



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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

SECOND QUARTER
1 April – 30 June 2023

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Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BSM	Border Security and Management
BWC-ISU	Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CICTE	Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSIRT	Computer Security Incident Response Team
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CTPN	Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network
EAG	Eurasian Group
ECNL	European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ERC	Emergency Response Centres
ENVR	European Network of Victims' Rights
EUCVT	European Union Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism
Europol	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
FAFT	Financial Action Task Force
FBI	United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
HRGS	UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section
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 Technologies
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IJJ	International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JPOA	Joint Plan of Action
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MLP	Model Legislative Provision
NAP	National Action Plan
NCB	INTERPOL National Central Bureau
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
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
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism
UAS	Uncrewed Aircraft System
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament 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 in Central Asia
UNREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
WCO	World Customs Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YEEP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive summary and key highlights

During the second quarter of 2023, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) supported Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. A key highlight during this quarter was the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in New York in June. This event brought together over 600 participants from Member States, international organizations, and civil society, and saw the adoption by the General Assembly of the eighth Review Resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). During this week, 40 side events were organized, including several by UNCCT. In addition, UNCCT implemented 30 different activities, including 16 workshops and training exercises that have increased the knowledge and capacities of nearly 800 participants. The Centre also conducted nine activities to provide advice, advocacy, outreach, and knowledge products. These included efforts to support Member State legislatures in the universalization of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), a dedication ceremony for the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree, the inauguration of the 'Memories' exhibition in support of the victims and survivors of terrorist acts at the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, and support to Member States in the exchange of lessons learned and good practices, particularly in understanding the potential uses of new technologies such as generative artificial intelligence (AI) for terrorist purposes.

This is the second year of the **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 and successive reviews of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The structure of this report reflects the contributions of UNCCT within the context of the SPRF, as a results-oriented Global Centre of Excellence.

Large, multi-country exercises

- UNCCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, together with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), conducted a regional counter-terrorism cyber drill for 22 African Member States, as part of the ITU's regional 'CyberDrill'. This helped strengthen investigation of cyber-incidents against critical infrastructures through enhanced collaboration and information sharing regionally and at the national level between national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) and law enforcement.

International conferences

- UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme moderated and led a workshop on International Cooperation and Global leadership at the opening conference of the European Union Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT). This inaugural conference invited experts in different fields related to victims of terrorism to discuss key priorities for the next two years of EUCVT. The Programme also participated in the 2023 Spring Conference of the European Network of Victims' Rights (ENVR), providing a platform for the exchange of information on best practices in providing services and support to victims of terrorism, and to uphold their rights within the European Union.

Consultation, advice & advocacy including promotion of legal instruments

- UNCCT's project on Promoting universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism held a national advocacy event with the House of Representatives of the Philippines to promote ratification of the ICSANT. The Project held a further national advocacy event with the National Assembly of Togo on their ratification of the convention.

Key facts and figures



120

Member States supported through capacity building activities



15

Capacity building activities delivered



770

Participants trained



4

Regional CT/PCVE strategies and national action plans assisted



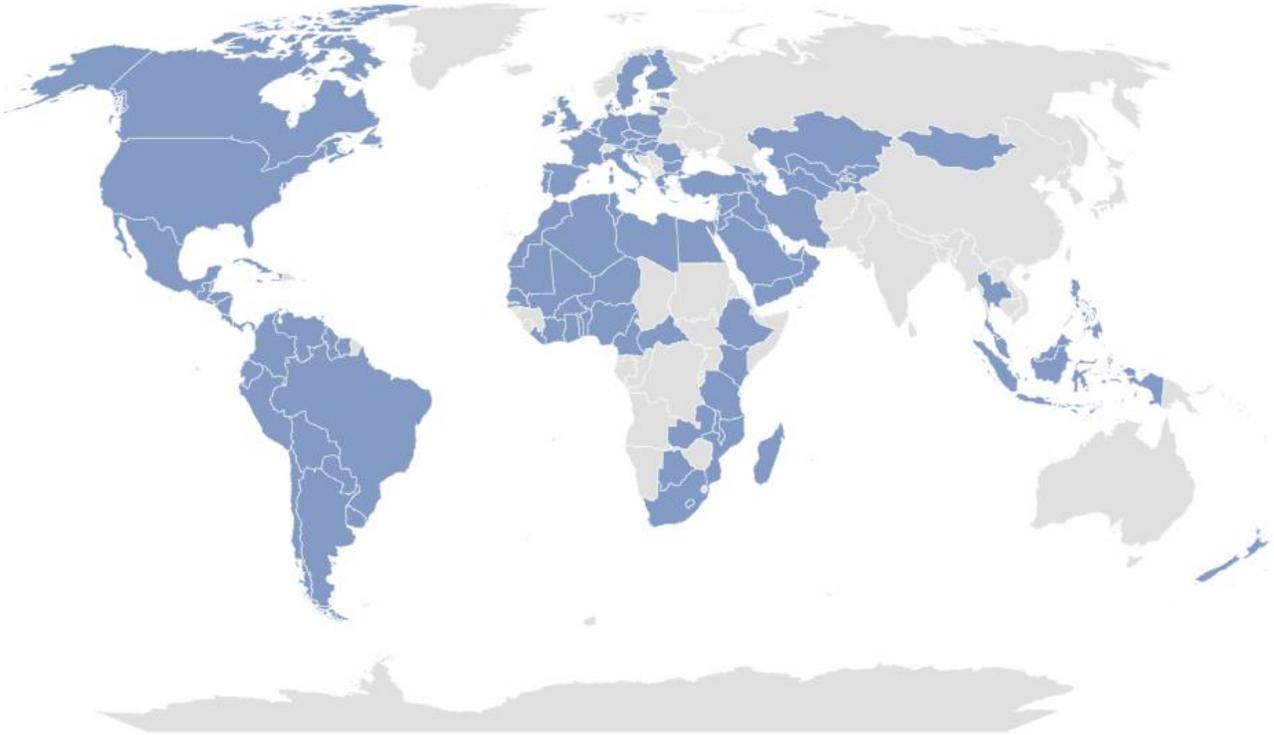
1128

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



28%

Women participants in capacity building activities



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

United Nations entities

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations

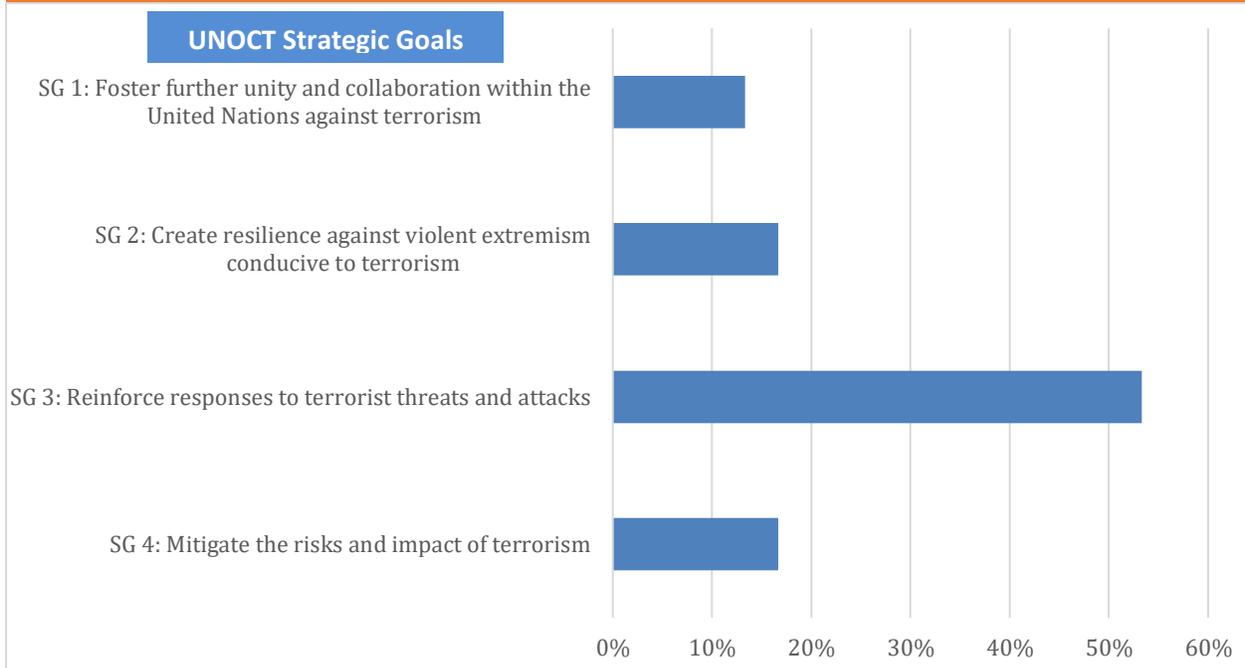
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- European Union Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism (EUCVT)
- European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)
- The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
- Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)

Other stakeholders

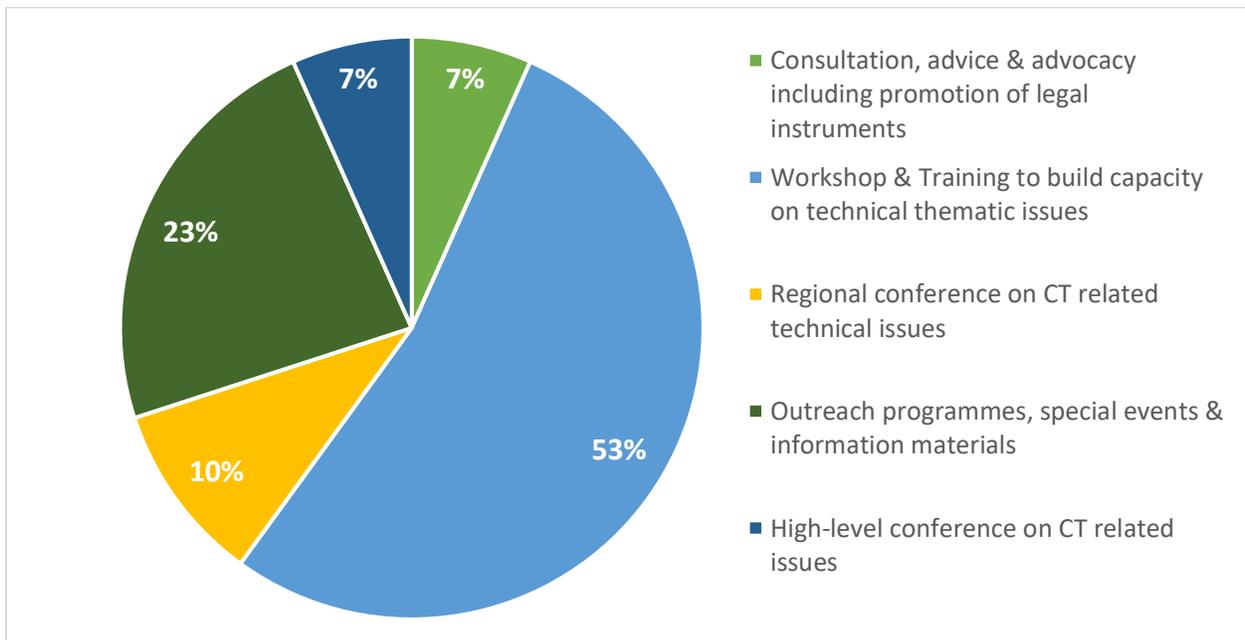
- The Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism
- The Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN)

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 UN System on CT/PCVE.

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

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

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

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

No activities to report during the second 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 1.4: Increased coherence and coordination within the United Nations system to support Member States CT/PCVE efforts including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

No activities to report during the second 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.

UNCCT supports increased communication and coordination among United Nations agencies and international organizations in the face of chemical and biological attacks

On 5 May, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons brought together relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations with a role in responding to chemical and biological attacks, to share best practices on emergency response, and to increase cooperation during an attack. The workshop, organized together with OPCW in Lyon, France, brought together 23 participants (15 men and 8 women) from 11 entities (OPCW, FAO, INTERPOL, UNICRI, UNOCHA, UNODA, UNODC, WHO, WOH, CTBTO, BWC-ISU) and was the third in a series of four workshops. As an outcome of this workshop, concrete ways forward were agreed upon in terms of how to improve communication and coordination between respective entities' Emergency Response Centres (ERC) in the face of an attack, including reciprocal field studies and visits, joint trainings, joint protocols, information exchanges with ERCs, and establishing new memoranda of understanding.

In the final of the four workshops, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons convened 20 people (13 men and 7 women) from ten United Nations agencies and international organizations to discuss the necessary requirements to be in place, for agencies to deploy teams in response to a crisis. Participating entities shared experiences on team deployment and humanitarian operational response practices and approaches to support the development of a non-mandatory "checklist" of critical elements and steps that need to be considered or be in place for an agency to deploy teams in response to a biological or chemical attack. As a result of this workshop, participants produced the following:

- A non-mandatory "checklist" of critical elements and steps (e.g. logistical, legal, etc.) that need to be considered, or be in place, for an agency to deploy teams of various compositions in response to a crisis (e.g. single agency, joint agency, experts, etc.).
- An exchange of experiences with establishing a mechanism with associated terms of reference to activate an expert roster of bi-lateral partners, building on the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) and other response mechanisms.
- A list of issues that need to be addressed further by the participating agencies regarding the "checklist".

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

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

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

Description of Goal

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

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

Member States in Central and Southeast Asia are better positioned to monitor and evaluate implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for strengthening resilience to violent extremism conducive to terrorism

From 3 to 5 May, the joint EU-UN Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia) project organized a Regional Forum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Monitoring and Evaluation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia, in partnership with UNRCCA, UNDP, and UNODC. The Forum brought together 49 participants from Central and Southeast Asia, including Member State NAP focal points, as well as representatives from peacebuilding CSOs. The participants shared progress and opportunities, as well as obstacles encountered, in their own efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). The Forum was conducted as an essential part of the monitoring and evaluation phase of the initiative, including an assessment of progress, gaps, and challenges, as well as obstacles and opportunities for advancing more robust policy action and change, used to reflect on the performance of PCVE programmes across Central and Southeast Asia. As a result, participants are now better positioned to implement national mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation of their NAPs. The Forum also provided a platform for discussing future engagements and a common way forward.

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

Governments in Southeast Asia take steps to improve national crisis communication and improve learning and networking across the region

A regional workshop on Strategic and Crisis Communication was held from 3 to 6 April in Bangkok, Thailand, by UNCCT's Global Programme on PCVE. The workshop brought together 43 representatives (26 men and 17 women) from the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Workshop participants used the event to develop comprehensive National Crisis Communication Strategies that will help inform their wider national PCVE action plans. Survey results indicate that the workshop has led to an increase in knowledge and skills among beneficiaries, with all respondents agreeing that they are now better equipped to communicate during a crisis as a result of their participation. In addition, the workshop provided beneficiaries with opportunities to learn from and build relationships with one another, with participants highlighting the importance of engaging with regional partners at the working level to share good practice and cross-fertilize knowledge on strategic communication for PCVE and in times of crises. This provided an opportunity for participants to work in multi-national groups to identify regional opportunities to converge messaging in times of crises. As a follow-up, a community of practice will be established to ensure continued learning and networking across the region on crisis communications.

Whole-of-Society Strategic Communications in Support of Reintegration Workshop in Kazakhstan

National workshops on strategic communications to support the reintegration of returnees and their family members were held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 26 – 27 June with Government officials and on 29 - 30 June with civil society organizations. Delivered by UNCCT's Global Programme on PCVE, with the support of the Global Programme on PRR, the workshops equipped 34 participants (16 female and 18 male) with skills focused on the fundamentals of strategic communication relevant to reintegration, the application of new tools and approaches to situation and audience analysis, and the development of a strategic narrative, while countering misinformation and disinformation conducive to violent extremism. Civil society representatives co-designed their own new whole-of-society strategic communications for reintegration plan. Informed by the training, UNOCT is currently developing a toolkit to guide governments, civil society, and front-line workers in their reintegration communications efforts.

Supporting the inclusion of youth on global platforms through the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)

UNCCT's Global Programme on PCVE co-organized a hybrid side event at United Nations Headquarters together with UN DESA, UNESCO, UN Women, and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) on the margins of the 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum on *"Rebuilding the Trust of Youth in Multilateralism: Exploring Intergenerational and Peer-to-Peer Dialogue"* on 27 April. During the event, two representatives from the YEEP Alumni under the UNCCT Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP), explained how peer-to-peer engagement strategies have great potential to foster inclusivity and create a sense of ownership and agency. They described how programmes centred on peer-to-peer models create opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to engage in multilateral efforts and provide a safe space for diverse young leaders to share and advocate to decision-makers youth priorities, concerns, and perspectives in the area of PCVE.

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.

Member States in Central and Southeast Asia share lessons learned and good practices in preventing and countering violent extremism in their regions

From 25 to 27 April, the STRIVE Asia project organized a Cross-Regional Conference to Strengthen Partnership in Promoting Resilience against Violent Extremism in Central and Southeast Asia, in partnership with the European Union, UNODC, UNDP, and UNRCCA. The conference, which took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, brought together 58 participants (42 men and 16 women) from ten countries in Central and Southeast Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines). The Regional Conference facilitated the sharing and consolidation among participants of lessons learned, good practices, contributions, and achievements in a range of areas related to PCVE including, inter alia, trends in violent extremism in both regions, online radicalization to violence, and partnerships between law enforcement and civil society. The Conference fostered further cross-regional cooperation and partnership to combat PCVE.

Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

Description of Goal

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

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

Philippines' House of Representatives and the National Assembly of Togo develop understanding of ICSANT, its role in helping combat nuclear and radiological terrorism, and the importance of its ratification

Following efforts to promote ICSANT and a mission to Manila, the Philippines, conducted by the Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit, UNCCT and the Congress of the Philippines organized a session of the Special Committee on Nuclear Energy to promote the ratification of the Convention. The session took place on 24 May in Manila and gathered 70 participants (35 men and 35 women) from the House of Representatives of the Philippines, as well as from INTERPOL, UNODC, UNICRI, and IAEA. Presentations were made on the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism and joint risk assessments, legislative assistance, and complementarity of ICSANT with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). As an outcome of this event, the Committee adopted a motion to write a letter to the Senate of the Philippines recommending ratification of the Convention.

On 14 June, UNCCT's ICSANT project organized an advocacy event with the National Assembly of Togo, for the universalization and effective implementation of the ICSANT. The event, which took place in Lomé, was attended by 30 participants (20 men and 10 women) including members of the National Assembly of Togo, as well as representatives from the Nuclear Safety and Security Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the opening of the event, the President of the Togolese National Assembly, Ms. Yawa Djigbodi Tsegan, was joined by the Head of the European Union Delegation to the Togolese Republic, Ambassador Joaquín Tasso Vilallonga, as well as the Director of UNCCT and the United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in Togo. The event provided a platform for open dialogue and exchange of views on the threat of nuclear terrorism and legislative assistance available in support of adherence to the Convention and its

effective implementation. As a result, participants confirmed their commitment to ratifying the convention, and indicated that it would be presented to the Government for ratification.

Member States in Central Asia and the Caucasus develop capacities for investigating and prosecuting radiological and nuclear crimes and terrorism

From 30 May to 1 June, UNOCT's ICSANT project organized a three-day exercise and workshop on legal frameworks and nuclear forensics for Central Asia and the Caucasus region. The event, which took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, was attended by 60 participants (47 men and 13 women) from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Romania, the United States, and the Netherlands. Participants represented national agencies, including Radiological and Nuclear (R/N) regulatory authorities, intelligence, law enforcement and ministries of foreign affairs, as well as INTERPOL and the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As a result, participants had greater understanding of regional cooperation mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting R/N crimes and the applicability of ICSANT and other legal instruments to investigate and prosecute R/N terrorism.

Member States in Central Asia take steps to establish a 'Regional Expert Council in Central Asia on issues of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees'

On 15 and 16 May, UNCCT's Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) organized a regional workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with the aim to develop a framework and preliminary terms of reference for a 'Regional Expert Council in Central Asia on Issues of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees', to support adaptation and social rehabilitation of radicalized citizens. The workshop, organized with the support of UNRCCA, had 25 participants (20 men and 5 women) from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, who discussed and shared inputs on the main objectives, structure, and membership. As an outcome of the workshop, participants reached a preliminary agreement on the draft content to be included in the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Regional Expert Council. They further agreed to co-sign a letter with UNOCT and UNRCCA to appeal for financial support from potential funding partners.

Member States in the ESAAMLG region are being supported in the Countering the Financing of terrorism regional risk assessment as per the ESAAMLG Regional CFT Strategy and Operational Plan

At the regional level, the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Programme continued its support to the regional risk assessment process in the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) jurisdictions. The support to the dedicated Task Force included inputs to the project methodology and the elaboration of a Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment questionnaire to be circulated to the Member States.

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

Member States in Central Asia develop knowledge and understanding of threats, triggers and indicators of bioterrorism, and measures at national and regional levels to prevent bioterrorism attacks

UNCCT's Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme, together with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), organized a regional workshop in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 5 to 6 June, on the prevention of bioterrorism attacks involving biological agents and toxins. The workshop was attended by 70 participants (54 men and 16 women) from five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). The regional workshop aimed to raise awareness among Central Asian countries' law enforcement, border security officials and healthcare professionals of current biological threats related to global terrorism. Special emphasis was placed on raising participants' awareness of biological threats triggers and indicators to prevent bioterrorism attacks. Participants learned about measures at the national and regional level to prevent bioterrorism attacks involving biological agents and toxins.

Law enforcement agencies in West Africa and the Sahel region develop capacities in border security and management in the context of counter-terrorism, and understanding of the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime

UNCCT's Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme organized a workshop in Rome, Italy, from 15 to 19 May entitled 'Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen Coordination and Capacities to Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa and the Sahel Region'. The workshop was attended by 31 participants (21 men and 10 women) representing law enforcement agencies from several countries in the region. The workshop was organized and held with the support of the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), UNODC, OSCE, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), as well as the Burkina Faso Permanent Secretariat Border National Commission, and the Italian Department of Public Security (Polizia de Stato). The aim was to help Member States in West Africa and the Sahel region to prevent cross-border movement of suspected terrorists and to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), including returnees, as well as related transnational crime. As a result, participants increased their knowledge and understanding of:

- Good practices related to border security and management in the context of counter-terrorism.
- The importance of intra- and inter-agency coordination as well as international and regional cooperation.
- The nexus between terrorism, transnational organized crime, and other border-related criminal activities.
- The crucial role played by innovative technology in promoting border security.

The workshop included a High-Level Roundtable meeting on Good Practices in BSM, including a round of interventions from the heads of police of the participating countries highlighting their respective countries' counter-terrorism capacity needs for successful implementation of their border security strategies. As a follow-up, a specialized border security curricula will be developed.

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.

Cities in nine Member States develop capacities in multi-agency preparedness and response to a chemical terrorist attack

On 20 April, in Washington D.C., UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons organized a strategic exercise in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN), to help participating cities respond to potential chemical attacks, with a focus on multi-agency preparedness and response. The exercise, which had 57 participants (45 men and 12 women), including representatives from counter-terrorism agencies, emergency services and first responders, police, intelligence and security agencies, city authorities, and academia. The participants brought together expertise covering CTPN member cities in nine Member States (Belgium, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States). The interactive, scenario-based discussions helped participants to share experiences and expertise and discuss multi-agency preparedness and response arrangements.

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;

Member States from across Africa develop capacities in the conduct of effective open-source investigation of cyber-incidents, as well as cooperation and information exchange

From 8 May to 12 June, in Lilongwe, Malawi, UNCCT's Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme delivered a regional counter-terrorism drill ('CyberDrill') involving 21 Member States from across Africa as well as four from Europe. The drill included 356 participants (247 men and 109 women), from National Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), law enforcement authorities, as well as policy makers. The aim of the drill was to strengthen investigation of terrorist cyber-incidents against critical infrastructures through enhanced collaboration and information sharing regionally and at the national level between national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) and law enforcement. In addition to the drill, UNCCT delivered a training on how to conduct effective open-source investigations of cyber-incidents and presented on and moderated a panel discussion on improving law enforcement cooperation with national CSIRTs. Participants developed new skills and knowledge to strengthen CSIRT and law enforcement cooperation, and all participants reported that this will lead to changes in work processes, use of new techniques, and improved collaboration and information exchange.

UNCCT promotes increased understanding of the threat posed by the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for terrorist purposes

On 22 June, during the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, UNCCT's Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme organized a side event entitled '*The Battle of the Bytes: Confronting the Dark Side of Generative AI and the Prospect of its Malicious Use for Terrorist Purposes*'. The event was attended by 70 participants (30 men and 40 women) representing 48 Member States, as well as private sector and the media. Experts from the private sector included OpenAI (presenting in their personal capacity),

Synthesia, and TrendMicro, as well as law enforcement working in the field of AI, presented from their respective fields of expertise. An AI-generated presenter – a lifelike figure who appeared on-screen to speak to attendees – was created for this event with the help of AI video content creators at Synthesia. As a result, participants developed a better understanding of this emerging threat as they engage in international processes, such the implementation of the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, adopted by the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in October 2022.

UNCCT provides Member States with guidance on conducting threat assessments and developing policy responses to the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes

On 23 June, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, UNCCT’s Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme organized a Counter-Terrorism Week side event during the third UN Counter-Terrorism Week to introduce Member State representatives and other participants to knowledge products developed by UNCCT for conducting threat assessments and designing national CT policy responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. The event, attended by 114 participants (57 men and 57 women), highlighted guides for first responders on collection of digital devices in the battlefield, law enforcement cooperation with technological companies in countering terrorism, a law enforcement capabilities framework for new technologies in countering terrorism, and a human-rights based approach to countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. Participants increased their understanding of the risks associated with the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes.

Member States in the Americas deepen knowledge and skills to respond to terrorist cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure

The Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme organized a side event during the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) Plenary in Mexico City on 16 May. The focus of the event was prevention and countering the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist and violent purposes. The event further included a regional counter-terrorism cybersecurity table-top exercise for the Organization of American States (OAS) Member States. The side event included 35 participants (25 men and 10 women), representing law enforcement authorities and government officials responsible for issues related to preventing and countering terrorism, as well as members of the Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) of OAS Member States and observers, academia, civil society, and the private sector. As a result of the event, participants left with new knowledge and skills to respond to cyber-attacks against critical infrastructures perpetrated by terrorists. The event further promoted strategic partnerships of all parties, including private sector, academia, and civil society, in preventing and countering the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for terrorist and violent extremist purposes. Moreover, some participants requested further training and exercises on this topic.

UNCCT supports the development of the goFintel IT solution for Member States, in collaboration with OICT, to enhance financial investigations and information sharing to prevent, detect and combat financial crimes, including the financing of terrorism.

Following the completion of the pilot phase in February 2023, the Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Unit has intensively supported the development of the goFintel software during the reporting

period, and held three sponsor meetings, with the participation of UNODC, and 12 demonstrations for Member States, regional organizations, and FAFT-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs).

The presentation of goFintel was also part of a broader side event, organized by the CFT Unit on the margin of the CT Week on 21 June 2023 in partnership with the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), CTED, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the participation of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). The event discussed the shifting terrorist financing landscape and the importance of reflecting these evolutions in the work of the United Nations, governments and other stakeholders involved in counter-terrorism efforts. It also discussed the value of using information technology (IT) solutions developed by the United Nations to enhance cooperation within and among Member States, through accessible, uniformized and transparent technology. The event shed light into the mechanisms implemented by the United Nations and Member States to effectively prevent and mitigate those risks associated with the misuse of the technology in the fight against terrorism and its financing, ensuring that dedicated risk matrices and due diligence protocols are established and enforced to fully address human rights implications. The event was attended by more than 300 participants (Member States, civil society, academia, international organizations, regional entities) and will be followed by the launch of the human rights due diligence risk/impact assessment applied to goFintel, expected by the fall of 2023.

Member States in the Eurasian Group (EAG) region have deeper understanding of the risks and challenges posed by the misuse of virtual assets for terrorist financing purposes and collaborate to identify good practices to address those risks

At the regional level, CFT, in partnership with EAG and Rosfinmonitoring, launched the Counter-Terrorism initiative on Virtual Assets for Central Asia, in Almaty, Kazakhstan in June 2023. This event gathered expertise and perspectives on the risk of /responses to the misuse of virtual assets for terrorist financing purposes to further inform the development of a knowledge product, to be presented at the next EAG Plenary meeting in China in December.

Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

Description of Goal

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

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

UNCCT holds dedication ceremony of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree

On 20 June UNCCT organized, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, a dedication ceremony of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree on the margins of the Third High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism. The ceremony convened more than 70 representatives of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, as well as victims and survivors of terrorism. Participants included Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, the two co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Spain and Iraq, three victims of terrorism from Algeria, India, and the United States, and the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar. At the close of the ceremony, each head of delegation laid a white rose at the foot of the tree in a gesture of peace, unity, and remembrance.

UNCCT 'Memories' campaign spotlights the needs of victims and survivors of terrorism whilst highlighting their resilience

On 7 June, UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme inaugurated the 'Memories' exhibition at the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. During the high-level event, in which 60 people participated, Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, the Spanish Minister of the Interior, Mr. Fernando Grande-Marlaska, the Director of the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre, Mr. Florencio Domínguez, and Spanish victims of terrorism reflected on the importance of listening to victims, understanding their experiences, fostering knowledge to deepen understanding and empathy towards victims, and strengthen the collective resolve to end terrorism. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov engaged with victims of terrorism through a dedicated session, facilitating personal connections and providing an empathetic platform for dialogue and understanding. Through this event, victims and survivors of terrorism were able to share their experiences and advocate for their rights and needs.

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

No activities to report during the second 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 second 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 second quarter of 2023, several 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 in UNCCT activities

The conference entitled “*Cross Regional Exchange to Strengthen Partnership in Promoting Resilience against Violent Extremism in Central and Southeast Asia*”, organized by the STRIVE Asia project in April, provided participants from ten countries with presentations on the importance of human rights based and gender sensitive approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (see also on page 13).

During the Counter-Terrorism Week, UNCCT held a side-event on the development and use of digital methods to address the evolving threat from terrorist financing, with a particular focus on the potential human rights concerns raised by technology-driven measures to counter the financing of terrorism, including their impact on civil society and the importance of integrating human rights into such measures as a prerequisite for any effective and sustainable response.

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 is led by the Gender Unit of UNOCT’s Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS).

In the second quarter of 2023, nine UNCCT staff members attended two UNOCT Gender Task Force Meetings, as the focal points or alternates. Four UNCCT programmes (the WMD/CBRN Programme, the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, the Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent

Extremism, and the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies) have developed their gender mainstreaming work plans, ensuring activities are gender-sensitive.

Also in the second quarter, the Gender Task Force, led by the Gender Unit, instituted a series of office-wide brown bag discussions on gender and CT/PCVE, which aim to strengthen UNOCT's, including UNCCT, internal capacity on gender mainstreaming across programmes, policy and coordination functions. Moderated by the UNOCT senior leadership, the discussions feature leading gender experts working in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. On 20 April, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov opened the first session of the brown bag series, titled *"Understanding the Nexus Between Gender and CT/PCVE"*, featuring Dr Katherine Brown, Reader in Religion and Global Security at the University of Birmingham and Head of Research, School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion. The second brown bag discussion, on 1 June, was moderated by Deputy Under-Secretary-General Raffi Gregorian, with UN Women staff as guest speakers. The session focused on the integration of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda within countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism.

In April, the Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism published the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit to Support Action Plans to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism](#). The Global Programme collaborated with the Gender Unit to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the toolkit.

In May, the Regional Forum on *"Monitoring and Evaluation of National Action Plans for Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia"*, organized by the STRIVE Asia Project in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, included group discussions to help initiate the dialogue between STRIVE Asia implementing partners and Member States governments on addressing the issue of implementing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, (M&E) while taking into account the opinion of civil society organizations and other social groups such as women and youth (see also on page 11).

In June, UNCCT'S CT TECH Initiative [published six knowledge products](#) for more effective national counter-terrorism policy responses towards the challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies, some of which also contain relevant gender considerations. Also in June, during the Counter-Terrorism Week, UNOCT's Gender Unit, together with Canada, Mexico, CTED and OSCE, organized [a side event](#) which examined the significance of integrating masculinities in CT/PCVE work.