solidarity Tree at United Nations Headquarters. As a result, it is expected that participants have an increased understanding of the role of the United Nations in promoting respect for and protection of the rights of victims of terrorism.

Outcome 4.2: Member States and communities are better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts.

No activities to report during the third quarter of 2023.

Outcome 4.3: Increased Member State implementation of human rights based, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for individuals with alleged links to United Nations-listed terrorist groups taking into account age and gender considerations.

No activities to report during the third quarter of 2023.

Strategic Goal 5: Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts

Description of Goal

UNCCT supports Member States and other partners to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote gender equality and women's empowerment while countering terrorism, in line with their international obligations, the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and inspired by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. This is undertaken by ensuring that UNCCT's strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights and gender equality within CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and its partners will support women and girl's representation and leadership in CT/PCVE. UNCCT will also enhance its capabilities to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to ensure resect of human rights in the delivery of its CT/PCVE mandates and ensure that its CT/PCVE efforts are informed by context specific gender analyses.

Integration and promotion of human rights considerations and human rights mainstreaming in UNCCT activities

The final independent evaluation of the project *'Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism'* was published along with the management response from UNOCT. This project ran from 2016 to 2022 and was implemented by UNCCT in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The project aimed to train six Member States' (Cameroon, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, and Tunisia) law enforcement agencies to prevent, respond to, and investigate terrorism threats based on international human rights law and the rule of law. The evaluation noted a number of good practices as well as making a set of eight recommendations. These recommendations and lessons learned will be useful for support provided in this field under the UNOCT's Global Human Rights Programme implemented by UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS).

Integration and promotion of gender considerations and gender mainstreaming in UNCCT activities

Gender mainstreaming across UNCCT's activities is guided by the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan (2022) and is led by the Gender Unit of the Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS). In the third quarter, the Gender Task Force, led by the Gender Unit, continued the series of the office-wide brown bag discussions on gender and CT/PCVE, which aim to strengthen UNOCT, including UNCCT, internal capacity on gender mainstreaming across programmes, policies and coordination functions.

On 18 July, UNCCT Director Mauro Miedico opened and moderated the third brown bag discussion featuring Dr Shannon Zimmerman, who presented findings of the gender needs assessment of the national centres for counter-terrorism or their equivalent, which included a desk review and the survey sent out to all United Nations Member States. The fourth brown bag discussion, held on 30 August and moderated by UNCCT Deputy Director Mr Siqueira, featured Dr. Josh Roose, who unpacked the concept of masculinities and their relevance for CT/PCVE. Based on his extensive experience from over a decade

of research, he explained how masculinities play out in radicalization to violent extremism, how violent extremist groups across the ideological spectrum converge on the aim to impose extreme patriarchal political and social orders which are anti-feminist and even misogynistic, and how these views are increasingly moving into mainstream society. Dr. Roose also touched upon ways to factor in masculinities when developing effective and sustainable counter-terrorism programmes.

Further to the launch of the [six knowledge products](#), the UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies held two regional CT TECH Awareness Raising Workshops for Africa and Central Asia and Mongolia in September. The Human Rights and Gender Section participated in both workshops and delivered presentations on the human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to the use of technology in counter-terrorism including in the context of countering terrorist exploitation of new technologies. See on page 17 for more details.