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CTITF launches Counter-Terrorism Projects in Nigeria

At the height of the deadly terrorist attack that killed more than 200 people in Nigeria, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) unveiled three projects under the Integrated Assistance for Counter-Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative to support government efforts in combating the scourge of terrorism. Through I-ACT, the CTITF provides partnering States with holistic and country-specific assistance to support integrated implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The projects were launched in a ceremony attended by Nigerian government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international and regional organizations and Nigerian security and law enforcement agencies on 24 January in the capital Abuja.

The Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister, Olugbenga Ashiru, expressed “profound appreciation of his Government to the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon” for his support to the *continues on page 2*



Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister, Olugbenga Ashiru (UN Photo)

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Nigerian counter-terrorism efforts in a statement read on his behalf by Permanent Secretary Dr. Martin Uhomoibi. He also welcomed the launch of the projects and expressed his appreciation to the CTITF, UNESCO and CTED.

The Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Kjell Lillerud, lauded the launch of the projects and pledged strong support for the I-ACT Initiative, to which Norway is the main donor, while the Italian Ambassador, Roberto Colamine, representing another donor

country, expressed his support for the Strategy and emphasized the importance of a holistic approach. In his opening comments, Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, representing the CTITF, underscored the comprehensive nature of the

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Message from the CTITF Chairman

Throughout the past year, terrorist groups launched deadly attacks in North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South Asia and Eastern Africa, including a suicide car-bombing at the United Nations building in Abuja in August. Against this sobering backdrop, the United Nations has been strengthening its ability to provide the necessary support to Member States to advance the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation held in September — with the participation of numerous Heads of State and Government, high-level dignitaries and counter-terrorism officials from capitals and international organizations — renewed the international community's resolve and determination in the fight against terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee's Special Meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which followed right after, also demonstrated the importance Member States attach to our common efforts.



Robert Orr

The establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT) provided further capacity to support multilateral efforts to counter terrorism.

The successful adoption in November, in Central Asia, of the Plan of Action by regional States on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underscored the importance of regional implementation plans and served as a critical example of regional resolve.

2012 brings important opportunities to build on last years' achievements and our common vision. The CTITF's Integrated Assistance on Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) continues to expand to build the capacity of Member States to combat terrorism. I-ACT projects were launched in Nigeria on 24-25 January with the strong support of the CTITF Office, UNESCO, CTED and INTERPOL.

The imperative of inter-agency coordination and information sharing among agencies in combating terrorism cannot be over emphasised. CTITF will also continue to deepen its engagement with Member States and reinforce multilateral and regional efforts to enhance the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The coming year will no doubt bring new challenges! To meet these, we must develop innovative approaches to ensure we can deliver on the promise of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, especially in the area of support to States in implementing it.

Robert Orr
Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning,
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

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Strategy and the importance of collective efforts to counter terrorism in an increasingly interdependent and interconnected world.

Given the complexity of the security situation in Nigeria, blended with the economic, political and social strife, the CTITF projects are designed to build community resilience against terrorism, enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies and strengthen judicial institutions.

The CTITF-UNESCO project aims to increase understanding of the nature, extent and causes of terrorism in Nigeria and identify the most appropriate preventive interventions. The focus will be on promoting peace-education, community engagement and local conflict resolution. The UNESCO country office in Abuja, in consultation with Nigerian Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, will implement the project.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

The CTED-INTERPOL project focuses on inter-agency coordination and information sharing among the Nigerian law enforcement agencies. It aims to develop an integrated information-sharing system and establish a central national database linked to the national security agencies and international databases.



Police patrol in Nigeria (Photo by Pan-African News Wire)

To build on the ongoing dialogue between Nigeria and its international partners, CTED organized a Stakeholder Coordination meeting on 24-25 January after the launch of the projects. Participants shared views and analysis on recent terrorist trends. They also discussed the priority technical assistance needs of the relevant authorities in Nigeria to enhance internal

Given the complexity of the security situation in Nigeria, the CTITF projects are designed to build community resilience against terrorism, enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies and strengthen judicial institutions.

coordination to combat terrorism including at border-crossing points.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

The CTITF-UNODC project will focus on capacity-building of criminal justice and law enforcement agencies. The overall objective of the proposed activities is to strengthen the domestic capacity of Nigerian criminal justice institutions to implement the international legal framework against terrorism effectively, in compliance with the rule of law and human rights standards.

The launch of the projects in Nigeria marked the beginning of phase-II of the I-ACT initiative that takes of a holistic, country-focused and integrated approach to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in that country. ■

Interview with USG B. Lynn Pascoe on Somalia, Sahel and Syria

Preventing conflict-burdened States from becoming fertile ground for terrorist activities and recruitment is a major challenge. In an interview, B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, fielded questions about the recent security gains in Somalia against Al-Shabaab, the impact of the Libyan crisis in the Sahel region and counter-terrorism implications of the ongoing crisis in Syria.



B. Lynn Pascoe

Q: You accompanied the Secretary-General on his visit to Somalia last year. What was your overall impression of the security situation on the ground?

A: Over the past several years we have had several efforts to help the people of Somalia work towards an inclusive government and an end to instability. One consideration has been to prevent the country from developing into a breeding ground for terrorists. The Somali group Al-Shabaab recently

Somalia has made great gains over the past five years but is still a long way from stability.

announced fidelity to Al-Qaida. This is just the latest example of how important it is to improve the country's security situation. Somalia has made great gains over the past five years but is still a long way from stability. The African Union peacekeeping force (AMISON),

which has been backed by the UN through the Department of Field Support, has done an extremely good job. The capital Mogadishu and several other sizeable areas are now controlled by the Government.

Q: How different was this visit compared to others?

A: I have been to Mogadishu several times as the head of the Department of Political Affairs, which oversees the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). The first time there was an elevated sense of danger to the visit. There was a lot of concern about security, and the city itself was quite devastated from the years and years of war. It remains badly affected, but there have been impressive improvements this past year in terms of not only the security situation but also economically; people are rebuilding their houses and frequenting markets. The Secretary-General's December 2011 visit was also an illustration of increased security. It was

designed to give hope to the people of Somalia that the international community was backing them and to see what we could do to help them in the future. The Secretary-General announced that UNPOS would be permanently moved to Mogadishu from Nairobi, and that relocation began in January. This will allow us to be more effective in assisting the Somali authorities.

Q: Considering the headway made in Somalia, how can the United Nations capitalize on those gains to push the peace process forward and prevent terrorism?

A: On the military side, we see a path forward that has a good chance of success. The Security Council is considering endorsing a proposal from the African Union to increase the number of troops in AMISON from a mandated strength of 12,000 up to 17,000 troops. This includes the re-hatting of Kenyan troops to be part of the AMISON force. [Eds. note: the Council approved a resolution to this effect on 22 February.] The objective of a stronger peacekeeping force is to limit Al-Shabaab's reach and ensure that the Government increases its control over territory outside of the capital. On the political front, there is a roadmap to transform the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) by this coming August to a government that is elected by the will of the people. A conference on Somalia to be held in London on 23 February will address the outstanding challenges on the road ahead. Our hope is to have full-fledged democracy in a few years. I do think we are on the right road to help the Somali people establish a government that make sense and to ensure that Somalia is not a breeding ground for terrorism.

Q: *On the Sahel, an inter-agency team was sent to assess the impact of the Libyan crisis in the region and you briefed the Security Council on that. What were the findings of the team?*

A: The UN mission looked at the overall situation in the region, visiting Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The current fighting between Touaregs and government forces in Mali is a matter of particular concern. Since the 1960s, the Touaregs have launched a series of rebellions to demand their own homeland. In the early 1990s, the belligerent parties came to a new sort of agreement, but unfortunately it was never totally enforced. Meanwhile, Colonel Qaddafi recruited Touaregs for his own military forces. With the fall of Qaddafi some of those formerly working for the Libyan regime came back to Northern Mali, flooding their home areas with heavy weapons. That is why this round of the rebellion is so much more difficult, because the fighters have a lot of heavy equipment from Qaddafi’s arsenal. As a result, the Malian Government faces a different level of danger.

Of course many of the region’s difficulties pre-date the conflict in Libya, as the mission heard in many of its meetings. It concluded that strides have to be made in improving social development in addition to addressing the inter-linked threat emanating from narcotics and terrorism that affects large parts of the subregion. We

will keep working closely with regional States, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on these issues.

Strides have to be made in improving social development in addition to addressing the inter-linked threat emanating from narcotics and terrorism that affects large parts of the subregion.

Q: *The security situation in Syria is unfolding quickly. What is the implication in terms of countering terrorism?*

A: Clearly, we face a very troubling situation. One of the things we have been worried about is that the Syrian Government’s treatment of its own people would cause divisions in a country known for social cohesion despite the

large population. There are a lot of minorities in Syria and they have traditionally done a remarkable job of working together. The violence of the past year has caused divisions in a very dangerous way. Just the other day, the Al-Qaida leader, al-Zawahiri, voiced his support for the uprising in Syria. There are also a lot of groups that cross the border from Iraq who have been involved in terrorist incidents in Iraq. So the dangers of carrying on in that direction are obvious.

It is important to underline that the Syrian uprising originated in a peaceful youth movement. That is why the Secretary-General has called so strongly for President Assad and his Government to stop the shelling and the violence directed at their own people because that sort of brutalization only leads to counter-brutalization and the dangers there are very serious. ■



USG B. Lynn Pascoe speaks with Verona Lambert of the CTITF Office

Global Counter Terrorism Forum and United Nations cooperation

When a new institution is created, there is always discussion about how it would impact existing frameworks. The Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), created this past September, is no exception to this scrutiny. To clear the air, the co-chairs of the Forum, the United States and Turkey, briefed Member States in New York on the relationship between the GCTF and the United Nations.

The GCTF is a Forum of 30 nations. It was established to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity-building efforts.

Eric Rosand, a Senior Advisor on Multilateral Engagement in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism informed the UN Membership that GCTF efforts would be complementary to the efforts of the United Nations.

“With the GCTF replacing the less inclusive CTAG, the United Nations family now has a larger bilateral counter-terrorism actors to engage with on a regular basis including financial and political support for a range of CTITF projects. We expect that the Forum will serve as an incubator for innovative ideas for cross-regional counter-terrorism initiatives that can then be



Eric Rosand, US Senior Advisor on Multilateral Engagement

exported to the United Nations for further development or adoption”.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

The Turkish Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations, Hüseyin Müftüoğlu, emphasized enhancing cooperation between the GCTF and the UN. “It is of paramount significance to galvanize the growing number of countries with relevant experience and expertise in countering terrorism and maximizing these assets through close cooperation, building new partnerships and enhancing institutional capacity where it is needed”.

This past November, the Criminal Justice/Rule of Law Working Group was inaugurated in Washington, D.C. with participation of senior prosecutors and other senior criminal justice officials from GCTF members, the United Nations and non-governmental experts. The participants exchanged views to develop a compendium of best practices for effective counter-terrorism in the criminal justice system, to complement the work already undertaken by the United Nations.



Ambassador Hüseyin Müftüoğlu of Turkey

Algeria hosted the inaugural meeting of the Sahel Working Group with regional countries, including non-members of GCTF, participating. This working group plans to direct global focus to counter-terrorism and related threats in the region and catalyse efforts to mobilize the resources and expertise to support countries of the Sahel.

Specific needs include equipment and training in border security, police cooperation, legal cooperation among prosecutors and judges and countering terrorist financing.

CVE WORKING GROUP

The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group met in London in February 2012 to brainstorm on communications, the role of institutions in CVE, and measuring the

“The United Nations family now has a larger bilateral counter-terrorism actors to engage with on a regular basis including financial and political support.... We expect that the Forum will serve as an incubator for innovative ideas for cross-regional counter-terrorism initiatives.”

impact of CVE programmes. The United Nations has actively participated in meetings of the working groups.

The GCTF is a Forum of 30 nations. It was established to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity-building efforts. ■

Central Asia Adopts Regional Counter-Terrorism Action Plan

Despite internal political strife, Central Asian States rose above their differences and adopted the first regional plan of action to combat terrorism, and other criminal activities causing instability in that region. The regional plan of action was an outcome of a joint CTITF-EU project, on the ground implemented by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).

The Joint Action Plan to implement the United Nations Global

Global Strategy. I look forward to working with all partners towards implementation that makes a difference”, he said in a message read on his behalf by Miroslav Jenča, Head of UNRCCA.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, underscored that the Plan of Action provides an opportunity for substantive discussion and exchange of views between States, and with specialized international agencies, to achieve common goals and objectives.

Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, the Officer-in-charge of the CTITF Office said plans were underway to develop a similar initiative in Eastern Africa and the CTITF Office was consulting regional States and organizations about that.

The Joint Action Plan binds Central Asian States, among other things, to tackle terrorism financing, combat arms and drug trafficking, stop money laundering, prevent radicalization and potential recruits. They have pledged to



Participants at the Ministerial Meeting in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Counter-Terrorism Strategy was signed in November 2011 by Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as an observer.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon applauded Central Asian States for setting a remarkable precedence that could be replicated elsewhere. “The success of your efforts today and in the future can inspire other regions to develop implementation plans of their own. Such regionally driven initiatives are especially promising ways to give practical meaning to the

The European Union committed to continue support to Central Asian countries. “We will be discussing national and regional priority areas of cooperation with respective countries with regards to the threat of terrorism”, said EU Ambassador to Central Asia, Pierre Morel.

The challenge for Central Asian States is to implement the Plan of Action practically and ensure that the current momentum for cooperation is sustained, a point highlighted by Dag Malmer Halvorsen, Norwegian

work together to reinforce border security, and conduct joint training for law enforcement agents.

The States have committed to guarantee religious freedoms and develop initiatives targeted at empowering economically marginalized groups such as women and youth to prevent radicalization and future terrorist recruitment.

The adoption of the Joint Plan of Action concluded a one-year consultative process through a series of experts meetings. ■

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

While combating terrorism is a primary responsibility of Member States, developing partnerships with the private sector can be beneficial especially in areas where State resources and expertise are limited. The public-private partnerships (PPPs) concept is gaining traction, but at a much slower pace in the security domain.

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) Director Jonathan Lucas said progress to build partnerships on security matters was hampered by lack of legislation to facilitate information exchange between the public and private sectors, as well as the absence of incentives. “Too often no incentives are provided to encourage the private sector to invest in the protection of vulnerable targets. The private sector usually considers funding of PPP initiatives as a cost rather than an investment”, Lucas added.

To promote awareness and discussion, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) organized

a panel discussion for Member States on PPPs in the counter-terrorism context in January 2012 in New York. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy explicitly encourages such partnerships in capacity-building and information exchange.

“Too often no incentives are provided to encourage the private sector to invest in the protection of vulnerable targets.”

The Russian Federation, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Norway and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) shared specific initiatives that they have undertaken to build cooperation with the private sector.

In his opening remarks, Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, the Officer-in-charge of the CTITF Office noted specific instances where CTITF cooperation with the private sector has been valuable. “The CTITF working group on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

benefited from private sector expertise in the technical and legal aspects on how the Internet could be used to counter terrorist narratives”.

In the case of Russia, the Government has developed partnerships not only with the business community but also with civil society to protect vulnerable targets, spread awareness and fight radicalization. For example, Russia has been engaging with Moscow State University and People’s Friendship University of Russia to exchange new ideas and expertise in countering terrorism.

“In our view, private-public cooperation should not be limited to the business community but should also include non-governmental organizations, media, youth associations, academic community and religious leaders”, said Alexey Yuditsev, Deputy Director in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UNICRI, a member of the CTITF, has focused on preventive measures to protect soft targets such as tourism,

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Member States participating in the panel discussion on PPPs

CTITF Interagency Coordination Meeting

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) held its end of year inter-agency coordination meeting to take stock of ongoing activities and strategize on future initiatives in December 2011 in New York.

Addressing the meeting as keynote speaker was Norwegian Minister of Justice and the Police, Grete Faremo, who discussed her country's experience from the terrorist attack of 22 July 2011 and how promoting openness and a culture of dialogue was key to preventing violent extremism. "We need a wide-ranging debate about the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism ... there are many good local government measures aimed at crime prevention in general. Prevention of radicalization and violent extremism should be regarded in the same context", she added.

The Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Mourad Benmehidi, briefed on the "Counter-terrorism challenges in the Sahel and the regional response" to immense problems.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges that Benmehidi mentioned include lack of development, weak institutions, massive deserted land, hostage taking and kidnappings, drug trafficking and proliferation of arms. The Libyan crisis added a new dimension to the already complicated security and economic situation.

It renewed aspirations of some religious sects to promote extremism and also provided easy access to weapons for terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

While regional countries have established mechanisms to deal with



Grete Faremo, Norwegian Minister of Justice and Police



Ambassador Mourad Benmehidi of Algeria

the threat of terrorism, United Nations support is indispensable. Ambassador Benmehidi drew attention to the existing pact among Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger to enhance regional cooperation in security and economic issues. The four countries will be conducting joint military operations to demobilize terrorists and insurgents responsible for instability in the Sahel.

Algeria also co-chairs, with Canada, the working group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) on the Sahel. The first meeting of the Sahel working group held in November 2011 in Algeria adopted an Action Plan to

strengthen borders, judicial, police and efforts to counter terrorism financing.

Commenting on the Libyan crisis, CTITF Chairman Robert Orr said "the spread of small arms and the economic dimension attached to the Libyan crisis compels us to look at the next chapter."

NEW CHALLENGES

Meanwhile participants at the CTITF interagency coordination meeting pointed to the economic realities in both the "Arab Spring" region and in Europe as factors likely to create additional challenges in counter-terrorism work. The rise of extremism and violence in Europe underlined the need to counter violent extremism and radicalization. Additional security challenges likely to impact on Task Force activities include Somalia and Nigeria.

The meeting also reviewed international threat perception and its relevance to the work of the CTITF. Instilling a realistic perception of the threat was noted as a way to manage expectations and build resilience within society.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The Task Force members saw strengthening partnerships with civil society as a key element of the way forward. They discussed how to strengthen coordination on dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism, including prohibition of incitement to terrorism and combating extremism, CTITF communications strategy, gender perspectives, and the work of the CTITF Working Groups.

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Support to Counter-Terrorism Efforts

Despite the financial crunch impeding international efforts to address global challenges, Member States have not relented on their promise to combat terrorism. This commitment was reverberated during the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism international cooperation and also in other forums last year.

At the CTITF interagency coordination meeting held on 18-19 December 2011 in New York, Norway pledged continued political as well as financial support to the United Nations counter terrorism effort.

“The Task Force has functioned well. But we need to continue to strengthen its role – in capacity-building, international coordination of efforts and implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue our financial support to the Task Force in the future. And we will ensure that the principles we support are translated

into efficient and well-integrated assistance on the ground”, said Grete Faremo, the Norwegian Minister of Justice and the Police.

Norway has actively supported many CTITF initiatives, including the “Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism” project (I-ACT); a series of workshops to promote regional implementation of the Strategy so far held for Southeast Asia, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa; and the CTITF initiative to implement the Strategy in Central Asia, which is also sponsored by the European Union.

In addition, Norway worked very closely with the CTITF on de-radicalisation programmes, which Faremo said could benefit from more research. “We continue to call for

more openness and willingness to share experiences with regards to de-radicalisation. More research is needed in this field. We need an international clearing-house, preferably within the UN, to disseminate available information and best practises in an efficient way”, she said.



General Assembly President
Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

The CTITF Chairman Robert Orr pointed to the continued interest of Member States in the work of the Task Force, stressing that their “appetite in counter-terrorism issues has not diminished.” He noted that the past months further highlighted the importance of align-

ing global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies and activities. In this regard, the Central Asia Action Plan adopted in November 2011 stood out as a key example.

Mr. Orr cited the growing support by key Middle Eastern countries in moving counter-terrorism efforts forward. “One of the most notable successes in the last six months is the support of key

Middle Eastern countries in the counter-terrorism discourse. Specifically, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made a generous contribution towards the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT). The Qatari Presidency of the General Assembly has focused significant attention on the counter-terrorism agenda items. The United Arab Emirates too has contributed handsomely

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CTITF Coordination Meeting

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

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recreation centres, hotels, etc. Through the Centre on Public-Private Security Policies established in 2007, UNICRI has endeavoured to raise global awareness of the benefits of PPPs in the field of security and also to promote innovative practices to enhance dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors.

In view of the upcoming 2014 Olympic Games and the World Football Cup in 2016 in Brazil, Lucas informed Member States that UNICRI in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) had developed a training programme specifically tailored for Brazil on PPPs to protect vulnerable targets.

Marianna Kochubei, a senior inspector-at-large at the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the CIS, emphasized the need to develop subregional and regional agreements to protect critical infrastructure such as energy reservoirs. “Energy corridors are the blood life of

global economies. We need to establish some form of cooperation between producers and consumers to create a single energy security policy to guarantee energy security especially in Eurasia.

Europe and Asia are globally intertwined in terms of oil supply lines, and an attack on energy resources could have a devastating impact on the economies of both regions, Kochubei underscored.

Following the attack on Norway last year, Odd Berner Malme, the Police Adviser at the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations, highlighted his Government’s effort to engage with the private sector to prevent radicalization and the misuse of commercial materials. “The attacker in Norway used a homemade bomb from commercial materials like fertilizer and drove to Utøya Island where he shot 69 young people one by one. There is a discussion in Norway on how PPPs can be enhanced to fight extremism”.

Many Member States conveyed their appreciation to the CTITF for organizing these panel presentations on the role of PPPs in countering terrorism. ■

CTITF Interagency Coordination Meeting

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In reviewing integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through I-ACT, the launch of the CTITF-UNESCO project on conflict prevention, peace education and countering the appeal of terrorism and the CTITF-CTED project on inter-agency coordination in Abuja, Nigeria, on 23-25 January 2012 was announced.

PROJECTS IN NIGERIA

The projects would provide a boost to government efforts to deal with terrorist organizations, such as the Boko Haram that is responsible for most of the attacks in Nigeria.

Most importantly, it was agreed that work should be aligned to ongoing developments and in this regard there will be a review of the focus and composition of Working Groups of the Task Force to reflect changing realities, experiences and expectations. ■

Support to Counter-Terrorism Efforts

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to the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) through the establishment of a Center of Excellence in Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi”, he said.

At the CTITF-European Union dialogue on counter-terrorism held in November 2011, the EU head of delegation Mara Marinaki stressed the need for a more operational and action oriented

cooperative framework. The development of comprehensive proposals that focused on the integrated implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be key priority.

The CTITF and the EU also discussed counter-terrorism challenges in Southeast Asia, the Sahel region, East Africa and Nigeria and how the two institutions could work together in assisting governments to address the threat of terrorism.

The past months further highlighted the importance of aligning global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies and activities.

The EU has been instrumental in supporting the CTITF project on the implementation of the Strategy in Central Asia and the project to assess the international community’s preparedness in an event of the terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction. ■

Dealing with Violent Extremism

The Norwegian Government has proposed that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) take over the management of the project meant to build a global inventory of national counter- and de-radicalization programmes. The 1267 Monitoring Team, in close consultation with the CTITF Office, will manage the project currently run by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

The Global Inventory will provide different national counter- and de-radicalization models that States wishing to introduce their own programmes, as well as those that see room to improve what they have or seek to provide assistance to others in this area, may wish to examine.

The Norwegian project, which started in 2009, has focused on a study of national counter- and de-radicalization initiatives in 14 Member States located in different regions of the world. The first stage of the project, facilitated by the CTITF, looked at relevant programmes in eight States: Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The second stage of the project began in September 2011, and will examine counter- and de-radicalization initiatives in a further six Member States. The studies will be published in book form later this year.

PROJECT MERITS

Commenting on the merits of the project, Richard Barrett, Coordinator of 1267 Monitoring Team, said it

“One key finding of the project is that counter- and de-radicalization programmes can work, and are an effective way of countering the spread of radical-violent ideology and activism.”

had provided insights on what makes a counter- or de-radicalization initiative successful. “One key finding of the project is that counter- and de-radicalization programmes can work, and are an effective way of countering the spread of radical-violent ideology and activism, provided that the right conditions for success exist”. These include, among others, political will, a vibrant civil society, a robust developmental and political capacity within the State, an appropriate prison policy based on



UN Photo

respect for human rights and the needs of incarcerated individuals, and an effective reintegration programme.

This case study has provided a comprehensive update to the CTITF report on “Inventory of State programmes”. The report was published in 2008 by the then CTITF Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism which aimed to study what States had done to reduce extremist violence by addressing radicalizing influences at the societal level and what they had done to address the specific problems of individuals who had crossed the line and committed or had become motivated to commit violent acts. The study sought to identify a general body of “good practice”, while taking into account the different cultural, social and political conditions under which these programmes had evolved.

SHARING EXPERIENCES

The Working Group invited Member States to contribute their experiences to a global inventory of national counter- and de-radicalization programmes. More than 30 countries shared their experiences, which were summarized in the report. Although the report was generally well received, the CTITF decided not to conduct any immediate follow-up; it is now pleased to announce that after further consultations with relevant stakeholders it will resume this work through the Norwegian Government project. ■

The 2008 report is available at <http://www.un.org/terrorism/pdfs/radicalization.pdf>

UN Counter-Terrorism Centre Advisory Board Convenes its First Meeting

The Advisory Board of the newly established UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) met for the first time on 2 April 2012, in New York to discuss the Centre’s priorities in 2012-2013. Board members expressed support for the UNCCT and advised on potential areas of work of the Center to further

The Executive Director of the UNCCT, Mr. Robert Orr, laid out strategic priorities for discussion including supporting governments to develop national and regional plans to implement the Strategy. “We continue to get requests that we cannot meet so far to help governments develop national and



UNCCT Advisory Board Meeting

implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

CAPACITY BUILDING A PRIORITY

“This center should have the ability to help Member States, regional groups, and other institutions in their efforts for capacity building at the national or regional level. In doing so, it will be mainly responding to requests for assistance, but it can and should take the initiative in suggesting programs or activities where there might be an obvious gap”, said Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia, also Chairman of the Advisory Board.

regional counter-terrorism strategies. It is painful to see that countries make requests, and don’t see those requests being met. It will be an ongoing demand. Early use of the UNCCT’s resources in this area would be critical”, he said.

The Members of the Advisory Board are: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia (Chair), Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and the European Union as Guest Member. ■

Interview with Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia



Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi

In September 2011, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed a contribution agreement with the United Nations to finance the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and subsequently the General Assembly adopted a resolution welcoming the establishment of the Centre. In an interview with Verona Lambert, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the United Nations, Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi explained the expectations and plans for the Centre.

Q: Now that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) has been established, what are the expectations from this Centre?

A: We expect the Centre to be the reference point for all Member States and organizations that are involved in combating terrorism. It is the only Centre that is operated under the umbrella of the United Nations and therefore has international legitimacy and the comprehensive coverage of the United Nations.

We would like to help Member States in identifying major issues that confront societies with respect to terrorism. We expect the Centre to support nations and organizations in building capacities, understanding of the underlining causes of terrorism and in devising plans to address this threat and ultimately combat it.

Q: Many countries are struggling financially and most likely the trend will continue for the next three years. Are there plans for the Kingdom to continue financing the Centre beyond three years?

A: We have always been supportive of the United Nations in all its functions and we will continue to be supportive of the UN in various areas. We have undertaken to support the UNCCT for three years to build its infrastructure to provide capacity-building and to demonstrate its value to Member States. We hope the Member States will find the Centre worthwhile of their support. We stand ready to provide any assistance

UNCCT Ready to Support Capacity-building Needs of Member States

Following the establishment of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) this past year, Member States wishing to request capacity-building support can now contact the Centre located in the CTITF Office for consideration.

The Political Coordinator and counter-terrorism expert at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, Farhan Al-Farhan, said,

We expect the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) to be the reference point for all Member States and organizations that are involved in combating terrorism.

that we can, but we do not want to deny other Member States the opportunity to help in this endeavour.

Q: Riyadh will also be hosting an international conference on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies in April. What is the objective of this conference?

A: This will be the first conference of the UNCCT. The main aim is to exchange knowledge on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. It will provide counter-terrorism focal points and experts involved in countering terrorism a valuable opportunity to learn, exchange best practices and experiences in developing national and regional counter-terrorism plans. ■

“Countries with capacity-building needs in areas such as information technology, border management, legal framework, training, equipment, nuclear protection, etc. can contact the Head of the Centre, for assistance”, he said.

Commenting on how the resources provided through the Centre would

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Securing Fair Trials for Accused Terrorists in MENA Region

The CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, convened a regional symposium for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) on ‘Fair trial and Due Process in the Counter-Terrorism Context’ on 6–7 February in Istanbul, Turkey. The Symposium was the first gathering of

deception that terrorist groups have used to advance their ideology. “Terrorist organizations provoke Governments and want Governments to violate human rights. When Governments fall into that trap and trample over human rights in counter-terrorism activities, it is the terrorists who win through gain-

standards of fair trial, such as indefinite and incommunicado detention of terrorist suspects and the use of evidence obtained through torture. Others have imposed measures that limit access to the judicial process.”

The Symposium was convened to assess and analyze some of the existing obstacles and challenges encountered by MENA States in conducting fair trials and identify the necessary elements to secure this fundamental right.

The discussion centered on human rights issues related to investigation, prosecution and trial of terrorist suspects, also covering issues in the pre-trial phase such as practices of administrative or preventive detention, the use of special courts and military courts and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, all States, including those from the MENA region, committed to ‘make every effort to develop and maintain an effective and rule of law-based national criminal justice system that

guarantees due process rights regardless of the offence’.

Likewise under the law, persons charged with criminal offences, including terrorism-related crimes, are entitled to the usual series of specific due process rights, including the right to be presumed innocent, to be tried within a reasonable time and a right to have a

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Prison in Afghanistan (UN Photo)

State prosecutors, judges, practitioners and experts from the MENA region on the subject of ensuring fair trials for terrorist suspects.

In his opening remarks for the Government of Turkey as host of the symposium, Istanbul’s chief prosecutor, Turan Çolakkadı cautioned States to guard against terrorists inducing the State to commit human rights violations, a

ing recruits and creating a narrative that justifies their existence,” he said.

Mediating the workshop’s discussions, Fatch Azzam, Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the Middle East, stressed that: “In their fight against terrorism, some states have conducted activities which violate basic

Addressing the Chemical and Biological Threat Posed by Terrorists

The global threat posed by terrorists to acquire chemical and/or biological agents for criminal purposes remain high. This threat underscores the need to enact and enforce effective controls regarding the manufacturing, storage, transfer and use of chemicals, biological agents and equipment.

While the globalization and spread of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) industries and materials are rapid and very dynamic, international regulatory mechanisms in the area of prevention, preparedness and response against misuse of these agents remain weak.

CTITF REPORT

To provide a better understanding of the existing potential within the international community to respond to the

misuse of chemical and biological agents, as well as the level of planned coordination among the different international entities to provide rapid assistance to the affected State or States, the CTITF has produced a report entitled “Inter-agency coordination in the event of a terrorist attack using chemical or biological weapons and materials”.

The report was preceded by in-depth analysis and research on current activities, plans and procedures already in place in UN entities and international organizations. The CTITF entities and the consultants examined the existing emergency response capabilities of

international bodies, legal frameworks, operational status of the organizations and procedures.

The report concluded that there was no lead agency with overall responsibility for chemical and/or biological incidents. Most United Nations agencies and other international organizations

have partial mandates and undertake certain activities in the area of prevention, preparedness and response to possible terrorist attacks with chemical or biological weapons or materials.

In the absence of a lead agency dealing with chemical and biological terrorist threats or incidents, Krzysztof Paturej, Director of the Office of Special Projects in the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), said “a holistic approach that recognized the need for the United Nations system to support national and international regulatory mechanisms was required”.

He pointed to the recommendations in the CTITF report that, if implemented, could make the UN system more prepared and responsive to Member States



Krzysztof Paturej, Director, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)



UN Photo

needs to mitigate threats of misuse of chemical and biological agents and enhance their security and safety.

In the report, the CTITF recommended that the United Nations and other international entities that provide legal and technical assistance to States in the prevention and preparedness for chemical and biological terrorism should enhance their cooperation and more effectively share information to ensure that the support given is tailored to countries' needs. Consolidation of working relationship among the organizations that have mandates to investigate alleged misuse of chemical or biological weapons and those with the mandate to respond to attacks should be a priority.

CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The international organizations should also work towards a global culture of chemical and biological security and safety to tighten the protection of chemical and biological plants and ensure safe transport of these materials.

An inter-agency crisis communications group should be established to share information, coordinate and manage public information in the event of chemical or biological terrorism attacks to avoid unnecessary public panic.

The OPCW co-chairs the CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks, which also includes: DPKO, DPI, FAO, IAEA,, ICAO, IMO, INTERPOL, ISU/BWC, OCHA, UNDP, DSS, 1540 Committee Expert Staff, UNODA, UNICRI, UNODC, WCO and WHO. ■

UNCCT Ready to Support Capacity-building

continued from p. 14

impact counter-terrorism efforts, Al-Farhan said, "ten million dollars is not enough to address every capacity-building problem, but it would save lives and enhance international security within the framework of the global strategy and the United Nations mandates. If you spend \$100 thousand on a biometric machine, the impact that the machine would have to detect wanted terrorists and prevent a catastrophe supersedes the cost".

The UNCCT will foster international cooperation, strengthen individual countries' capacity-building efforts and build up a database of best practices to counter terrorism. ■



Farhan Al-Farhan

Securing Fair Trials for Accused Terrorists in MENA Region

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conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher court or tribunal in conformity with international human rights law.

The MENA meeting is the second in a series of regional expert symposia on issues related to the protection of human rights in the context of countering terrorism, organized under the ambit of the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism. The first symposium was held last year for South-East Asia in Bangkok.

Participants included senior representatives of the Ministries of Justice, judges and prosecutors from regional countries, CTITF Working Group members, international and regional human rights experts and civil society representatives.

A report on the outcome of the expert meeting will be produced as guidance material on how human rights can best be protected in the context of fair trial. ■

CTITF website: www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) website increases access to information about UN counter-terrorism activities for Member States, international organizations, media, civil society and the broader international audience.

The website is user friendly and provides information on the CTITF work. It also serves as a gateway to the individual entity websites.



Confronting Incitement to Commit Terrorist Acts in East Africa

Over recent years, incitement to commit terrorist acts, extremism and radicalization leading to violence have emerged as issues of serious concern to the international community. “The advocacy of violent extremism poses a real danger to communities around the

understanding the factors conducive to terrorism could help States identify ways to prevent individuals from acting on their “deadly, horrific impulses”.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate recommend developing comprehensive national strategies that include countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance. In doing so, “we need to be smart and innovative”, said Mr. Smith. Speaking at the first regional workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624, held in Nairobi from 29 November to 1 December 2011, Mr. Smith said that a wide range of policy options should be considered.

Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) calls on States to prohibit and prevent incitement to commit terrorist acts. To be effective, States need to strengthen border control and international cooperation; enhance dialogue and understanding among civilizations; counter incitement; and prevent the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters. The resolution stresses that any measures taken to combat incitement must respect all human rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression, and the rule of law.



CTED Executive Director Mike Smith

world”, said Mike Smith, head of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), at a regional workshop on incitement and violent extremism held recently in Nairobi.

PREVENTING TERRORISM

Confronting the threat is difficult. “While acts of terrorism are brutally simple in their shocking destruction of innocent life, the processes that lead to acts of terrorism are often quite complex”, said Mr. Smith. He added that

BUILDING STATE CAPACITY

Assisting States in implementing the resolution is a priority for the Committee and CTED. Regional workshops provide an opportunity for the United Nations to build the capacity of States to respond to the threat of terrorism and for participants to share experiences, good practices and challenges. Representatives of nine

The resolution stresses that any measures taken to combat incitement must respect all human rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression, and the rule of law.

East African States, international and regional organizations, and local civil society came together in Nairobi to that end. Participants identified elements that could form part of comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies, as well as institutional and practical measures to implement them. National coordination with broad participation is a key factor, as is the effective use of limited resources. Periodic reviews and evaluations would also help States in East Africa to implement resolution 1624.

THE NEXT STEPS

Additional workshops will be organized around the world in the next two years. Another tool CTED will distribute widely in the coming months is its first Global Implementation Survey of resolution 1624, a publication that presents strengths and vulnerabilities by region and provides recommendations for future action. ■

Stopping the Illicit Flow of Money to Fund Terrorism

Terrorists and organized criminal groups have turned to informal methods to move money across international borders in an attempt to circumvent anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism controls in the formal financial sector.

One such method is to employ couriers to carry the proceeds of serious criminal offences in cash or monetary instruments, thus concealing the illicit source of the funds and avoiding having them frozen, seized or facing other control measures. The funds are used to support terrorist activities.

Although most States have introduced measures to close the gap, some States are struggling to detect and stop the illicit movement of cash and bearer negotiable instruments (BNI). Besides cash, couriers could be transporting cheques, traveller cheques,

money orders and other instruments. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has found through its dialogue with States that a number of them face challenges in areas of legislative and operational control. For example, they lack detection equipment, implement relevant laws inconsistently, do not share enough information between agencies, or have not applied risk indicators and targeting criteria appropriately.

CASH COURIERS WORKSHOP

As a facilitator of technical assistance, CTED is promoting relevant international norms and practices among States. CTED recently organized with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism the first regional workshop on cash couriers. Held in Malaysia from 15 to 17 November 2011, the workshop brought together customs

officers, prosecutors and officials of financial intelligent units from 10 States in the region.

Representatives of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam participated in

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) has found through its dialogue with States that a number of them face challenges in areas of legislative and operational control.

interactive practical sessions covering such topics as border control, cooperation and information exchange, evidence handling, and profiling.

CROSS BORDER CONTROLS

Participants agreed that the workshop had provided them with the opportunity to acquire initial theoretical and practical

knowledge of required controls of cross-border transportation of cash and BNI, but that further work in this area should be conducted at the national level. The workshop had also provided a forum for exchanging effective practices in this area and for raising awareness of common challenges in the region.

Similar workshops are planned to take place this year in the Pacific, East Africa and Caribbean regions. ■



CTED and Myanmar discuss Counter-Terrorism

The new Government of Myanmar introduced last year a promising reform agenda that President Thein Sein pledged would allow his country to “catch up with the changing world.” The United Nations welcomed the news. Reacting to the evolving situation

25 November 2011 to monitor and promote the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1624.

Since 2005, CTED has completed 65 visits to Member States of the United Nations, including all 10 members of

useful. It provided a good opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of counter-terrorism issues, including human rights aspects of Myanmar’s efforts to implement resolutions 1373 and 1624. In addition to CTED experts, representatives of UN and partner organizations participated in the mission to Myanmar.

In particular, the delegation discussed with relevant Government agencies such topics as drafting

counter-terrorism legislation, operational effectiveness, maritime and cargo security, promoting and protecting human rights, institution-building, international cooperation, and training of personnel.

“Myanmar’s authorities demonstrated their willingness and openness to cooperate with the UN on their implementation efforts,” said Mr. Weixiong Chen, CTED Deputy Executive Director and head of delegation. “Myanmar

is eager to receive technical assistance from international players.”

The Government has requested assistance in reviewing its draft comprehensive counter-terrorism law in order to ensure it is in line with international standards. A number of other priority areas for technical assistance have also been identified during the visit. CTED will facilitate the process aimed at building Myanmar’s capacity to prevent and combat terrorism. ■



CTED Deputy Executive Director Weixiong Chen, with Myanmar Officials

in Myanmar, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that “real opportunities for progress exist, but the Government must step up its efforts for reform if it is to bring about an inclusive — and irreversible — transition.”

During this critical time in the country’s history, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) conducted its first comprehensive visit to Myanmar. The delegation visited Myanmar from 21 to

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Myanmar belongs to.

The CTED delegation and the Government of Myanmar considered the UN-led mission to be timely and

“Myanmar’s authorities demonstrated their willingness and openness to cooperate with the UN on their implementation efforts.”

Counter-Terrorism Border-Management Compendium nears Completion

The CTITF Working Group on Border Management related to Counter-Terrorism is nearing completion of a comprehensive compendium of international legal instruments, standards, recommended practices and other guidance material, intended to serve as a one-stop source of guidance on all legal and practical matters relating to border-management.

More than 500 references have been uploaded to an electronic database to facilitate the compilation process. It is expected that the compendium and electronic database will be launched in spring 2012.

DATABASE AND COMPENDIUM

The database and compendium will provide references on mobility and processing of people; integrity and security of document issuing process; movement of cash and other bearer

negotiable instruments; movement and processing of goods; movement of small arms; maritime security; aviation security; early warning and alert systems; control of light weapons, ammunition and explosives and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials; and control of open borders.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

At a working session held on 15 and 16 February in Brussels, the Working Group agreed to seek additional border-management references from regional and subregional organizations and to request a number of Member States to provide information about instruments, standards, recommendations and practices developed to address the challenges posed by open borders.

Once the compendium has been published, the Working Group will move on to the next phase of its work:

development of a framework for coordinated border management that will focus on the activities of border-control agencies during the three phases of a border crossing (pre-arrival, arrival and post-clearance). The purposes of the

The primary role of the Working Group is to provide support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to develop comprehensive and coordinated cross-border activities in response to the threat of terrorism.

framework will be to identify the technical assistance needs of Member States that have not yet introduced coordinated border management systems and practices and to provide guidance on ways to address those needs.

WORKING GROUPS ROLE

The primary role of the Working Group is to provide support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to develop comprehensive and coordinated cross-border activities in response to the threat of terrorism. The members of the working group are CTED, ICAO, IMO, INTERPOL, IOM, ODA, OHCHR, OPCW, UNHCR (as observer), UNICRI, UNODC, WCO, the Monitoring Team of the “1267 Committee”, the Expert Group of the “1540 Committee” and the CTITF Office. ■



CTED holds Meetings with Nigerian Officials

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) held a stakeholders' meeting on 24-25 January 2012 in Abuja on enhancing internal counter-terrorism coordination among Nigeria's law enforcement agencies, an initiative under I-ACT.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ahmed Seif El-Dawla (CTED Chief of Section for Africa and the Middle East) emphasized the importance of internal coordination by Member States as a means to make full use of available national resources, particularly for countering terrorism effectively.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

Participants discussed the level of threat to the region, the priority challenges and possible responses. Participants also heard a number of expert presentations, statistical studies and case studies from other parts of the world. Resource persons from participating international organizations

described the available international best codes, standards and practices to counter terrorism and highlighted the available tools.



CTED Chief of Section for Africa and the Middle East, Ahmed Seif El-Dawla

The discussions resulted in a set of recommendations for enhancing internal coordination among relevant Nigerian agencies, as well as several technical assistance needs, which will be referred to potential donors.

BUILDING INTERNAL NETWORKS

The meeting built upon the findings and recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its international partners following the Committee's 2006 on-site visit, and helped strengthen informal networks among national agencies and international and national experts.

CTED will continue its constructive dialogue with Nigeria on the outcomes of the meeting, and is also developing a number of spin-off projects together with several participating agencies aimed at strengthening Nigeria's law enforcement and border control capacities.

The participants included representatives of Nigerian immigration, law enforcement and customs agencies, prosecutors' offices, its financial intelligence unit and the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, as well as representatives of CTITF Office, the ICAO Regional Office for West Africa, INTERPOL, IOM, UNDP and UNODC. The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, represented by its Director, also participated. ■



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon lays flowers in memory of the victims of terrorism in Norway. (UN Photo)



The Rights of Victims of Terrorism

Too often the rights of victims and their voices are overlooked and neglected in the struggle against terrorism. To promote international solidarity in support of victims, the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Permanent Mission of Spain, the Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo and Fundación Miguel Ángel Blanco hosted a panel discussion and a photographic exhibition on 2 April 2012 in New York.

The discussion centered on strengthening existing mechanisms on victims' rights as well as promoting new innovative ways of supporting and empowering victims. CTITF Chairman Robert Orr highlighted the fundamental role that victims play in bringing a voice to the debate.

“The primary responsibility to promote and protect the rights of victims rests with Governments. The involvement of civil society remains fundamental to any actions taken on victims as they often bring a unique and personal perspective to this issue,” he said.

The OHCHR Assistant-Secretary-General, Ivan Šimonović, and Ben Emmerson, Special Rapporteur for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism emphasized on States' responsibility to investigate, prosecute and ensure witness protection for victims.

Other participants urged States to adopt appropriate legislation to protect victims' rights and ensure that victims

have a central role in any judicial proceedings on terrorism. The right to reparation was singled out as a key factor in ensuring that victims are not forgotten and are adequately supported to deal with the trauma in a dignified fashion.

“Victims should be able to count on specific aid, they should be able to rely on recognition from society, and they should be protected from all exposure to hate, violence and fear,” said Maite Pagazaurtundua, who lost her brother to a terrorist attack in Spain.

The discussion was preceded by a photo exhibition called “One Hundred Reflections Out of Sorrow” to honour the memory of those who died in terrorist attacks and a reminder of the suffering of victims and the human cost of terrorism.

The exhibition illustrates how terrorist attacks affect ordinary people and the impact it has on their lives as well as on the lives of their families and communities. It shows how ordinary people can mobilize campaigns against atrocities and how these efforts galvanize governments to take the necessary steps to prevent terrorism.

The exhibition will run for two weeks at the Instituto Cervantes, 211 E 49th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenue in New York. ■



Photo: Esther Montoro

Marta Requena Huertas: the new TPB Chief

Marta Requena Huertas, a national of Spain, assumed the post of Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in February 2012. Previously she served for 16 years in various senior positions in the Council of Europe including the post of Counter-Terrorism Coordinator as well as that of the Head of the Public International Law and Anti-Terrorism Division.



Marta Requena Huertas

In an interview, Ms. Requena laid down some of her priorities to further strengthen the role of TPB in providing counter-terrorism support to Member States which include promoting

ratification of international treaties dealing with counter-terrorism, providing capacity building to Member States to implement the counter terrorism legal framework on issues such as the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and supporting victims of terrorist acts.

“One of my priorities is to promote awareness of International counter-terrorism treaties and increase their ratification as well as their implementation”, she said.

While some States have ratified international legal instruments, implementation of the treaties has been a challenge, a point Ms. Requena stressed. “We would like to strengthen our work with governments to identify implementation gaps and provide capacity building to enhance the national criminal justice systems in the framework of the rule of law while taking into account the legal and socio-cultural context. To this end TPB is training policy makers, investigators, prosecutors, and judges and supporting the setting up of regional and national judicial cooperation networks.”

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TPB is currently preparing a technical assistance tool on the use of internet for terrorist purposes. This publication provides an analysis of national cases involving the internet in the commission of the terrorist act. These cases show how States investigate, prosecute, and conduct litigations: “Terrorists use

Upcoming Events:

- Presentation of the Secretary-General's Report to the Member States on 30 April in New York
- CTITF Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 16-17 May in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Side events on the 3rd review of the Strategy on 26-27 June in New York
- CTITF Briefing to Member States on 27 June in New York
- 3rd Review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 28-29 June in New York

the internet to cause damage to communications' systems and infrastructures, and to incite, advertise and glorify terrorism. They also use the internet for recruitment, training and to finance their activities.”

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Concerning TPB's work related to the victims of terrorist acts, Ms. Requena called for an international cooperative framework that recognises the “key role that victims could play before, during and after criminal legal proceedings, but also the assistance and support that they deserve.”

As a member of the CTITF, she underscored UNODC's desire to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with the Task Force. ■

CTITF *The* BEAM

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 to enhance coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. The Task Force consists of 31 international entities which by virtue of their work have a stake in counter-terrorism efforts. Each entity makes contributions consistent with its mandate.

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