



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

# UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

**FIRST QUARTER**

1 January – 31 March 2023

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*Abbreviations*

CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CONOP	European Union Working Party on Non-Proliferation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
EEAS	European External Action Service
ETCIP	Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection
EU	European Union
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IJ	International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
JPOA	Joint Plan of Action
LEICA	Law Enforcement in Central Asia
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MLP	Model Legislative Provision
NCB	INTERPOL National Central Bureau
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PRR	Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
R/N	Radiological / Nuclear
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SPRF	Strategic Plan and Results Framework
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft Systems
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
WCO	World Customs Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

## Executive summary and key highlights

During the first quarter of 2023, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) continued to support Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. In the first few months of 2023, UNCCT implemented 25 different activities, including nine workshops and training exercises that have together increased the knowledge and capacities of over 300 counter-terrorism professionals. The Centre has further conducted 13 events to raise awareness and advocate for a range of different issues, including universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), preparedness for threats from weapons of mass destruction (WMD) / chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), the importance of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) and terrorist threats related to new and emerging technologies.

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

### Multi-agency exercises

- The Centre has worked together with several other United Nations agencies, Finland, and the United States to help Member States develop capacities for real-life responses to the threat posed by radiological and nuclear (R/N) terrorism, with a focus on the Sahel region.
- **UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons** has worked with several United Nations agencies (ICAO, UNODA, UNODC, UNITAR, UNMAS, and UNREC) and international organizations (INTERPOL and WCO) to support countries of the Sahel and Maghreb regions in preventing and deterring terrorists from acquiring weapons.
- **UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons** together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a legislative assessment workshop and a training course on countering firearms trafficking, terrorism and other crimes: 'Tools for effective investigation and prosecution for Turkmenistan'.

### Expert Group Meetings

- **UNCCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies** organized a series of three expert group meetings in February and March 2023. These have helped Member States to conduct threat assessments of new technologies, collect and analyse digital data, and work together with ICT companies, in line with human rights obligations

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

- UNCCT has continued support and advocacy for universalization of ICSANT. In particular, the Centre has helped inform officials of Ghana and the Philippines about the universalization of the treaty and its effective implementation.
- **UNCCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)** has helped officials and civil society actors in Thailand and Indonesia to better understand the importance of crisis communications in the case of a terrorist attack, including through the use of terrorist attack simulations.

### Key facts and figures



57

Member States supported



10

Capacity building activities delivered



366

Participants trained



2

Regional CT/PCVE strategies and national action plans assisted



208

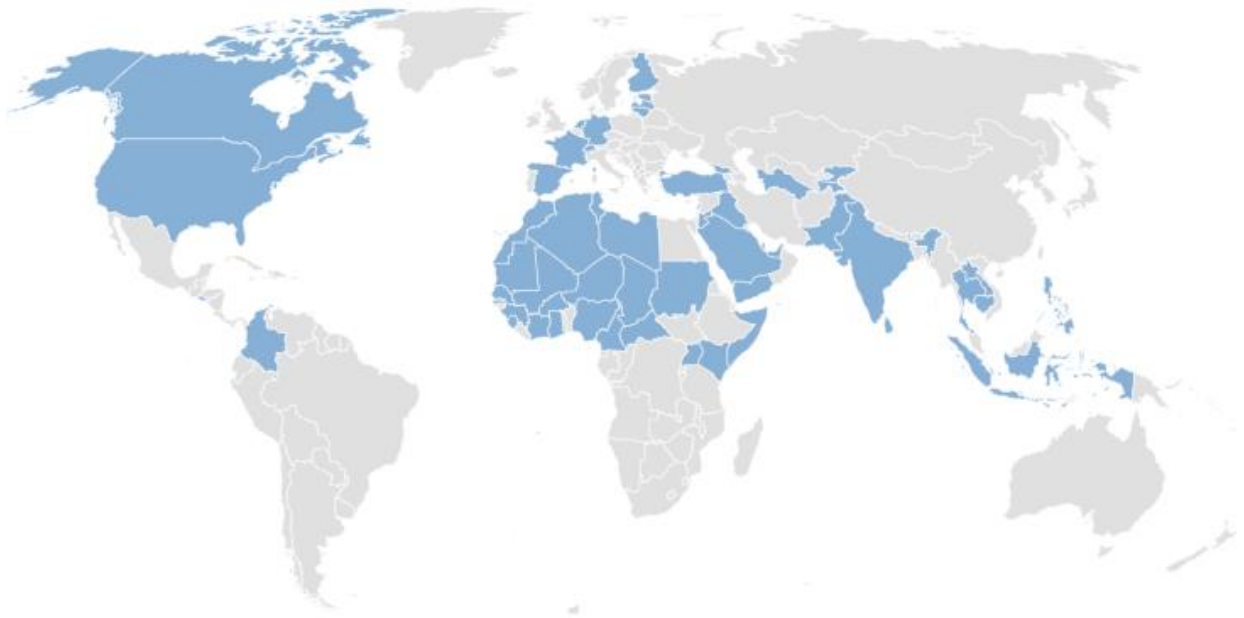
Participants in activities for advocacy and promotion of legal instruments



20%

Women participants in workshops and training to build capacity in thematic issues

## Member States supported in the first quarter of 2023\*



## Key international partners for UNCCT's work in the first quarter of 2023

### United Nations entities

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

### Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations

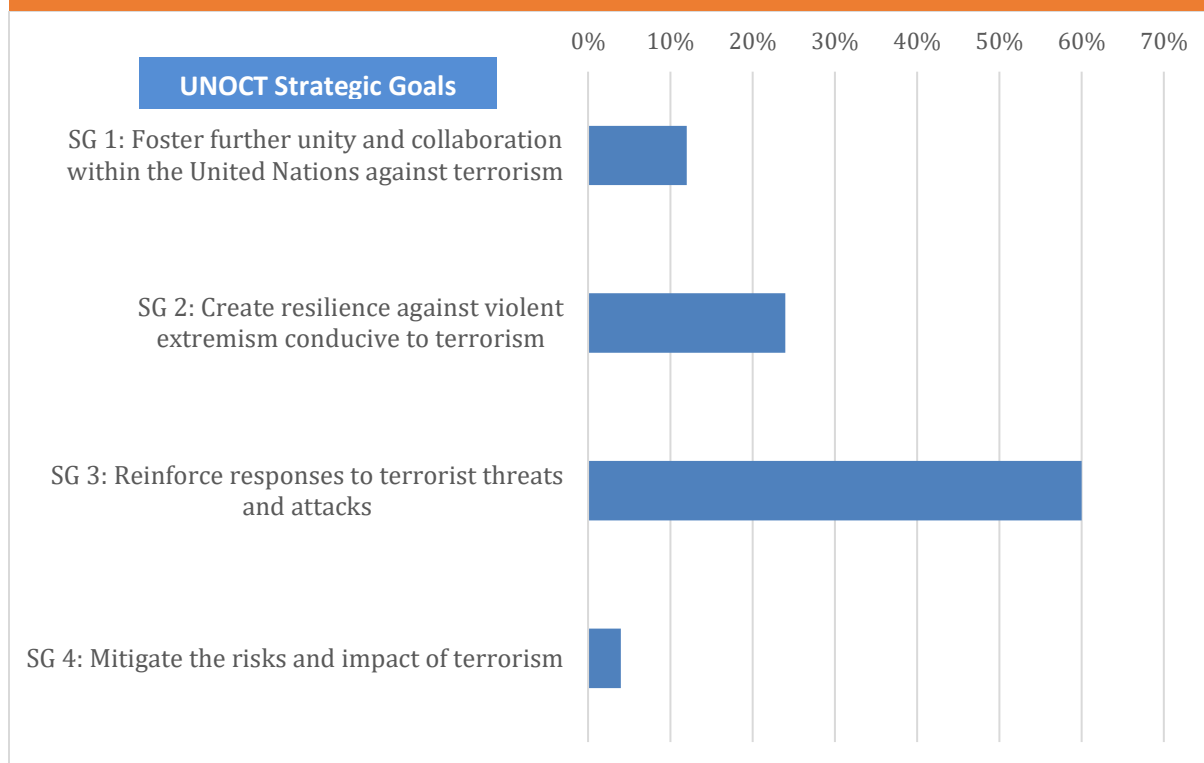
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

### Other stakeholders

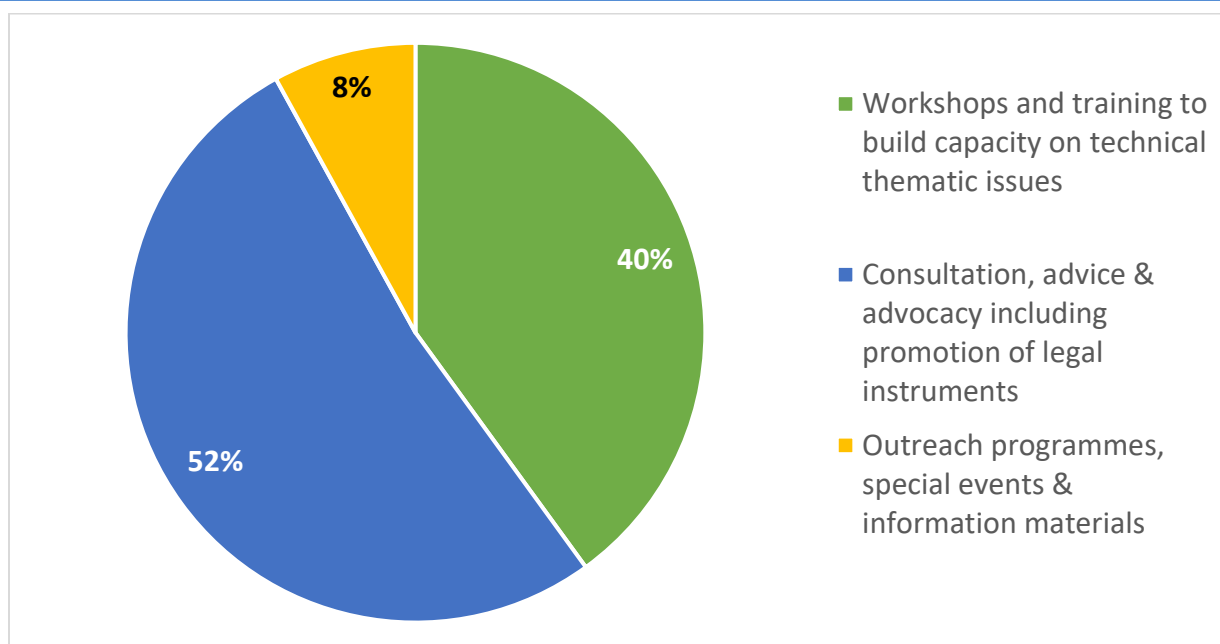
- The Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

*\* Map does not imply official endorsement*

## Breakdown of activities\*



## UNCCT Technical Assistance Delivered to Member States



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



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

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

#### Description of Goal

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

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

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

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

#### **UNCCT and OPCW further develop and strengthen information exchange and coordination in case of chemical or biological attacks**

UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons worked together with OPCW to deliver a workshop on information exchange under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact's Working Group on **Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection (ETCIP)**, as part of their joint project on *"Ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability and coordinated communication in case of chemical and/or biological attacks."* On 27 – 28 March, ten United Nations agencies and international organizations came together in The Hague, (Kingdom of the Netherlands) to discuss the types and uses of relevant information during the various phases of an attack, the current mechanisms for information exchange and additional mechanisms to improve it. UNCCT convened a session on human rights and the humanitarian implications of sharing information about a developing crisis. Participants increased their knowledge and awareness on available mechanisms for information exchange of participating agencies, limitations and ways to improve them. Participants also discussed next steps to be undertaken to operationalize the recommendations on information exchange from Phase II of the project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UNCCT works with UNODC to provide European Union member states with proposals for a second project to promote the universalization of ICSANT**

On 16 March, together with UNODC, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons provided European Union member states in the European Union Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP) with suggested elements of a proposed second project to promote the universalization of ICSANT. CONOP member states and the Chair (the European External Action Service) expressed appreciation for the presentations. Further developments in the second project are expected in the second half of 2023.

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

### Description of Goal

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

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

#### UNCCT works together with other agencies to suggest areas of support for Turkmenistan’s National Strategy and Action Plan on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024

On 30 January in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, as part of the project, “Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (JPOA)”, UNCCT worked together with other agencies (UNDP, UNODC, and UNRCCA) to help support **Turkmenistan’s National Strategy and Action Plan on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024**. This included possible interventions in, inter alia, cybersecurity and new technologies, countering terrorist travel, uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), border security and management (BSM), biometrics, national interagency coordination mechanisms, protection of vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks, and PVE. The briefings were received by representatives of 24 ministries and government agencies of Turkmenistan that were among the working group on the development of the CT and PVE Strategy for 2020-2024.

#### UNCCT works together with other agencies to support the implementation of the Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2023-2027

On 16 March in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, UNCCT, under its “Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (JPOA)” project, worked together with experts from UNODC, UNDP, UNICEF, OSCE and EU LEICA to support Kyrgyz officials in developing an action plan to implement the Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2023-2027. The event discussed challenges and opportunities, as well as promoting networking and cooperation at the national and international levels, with representatives of

relevant authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and other relevant entities. A draft Action Plan, with the proposed areas of activities, and the newly endorsed national programme were distributed ahead of the meeting, which allowed participants to focus on concrete proposals covering capacity-building for law enforcement structures, media, religious, academia and CSOs leaders as well as other groups, such as women and youth. A number of thematic sessions were convened highlighting areas where technical assistance could be provided, especially for PCVE. The Action Plan emphasized the importance of a comprehensive "*whole-of-society*" and "*whole-of-government*" approach with achievable outcomes.

### **UNCCT works with Kyrgyz officials to plan areas of cooperation on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR)**

On 23 March in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, a working level meeting with Kyrgyz officials was held under UNCCT's "*Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (JPOA)*" project. The objective of the meeting was to define concrete steps of cooperation and support to the Kyrgyz Republic in PRR. As a result, it was agreed to exchange all the additional information that emerged during the discussion, update the project of the roadmap between UNOCT and the Kyrgyz Republic based on the topics discussed at the working meeting as well as prepare a workplan for joint Central Asia-focused resource mobilization initiatives to be held in New York, capitals of the funding partners, and Bishkek, with the aim of enabling implementation of joint regional 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.**

#### **UNCCT helps officials from across Thai government agencies to develop skills in crisis and strategic communications for responding to extremist attacks**

From 15 – 17 February, UNCCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) delivered a capacity building workshop for 46 Thai officials (24 women and 22 men) from multiple government agencies to support them in strengthening PCVE strategic and crisis communications. The workshop explored the role of communications as used by terrorists, as well as the opportunities for the use of communications in PCVE and presented an opportunity for national government entities to develop a whole-of-government strategic and crisis communications narrative for PCVE. The final day focused on a capstone 'live' crisis simulation, using the online simulation tool '*Conducttr*'. This helped national counterparts to put into practice their new skills and give them practical experience of working in the aftermath of a violent extremist attack.

#### **UNCCT helps Indonesian government officials and civil society to develop skills in crisis and strategic communications for responding to extremist attacks**

UNCCT's Global Programme on PCVE further supported Indonesian government officials and civil society in developing the capacities to effectively communicate in times of crisis in the aftermath of terrorism or violent extremism, with an aim to strengthen social cohesion and counter extremist and terrorist narratives. During this workshop, which took place from 22 - 24 February, the 47 participants (12 women and 35 men) developed a national communications strategy and narrative that they were able to 'stress-

test' during an interactive, high-pressure simulation of a terrorist crisis simulation using PCVE's online simulation tool.

**UNCCT helps to develop understanding and training to support PCVE and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) practitioners working in low-resource settings**

From 8 - 15 March, the Global Programme on PCVE held a series of four roundtable discussions with participants from Cameroon, India, Kenya, Kosovo (under S/RES/1244), Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, and Uganda working on mental health, as a follow-up to a survey conducted in December 2022. The discussions contributed to action research conducted to inform the development of an Issues Paper and training to support PCVE and MHPSS practitioners working in low-resource settings. This has helped UNCCT to develop insights into how best to support these practitioners.

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

No activities to report during the first quarter of 2023.

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

### Description of Goal

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

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

#### **UNCCT engages with Ghanaian officials to advocate for ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)**

On 13 January, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons met with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in New York to discuss its Programme and activities and in particular the possibility to organize an advocacy event with Parliamentarians in Accra, as part of the ICSANT project. Ghana had signed but not ratified the Convention and this activity would aim to raise awareness on the Convention among the main relevant Parliament committees. It was agreed that UNOCT would address a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration including possible dates to organize this activity.

#### **UNCCT engages with officials from the Philippines to provide support for ratification of ICSANT and for further capacity building in CBRN**

In March, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons met with and briefed several offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippines and presented the portfolios on preventing and responding to WMD/CBRN terrorism and on preventing terrorist use of SALW and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and their components. As the Philippines is currently finalizing the ratification process at the governmental level and will be filing the bill in Congress this year, DFA expressed initial interest in raising the awareness of Congress with UNCCT's support. UNCCT further briefed three representatives of the House of Representatives of the Philippines on the project on promoting universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT.

UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering the Terrorist Use of Weapons further met with officials in the Philippines in March to discuss cooperation and future work in preventing and responding to WMD / CBRN terrorism. The Centre met with representatives of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Office of the President of the Philippines in their capacity of National CBRN Focal Point, and the Head of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Secretariat for Southeast Asia. The meeting included exchanges on the CBRN trainings delivered in 2021 and the upcoming project on table-top exercises and national CBRN training programmes. Moreover, future collaboration on ICSANT, SALW and IEDs projects was discussed. These engagements raised awareness of counterparts from the Philippines of ICSANT, and the Programme provided information on support available to Member States in the field of preventing and responding to terrorist use of conventional and non-conventional weapons.

**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**

**UNCCT supports authorities in Turkmenistan to update and harmonize their national legislation on SALW**

From 9 – 10 March, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons held a capacity building workshop for officials in Turkmenistan on how to enhance their normative and institutional frameworks and measures to prevent and counter terrorists' illicit access to SALW. This exercise was implemented in close cooperation with national counterparts to analyze and update the current legislation in line with international instruments. The workshop engaged 21 representatives (20 men and 1 woman) from the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Security, the State Customs Service, the State Frontier Service, the State Migration Service, and the Supreme Court. The exercise focused on increasing understanding of the legal international and regional instruments. To enable this, UNCCT worked with participants to analyze national legislation and regulatory frameworks on SALW to identify vulnerabilities, gaps and another loopholes, and identified potential solutions to strengthen the legislation, especially in marking, record keeping, transfer controls, collection, deactivation, and destruction of SALW. As a result, ten recommendations to update and harmonize the national legislation in line with the international and regional instruments related to countering illicit SALW trafficking and its links to terrorism were prepared and presented to the participants.

**UNCCT supports officials in Turkmenistan to more effectively counter, investigate and prosecute SALW trafficking, terrorism and other related crimes**

From 13 - 17 March, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons delivered a training on countering firearms trafficking, terrorism, and other crimes, to 23 officials (all men) in the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Security, the State Customs Service, the State Frontier Service, and the Supreme Court. The trainings built the capacities of criminal justice, customs, and border control, as well as arms control authorities to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute terrorism cases related to the



illegal production, trafficking, and/or diversion of SALW and connect them with other serious crimes. Participants were briefed on the global dimension and the impact of illicit trafficking in firearms, with a focus on how these illicit activities are connected to and support terrorism. They also received an introduction to the United Nations' main instruments to prevent terrorists from acquiring these firearms.

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

### **UNCCT co-hosts a large multi-agency and multi-national exercise to enhance detection of radiological and nuclear (R/N) material, and national security responses**

From 14 - 16 March, UNCCT and France, in collaboration with the United States and through funding of the European Union and Finland, organized a two-and-a-half-day tabletop exercise and workshop on R/N detection and links to traditional national security, entitled 'Lutetia'. The event gathered close to 70 participants (61 men and 9 women) from relevant national agencies of 25 Member States, as well as representatives from international organizations, including IAEA and UNODC. The exercise also enhanced participants' understanding of the applicability of international legal frameworks against acts of R/N terrorism, including ICSANT. The exercise focused on the Sahel region and was the fifth workshop held within the European Union-funded ICSANT project.

### **UNCCT supports countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2370**

From 31 January - 2 February, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons enhanced the capacities of countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions to prevent terrorist from acquiring weapons, helping them to implement Security Council resolution 2370 (2017). This capacity building workshop, co-hosted by the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid, brought together 25 participants (22 men and 3 women) from Algeria, the Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, and Tunisia as well as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), INTERPOL, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UNODC, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), and the World Customs Organization (WCO). After attending the capacity building workshop, all participants reported having greater knowledge related to the content of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) and a better understanding of measures to prevent or deter terrorists from acquiring weapons, including so-called 'upstream' measures (e.g. national policies and procedures, interagency coordination and cooperation, as well as border control and controls on sales and transfers of weapons) and 'downstream' measures (e.g. data and evidence collection, weapons tracing, and criminal justice procedures). They further agreed that the capacities would be useful in the performance of their duties.

### **UNCCT supports countries in the Caribbean region to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2370**



UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons, in partnership with CTED and UNIDIR, organized a workshop for countries in the Caribbean region to promote the technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017). The workshop focused on the capability maturity model and the suggested upstream measures (e.g. national policies and procedures, interagency coordination and cooperation, as well as border control and controls on sales and transfers of weapons) and downstream measures (e.g. data and evidence collection, weapons tracing, and criminal justice procedures) that could be taken at the national level to address the terrorist acquisition and use of IEDs, UAS and SALW. The comparison of pre-assessment and post-assessment surveys demonstrated an increased awareness of participants as a result of the workshop (for example, understanding of measures to improve IED risk awareness and education increased by 83%, familiarity with customs and border control measures to counter terrorist acquisition and use of UAS by 67%, and greater knowledge of Security Council resolution 2370 by 59%).

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

**UNCCT helps Pakistan to improve the responsible use of quality of biometric data**

From 31 January - 2 February, UNCCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, under its CT TECH component, trained 63 officials (50 men and 13 women) on how facial recognition works, important considerations for the responsible use of this technology, how to collect and extract good quality facial images, and how to share/exchange facial image data with INTERPOL. Participants came from Pakistan's INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), Forensics Laboratory, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Federal Investigations Agency (FIA). Following this training and support there is an expectation that INTERPOL will receive good quality biometric data in existing and future notices and diffusions from Pakistan.

**UNCCT develops good practices in the use of threat assessments of the terrorist use of new technologies, while respecting human rights and the rule of law**

In March, UNCCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, under its CT TECH component, together with 15 experts and practitioners (10 men and 5 women) from INTERPOL, EU, CTED, UNODC, EU Counter-Terrorism Centre (CTC), OAS, IJ, and academia, discussed how to counter terrorist use of new technologies and use new technologies as part of this effort, identify good and bad practices in this regard. The experts shared real-world examples from the field, including Africa, on the increasing gap between supply and adoption of new technologies for counter-terrorism and expressed the need for practical guidance to ensure that human rights are embedded within the CT approaches and capacity-building, suggesting a technology-neutral approach. The findings may also inform UNOCT's contribution to the preparation of *A New Agenda for Peace*, as described in the 2021 report of the United Nations Secretary General on *'Our Common Agenda'*. The findings of this expert group meeting will also provide inputs for the development of:

- a handbook of good practices for conducting threat assessments of terrorist exploitation of new technologies;

- a reference guide for designing national CT policy responses to address challenges and opportunities of new technologies in countering terrorism;
- a reference guide for human-rights based approaches to countering terrorist exploitation of new technologies and use of new technologies to counter terrorism.

**CT TECH Initiative helps to identify the requirements of law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies when working with ICT companies and collecting digital data for counter-terrorism cases**

In March, the UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, under its CT TECH component, brought together 24 experts and practitioners (14 men and 10 women) to collectively explore and identify needs, requirements and capabilities of law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies when it comes to new technologies and countering terrorism. The expert group meeting included participants from INTERPOL, EU, CTED, UNODC, EU CTC, OSCE, IIJ, World Economic Forum, Tech Against Terrorism, GCTF, Google, Member States, and academia. Participants in the meeting expressed the need for better regulation and oversight of the collection of online data for counter-terrorism purposes, as well as the need to strengthen law enforcement collaboration with small tech companies. Findings of the meeting will inform the development of knowledge products on:

- a compendium of good practices on law enforcement cooperation with private ICT companies in countering terrorist use of new technologies and collecting digital data and evidence in CT cases; and
- Reference Guide for Establishment of Legislative Frameworks and Transparency Mechanism on Online Data Collection.

The experts also shared real-world examples of good practices in this field. UNCCT will present some of the findings to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Challenges and Critical Infrastructure Protection for their review and feedback.

## Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

### Description of Goal

UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with its network of victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure that the impact 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.**

**UNCCT promotes best practices and the adoption of model legislative provisions for the support of victims of terrorism**

On 14 March, UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme organized a roundtable event on enhancing Member States' capacity to support the needs and rights of victims of terrorism. Participants discussed different roles in strengthening legislative frameworks, as well as national experiences and best practices in this area. This event brought together representatives from Member States, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, parliamentarians, United Nations entities, as well as two victims of terrorism from Pakistan and Nigeria, and recorded a high turnout with more than 120 in-person participants (40 men, 41 women, and 41 participants who did not provide their gender). Together, the roundtable participants were able to:

- i. Identify Member States interested in participating in the pilot Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) project;
- ii. Promote discussion about assistance needs in the area of victims of terrorism;
- iii. Raise awareness about best practices and lessons learned; and
- iv. Highlight the work of the United Nations on victims of terrorism.

Several Member States expressed interest in becoming MLP project beneficiaries, including Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand and Yemen.

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

No activities to report during the first quarter of 2023.

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

No activities to report during the first quarter of 2023.

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

### Description of Goal

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

Human rights and gender are mainstreamed across UNCCT activities, with support from the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS). In the first quarter of 2023, a number of UNCCT activities incorporated a human rights and/or gender component or further supported the promotion of human rights and gender principles. A brief description of these activities is listed below.

### Integration and promotion of Human Rights principles in UNCCT activities

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

- **UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit – OPCW Inter-agency Workshop on Information Exchange.** As part of this inter-agency meeting, UNOCT acted as a convener for two sessions, including the session on human rights and humanitarian implications of sharing information about a developing crisis.

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

Gender mainstreaming across UNCCT activities is guided by the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan (2022) and conducted with support from the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS).

Eight UNCCT focal points are members of the UNOCT Gender Task Force. The Gender Task Force was instituted in 2022 with the primary focus of supporting the implementation and monitoring of the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, which aims to ensure that UNOCT's mandate is implemented in a gender responsive manner, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and integrating the women, peace and security agenda within CT/PCVE.

In the first quarter of 2023, the Gender Task Force held two monthly meetings for coordination and building capacity of gender focal points through substantive discussions regarding gender mainstreaming in CT/PCVE, as well as sharing of information regarding progress in the implementation of the policy and

in their specific programmes. Each Gender Focal Point went on to develop a gender workplan for the sections or units they represent to guide their gender mainstreaming work in 2023.

UNCCT, and in particular its Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, has actively contributed to communications campaign for International Women’s Day 2023, which was marked by the United Nations under the global theme *‘DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality’*. Through Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov’s [statement](#) and the [dedicated web stories](#), UNCCT showcased some of the important contributions women make in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism through digital tools.