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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

2nd QUARTER
YEAR V OF THE 5-YEAR PROGRAMME
1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2020

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIMC	Arab Interior Minister's Council
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSM	Border Security and Management
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
COVID 19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
C-PROC	Cybercrime Programme Office
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CT	Counter Terrorism
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CT/PVE	Countering Terrorism/ Preventing Violent Extremism
DGC	Department of Global Communications
EAB	European Association for Biometrics
EAG	Eurasian Group on combatting money-laundry and financing of terrorism
EEAS	European External Action Service

EOM	Experiences and Options Mission
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ETCIP	Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FPI	Foreign Policy Instruments
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
FSVC	Financial Services Volunteer Corps
GCSP	Geneva Centre for Security Policy
GCTF	Global Counter-Terrorism Forum
GCTS	Global Counter Terrorism Strategy
GICNT	Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
GP	Global Partnership
GTF	Gender Task Force
G7	Group of Seven
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IBM	Immigration and Border Management
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JAF	Jordan Armed Forces

KPMG	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler International Cooperative
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LMS	Learning Management System
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	Office of Information and Communications Technology
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PDF	Pooled Development Funds
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PRB	Programme Review Board
PRINCE2	Projects IN Controlled Environments
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PRR	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPIB	Special Projects and Innovation Branch
SSC	South-South Cooperation

Strat Coms	Strategic Communications
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
TANA	Technical Assistance Needs Assessment
TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSSC	UN Office for South-South Cooperation
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USG	Under-Secretary-General
VEP	Violent Extremist Prisoners
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

Executive Summary

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), located in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), is in the fifth year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016-2020). This report provides an update of the implementation of UNCCT capacity-building programmes, projects and activities for 1 April - 30 June 2020. In addition to the Executive Summary, the report consists of six (6) sections: (1) Advisory Board; (2) Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight; (3) Overview of programme implementation under each of the four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; (4) The Centre's work on Communications and Visibility; (5) Financial update of the status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, resource allocation, and programme performance; and (6) Conclusion.

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) began impacting our normal working environment, particularly by restrictions on global travel. Following the decision by the United Nations Secretary-General in early March for United Nations staff to telecommute, UNOCT responded by swiftly organizing and establishing protocols including the activation of business continuity, monitoring and facilitating measures for staff welfare, and introducing online delivery of capacity development activities.

This approach helped our staff adjust to the remote working environment, apply new working methods, and regularly assess the impact of the restrictions on the planned activities. The limitations on travel and the postponement or cancellation of planned events continue into the second quarter so UNCCT has prioritized: 1) Desk reviews or on-line trainings and exchanges with interlocutors; 2) Development of training tools, materials, and curricula; 3) Knowledge management, including systematizing lessons learned and best practices and ensuring appropriate reporting to donors; and 4) Pursuing innovative solutions for policy and programme delivery and collaboration. Given the current global situation, UNCCT expects to maintain this approach during the third quarter and likely the remainder of 2020 given the continuation of COVID-19-related restrictions in New York and globally.

Over the course of the reporting period, UNCCT programmes and projects delivered **four workshops** engaging 777 participants and **four expert and coordination meetings**. No **technical and/or scoping missions were conducted due to the travel restrictions**. The Centre also held **nine UNCCT outreach events** (side events, panels, seminars, briefings) under its programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); and on

the project Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization in Prisons. Through these activities, UNCCT continues to contribute to the achievement of outcomes of the 5 Year programme including reinforcing Outcome 2- Combatting Terrorism and Outcome 3- Human Rights & Victims.

2nd Quarter 2020 Activities

Type	Count
Workshops	4
Expert and Coordination Meetings	4
Outreach (side events, panels, seminars)	9

UNCCT continued to prioritize its engagement with the KPMG evaluation of its 5-Year Programme. KPMG worked on finalizing its evaluation report that is expected to be delivered in the third quarter of 2020.

Part I: UNCCT Advisory Board

The 20th meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board was held on 19 June 2020, organized virtually. It was chaired by Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chairperson of the UNCCT Advisory Board, attended by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, UNCCT Director Mr. Jehangir Khan, and with participation of the President of the General Assembly, several Permanent Representatives, Deputy Permanent Representatives and other senior representatives from the Permanent Missions.

Following opening remarks by Ambassador Al-Mouallimi, UNCCT's Executive Director Mr. Voronkov, and the President of the General Assembly, Members of the Advisory Board

were updated on the work of UNOCT/UNCCT through the presentation of the UNCCT Annual report for 2019 and the Quarterly Highlight Project Report for the first quarter of 2020.

Substantive discussions included: UNCCT's response and adjustment to the COVID-19 pandemic, capacity-building activities during 2019 and the first quarter of 2020, presentation of the new UNCCT Programme for Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and their families (PRR Programme), and the non-paper on the plan for the development of a new multi-year Strategic Programme Framework for UNCCT.

In his opening remarks, the Chair highlighted the importance of the KMPG evaluation and provided an update on the evaluation process. He announced that a special meeting will take place to discuss the content and the recommendations of KPMG's final report once completed. He reiterated that the Advisory Board meeting agenda did not include the KPMG report as a special topic considering the report was under preparation.

UNCCT's Executive Director Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, summarized the Centre's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including new working arrangements, an adapted programme for capacity-building activities and efforts on staff wellbeing. He also briefed on UNCCT's 2019 Annual Report and its main achievements. The Executive Director confirmed that 25 percent of the contributions to the UNCCT budget came from a diverse pool of donors. This diversification of resources has helped leverage the fundamental contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Mr. Voronkov spoke on the non-paper draft outline of the next UNCCT multi-year Strategic Programme which is in the early stages of development. The KPMG report will be factored into its final version.

UNCCT's Director, Mr. Jehangir Khan, presented the key elements of the 2019 Annual Report and UNCCT's work in the first quarter of 2020. Mr. Khan spoke on the Centre's efforts to develop and implement larger, multi-year programmes to achieve greater impact and sustainability, as recommended by the Advisory Board. He shared UNOCT/UNCCT's efforts to ensure more diverse, predictable and sustainable funding for UNCCT.

During the meeting, UNCCT also introduced its new PRR programme to the Advisory Board. Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2349 (2017) and 2396 (2017) call on Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies. UNCCT's new PRR programme enables the United Nations to support Member States to meet these requirements for suspected terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and their accompanying families. The programme leverages UNCCT's role as a global centre of excellence to develop operational PRR guidance as well as to provide capacity-

building and technical assistance to Member States. The programme also takes advantage of UNCCT's coordination mandate by using its convening capacity to strengthen the complementarity of PRR project design, development and implementation and to facilitate a coherent, "all-of-UN" approach.

Member State Feedback

Members of the Advisory Board thanked the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, and UNCCT's Director for the presentation of the UNCCT performance reports for 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. The members of the Advisory Board congratulated the Centre for its agility to adjust to the challenging conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the demonstrated business continuity.

The Advisory Board members commended UNCCT on the results achieved and encouraged the Centre to ensure a balanced distribution of its programming in terms of geographical scope and across the four Pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). The Board welcomed the profiling of UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence and advised the Centre, through enhanced monitoring and evaluation, to improve its capacity to measure and report on the impact of its programming on the ground.

Finally, the Advisory Board members expressed support to the outline of the new multi-year Strategic Programme Framework and the Centre's approach to adjust its priorities based on growing threats in line with the future recommendations of KPMG, reviews of the Global Strategy, relevant Security Council resolutions, and the assessments and recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). Members of the Advisory Board sought concrete steps on the future role and composition of the Advisory Board.

Part II: Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight

KPMG Evaluation

As per its revised workplan, KPMG extended its consultations to cover all UNCCT Advisory Board members and Global Compact entities as part of its review on the functioning of UNCCT. In this regard, 18 members of the Advisory Board were interviewed during the reporting period. In addition, 19 respondents representing 60 per cent of the total invited, participated in the online Global Compact survey. The survey was deployed throughout May 2020 to ensure a high response rate. At the end of the quarter, KPMG concluded its data

collection exercise, having interviewed over 100 people in total, including officials from UNCCT/UNOCT, key donors, Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, think tanks, Member State governments and individual subject matter experts.

UNCCT provided the necessary information and support to KPMG in its conduct of the evaluation, in coordination with the UNOCT Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. The Office also prepared additional guidelines for the management and sharing of evaluation products submitted by KPMG including a dissemination strategy for the final evaluation report, which is due in the third quarter.

Evaluation Policy and Guidelines

In the reporting period, UNOCT continued to work on the draft UNOCT Evaluation Policy, expected to be finalised at the end of third the quarter and the accompanying Evaluation Policy Guidelines, expected to be finalised at the end of year.

The UNOCT Evaluation Policy will be guided by the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2018/3) and the United Nations Norms and Standards for evaluation prepared by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). UNOCT will utilize this Policy to undertake project and programme evaluations, gather empirical evidence and knowledge to design impactful technical assistance and engagements with Member States, and inform its policy and resource allocation decisions by applying best practices and taking into account lessons learned to effectively fulfil its mandate. The Evaluation Policy will be accompanied by Evaluation Guidelines to operationalize the policy and outline key processes and tools for designing and conducting project and programme evaluations.

UNOCT Programme Review Board

During the second quarter of 2020, the UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB) held its quarterly session in June 2020, in which 19 agenda items were considered (17 related to UNCCT). The total value of activities recommended for approval during the second quarter amounted to US$1.94 million (US$1.88 million for UNCCT). Programmes or projects approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov as a result of PRB recommendations during the second quarter included concept notes entitled "Building the Capacity of Mozambique to Screen, Prosecute, Rehabilitate and Reintegrate Persons Associated with Terrorism," "Preventing and Countering Right-Wing Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism through Education, Strategic Communications and Online Investigations," "Leveraging the Strength of Women in Peace

Building and Promoting Gender Sensitivity in the National Programme on Disengaged Al-Shabaab Combatants" and the establishment of a regional counter-terrorism programme office in Kenya. Of the agenda items approved by the USG, seven (six related to UNCCT) were for no-cost extensions of existing programmes and projects which had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The USG also approved a one-year extension in support of UNCCT projects in Iraq. The PRB furthermore recommended revisions to existing programme documents concerning the UNOCT Gender Programme, the UNCCT Countering the Financing of Terrorism Programme, the UNCCT Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme, and for a UNCCT project entitled "Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons." These recommendations were also approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Part III: Overview of Programme Implementation

Pillar I: Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism

Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) and Strategic Communications (Strat Coms)

In the reporting period, UNCCT sought to identify and utilize opportunities to re-purpose and re-shape capacity-building activities in order to address the new challenges posed by COVID-19. Engaging with Member States facing both community 'stay at home orders' and a rise in violent extremist narratives of hate and division highlighted a need for crisis communications support. Against this background, UNCCT developed in the second quarter a "PVE COVID-19 Crisis Communication Toolkit" and training video game. The Toolkit and video game are designed to support Member States in both response and recovery from the pandemic; limit the impact of violent extremist exploitation of related narratives; and support social cohesion and community resilience. This new training module will be piloted in East Africa and the Middle East in the third quarter.

UNCCT also supported young social media activists, media makers and influencers to counter rising violent extremist narratives, disinformation and fake news online and offline. In **East Africa** on 2 June 2020, UNCCT **StratCom** and **Youth Programmes** partnered with UNESCO to deliver a Webinar on Youth and Digital Spaces: Countering the exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic using Media and ICT's in Africa. More than 100 young people, CSOs, researchers and media industry representatives participated in this event, which included a series of roundtable discussions on the experience, emerging trends, risks and responses to violent extremist and hate speech narratives in the context of COVID-19 in Africa. UNCCT worked with UNESCO to

develop capacity-building support for African young people countering the spread of hate and counter terrorist exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **Bangladesh**, UNCCT developed a partnership with UNDP and the civil society organisation Rupantar to develop a training package of support for young social media activists. The training will focus on terrorist strategic communication techniques, as well as Digital Safety and Resilience, and will be delivered virtually during three training events planned to be held in July 2020.

UNCCT engaged with United Nations Country Offices and Missions to identify the best ways to deliver policy assistance on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) to Member States while managing the pandemic. In **Sudan** and **Somalia**, UNCCT engaged with United Nations colleagues to define the support needs for new PCVE policy assistance post-COVID-19. In **Bangladesh**, UNCCT supported the United Nations Country Team and Resident Coordinator's Office to draft a forward-looking review for the United Nations PCVE Programmes in-country, designed to better understand the evolving threat environment and better align and coordinate United Nations resources.

During the reporting period, UNCCT worked on the development of a **PCVE Measurement and Evaluation framework** for senior programme managers and other decision-makers. This framework will address the gap between current Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) programmes focused on the implementers and technical specialists and senior officials responsible for making strategic and organisational decisions on PCVE funding and operations. UNCCT expects to finalize the framework by the end of 2020.

Youth engagement

Under the **Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme**, UNCCT developed a semi-virtual approach to youth engagement through a peer-to-peer model. The approach focuses on building the capacity of young leaders to organize and facilitate small-scale engagement workshops together with other young people in their local communities. It includes a 2-week online training course to prepare and equip the young leaders with skills, tools and knowledge to facilitate difficult and sensitive conversations with peers. Following the course, the young leaders have 3-4 weeks to organize and facilitate small-scale workshops that comply with local COVID-19 restrictions while they receive intensive coaching, mentoring and support from UNCCT youth engagement specialists.

This initiative envisages a '4-6 formula' which means that between 4-6 young women and 4-6 young men will form 4-6 gender-diverse pairs in 4-6 different cities of a country. Each pair will organize one or two workshops for around 10 peers to effectively engage approximately 40-60 young men and women in a country. The trainings will develop opportunities for effective youth engagement in policy-making and programming at the national level, as well as global United Nations efforts to prevent and counter violent

extremism conducive to terrorism. The '4-6 formula' approach has been reviewed by a Youth Reference Group that UNCCT established and convened three times during the reporting period for feedback. This reference group consists of 11 young members from ten different countries and six continents. The members have also contributed towards the production of training videos for the online course, which also demonstrates the close collaboration with civil society organizations in UNCCT prevention and capacity-building efforts. While the preparatory work was conducted in the second quarter, the activities will be launched in the course of the following quarter.

UNCCT Virtual Exposition

During the reporting period UNCCT made significant progress in the production of **UNCCT Virtual Exposition (Expo)**, which was launched to support the United Nations Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week in July 2020. The Expo, titled "Virtual Expo, Real Impact", focused on key thematic counter-terrorism and PCVE capacity-building areas through interactive and immersive digital elements. These digital elements showcased progress and innovations in capacity-building delivery and provided virtual opportunities for UNCCT beneficiaries to continue to engage in how our work is adapting to the new challenges of counter-terrorism and PCVE during COVID-19. The results of the Exposition will be addressed in the forthcoming quarter 3 report for UNCCT.

Gender

UNOCT continued with the work on the UNOCT Gender Policy and Action Plan. The gender assessment of all programmes and projects will be initiated in September 2020, upon which UNOCT will produce a zero draft of the UNOCT Gender Policy and Action Plan by December 2020, which is expected to be completed and validated by the end of March 2021. This will trigger a participatory process that will include workshops and dialogue within and across all teams of UNOCT, as well as Senior Management and external stakeholders.

During the reporting period, the UNOCT Gender Task Force (GTF) composed of members from each Branch and Unit of UNOCT, undertook three Gender Briefings Sessions to ensure a common understanding on gender, counter-terrorism and PCVE, gender mainstreaming and gender analysis.

The Gender Adviser worked with UNOCT programme teams to increase the portfolio of projects and programmes that are gender responsive. In the last PRB, a total of four fully gender responsive programmes/projects were approved (Global PCVE Programme; Reintegration of defected female Al Shabab members; Counter-terrorism support package to Mozambique; and the UNOCT Gender Programme). An internal mapping conducted by the Gender Adviser identified 12 previous and/or ongoing projects that have delivered specific gender-related products, integrated gender modules in their trainings and/or consulted with womens' groups and governmental women machineries in scoping missions. The Global

Framework on the United Nations Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq, coordinated by UNCCT/ UNOCT, is an example of good practice where gender considerations were taken into account from the onset, extensive consultations were undertaken with gender specialists and a specific workshop on gender was undertaken to define the scope and methodology on gender. This resulted in a fully gender responsive global framework with a gender analysis and meaningful considerations throughout the document.

Pillar II: Preventing and Combating Terrorism

Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Programme

The **UNCCT "Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism" (CFT Programme)** aims to help strengthen Member States' capacities to detect, prevent and counter the financing of terrorism, in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, other international law obligations and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations. The CFT Programme also supports national legislative efforts, international organizations and United Nations entities to raise awareness on terrorist financing threats and to enhance technical capacities required to prevent, mitigate and respond against financing of terrorist attacks.

Despite the global travel restrictions and confinement measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFT Programme made progress by implementing a new approach to ensure business continuity. UNCCT has front-loaded tasks to prioritize desk-based and online activities to prepare for onsite activities, once possible.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unique issues related to terrorism financing, including in the context of protecting charity organizations and financial relief work from terrorist abuse. For example, COVID-19 causes humanitarian challenges which increase the potential of non-profit organizations supporting communities under stress. That increased role could potentially attract the interest of terrorists who might use Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) for fundraising. The CFT Programme is well equipped to handle such issues and has recalibrated its pre-existing focus on protecting NPOs from terrorist abuse, in line with FATF Recommendation 8.

"I am proud to note that this is UNCCT's first virtual capacity-building workshop during the COVID-19 crisis.

UNOCT stands ready to work together with Bahrain in its efforts to address the multifaceted and changing threat posed by terrorism."

VLADIMIR VORONKOV
Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

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One example of the CFT Programme efforts to adapt and protect the NPO sector was the convening of a Virtual Capacity-Building Workshop for Bahrain on 6-7 May 2020. This was the first concrete UNCCT capacity-building activity during COVID-19 and was organized to address FATF Recommendation 8 on the protection of NPOs from terrorist abuse. The Workshop was chaired by Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Under-Secretary for International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, and attended by 114 officials from Bahrain's relevant ministries and national agencies, private sector institutions and NPOs. The presentations covered strategic elements of partnerships between NPOs and government regulators and revisited the NPO risk assessment that was done for Bahrain in 2016, including perspectives on reviewing and updating it. The discussions emphasized the need to identify the right balance between public safety and rule of law concerns when assessing the protection of NPOs from terrorist misuse, while simultaneously enabling a thriving humanitarian space. The workshop had an 89 percent overall satisfaction rate under a completed baseline evaluation. The next steps could include the preparation of a formal risk assessment for Bahrain's NPO sector supported by UNCCT in collaboration with relevant experts.

During the reporting period, the CFT Programme has completed early consultations with a wide range of Member States, organizations and United Nations entities to plan and solidify current and future cooperation. With the International Labour Organization, the CFT Programme explored a potential partnership on the topic of countering the financing of terrorism and financial inclusion of youth groups that could be negatively impacted by some CFT measures. With the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), the CFT Programme is coordinating United Nations entities in a new initiative, - on safeguarding civic space when implementing countering the finance of terrorism measures. The initiative is co-led by UNOCT/UNCCT, Morocco and the Netherlands. The first formal event to start the initiative is

planned for October subject to COVID-19 situation. The main focus areas of the initiative will be the implementation of OP24 of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) to protect humanitarian space and to support other existing standards on countering the financing of terrorism.

With the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute (UNICRI), the CFT Programme in May has convened consultations to identify synergies between work plans and to harmonize the individual Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Visibility Strategy of both entities going forward. With both the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) and Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC), the CFT Programme has commenced consultations during the reporting period for cooperative measures in convening extensive capacity-building activities in Tajikistan, which is a priority country under the CFT Programme.

With the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), the CFT Programme has received recommendations following the three sub-regional workshops convened by UNCCT with ESAAMLG in 2019 and early 2020, and has started early preparatory work for future capacity-building activities that will be convened under the CFT Programme.

With the FATF, the CFT Programme has commenced talks to explore further cooperative partnership and has taken heed of the June outgoing FATF Presidency in its emphasis on virtual assets, for which the CFT Programme has taken preparatory action to research and develop action points.

During the reporting period, the CFT Programme worked with the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT) and UNODC in June on preparations for a virtual seminar on 1 July to present the goFinTel software - the successor technological tool to the goAML platform, which assists national regulatory authorities in collecting, analysing and disseminating financial information. For the long-term impact and sustainability of the CFT Programme, the UNCCT in partnership with UNODC and OICT will establish goFintel as a powerful and state-of-the-art United Nations-owned technology to enhance interested Member States' capacity to monitor, disseminate and analyse financial transactions-related data in order to detect suspicious activities using risk indicators.

UNCCT Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

During the second quarter of 2020, the **UNCCT "Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies"** made significant progress despite the global travel restrictions and confinement measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the business continuity measures launched in the previous reporting period, the Programme focused on desk-based activities in preparation for the on-site activities to be rescheduled once travel restrictions are lifted.

In May, under the framework of the Global Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme, UNCCCT entered into a collaboration agreement with the Centre on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics of UNICRI to implement a research initiative "Counter-Terrorism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)". This initiative aims to explore the risk-benefit duality of this technology, including the possibility of the malicious use of AI by terrorist groups and individuals, and the potential of leveraging the technology to support counter-terrorism operations.

The Cyber and New Tech Programme jointly developed a new concept note with UNCCT's Pillar I, entitled "Preventing and Countering Violent Right-Wing Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism through Education, Strategic Communications, and Online Investigations". The new project includes elements on open source intelligence (OSINT) and online counter-terrorism investigations necessary to counter the threat of right-wing violent extremism and terrorism. On 4 June 2020, the concept note was presented to UNOCT's PRB and consequently approved for substantive development and resource mobilization purposes.

On 12 June 2020, the Programme co-organized a webinar with the Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC) of the Council of Europe entitled "Cybercrime and terrorism: The Criminal Justice Response". The webinar attracted a wide audience with more than 600 participants from over 100 countries, representing members of the judiciary, law enforcement and criminal justice system. This virtual event received excellent feedback from participants and, going forward, additional activities will be developed in close collaboration with the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe.

Border Security Management Programme

With the COVID-19 outbreak, the UNCCT's global "**Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme"** adapted its modalities to virtual-platform activities to continue supporting

Member States in strengthening their capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists, and raise awareness and understanding of the responsible use and sharing of biometric data to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and other serious crimes at borders.

Following the launch event of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum's (GCTF) Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative, co-led by the United Nations and the United States in January 2020, UNCCT, under the framework of the BSM Programme, supported the initiative in the second quarter of 2020 through the development of a contingency plan for the Initiative. The contingency plan enabled the co-leads to pursue the implementation of the activities of the GCTF Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative in the COVID-19 context. This included through the delivery of a series of webinars or 'Virtual Consultations on the Legal, Policy, and Operational Implications of Watchlists', two of which were organized on 3 and 24 June 2020 in lieu of a first in-person workshop that had originally been scheduled for early April in Spain.

The webinars focused on definitions, scopes, and objectives of terrorist watchlists and information gathering, as well as on human rights, including the rights of the child, transparency and thresholds for listings. They were attended by more than 60 national-level counter-terrorism policy representatives and expert participants from GCTF and external Member States, as well as international and regional organizations. The third and final webinar is scheduled to take place on 15 July 2020. These webinars will result in the drafting of a Guidance Manual Toolkit and will be complemented by a face-to-face workshop which is now envisaged for the last quarter of 2020.

Moreover, during the second quarter of 2020, UNCCT held the following virtual events under the framework of the BSM Programme:

- Consultations with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) Counter-Terrorism Training Team to advance cooperation in the joint development and e-delivery of specialized training modules for law-enforcement officials based on the UNCCT's 'good practices in the area of border security and management in the context of counter-terrorism'.

Consultations with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) to jointly develop and deliver specialized e-training modules as part of an e-course on Measuring the Impact of COVID-19 on Border Security: Emerging Threats and Global Responses. The training is expected to be delivered in the last quarter of 2020.

- Consultations with the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) to explore collaboration on specialized technical assistance projects pertaining to biometric-data management especially in the field of identity management and the responsible use of biometrics at borders in support of counter-terrorism measures.

- Sustained collaboration with IOM's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division to further enhance and expand upon the cooperative arrangement between the two offices in the area of border-management programming where BSM is dealing with the counter-terrorism portion of the border strategies. Building on the delivery of several joint activities during the 2019-2020 period, the ongoing collaboration is focused on mechanisms to capitalize on this successful partnership which aims to deliver border-management programming and strategies that incorporate counter-terrorism measures, as well as exploring coordinated efforts to address the impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on border management, including biosecurity measures at borders.
- Continue coordination with OSCE - Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) to advance the ongoing cooperation under the UNOCT-OSCE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and to strategically identify and coordinate potential joint border-management activities in the coming months. The discussion focused on organizing capacity-building activities in the Balkans and the Central Asian regions.

UNCCT also supported and collaborated in the substantive organization of several virtual events and activities related to biometrics, including:

- Virtual conference on "Good Practices for Biometrics at the Border", organized by the Biometrics Institute on 28 April 2020. The online conference, which was attended by more than 110 experts from international and regional organizations, academia, and the private sector, focused on good practices for biometrics at the border, the need for balancing security, privacy and health, with presentations and panel discussions covering entry/exit programmes and other border initiatives, recommended practices, future uses as well as concerns and challenges related to the responsible and ethical use of biometrics particularly in the post-COVID19 environment to prevent terrorist attempt to exploit the use of facial mask to avoid controls.
- Continued contribution to the United Nations Legal Identity Experts Working Group discussions on biometrics, which aim to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and how related responses may impact the use of biometrics including within the contexts of legal identity, public health, border management and security. The discussion also referred to the Secretary-General's Data Strategy and how it can be incorporated into the Working Group's ongoing inter-agency mapping of activities, policies and products related to the use of biometrics as well as the possibility of developing broader United Nations principles on biometrics. In this regard, the United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices on the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism was recognized as a model tool and reference guide, not only for Member States, but for UN entities and regional organizations as well.
- UNCCT took part in the webinar "Morphing Attack Detection - State of Art and Challenges" organized by the European Association for Biometrics (EAB) in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the University of Bologna and

the University of Darmstadt on 18 May 2020. The discussion touched upon the technological risks associated with commonly adopted facial-recognition systems and offered an interactive platform on the enhancement of biometric data-collection procedures, in the context of newly enforced restrictive measures due to the COVID-19.

- UNCCT participated in the webinar "Responsible and Ethical Use of Biometrics in a Crisis" organized by the Biometrics Institute (UK) and gathering experts from East-Asian countries and Australia on 27 May 2020. The event focused on developments relating to digital identity in this region.

Following on from the previously delivered national training on "Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Enhance National Border Security Capacities in Combatting Cross-Border Threats in Burkina Faso", in June 2020, UNCCT held a videoconference with the Burkinabe Secretary General of the Ministry of Security, UNODC and UNDP, as well as with the UN Special Security Advisor, to explore future avenues of cooperation in integrating counter-terrorism elements in the national border security and management framework. As a result, the Director of Border Police was nominated as a focal point for our technical assistance.

Finally, responding to an official request for technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of border security and management, on 24 June 2020 UNCCT participated in virtual roundtable consultations with the Government of Jamaica's National Security Team to explore ways to further strengthen capacities to counter terrorism and promote the responsible use and sharing of biometrics. Discussions focused on the country's context, emerging issues and challenges with regards to border management and terrorism. In exploring avenues for UNCCT support, discussions focused on assistance towards implementing CTED recommendations following the 2017 country assessment, including the development of a national border control and law enforcement strategy and action plan for countering terrorism.

Whilst the global COVID-19 crisis has had its repercussions on the delivery of the planned activities within the scope of the BSM Programme, UNCCT demonstrated active efforts to ensure lasting collaboration and building upon ongoing partnerships through innovative solutions and to maintain the momentum of programmatic implementation.

Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism

During the reporting period, the UNCCT programme on **"Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism"** implemented its six-month contingency plan to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the work was on developing alternative methods to deliver activities, prepare on-line events and enhance the visibility of the programme through virtual briefings.

Under the visibility and partnership outputs, UNCCT organized virtual briefings on the Programme for: (1) the Group of Experts supporting the Security Council Committee created pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), on 9 April 2020; (2) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 21 May 2020; (3) the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, on 10 June 2020 (CTBTO); and (4) the Republic of Korea, on 15 June 2020. The Centre also delivered presentations on the programme activities during the Intersessional Meetings of the Working Groups of the Group of Seven (G7) Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) as well as the Meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection (ETCIP). Additionally, UNCCT contributed to the Secretary-General's reports on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" and "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices" by including information on the Office's mandate and capacity-building activities.

Regarding the output on threat and risk analysis, UNCCT and INTERPOL coordinated activities related to the ongoing first phase (Middle East and North Africa) of the planned global study on the threat posed by CBRN terrorism. Moreover, UNCCT and INTERPOL commenced discussions to operationalize the second and third phases (South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa).

Under the capacity-building output and the pilot project on **"Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq"**,

UNCCT and the United States Department of State began the organization of an inception meeting on the national response plan to biological terrorism.

Within the framework of the pilot project on **"Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan,"** UNCCT worked with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) on the revised planning of project activities due to COVID-19. All entities agreed to postpone the training for first responders and the planning conference for the field exercise to 2021. It was also agreed to conduct a desk review on the CBRN national response legal framework and organize a series of virtual meetings to discuss the findings, all to take place in late 2020 or early 2021.

With regard to the pilot project on **"Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)"**, UNCCT in consultation with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) prepared a COVID-19 pandemic contingency plan that contains alternative methods of delivery for this project. In line with this, UNCCT worked on several proposals to transform advocacy events and workshops on nuclear security into virtual meetings and webinars. Similarly, UNCCT worked with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Government of France to reschedule the "Workshop and Table-Top Exercise Lutetia: Detection Based on Information and Links to Traditional National Security" that was planned to engage the Sahel region and other GICNT members. Furthermore, in May 2020, UNCCT published a call for participation to conduct an academic study on the deeper understanding of the reasons and challenges for not becoming Party to ICSANT. The study, which is expected to be finalized towards the end of 2021, will issue recommendations on how to address these challenges in order to ensure increased adherence and indicate legislative requirements and measures for effective implementation.

Additionally, UNCCT and UNODC, in close collaboration with CTED and UNODA, worked on the joint pilot project on **"Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: Preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of Small-Arms and Light Weapons and their illicit supply to terrorists in Central Asia"** and prepared a plan to deliver some project activities remotely. These included the development of a methodology for virtual assessments on legislation and operational frameworks. In this respect, questionnaires, both in English and in Russian, were sent to the Central Asia Member States for completion by August 2020.

In support of the international inter-agency coordination output, and through the Global Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical infrastructure Protection, UNCCT worked with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the development of COVID-19 contingency plan and the legal agreement of the Working Group project **on "Ensuring Effective Interagency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks - Phase III (Implementation)"**. Through the Working Group project on **"Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism"** UNCCT and UNICRI also worked on the COVID-19 contingency plan for activities planned under this project. As example, UNCCT and UNICRI transformed the workshop on technology solutions to combat WMD Terrorism that was scheduled to take place in April 2020 in Geneva into a series of expert virtual meetings and webinars.

Pillar III: Building States' Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations

During the reporting period, UNCCT has sustained its engagement with the Government of Iraq, including through its UNOPS Programme Office in Baghdad established in December 2019, with a view to provide support to the development of a national counter-terrorism strategy. In the reporting period, the Government of Iraq shared a draft strategy that was circulated among the members of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact working group on National and Regional Strategies as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), with a request for comments.

Upon receipt of the comments of the working group and UNAMI, UNCCT, together with CTED, will provide a debrief and suggestions for the further development of the draft strategy.

During the reporting period, UNCCT coordinated with its partners to explore options to allow for the initiation of the project "**Strengthening Burkina Faso's Criminal Justice Response to Caseload of Detainees Suspected of Terrorist Offences**". Due to travel restrictions, UNCCT was not able to conduct the "Experiences and Options Mission" (EOM) to Burkina Faso, which was planned to present the Government with different strategic options to consider, including in managing caseloads of detainees suspected of terrorism. UNOCT and the relevant key partners agencies are assessing whether to conduct the EOM virtually should the travel restrictions remain. Alternatively, the original purpose of the EOM could be amended to deliver activities on the ground building upon the work of partner agencies like INTERPOL, which has provided support to the Burkinabe authorities in registering detainees suspected of terrorism, and ultimately published about 800 Blue Notices.

UNCCT has further engaged with Member States, key partners and potential donors to closely coordinate on Burkina Faso and the West Africa region, avoid duplication of efforts and leverage opportunities created by the launch of recent political initiatives for the Sahel, including the International Coalition for the Sahel and The Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S). Additionally, UNCCT is considering the possibility of teaming up with other United Nations partner agencies to jointly fundraise and move forward, more specifically, with UNOCT-coordinated inter-agency programming in Burkina Faso.

Under its joint project with the Arab Interior Ministers Council "**Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World**" (AIMC), UNCCT has maintained its engagement with the Secretariat of the Council and the Arab Office to counter terrorism and extremism. This initiative aims to support the development of a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, and has organized several working sessions during the reporting period to support the development of policies to prevent and counter terrorism within the region, as per the second pillar of the Global Strategy. These

working sessions identified strategic objectives and regional priorities that need to be considered when reviewing existing regional policies and developing recommendations to align them with the Global Strategy and international standards. Additionally, an introductory paper providing an overview of existing regional policies and describing the project's working methodology is under preparation, and an analytical paper on measures to prevent and counter terrorism (second pillar) will follow suit. Concurrently, substantive preparations are underway for the upcoming conference on measures to address the conditions conducive to terrorism (first pillar). A dedicated concept note for this conference and a draft agenda is being finalized. UNCCT liaises on a weekly basis with the AIMC Secretariat and its various institutions to provide policy support and follow up on project implementation.

Under its ongoing partnership with the Government of Bahrain, and building on recent capacity-building initiatives in the area of the financing of terrorism, UNCCT, through the Resident Coordinator Office in Manama, contributed, in June 2020, to the development of a strategic cooperation framework for 2020-2022, in line with its mandate and comparative advantage. Under this framework, which aims to provide a basis for cooperation between the Government and various United Nations entities in several areas, UNCCT reiterated its full commitment to supporting national efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism, thereby contributing to national efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

Under its ongoing partnership with the European Union (EU), UNCCT worked towards implementing the project entitled **"Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) Programme",** a joint EU-UN partnership, aimed at contributing to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Central, South and South East Asia. In April 2020, UNCCT completed its reporting obligations with the preparation of the following reports: STRIVE Asia's Inception Report; Annual Report for 2019 (narrative and financial), and the Work Plan for 2020. The Inception Report detailed all activities undertaken in 2019 during the inception phase, including scoping missions to targeted regions with the aim of identifying potential beneficiary countries to seek national buy-in to participate in this project. The results of these scoping visits formed the basis of the Inception Report, which also included: substantive analysis of the manifestations of violent extremism as per the specific national context including priority gaps and needs; the landscape of civil society organizations, movements and networks; and a comprehensive mapping of existing PCVE activities in the beneficiary countries in order to avoid national and regional duplication with existing initiatives. This phase informed the work plan of the implementation phase, as well as a communications strategy and a monitoring and evaluation strategy including the collection of lessons learned throughout the project.

During the reporting period and within the framework of the Phase III of the project **"Towards the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in**

Central Asia", preparation of an animation documentary commenced. In this film, the Central Asian states will share their experience and practices on the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration process of their citizens, in particular women and children from conflict zones.

On 4 June, UNCCT and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) organized an online regional consultation with the institutes of strategic studies of Central Asian countries to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on PCVE in the region. The outcomes and recommendations from this meeting will be used to adjust the activities under phase III of the multi-year project in support of implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia as well as to identify new priorities and to develop activities for phase IV.

In addition, development of an online capacity-building training on human rights and terrorism for Central Asian Government Officials was initiated. It is expected that the training will be launched in December 2020.

Further to the successful adoption of Turkmenistan's National Strategy on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024, UNCCT and UNRCCA sustained its support the development of the National Action Plan. The draft of the National Action Plan is currently under review of a National Working Group and is expected to be finalized by September.

To support the prevention of radicalization and recruitment of Central Asian migrant workers abroad, a project commenced on the development of an internet radio with a strong PVE component, targeting countries with the most Central Asian migrant worker populations. The use of this new tool will support the work to limit the influence of the destructive ideas of recruiters on one of the most vulnerable groups and benefit from the role that evolving information and communication technologies provide for reaching a broad audience. The radio programs will be available in five Central Asian languages.

South-South Cooperation

The UNCCT global initiative to promote **"South-South Cooperation (SSC) in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism"** aims to promote and strengthen the exchange of expertise between experts from selected countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and to enhance capacities to design and implement related policies and mechanisms. The project will also help build new partnerships, strengthen institutional and technical capacities, respond to the specific CT/PCVE challenges of developing countries and enhance cooperation.

During the reporting period UNCCT, working in consultation with Peace and Development Trust Fund in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, adjusted the implementation plan of its global project in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 to meet its overall objectives. In this regard, UNCCT front-loaded the creation of an online knowledge sharing platform on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism to be hosted in a customized space on South-South Galaxy, which is the digital interactive platform managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The platform aims to support developing countries' demand to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners and to enhance knowledge sharing.

UNCCT also initiated the preparatory work to draft a handbook that will capture CT/PCVE expertise of Southern countries covered by the project. The publication, to be finalized this year, will present UNOCT strategic thinking on SSC and feature recognized initiatives, good practices and progressive solutions in the field of CT/PCVE that have potential for replication, have been successfully adopted and/or scaled up, and that have had a positive impact on individuals and/or communities. These initiatives are also likely to enhance peer-to-peer learning between global South countries.

In response to Member States' interest and requests for UNCCT to facilitate the provision of capacity-building assistance, the Centre has initiated the development of capacity-building projects that will leverage its existing flagship projects to support specific engagements. Consultations with interested Member States have begun based on specific requests for South-South support to be facilitated through UNCCT. UNCCT continues to develop guidelines to mainstream South-South Cooperation in UNOCT and Global Compact Entities projects, policies and strategic communication tools.

<div style="background-color:#4472C4;color:white;padding:8px;">Pillar IV: Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law</div>

Victims of Terrorism

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted some of the activities held under the "**Victims of Terrorism Support Programme**". In response, UNCCT successfully adapted its work to take place virtually. Despite travel restrictions that have continued to impact on the ability to film documentaries and interviews in different countries, UNCCT was able to commence production of a new documentary on Spanish women affected by terrorism, which should be completed in the next quarter. UNCCT also developed new concepts for future documentaries under the UNCCT Victims of Terrorism Documentary series and has produced new interviews for its guest interview series.

UNCCT undertook preparatory activities for the Virtual CT Week in July, including for a webinar on Addressing the Plight of Victims of Terrorism in a Challenging Environment that focused on victims and the challenge to uphold their rights and support their needs, especially during the pandemic. UNCCT also finalised the interactive map that included interviews of victims and photographs showing victims' resilience, that was displayed during the UNCCT Exposition displayed during Virtual CT Week.

In April, Secretary-General António Guterres released the report on Progress made by the United Nations system in supporting Member States in assisting victims of terrorism (A/74/790), mandated by General Assembly resolution 73/305. UNCCT directly contributed to the preparation of this important report, among others, as a coordinator and a penholder for its drafting.

The report affirms that Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including those provisions related to upholding the rights of and providing needed support to victims of terrorism, although it also emphasizes the decisive role that victims themselves can play in efforts to counter violent extremism and the necessity of supporting their broad range of needs. The report includes a set of key recommendations that calls for all actions taken by Member States in support of victims to be taken in accordance with Member States' obligations under international law; that victims of terrorism are to be treated with compassion and respect for their dignity, privacy and family life; that gender-sensitive responses to victims' needs are required for the short, medium and long term, with access to effective, rapid and appropriate assistance including legal, medical, psychosocial, material and spiritual assistance and support, and understanding that these needs are interlinked; and lastly that any response has to pursue a rights-based, survivor-centred approach that is gender- and age-sensitive and includes non-discrimination and equal treatment. The report acknowledges that the establishment of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact working groups have attempted to address the imbalance in focus of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while Pillar IV remains the least developed pillar. Lastly, the report calls for a dedicated and sustainable fund specifically earmarked for victims of terrorism.

In addition, in June, as part of the Support Programme's outreach and awareness raising activities, UNCCT briefed the Groups of Friends of Victims of Terrorism on the report of the Secretary-General on the Progress of the United Nations system to support Member States in assisting victims of terrorism. The ensuring discussion focused on the three funding modalities that could be utilised to create a dedicated fund for victims, as mandated in A/RES/73/305.

During the second quarter of 2020, the United Nation Victims of Terrorism Support Portal attracted 36,903 page views, which is a 32 percent increase in views compared to the same quarter in 2019. During this period, several spikes of users were registered in April following attacks in Mali and Syria, and in May following well publicised attacks in Burkina Faso,

Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The Portal is the port of entry for all users looking for information and support on victims of terrorism's rights and needs.

Human Rights

Under the "**Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism Programme"**, two rounds of training (Phases 1 and 2) were completed in all six countries (Mali, Cameroon, Nigeria, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia); the third phase for the training-of-trainers was completed in all countries, except Nigeria, which was postponed due to COVID-19 and is currently under review to be implemented in the last quarter of 2020. UNCCT, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNAMI is exploring how to implement activities in Iraq under the programme with a specific focus on training border police.

In the reporting period, UNCCT, together with OHCHR, worked on the new Global Compact Human Rights and Victims Working Group project on Human Rights Aspects of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism. While COVD-19 has delayed progress of this project, UNCCT and OHCHR advanced preparations to start implementation as soon as feasible.

Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) Programme

Under the overall "**Programme on Supporting Member States in the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) of Suspected Terrorists, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Families"**, UNCCT worked to advance the **Global Framework on UN Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq building on the initial meeting held in the first quarter.** The Global Framework is a joint, 'all-of-UN' response with 15 United Nations agencies that each leverage different mandates in responding to both the humanitarian assistance and protection needs of children and adults, as well as in supporting requesting Member States to promote security and address accountability in the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration process of third country nationals stranded in camps in north-eastern Syria and Iraq.

In June 2020, feedback from five United Nations Country Teams with nationals in camps in Syria and Iraq, compiled over several months, was incorporated in a finalized draft of the Global Framework, which has been circulated and sent to the principals of all participating United Nations entities awaiting official endorsement. On 25 June 2020, UNCCT and UNICEF co-chaired the first meeting of the Global Framework Steering Committee, which is working to operationalize the roll out of the programme. The Steering Committee formed four working groups to establish a coordinated governance structure as well as standard methodologies and procedures. The groups are: (1) Dedicated Human Rights and Gender Capacity; (2) Joint Assessments and Minimum Conditions; (3) Pooled Funds; and (4) Risk Management. UNCCT coordinated the development of a proposal to implement the Global Framework in Central Asia

and looks to further develop proposals for implementation in priority countries in the coming months.

In the reporting period, the USG also approved a joint UNCCT-UNDOC-CTED project on **"Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement Strategies for the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Boko Haram-Associated Persons"**. The project, which will begin implementation in the second half of the year, aims at assisting Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to implement comprehensive, coherent and tailored approaches to screen, prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate persons associated with Boko Haram.

Under the joint UNCCT and UNODC project on **"Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Children Affected by Terrorism, in particular, by the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon"**, UNCCT supported UNODC to deliver an online Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) in Tajikistan from 22 June to 3 July 2020. Online consultations were held over the course of two weeks with different Ministries of the Government of Tajikistan under the framework of this project. The purpose of the TANA, which is also a capacity building assessment, was to: (1) review the legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks; and (2) identify priority needs for intervention regarding the treatment of children affected by terrorism, particularly those affected by the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon. In the opening meeting of the TANA mission on 22 June 2020, the Children's Ombudsperson for Tajikistan presented a detailed overview of Tajikistan's efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate children repatriated from Syria and Iraq. The TANA will result in a set of recommendations to inform the development of a comprehensive capacity-building programme for children affected by terrorism in Tajikistan.

Activities under the UNCCT-UNODC-CTED project on "**Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons**" strengthened the capacity of Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Uganda in the management of Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) and their disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration. On 20 May 2020 the VEPs Programme Steering Committee convened to review country reports, discuss the semi-annual programme report for the period from 1 January to 15 May 2020, and agreed on the action plan for June - December 2020. The implementing partners agreed to online workshops, a number of studies and background papers, the development of training modules and the procurement of equipment to improve disengagement and rehabilitation work in prisons.

During the reporting period, UNCCT developed a background paper on the role of faith-based interventions in the work with VEPs which will be published in the third quarter under the joint project, in English and Russian. This paper explores the main principles of faith-based interventions in the work with VEPs, international standards related to faith-based

interventions in prisons, regional standards and approaches in various Member States as well as a practitioners' guidance.

In **Tunisia,** activities focused on the planning and preparation of a workshop for officials of prison services who are responsible for liaising with the media and the public to be held in July 2020. The training will teach the basics of communications, sensitive reporting and counter narratives and will help participants develop a communication strategy on the prevention of violent extremism in prisons, including through the use of social media and online communications.

In **Kazakhstan,** the Prisoner Classification Tool and its SOPs were finalized through online consultations in April 2020 and submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The second round of training at the Prison Training Centre of the Kostanay Police Academy was held virtually on 6-18 April 2020. A procurement plan for the implementation of effective prison-based disengagement programmes was developed from April to May 2020. A series of online webinars for 18 prison officers in eight prisons in the Karaganda and Pavlodar regions were held on 11-29 May 2020. The webinars focused on the basics of communications and public relations for prison officers with an emphasis on United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The training targeted those prison staff who are responsible for communicating with local communities and the media when implementing prison-based rehabilitation programmes and social reintegration strategies after release.

Starting in June, UNOCT/UNCCT provided the **Uganda** Prisons Service with video conferencing, computer and sports equipment as part of a delivery of goods to improve disengagement and rehabilitation work with VEPs. The sizable consignment was received by the Commissioner General of Prisons during a ceremony at Luzira Prison in Kampala.

In addition, on 27 May 2020 UNCCT organized a brown-bag discussion entitled "Terrorist Recidivism: Fears vs. Facts?" with Thomas Renard, Adjunct Professor at the Vesalius College of the Free University of Brussels. Mr. Renard shared his findings on terrorist recidivism and outlined valuable implications for counter-terrorism policies as well as for sentencing and post-penitentiary measures with participants from UNOCT/UNCCT, UNODC and CTED.

Civil Society engagement

On 7 May 2020, UNCCT convened the first meeting of the UNOCT Civil Society Focal Points group, which aims to ensure engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout the work of the Office. The first meeting focused on implementation of the UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy, finalized in quarter one. Further to this meeting, a paper was drafted regarding CSOs' engagement in the UNOCT Virtual CT Week in July 2020. Focal points from the UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) developed a questionnaire and concept note for a CSO Engagement Baseline Survey in order to identify and map those CSOs

working on PCVE and their geographical focus, activities and reach. The group of focal points is also exploring the possibility and modalities for the development of a CSO online platform.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

In the reporting period, PMU delivered in line with its five main functions: support integrated delivery to UNOCT/UNCCT's mandate, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting, information management and coordination. Each of these will contribute to the larger aim to effectively contribute to UNCCT's vision.

Support integrated delivery to the UNOCT/UNCCT mandate

The PMU provided support to the Director of UNCCT in oversight of the implementation of the existing Centre's programme, as well as the development of the outline of new Strategic Programme Framework, presented also to the Advisory Board at its session of 19 June 2020.

In June, the PMU supported the organization of the UNCCT Advisory Board in its ambassadorial-level meeting. PMU supported UNCCT and its Director on presentation of the materials for the Advisory Board Meeting. Noting this was the first virtually held Advisory Board meeting, PMU applied IT protocols to ensure the quality of the meeting is consistent and reliable for Board Members. This included carrying connectivity tests prior to the Meeting; 22 persons representing 15 Member states participated in the tests. As a result, the meeting was conducted in a smooth manner and UNCCT received positive feedback on the meeting organization from the participants including the Chair of the Advisory Board.

Quality Assurance

During the reporting period, the PMU advised on UNCCT's quality assurance process by monitoring project activities and providing guidance to Programme Managers to ensure compliance of UNCCT programming with internal SOPs and the application of PRINCE2 methodology.

Information Management

PMU through its IT expertise and available products supported the smooth information flow in the new working environment with all staff telecommuting as a result of the COVID-19

crisis. The PMU continued to enhance the UNOCT Project Performance Master List, launched in October 2019, and on further developing the UNCCT programmes and projects database with metadata function, including its financial module. With its technical expertise, the PMU also provided support to UNCCT and other UNOCT units in organizing virtual meetings, including supporting the organising of UNOCT internal virtual townhall meetings, as well as provided training on how the virtual meetings platform can be utilized.

Monitoring and Reporting

From April to June 2020, the PMU produced three monthly reports and successfully supported monitoring and controlling of budgetary allocations through the coordination of UNCCT financial statements and reports.

As a result of the PMU's products and expertise, UNOCT/UNCCT managers and leadership obtained information in a timely manner on the overall health of UNCCT projects/programmes and their performance results in support of informed decisions, particularly in context of the effect of and response to the COVID-19 crises, such as the status and further effective utilization of the available resources. Also, as a result of PMU's continued work on improvements in the coordinated collection and utilization of data across UNCCT through the second quarter, a new enhancement of the UNCCT database with metadata function was successfully launched in August 2020.

Part IV: Communications and Visibility

UNOCT continued the process of implementing UNCCT's updated Communications Strategy and Visibility Plan for 2020, which envisions further strengthening UNCCT branding and the development of innovative communication products. The aim is to further enhance the promotion of UNCCT's activities, projects and results. While the outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted the planning and delivery of UNCCT activities, the Office has developed contingency communication plans and tools (for example a UNCCT Communications Toolkit for the COVID-19 crisis) to adapt to the new context, now focused more on online than offline activities.
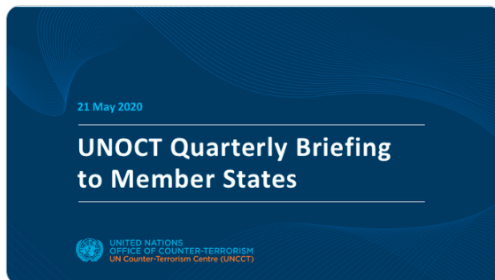
Virtual activities

One of the examples of the initiatives undertaken in order to foster internal communications and cooperation with external partners and promote the sharing of information and best practices, are **weekly town hall meetings** convened by the Under-

Secretary-General, which also include interactive discussions between the UNOCT/UNCCT staff and external guests. For example, on 5 June 2020, Ms. Phumzile Mbambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women was a guest of the town hall meeting. Other guests included Ms, Coninsx, the Executive Director of CTED, Mr Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser on the Preparations for the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, Ms. Shireen Lillian Dodson, the UN Ombudsman, Ms. Bachelet the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Fitton-Brown, Coordinator of the ISIL (Daesh)/Al Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team, and Mr. Adama Dieng, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide.

During the second quarter, Mr. Voronkov also promoted the activities of the UNCCT through the statements that he delivered on the occasion of virtual events. When he was not able to deliver the messages live due to the time difference, he recorded video messages. All of these events and UNCCT activities were promoted on social media, which contributed to enhancing the visibility of the Centre with Member States and other key stakeholders. For example, on 21 May 2020, the activities of UNCCT were presented at the first UNOCT virtual Quarterly Member State briefing attended by more than 100 Member States. The holding of the first virtual workshop on countering the financing of terrorism was promoted on social media (6 and 7 May2020). The first virtual meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board at the ambassadorial level took place on 19 June 2020, chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations.

Social media

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the regular implementation of UNCCT projects, the Centre's virtual activities continued to be promoted through the UNOCT Twitter account and UNCCT's hashtag (#UNCCT) in a timely and consistently manner. It is to be noted that the reach and visibility of UNCCT tweets was affected by the generalized reduction of traffic of non-COVID19 related topics on social media. For example, the number of new followers during the reporting period reduced by 10 percent over the three months. In comparison, the increase in the number of new followers in the first quarter was 20 percent.

During the second quarter of 2020, one third of all UNOCT 88 tweets were UNCCT tweets, which follows the growing trend from the first quarter. As a result, the UNCCT tweets generated 79,735 impressions (potential views).

Key events featured in the tweets included, among others: the holding of the **Advisory Board meeting** (19 June 2020);the listing of UNCCT by the UNSC 1540 Committee as an official CBRN provider of capacity-building assistance (14 April 2020); a webinar on basic communications and public relation for prison Officers (11 May 2020); a webinar on Cyber-Terrorism (12 June 2020); a virtual meeting with UNESCO on Youth (2 June 2020); and consultations with GCTF on Watchlisting guidance (3 and 24 June 2020).

Website

The translation of the new UNOCT/UNCCT website (launched in English) into the five other official United Nations languages was completed in the reporting period.

The UNCCT sub-website recorded 13,128 page views with an increase of 5 percent as compared to the previous reporting period that counted 12,491 pages views. The most popular pages were the UNCCT landing page (www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct which is also accessible through www.un.org/uncct), the "projects and programmes" page and CBRN.

Other outreach activities

During the second quarter of 2020, the Centre produced the 2019 Annual Report of UNCCT that was promoted through social media.

In June, over 50 colleagues from across UNOCT and external contractors worked jointly on the development of the 21 videos for the virtual version of UNCCT Exhibition to be launched during the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week in July.

In addition, the Centre has produced communication products such as three editions of the '*UNOCT Monthly Review'* newsletter, featuring UNCCT's work prominently. This newsletter has been highly welcomed by Member States in briefings and bilateral meetings.
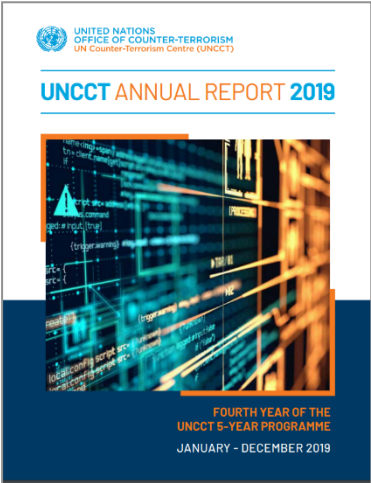
Going Forward

The Office will persist on its efforts to leverage the visibility of the Centre and enhance the transparency of its activities, with a flexible, creative and dynamic approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on UNCCT's operations. To showcase the work of the Centre, the Office developed, in close collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC), the UNCCT Exhibition that was launched virtually in July during the Virtual CT Week.
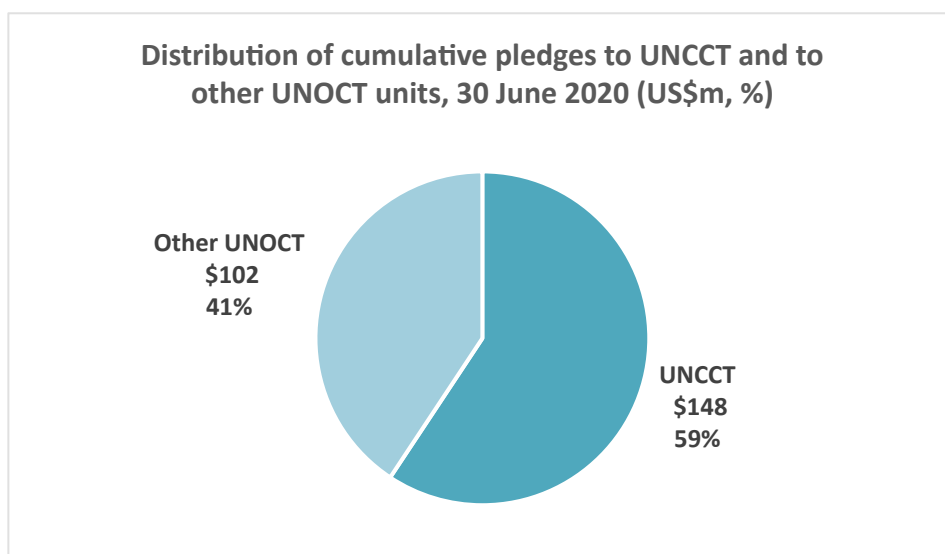

Part V: Financial Overview

Pledges and contributions for UNCCT

UNCCT and UNOCT senior managers continue to engage actively with existing and potential donors to mobilize more flexible unearmarked funding and diversify the donor base to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the programmatic activities outlined in the UNCCT 5-Year Programme. As of 30 June 2020, the total cumulative pledges dedicated to UNCCT through the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism (since 2009) and from extra-budgetary allocations, amounted to US$148 million. This makes up 59 per cent of the total pledges for UNOCT of US$250 million.

Distribution of cumulative pledges to UNCCT and to other UNOCT units, 30 June 2020 (US$m, %)

Other UNOCT $102 41%

UNCCT $148 59%

During the period UNCCT received its fourth contribution for 2020, with the Government of Australia strengthening its support of UNCCT's work with a contribution of US$200,000. The funding will go towards UNCCT support of the ASEAN Bali workplan priorities identified by ASEAN Member States, including efforts towards regional dialogue on the radicalisation of migrant workers with the aim of recommending policies on creating fair working conditions for migrant workers, especially women, as a means to prevent them from being instrumentalized and radicalised towards violence.

The generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided 74 per cent of the cumulative pledges and contributions in support of UNCCT projects and activities. The work of UNCCT is made possible with the pledges and contributions of the 31 donors in the list below in Table 1.

Table 1: Cumulative pledges to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism[/a] and other extra-budgetary allocations, and cumulative distribution of resources to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism programme of work.

(in United States dollars, as of 30 June 2020)

No	Donors	For UNCCT	For other UNOCT	Total Pledges[/b]
1	Saudi Arabia	110,000,000		110,000,000
2	European Union	9,995,744	6,652,055	16,647,800
3	United States	5,458,903	1,487,500	6,446,403
4	Japan	4,384,945	500,000	4,884,945
5	Norway	3,806,300		3,806,300
6	Spain	2,291,667		2,291,667

7	EOSG PDF funds (China)[c]	2,068,080	5,200,000	7,268,080
8	Canada	1,485,743		1,485,743
9	Russia	1,441,500	1,058,500	2,500,000
10	United Kingdom	1,434,721	48,013	1,482,734
11	Denmark	683,858		683,858
12	Sweden	677,040		677,040
13	Netherlands [b]	630,455	5,681,818	6,312,273
14	Germany	555,745		555,745
15	Switzerland	548,621		548,621
16	Rep. of Korea	390,000	626,553	1,016,553
17	United Arab Emirates	350,000		350,000
18	Kazakhstan	300,000	28,552	328,552
19	India	275,000	275,000	550,000
20	Belgium	270,855		270,855
21	Qatar	250,000	80,020,000	80,270,000
22	Australia[d]	230,058	454,586	684,644
23	Italy	166,400		166,400
24	Colombia	125,000		125,000
25	Finland	87,854		87,854
26	Turkey	60,000		60,000
27	Liechtenstein	40,000		40,000
28	Morocco	30,000		30,000
29	Nigeria	10,000		10,000
30	Kenya	5,000		5,000
31	Algeria	2,500	20,000	22,500
	Total to UNCCT	**148,055,990**	**102,052,577**	**249,608,566**

[a] *since inception of the Trust Fund in 2009*

[b] *Excludes in-kind contribution. The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at USD 11.5 million in 2018.*

[c] *Allocation from the UN Sub-Fund for Peace and Security administered by EOSG*

[d] *Contribution received of US$200k in June, reflected in July 2020.*

As of 30 June, the utilization against the released budget of US$20.7 million was US$8.8 million or 43 per cent of the total released budget which represents the budget of projects implemented by UNCCT in the course of 2020.

Table 2: UNCCT Total budget and expenditure for 2020 and expenditure distribution by pillar, to 30 June 2020*

Pillar	Pillar Description	2020 Budget (US$) (a)	2020 Expenditures (US$) (b)	Utilization Rate (%) (c) = b/a	Expenditure distribution by pillar (%) (d)
I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	5,692,774	2,544,080	45%	29%
II	Combatting Terrorism	8,897,378	4,160,957	47%	47%
III	Supporting International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism	3,033,595	960,057	32%	11%
IV	Human Rights and Victims	3,090,368	1,192,941	39%	13%
TOTAL		20,714,114	8,858,035	43%	100%

*Includes funds allocated from the UN Sub-Fund for Peace and Security administered by the EOSG.

Part VI: Conclusion

UNCCT continues to enhance and adjust to the new global reality to meet the demands of Member States. The approaches undertaken by the UNCCT in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including moving to virtual activities and front-loading desk reviews, the development of training or materials, knowledge management and exploring innovating delivery options, has proven effective and the Centre sustained delivering high-impact programming to Member States at their request during the course of the second quarter of 2020, the final year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016 – 2020).

UNCCT reinforced its contingency plan, launched in March with all staff telecommuting, to ensure that UNCCT further improves as a Centre of Excellence. Under the contingency

planning exercise, the Executive Director instructed staff to continue to assess planned activities and prioritise assignments that can be completed during telecommuting, including the development of handbooks, guidelines, training materials and cooperation agreements with partner entities. UNCCT is consistently identifying and developing new methods of carrying out activities on virtual platforms. During the second quarter, UNCCT worked on the development of a dedicated UNOCT/UNCCT Learning Management System (LMS) with a view to establish a strategic and agile approach to explore different potential solutions offered by OICT, the UN Institute for Training and Research and the UN Department of Operational Support. That way, we are minimizing the negative effect of COVID-19 while maintaining the desired impact through successful delivering of the UNCCT mandate. We embraced the opportunity and advanced the efforts to efficiently supplement traditional capacity-building workshops and trainings with e-learning resulting in enhanced outreach of the UNCCT capacity-building work.

As noted in this and earlier reports, UNCCT staff are increasingly being called on to provide their expertise to institutions inside and outside the United Nations system. In this regard, the Centre seeks to expand cooperation with relevant regional organizations such as OSCE, NATO, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), IGAD and ASEAN. These partnerships allow UNCCT to leverage local knowledge and expertise in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building and UNCCT will reinforce those in the next quarter.