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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

3rd QUARTER
1 JULY 2022 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Key Highlights

Since its establishment in September 2011, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) has achieved valuable and measurable impacts by supporting requesting Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). UNCCT's establishment was made possible by the generous contribution of a $110 million by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2017 enhanced the Centre's access to political and diplomatic support, with opportunities for interagency collaboration within the UN system, while maintaining the Centre's high profile and strategic role.
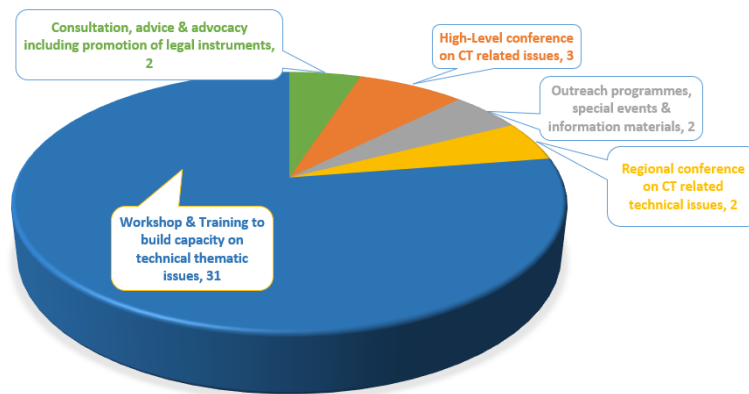
Through its work during the period 2011 to 2015 and subsequent implementation of its 5-Year Programme (2016 to 2020, and prolonged to 2021), UNCCT has contributed significantly to Member States' efforts to implement the four pillars of the GCTS. UNCCT has steadily evolved, both in strategic orientation and its technical capacity, to respond to Member States' priorities and needs.

During the reporting period (July-September 2022), UNCCT's work was guided by UNOCT's Strategic Plan 2022 to 2025 and its Results Framework (2022-2025). UNOCT's Strategic Plan operationalizes the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/71/291 and successive reviews of the GCTS. The present report reflects a shift from reporting against UNCCT's 5-Year Programme to UNOCT's new Results Framework (2022-2025).

Under the framework of UNOCT's Results Framework, UNCCT contributes towards achieving results under four of UNOCT's five Strategic Goals. This report highlights key achievements on the relevant outcomes under the reporting period.

UNCCT's technical assistance delivered to requesting Member States

During the reporting period, UNCCT has continued the implementation of eight lobal programmes with 14 sub-projects, two regional programmes and seven stand-alone projects. These delivered the following technical assistance to Member States:

Consultation, advice & advocacy including promotion of legal instruments, 2

High-Level conference on CT related issues, 3

Outreach programmes, special events & information materials, 2

Regional conference on CT related technical issues, 2

Workshop & Training to build capacity on technical thematic issues, 31

High-Level Conferences

- First UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism on 8-9 September 2022 in New York.
- International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism "Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Memories" on 21 August 2022 in New York.
- High-level side event on "Reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture: Universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)" on 3 August 2022 in New York.

Regional Conferences

- Regional Forum on "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Central Asia in the Implementation of PCVE National Action Plans" on 28-29 September 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Regional Forum on "Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" from 1 to 3 September 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Consultation, advice & advocacy including promotion of legal instruments

- First Consultation meeting on Operationalizing the National Asset-Freezing Mechanism of Uganda on 16 September 2022 in Kampala, Uganda
- Consultation meeting with the Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation (EOCN) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on applying risk-based approach and strengthening compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Preventive Measures on 28 September 2022 in Dubai, UAE.

Capacity building activities

- Capacity building training and workshops on technical thematic issues as related to counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE) (31 workshops).

Key highlights of UNCCT's technical assistance support to requesting Member States

136
Member States Supported

31
Capacity building activities delivered

5553
People trained in capacity building activities

13
Implementing Partners

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

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

UNOCT, in fulfilling its leadership and coordination roles, fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on the prevention and countering of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE) among all stakeholders. UNOCT 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 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In line with its mandate, UNOCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. UNCCT contributes to the broader policy leadership and coordination mandate of UNOCT through its multi-partner global programmes implemented in collaboration with other Counter-Terrorism Compact entities, its active engagement in the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its working groups, and its contribution to UNOCT's policy products and outreach events.

UNCCT contributes to Strategic Goals 2,3 and 4 under UNOCT's Results Framework (2022-2025).

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

UNCCT under the overall strategic umbrella of UNOCT, 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, human rights-based, 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 compliant and gender responsive approaches.

The **Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)** delivered a workshop on "Crisis and Strategic Communications" to support the Government of the Philippines with the implementation of the National PCVE Action Plan (NAP) on 23-26 August 2022 in Manila. The workshop bridged the gap between strategic and crisis communications for the NAP and supported participants with the development of a communication strategy for the plan itself as well as for other relevant initiatives outlined in the NAP. As a result, participants increased their understanding and skills on developing and implementing effective strategic communication activities around PCVE initiatives.

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

On 8 and 20 September 2022, the **Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)** delivered webinars on the policy making process for the Regional South and Southeast Asia Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP). Twenty-two young women and men gained insights into policy making through lessons delivered by experts in the area of Youth, Peace and Security and PCVE. Participants learned how to prepare and deliver key policy messages, building on context analysis, their own findings and stakeholder mapping. Youth enhanced their abilities in drafting policy recommendations relevant to their national and regional contexts. As a result, YEEP members are better equipped to contribute to PCVE efforts at all levels, including the design, development, implementation, monitor and evaluation of the PCVE efforts. The same youth group has been receiving extensive capacity building training since April 2022 to prepare them to engage with their peers and to present recommendations to policy makers. A Youth Policy Dialogue event is scheduled for October 2022 in Bangkok. These webinars aimed at preparing youth for meaningful interaction with decision makers at the event in Bangkok.

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.

UNCCT's regional project on "**Enhancing South-South Exchange of Expertise between Experts from Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism**" held an e-discussion during the period 13 June to 8 July, on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2462 (2019) on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. Members of the network shared good practices and lessons learned. The discussions focused on four main areas, including: i) measures taken to improve information-sharing by financial intelligence units; ii) enhancing cross-border cooperation in counter-terrorism financing cases; iii) improving coordination of international,

regional or sub regional efforts; iv) establishing effective partnerships with the private sector to improve the exchange and quality of financial information; and v) attenuating the impact and or harm of counter-terrorism financing measures on civil society, including and especially women and women's organizations. At the conclusion of the event, a list of good practices and lessons learned were compiled on the implementation of UNSCR 2462 (2019).

Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks.

UNCCT under the overall strategic umbrella of UNOCT, supports and enhances Member States' 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 GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.

On 16-17 August 2022, the **Global Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (Global WMD/CBRN Programme)** together with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a workshop on improving the national legislation on firearms in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The event was implemented through the project "Addressing the Terrorism-Arms-Crime Nexus: Preventing and Combatting the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their Illicit Supply to Terrorists" under the Global WMD/CBRN Programme. In preparation of the workshop, the project team prepared 18 recommendations to harmonize the national legislation of Uzbekistan in line with the international and regional instruments related to countering illicit SALW trafficking and its links to terrorism.

The event brought together over 16 representatives of the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the State Security Service, the State Customs Committee, the National Guards of Uzbekistan, and practitioners, who were specialized in firearms detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of illicit

firearms trafficking and the connection of these specific crimes with organized crime and terrorism. Participants and experts actively discussed the recommendations and the majority of them were agreed upon and accepted. Solutions identified by the participants included strengthening the regulatory framework on firearms in marking, record keeping, transfer controls, collection, deactivation and destruction of weapons. Participants ensured that the recommendations would be considered during the amendment of the national legislation. Gaps and loopholes of the framework were also addressed, and participants deliberated on preventative measures. In a post-event survey, the majority of participants indicated that they will be able to meet their legislative needs because of the improvement of the framework during the workshop. Overall, UNCCT's SALW project substantively contributes to the elaboration and implementation of integrated action plans and strategies to address trafficking of firearms for the prevention of terrorism and organized crime in target countries and the region.

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 "**Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (Global WMD/CBRN Programme)** organized a joint UNCCT-Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) strategic table-top exercise on radiological attack in London, UK on 6 September 2022. The training was attended by 60 strategic and tactical response leaders from eight cities in North America and Europe (Barcelona, Boston, Greater Manchester, London, Montreal, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Washington D.C.). The exercise consisted of interactive scenario-based discussions that harnessed the expertise and experiences of delegates. Participants discussed ways to enhance multi-agency preparedness and response arrangements, resulting in improved capacity of participants in the prevention of terrorism related offenses such as radiological attacks.

From 1-3 September 2022, the **Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering Financing of Terrorism (Global CFT Programme)** organized a regional forum on "Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt. The event was co-organized by the Naif Arab University for security sciences (NAUSS) and the Union of Arab Banks. The forum included basic principles in the crime of money laundering and terrorist financing and its relationship to the banking sector. Participants improved their knowledge on laws related to combating money laundering and terrorist financing in Europe and America. Participants discussed the role of banks, central banks and security sectors in dealing with money laundering and terrorist financing crimes. They further increased their awareness on the recommendations of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the assessment of risks of cyber security threats related to the crime of money laundering and potential risks of terrorist financing for the banking and financial sector. Experts explored advanced techniques to combat money laundering and to evaluate anti-money laundering and terrorism financing systems according to FATF methodology. Participants improved their knowledge in best practices of applying targeted

financial sanctions and financial investigations related to money laundering and terrorism financing crimes.

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.

From 4 to 7 July 2022, UNCCT's project **"Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) among Member States"** and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) organized a joint workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus regions in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The workshop enhanced cooperation and access to information to stem the flow of FTFs by providing a platform for exchange. It successfully expanded networks and increased the confidence of participants with a view to information sharing. Forty-five participants were presented with best practices in screening procedures, including on the use of relevant INTERPOL databases. Participants were also presented with good coordination practices for joint investigations at regional level. Moreover, participants learned from INTERPOL's success stories on intercepting FTF movements through its biometric tools and services. At the margins of the workshop, participants had the opportunity to undertake a study visit at the Dushanbe International Airport and the OSCE Border Management Staff College.

From 13 to 15 September 2022, the **"Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism" (Global CFT Programme)** delivered a course on countering the financing of terrorism with special focus on financial investigations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The training was attended by 16 participants who improved their capacities in effective inter-agency coordination in the field of countering the financing of terrorism, in accordance with international best practices, UN instruments and the mutual assessment by the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and the Financial Action Task Force standards.

From 3 to 12 August and from 14 to 24 August 2022, the **Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS),** jointly implemented by UNCCT and Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) organized a training course for operators of micro unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Participants increased their knowledge on operating UAS to support activities for preventing and countering terrorist activities. Participants enhanced their knowledge on the practical use of UAS with regard to international law norms, meteorology, maritime operations, night operations, overwatch as well as safety and security measures during operation. Trainees conducted micro-UAS flights for several hours during the course and are now equipped with improved capacities to conduct UAS operations according to international rules and requirements.

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

From 14 to 16 September 2022, the **Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies** delivered an intra-regional counter-terrorism cyber-drill for the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Arab region. This exercise effectively enhanced collaboration and information sharing between national Computer Security Incident Response Teams and law enforcement. The event was co-organized by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Center for Analysis and Investigation of Cyber-Attacks of Kazakhstan. More than 50 officials from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates attended the event. The cyber-drill included scenario-based exercises simulating the investigation process aimed at identifying and locating a violent extremist group. This challenge gave participants an opportunity to test the efficiency of their knowledge on open-source intelligence techniques in investigating the leads about alleged perpetrators. The activity gave participants awareness on the effectiveness of their cybersecurity capacities and capabilities. Moreover, it enhanced Member States' incidence response capabilities and communication and strengthened international cooperation to ensure continued collective efforts against cyber threats.

Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

UNOCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with its victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT under the overall strategic umbrella of UNOCT, 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.

On 8- 9 September 2022, **the Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism Support** organized the first UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism to promote the rights and needs of victims of terrorism. The Global Congress was held in New York with the participation of the Group of

Friends of Victims of Terrorism, co-chaired by the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Iraq. The Global Congress was attended by over 400 participants from Member States, civil society organizations including victims associations and the private sector. The Global Congress provided a platform for victims of terrorism to directly share their experiences, stories of resilience and to advocate for the strengthening and upholding of their rights and effective fulfilment of their needs. The event covered six overarching themes: i) recognition and remembrance measures, ii) new and emerging threats linked to terrorism, iii) protecting the rights of victims of terrorism, iv) rehabilitation, assistance and support, v) addressing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism with specific needs, and vi) access to justice for victims of terrorism. The Congress provided an opportunity for UNCCT to promote dialogue between Member States, victims of terrorism, civil society, academics, experts, and the private sector on the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, which resulted in a seven-point-action plan for developing a roadmap to guide the international agenda in advancing the rights and the needs of victims of terrorism.

During the Congress, the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme promoted practical toolkits of good practices for Member States and CSOs to better support victims and informed Member States on UNCCT's technical assistance activities in supporting national legislation to protect victims and their families through the Model Legislative Provisions to Support and Protect the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism. They were also informed about the General Assembly resolution on the "Enhancement of International Cooperation to Assist Victims of Terrorism" (A/RES/73/305), and the Secretary General's report on "Progress made by the United Nations system in supporting Member States in assisting victims of terrorism" (A/74/790).

Through the Memories Campaign, "Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Memories", featured during the Congress, participants were able to gain a greater understanding of the experience of victims and their trauma as well as the importance of remembering victims and survivors of terrorist attacks and paying them tribute. The campaign effectively raised the collective consciousness on the impact of terrorist attacks on people as well as raising awareness to prevent the emergence of new victims.

The Memories Campaign was also featured during a high-level event on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August 2022 that was broadcasted on the UN Web TV. Participants of the of the high-level event included the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, and the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov as well as the two co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Spain and Iraq, and four victims from around the world.

In preparation of the UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, the Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism Support held a number of strategic communication trainings to improve the communication skills of victims participating at the event. The trainings increased the self-confidence of victims in delivering impactful messages and gave them the skills and tools to talk about their experiences.

An extensive social media campaign was organised around each of the key events organized by the UNCCT's Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, which accelerated and increased the reach of the Memories campaign, the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Congress and the Global Congress. This has subsequently increased the programme's overall impact and raised awareness on victims' rights to a world-wide audience that goes far beyond the participants and attendees of these events.

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

No activities were delivered under this outcome during the reporting period.

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

On 22 September 2022, the **Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (Global PRR Programme)** organized the final conference of the joint global initiative "Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons" in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The conference was co-organized by the UNCCT, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and UNODC and reflected on the coordination aspects of this initiative. The conference convened 68 participants from UN agencies, the EU and the Netherlands, including officials from the three beneficiary countries (Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda) who shared their lessons learnt from the past five years of the joint initiative. Participants and panellists of the conference concluded that violent extremism cannot be solved by national interventions alone and more similar globally coordinated capacity building programmes are required.

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

UNCCT under the overall strategic umbrella of UNOCT, 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 UNOCT 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. UNOCT and its partners will support women and girl's representation and leadership in CT/PCVE. UNOCT 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.

Outcome 5.1: UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights in CT/PCVE efforts.

No activities were delivered under this outcome during the reporting period.

Outcome 5.2: UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to expanding the concern towards gender equality and women's empowerment within CT/PCVE efforts.

On 22 September 2022, the **Global Programme on Border Security and Management (Global BSM Programme)** organized a webinar on border management and gender called "Understanding the Crime-Terror Nexus and the Gendered Impacts of Border Practices to Prevent Terrorist Movement". This event was jointly held with the World Border Security Congress. During this virtual panel discussion, experts debated on the gender dimensions of the crime-terror nexus and the importance of gender-responsive approaches to border security and management, in particular within the counter-terrorism context. They explored practical ways in which border practices impact individuals crossing borders, taking into consideration the complexities of gender roles and underlying assumptions regarding women, girls, men and boys. The experts agreed on the importance of a comprehensive gender analysis to inform border strategies and action plans which are inclusive of counter-terrorism elements.