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*Barack Obama President of the United States and President of the Security Council for September, at the Council Summit on Foreign Terrorist Fighters on 24 September 2014 (UN Photo/Mark Garten)*

## Implementing Landmark Resolution 2178

The adoption of Resolution 2178 (2014), at the high-level meeting of the Security Council, chaired by U.S. President Barack Obama in September 2014, brought the issue of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) to the forefront of the international agenda. While highlighting that no country can counter the phenomenon of FTFs alone, this landmark resolution put a number of obligations on Member States.

With this resolution, the international community stressed the urgent need to fully and immediately undertake measures with respect to FTFs and particularly those associated with the Islamic State, Al Nusra Front as well as

other groups affiliated with Al-Qaida. It recognized that the underlying factors must also be addressed in a comprehensive manner, including by preventing radicalization, stemming recruitment of FTFs, inhibiting FTFs' travel and disrupting their financial support.

The Resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which means that it is legally binding for all 193 Member States. It calls for engagement with relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies for countering violent extremism (CVE). Youth,

*continues on page 2*

families, women, religious, cultural and educational leaders and civil society should be empowered to tackle the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism.

On 29 May 2015, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement, welcoming the 'extraordinary efforts' by Member States to implement Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), and

urging the international community to step up efforts to combat this growing threat to peace and security.

The Presidential Statement also encouraged the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office (CTITF) in the Department of Political Affairs to develop, in close consultations with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Al-Qaida Monitoring Team, a capacity building implementation plan to assist Member States in complying with the resolution and stem the flow of FTFs.

In order to coordinate UN collective efforts on the issue of FTFs, the CTITF Office established an ad hoc Inter-Agency Working Group. This Working Group is in charge of operationalizing the implemen-

tation plan requested by the Security Council, setting out capacity building and technical assistance projects to be carried out over the next two years in a coherent manner. The complementary and mutually reinforcing projects will be implemented through joint efforts or independently by the relevant CTITF entities, including the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT).

At the Security Council meeting, the Secretary-General launched the UNCCT global project on "Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon in Syria" through a survey of returning FTFs that would help Member States craft better policy responses to the phenomenon.



*Council Summit Adopts Resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (UN Photo/Mark Garten)*

## INTERPOL's Anti-Foreign Terrorist Fighters Project

The growing threat posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and by radicalized extremists traveling to and from Syria/Iraq was the topic of discussions at a conference in Maspalomas, Gran Canaria from 10 to 12 December 2014. The event, co-hosted by the Spanish National Police, the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NBC) in Madrid and the INTERPOL General Secretariat (IPSG), brought together over 120 counterterrorism experts from 37 member countries and five international organizations.

The cooperation and exchange of information among police organizations were designed to promote the dismantlement of networks organized to recruit FTFs and facilitate their travel to and from conflict zones. Many countries were willing to share nominal and operational data pertaining to recent cases, or even on-going cases.

In recent months, INTERPOL's Anti-FTF project has been endorsed on several occasions by the United Nations, the European Union, and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum. In Resolution 2178 (2014), the UN Security Council recognized INTERPOL's critical role in assisting member countries to combat the rapidly evolving FTF threat. The resolution strongly encouraged the organization to increase its commitment to combatting the FTF menace.

## Interview with Executive Director of CTED, Jean Paul Laborde

In a recent interview with CTITF, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Assistant Secretary-General Jean-Paul Laborde, spoke on the work of the United Nations in the counter-terrorism area as well as on the assistance CTED provides to the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee. The CTED Chief also reflected on his longstanding experience with the United Nations.



Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)  
(UN Photo/Amanda Voisard)

**Q:** Mr. Laborde, you have served with the United Nations for nearly 20 years, holding senior positions in counter-terrorism and criminal justice at UNODC, the CTITF Office, and now CTED. How has the UN approach to counter terrorism evolved during that time?

**A:** It is clear that the scope of the work of the United Nations in countering terrorism has evolved considerably during these two decades – because the threat is different.

In the past, the UN system had a role in the political and legal issues related to terrorism, especially in the scope of resolutions, conventions and protocols to prevent and address terrorism. This role started in the 1970s after the terrorist attack in Munich, but of course a turning point was the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Shortly after 9/11, the Security Council adopted resolution 1373. It was the first time in the history of the United Nations that a resolution targeted a criminal phenomenon per se, not in a region, not in a country, not even in the form of sanctions, but in

countering the phenomenon of terrorism as a whole. As a result, the United Nations began to address the critical issues of the financing of terrorism, of bringing terrorists to justice, and of cooperation among Member States in combatting terrorism.

A Security Council resolution, albeit a binding instrument, is neither a convention nor a protocol. The primary responsibility for implementing this resolution lies with Member States, but they need the support of bodies and agencies to that end. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Security Council assists Member States in implementing resolution 1373. CTC coordinates the counter-terrorism efforts of the Security Council, with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).

Resolution 1373 was followed by a series of resolutions, such as 1624, which emphasizes the importance of the rule of law, including human rights, in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

There is a symbiotic understanding between the Security Council and the General Assembly on these issues, particularly through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. Pillar two, which entails measures to prevent and combat terrorism, is unique in that it recognizes the essential role of the Security Council in the work against terrorism.

**Q:** What is your assessment of the current terrorism landscape considering the emergence of ISIL and Boko Haram as main threats to international peace and security?

**A:** Over the past two years, a new threat has emerged through terrorist organizations such as Daesh [ISIL/ISIS] and Boko Haram. The Security Council, CTC, and CTED are very concerned. Counter-terrorism has become a central issue on the Security Council's agenda. Never before has the Security Council been as seized of this issue as it was last year.

Because Daesh is not only a terrorist organization but also a criminal group which depends on financial resources, the Security Council is also looking at the financing of terrorist organizations. Resolution 2178 (2015) aims to prevent and discourage the recruitment, travel and financing of foreign terrorists, whereas in resolution 2195 (2015) the Council recognized the links between organized crime and terrorism.

In the past, Al-Qaida operated through sporadic terrorist acts. They perpetrated attacks in New York, London, and Madrid, among other places, but these were quite different from the actions of Daesh. Daesh constitutes a different type of threat because it attempts to emulate a political, administrative, and financial structure holding and controlling vast territories, ensuring funding for its operations through criminal activities. The role of financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Action Task Force (FAFT) is therefore very important.

In the case of Boko Haram, border control issues must be addressed. They are taking advantage of the porous borders in the region to regroup and recruit in neighbouring countries. Addressing this threat requires sub-regional

cooperation. Recently, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon have stepped up their cooperation under the umbrella of the African Union to reverse this trend. The Counter-Terrorism Committee recently made a visit to the region to stress the United Nations' willingness to cooperate in these efforts. Military actions are essential and will be undertaken when necessary, but at the same time the Security Council has insisted that this work be done in conjunction with strengthening the rule of law and countering violent extremism.

**Q:** *CTED supports the work of CTC, which coordinates the process of monitoring the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). How have Member States progressed in that regard in the last few years, and what are the main counter-terrorism areas where more work needs to be done?*

## UNODC/TPB Provided Iraqi Officials with Technical Assistance on FTFs

In October 2014, UNODC/Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), in close coordination with its Iraqi counterparts, organized a national workshop on international cooperation on Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Amman, Jordan as part of a project funded by Japan on strengthening the legal regime of Iraq against terrorism.

During four days of extensive work, the Iraqi participants and experts from Colombia, Jordan, United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as from the Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the League of Arab States and UNODC/TPB, discussed implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), good practices and mechanisms of international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism.

## UNODC/TPB Strengthening the Legal Regime against FTFs in MENA and Balkan Countries

Pursuant the Security Council Resolutions on FTFs, UNODC/TPB has developed a five-year project entitled "Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters," which will target the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries specifically Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as countries from the Balkan region. Relevant countries from Europe, as well as Turkey, which are also significantly affected by the FTF phenomenon, will be associated with this project at the regional level. The project comprises a series of specialized technical assistance and capacity building activities. They aim at addressing the complex challenges posed to national criminal justice systems by FTF, at the normative level, as well as at the operational level.

**A:** Resolution 1373 and the subsequent resolutions are excellent resolutions. The Security Council has done a fantastic job in terms of setting the norms, but the response of the international community has been too slow in view of the fast evolution of organized crime and terrorist groups.

This slow response is in part due to wariness among Member States to cooperate at the international level.

States need to understand that there are advantages of working at the multilateral level including through intensive and extensive exchange of information. This is necessary when trying to freeze the assets of those who would like to support groups like Boko Haram and Da'esh. The multilateral exchange of information can be supported by CTED and CTITF – CTED identifying the needs and CTITF providing technical support. It is now time for Member States to start building trust at the multilateral level in confronting the threat of terrorist and criminal organizations.

**Q:** *Resolution 2178 (2014), adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, addresses foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism and it is considered by many as a landmark resolution. The resolution gives CTED a role in identifying gaps and good practices, facilitating technical assistance, and promoting the development of counter-terrorism strategies to counter violent extremism and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. Could you tell us more about the work of CTED in this regard?*

**A:** CTED supports CTC in identifying gaps. This information can then be used by other entities in their work. For example, regarding the gaps

in States' legal and judicial framework, often the laws are not in place for countering this new phenomenon. The act of someone crossing a border is sometimes a crime on one side and a legal issue on the other side. This does not fit with what is now needed. The criminalization of this act on both sides of the border is necessary in order to trigger international cooperation in criminal matters.

Second, the gaps in States' law enforcement and border controls need to be addressed. Rules, regulations, and work procedures must be revised to improve the efficiency of the work of relevant officials. The response has to be very quick. Once we identify a gap, we work with Member States to develop appropriate corrective actions.

Third, some gaps refer to measures adopted by States to counter terrorism financing. It needs to be stressed that, especially regarding Da'esh, it is critical to stop their financing from selling oil and antiques. Such measures will weaken their influence as they will severely limit the group's possibilities to provide social support.

Fourth, another gap refers to countering violent extremism, an issue of importance to the UN system at large. The UN has not been very good at countering extremist narratives. Da'esh's promise of adventure is obviously a mirage, but at the end of the day it is attractive. We have to provide effective counter narratives, be quicker to stop the use of Internet by terrorists, and work in a broad manner with various faith leaders. We also need to focus more on women and the counter narrative that they can bring.

Fifth, there may be gaps in the rule of law, including human rights. This is probably the most challenging. While regional organizations have repeatedly underlined the importance of the rule of law and human rights, and while a vast majority of countries proclaim that human rights and rule of law are an essential pillar in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of the United Nations – in addition to the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Political and Civil Rights Covenant –, I am not sure if it has really been implemented and understood in the same way all over the world.

**Q:** *Finally, where do you think the counter-terrorism work of the UN should focus more going forward, both thematically and geographically?*

**A:** The best way forward for the United Nations is to focus on prevention. The fact that terrorist organizations have taken territories means that we have not succeeded. Prevention is key. It is however very challenging as it encompasses education, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue. We must step up our efforts, including through CTITF entities such as UNESCO, the Alliance of Civilizations, and in close collaboration with civil society.

From a geographical perspective, we should concentrate on the regions which are most affected by terrorist groups like Da'esh and Boko Haram, mobilizing our forces to diminish these threats. As impunity is not an option, we must also ensure that terrorists and members of organized criminal groups are brought to justice.

## Secretary-General Addresses the UNCCT Advisory Board



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) addresses the ninth meeting of the Advisory Board to the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). At his side is Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. (UN Photo/Rick Bajornas)

Last year, the Government of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations completed an historic contribution agreement in the amount of \$100 million for the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). Addressing the UNCCT Advisory Board in November 2014, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and laid out his vision for the future role of the Centre.

“Every day, ISIS, Al-Qaida, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and other terrorist organizations are threatening innocent civilians in seemingly new and more gruesome ways. I am deeply disturbed that these dangerous groups continue recruiting members of our societies, mostly young people,” the

Secretary-General said. “World leaders understand that we must mobilize a stronger global response. That is the mission of the UN Centre”, he noted. “Our goal is to transform the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre into a Centre of Excellence serving the world”.

At the meeting, the UNCCT Executive Director, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, expanded on the Secretary-General’s vision for the UNCCT which consists of six priorities.

First, the UNCCT will be built into a “Centre of Excellence” with subject matter experts that can provide counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance, particularly in geographic and thematic areas that other CTITF entities may not be fully addressing.

Second, capacity building for Member States, particularly in countries and regions most threatened by terrorism, will be the primary role of the Centre as it contributes to the full implementation of all four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Third, capacity-building efforts will follow a strategic approach. As requested by the Advisory Board, the Centre will focus on fewer larger projects with a more significant impact.

**“World leaders understand that we must mobilize a stronger global response. That is the mission of the UN Centre.”**

Fourth, the UNCCT will support UN Country Teams, Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that counter-terrorism is mainstreamed into their work.

Fifth, the Centre will leverage the new contribution by working with Member States to jointly develop, fund and implement capacity-building projects.

And finally, the UNCCT will continue to ensure transparency as well as effective program and project management, including through regularly reporting.

The Advisory Board unanimously welcomed the Secretary-General’s vision for the future role of UNCCT. The Centre has since developed a Plan of Action for the implementation of this vision.

**“Our goal is to transform the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre into a Centre of Excellence serving the world”**



UNCCT Network Against Terrorism (NAT) Web Portal ©UNCCT

## EU and UNCCT convene Global Network of Counter-Terrorism Centres in Brussels

The UNCCT and the European Union co-hosted the Second International Conference entitled “Engaging Partners for Capacity-Building: United Nations’ Collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Centres,” in Brussels on 21 and 22 October 2014.

Thirty-one (31) international, regional and national counter-terrorism institutions, including CTITF entities, met to exchange information on their respective work and share ideas on enhancing their collaboration and working methods. They also reflected on how to

better contribute together to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Recent changes in the terrorist landscape and the rise of violent extremism featured prominently in the discussions.

**“... the UNCCT Network Against Terrorism (NAT) ... is designed to facilitate the sharing of information, expertise and best practices between the different counter-terrorism centres.”**

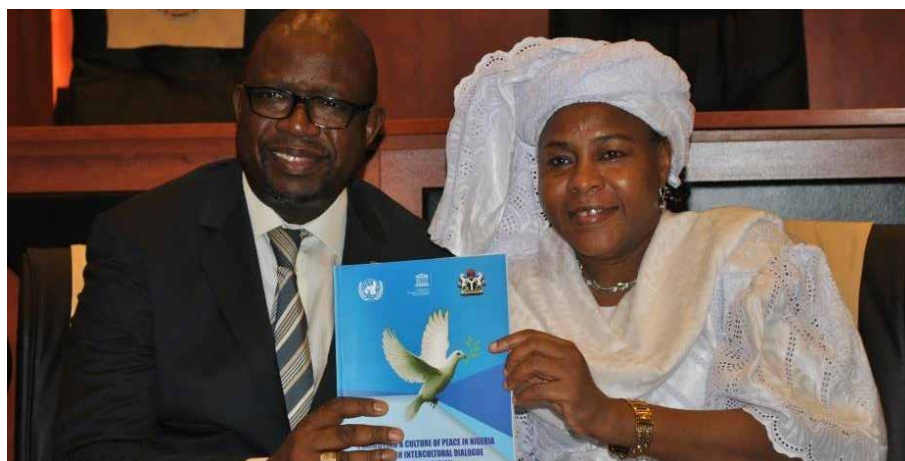
Participants noted that counter-terrorism measures would only be effective if they are comprehensive and combine both law enforcement and measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. They agreed on the need to intensify their cooperation on the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon, countering violent extremism, capacity-building and resources mobilization. In particular, they stressed the importance of mobilizing their Centres’ comparative advantages rooted in their international, regional and national expertise. In this regard, participants welcomed the creation of

the UNCCT Network Against Terrorism (NAT) web portal, which was presented by UNCCT at the Conference. NAT is designed to facilitate the sharing of information, expertise and best practices between the different counter-terrorism centres.

The counter-terrorism centres recognized the important role being played by the UNCCT in facilitating information exchange, cooperation and collaboration between national, regional and international counter-terrorism Centres and other relevant institutions. They called on the UNCCT to continue to strengthen this network through enhancing its collaborative efforts.

## CTITF and UNESCO Project Promotes Peace and Dialogue in Nigeria

Within the framework of the CTITF Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative, UNESCO, CTITF and UNCCT implemented a joint project on ‘Conflict Prevention and Countering the Appeal of Terrorism in Nigeria through Education and Dialogue.’ The aim of the project was to support conflict prevention, promote peace education, strengthen development and social cohesion of vulnerable communities and contribute to countering the appeal of terrorism in Nigeria.



*Mr. Daouda Toure, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative and Ms. Hassana Alidou, Director Director of the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja at the CTITF-UNESCO Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative project on Promoting Peace and Dialogue in Nigeria” (©UNDP Nigeria)*

### TOWN HALL MEETING IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

As part of this project, UNESCO in partnership with civil society groups, organized a town hall meeting for all relevant stakeholders to provide a platform for dialogue as a means of

conflict prevention. At the end of the discussions, representatives from local communities agreed on a set of recommendations, notably: ending all forms of hostilities between the Fulanis and Beroms and desisting from carrying weapons; pushing for the improvement

## UNODC/TPB Assisted Nigeria in Reinforcing Measures Against Terrorism

UNODC/TPB and the UNODC Country Office for Nigeria initiated the final stages of the second phase (November 2013-April 2015) of its partnership programme for strengthening criminal justice responses to terrorism. A central element of the programme is building the capacity of Nigerian judges, prosecutors, and investigators to undertake rule of law-based and human rights-compliant measures against terrorism. The programme also assisted the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and the Federal Ministry of Aviation.



*Participants of the programme for strengthening criminal justice responses to terrorism in Nigeria (© UNODC)*



of the judicial system for a speedy delivery of justice and a stop to impunity. All parties agreed to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues affecting their communities.

#### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS**

UNESCO organized with the National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO) a conference with traditional leaders from across Nigeria, to discuss their role in promoting peace efforts in the country. More than 100 traditional leaders from all the thirty-six (36) states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, attended the event. They noted that some of the key challenges facing Nigeria are insecurity, unemployment as well as an erosion of moral values. They underscored that efforts to bring about lasting peace in Nigeria should recognise the roles of traditional institutions, which are crucial for grassroots mobilization on cultural, political and economic issues. Participants also called for more recognition for their role in peace building and conflict management.

#### **TRAINING MANUAL ON PROMOTING PEACE**

As part of the key outputs of the project, a training manual entitled “Promoting a Culture of Peace in Nigeria through Inter-cultural Dialogue and Education” was published. The document, which was developed through a series of workshops, contains training modules, including for the youth, media, women groups, civil society, religious leaders, and security agencies.

## **Contributing to Building Community Resilience in Nigeria**

In the context of increasing violence in Nigeria, especially in the North East, more than fifty representatives from civil society and government gathered in Abuja on 27-31 October 2014 to participate in a capacity-building workshop on countering violent extremism. The workshop was part of a larger Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) project entitled “Countering the Appeal of Terrorism in Nigeria and Building Community Resilience” within the framework of CTITF Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative. The three-day event was convened by the CTITF Office, the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT) and Human Security Collective (HSC) in close cooperation with the Office of the National Security Adviser Nigeria SAVE Project.

The workshop aimed to sensitize civil society organizations (CSOs) on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE),

enhance their capacity to deal with related issues, facilitate dialogue with the Government of Nigeria and initiate the development of a nation-wide CVE network.

During the workshop, representatives of CSOs from six target states (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano and Yobe) expressed their readiness to confront violent messaging and recruitment. Participants also emphasized the need to create “a new sense of us” to overcome religious and other divisions within the Nigerian society.

A Steering Committee was set up to coordinate future activities based on the results of the workshop. The CTITF, ICCT and HSC will continue supporting all actors involved in this initiative to reduce the impact of violent extremism in Nigeria through mobilization of the societal forces that advocate for change, support resilience building and oppose violence.



*Participants of the workshop Contributing to Building Community Resilience in Nigeria (© CTITF)*

## Advance Passenger Information and Travel Ban Implementation



Considering that international terrorists depend on global travel to coordinate their activities and raise funds, the travel ban against listed individuals on the Al-Qaida UN Sanctions List has a potentially significant disruptive effect on the ability of Al-Qaida to operate.

In order to more efficiently manage the growing number of individuals using air travel, whilst maintaining stringent border and customs controls, Member States have developed various Advance Passenger Information systems. Airlines now regularly submit Advance Passenger Information data to Member States before their aircrafts reach their destination. This enables a more integrated border control mechanism as well as the development of risk based approaches to passenger and custom controls.

Following a recommendation of the UN Sanctions Monitoring Team, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, in coordination with all other Sanctions Committees, called on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to revise their jointly published guidelines on

Advance Passenger Information, underlining the use of Advance Passenger Information for United Nations sanctions measures. In October 2014, the Advance Passenger Information Contact Committee, comprised of all three international organizations, agreed to this proposal and also decided to amend the accompanying WCO Recommendations related to the use of Advance Passenger Information data by customs authorities. This marked an important step towards greater integration between UN Security Council sanctions regimes and their implementation as regards global air travel. Resolution 2178 (2014) called upon Member States to use Advance Passenger Information data provided by airlines to detect the departure, attempted entry or transit of individuals listed on the

**Resolution 2178 (2014) called upon Member States to use Advance Passenger Information data to detect individuals listed on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List.**

Al-Qaida Sanctions List. Consequently, the Monitoring Team is engaging relevant international organizations and Member States on this issue. At the same time, the Team is exploring possibilities to better tailor the technical provisions of identifying data on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List to global Advance Passenger Information data standards. Technically compatible data provision would facilitate automated checking of Advance Passenger Information data against the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, enabling a more efficient global implementation of the travel ban.

## CTITF Inter-Agency Meeting Stresses Coordination, Response and Impact

CTITF convened its annual Inter-Agency Coordination Retreat on 1-2 December 2014, in Greentree, New York during which senior officials and experts from the Task Force entities reflected on the international community's new sense of urgency to address the evolving terrorist threat. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mali, H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Kenya's Principal Secretary of the Interior, Ms. Monica Juma, as well as the Director General of Kenya's Counter-Terrorism Centre, Mr. Isaac Ochieng also participated. Mr. Jeffrey Feltman chaired the substantive session as CTITF Chairman and UNCCT Executive Director. The Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT) was formally inducted as an entity of the CTITF at the Retreat.

The discussions focused on the evolution of terrorism over the past year, noting its growth in complexity, its multidimensional nature and transnational reach. Terrorism today affects all aspects of the United Nations' work, including political, development, humanitarian, and human rights issues. In light of this, the need to mainstream counter-terrorism into the work of the United Nations was stressed, especially in the context of peacekeeping operations (PKOs), Special Political Missions (SPMs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Taking into

account the range of entities that constitute CTITF, new financial resources, and the comprehensive framework provided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it was recognized that the CTITF is well placed at the global stage to support Member States in addressing emerging terrorist threats and have real impact on the ground.

**The discussions focused on the evolution of terrorism over the past year, noting its growth in complexity, its multidimensional nature and transnational reach.**

During the retreat, participants reviewed steps taken over the past year to enhance inter-agency coordination, especially the revitalized working groups and the CTITF Matrix of Activities. They also took an in-depth assessment of current and future capacity-building activities. It was noted that the quest for greater inclusiveness, quicker responsiveness and more impact on the ground is critical. Similarly, participants agreed that more regular exchange of information between headquarters, PKOs and SPMs would help the UN's counter-terrorism work, especially in translating strategic priorities into actions on the ground. This is particularly relevant in the context of implementing policies on countering violent extremism and other aspects of Pillar I of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Prominence will also be given to developing a Counter-Terrorism Strategic Communications Policy to counter the spread of violent extremism and extremist ideologies, and promote the principles and values of the United Nations in the face of increasing radicalization and terrorism.

The need for CTITF entities to address emerging threats such as the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon, the linkages between terrorist and transnational criminal organisations, border vulnerabilities and cyber-security issues was also emphasized. CTITF will aim

to be more effective in responding to the evolving terrorist threat, including by creating ad hoc CTITF Inter-Agency Working Groups when necessary and swiftly addressing the increasing needs and priorities of Member States.

## Promoting a Culture of Peace, Citizenship and Democracy in Northern Burkina Faso

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and UNESCO have joined efforts to prevent terrorism in Burkina Faso on a project entitled "Promoting a culture of Peace, Conflict Management, Citizenship, Democracy and Good Governance in Northern Burkina Faso and Ouagadougou," undertaken within the framework of CTITF's Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative.

The project was launched in Ouagadougou in September 2014 and a number of activities were carried out in Ouagadougou and the Sahel Region of Northern Burkina Faso. The ECOWAS Reference Manual was translated into six local languages and widely distributed. Two trainings for trainers' were organized in Ouagadougou and Dori. Regional committees and a general selection committee were set up by the Governors of the Central and Sahel Regions of Northern Burkina Faso in collaboration with the National Commission and UNESCO Regional Office.

### Strengthening Legal and Policy Mechanisms to Prevent Radicalization and CVE

In October 2014, a regional conference was organized by UNODC/TPB in cooperation with the Hedayah Centre of Excellence countering violent extremism (CVE) in the United Arab Emirates. The purpose of the conference was to discuss criminal justice and policy-making strategies to prevent terrorism through countering radicalization and violent extremism in the Gulf, Afghanistan and Middle East region. The event generated in-depth discussions of practical aspects, such as rule of law based criminal justice strategy to prevent terrorism, the use of the internet for recruitment, the rights of victims during criminal proceedings and their role in countering terrorist narratives.

## OCHA: Do not Impede the Delivery of Lifesaving Humanitarian Assistance

OCHA strongly supports efforts to protect civilian populations from the horrific harm caused by acts of terrorism. However, there is a clear need to ensure that counter-terrorism measures do not impede the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to people in need.

For humanitarian actors to be able to reach people in need, it is essential that their activities be exclusively humanitarian in nature and comply with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and be perceived as doing so. Humanitarian actors must be able to access conflict and disaster-affected people, irrespective of whose control those people are under and regardless of their ethnic, social, political or other background.

The implementation of counter-terrorism measures has at times had adverse humanitarian consequences. For example, measures taken to prohibit the provision of funds and other economic resources to armed groups and individuals designated as “terrorists” can seriously impede the ability of humanitarian actors to provide assistance and protection to millions of people in need.

OCHA has made considerable efforts to promote dialogue between UN agencies, humanitarian organizations and Member States to limit the adverse consequences of counter-terrorism measures on principled humanitarian

action. This dialogue should first focus on aid diversion. To comply with the principles of impartiality and neutrality, humanitarian actors must ensure that humanitarian aid goes to those who are in greatest need. Aid diversion is therefore a serious humanitarian concern as well as a concern in relation to terrorism. Humanitarian organizations must strengthen the implementation of policies and procedures aimed at minimizing aid diversion. Accordingly, OCHA is helping to develop a “toolkit” to guide humanitarian organizations in providing principled humanitarian assistance whilst complying with counter-terrorism measures, including by improving risk management and due diligence practices.

In addition, humanitarian actors should work with Member States and inter-governmental organizations to ensure the inclusion of exemptions for humanitarian action in counter-terrorism laws and policies. In particular, national and international sanction regimes should include humanitarian exceptions which permit activities intended to save lives and alleviate human suffering. Such exemptions should include not only the direct provision of humanitarian assistance, but also the incidental transactions and logistical arrangements that are often inevitable when designated entities control territory.

Finally, it is crucial to ensure that the humanitarian perspective is included in the deliberations of leading entities on financial transactions, such as the Financial Action Task Force. Regulations aimed at curtailing the financing of groups designated as terrorist should not undermine humanitarian activities or vital financial flows.



*Aid provisions from non-governmental and international organizations are stored in a medical clinic-turned-reception centre for the thousands of refugees - (UN Photo/OCHA/David O'hana)*

## African States Share Best Practices in Preventing Incitement to Terrorism

The role of religious institutions falls within the scope of Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005), as it focuses on the threat of terrorism incitement, and calls upon States to counter incitement and prevent the subversion of religious institutions by terrorist and their supporters. In Resolution 2178 (2014), the Council stressed that countering violent extremism was essential to addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and encouraged States to empower religious leaders in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative.

In an open briefing on 30 September 2014, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) discussed countering incitement to commit terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance, looking at Morocco's approach and experiences of other African States. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, speaking on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said that the evolution of the terrorist threat in new and unpredictable directions was among the most serious challenges faced by the international community. He also pointed out that in addressing these challenges, it was critical that measures taken are in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law.

In her remarks, the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė identified national strategies to promote dialogue among civilizations as a good practice to be shared among other States.



*Jeffrey Feltman (centre right), Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, speaks at the event on 30 September 2014. On his right is Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN Photo/Rick Bajornas)*

“Whether in developing or developed States, religious leaders can play a pivotal role in creating an environment of peaceful coexistence. By promoting intra-religious and interreligious reflection and dialogue, governments can help build trust within societies and within public institutions,” she said.

Also addressing the Council, the Minister of Habous and Islamic Affairs of Morocco, Mr. Ahmed Toufik recalled that his country's approach to

managing religious affairs in the context of combatting terrorism had not originally been designed specifically to address terrorism, but had proven effective in preventing radicalization and the abuse of religion for terrorist purposes. Morocco's policy, he said, rested on three pillars. The first was political legitimacy, derived from the King's position as the Commander of the Faithful and the oath of allegiance pledged to him. The second was reli-

gious leadership, provided by the High Council for Religious Affairs, widely recognized within Moroccan society as the sole authority on such matters. The third was the provision of religious services, which included an emphasis on religious education. Therefore, religious scholars guided people towards a moderate understanding of religion and devised fatwas through an institutionalized authority, thereby protecting them from the influence of extremists.

## Supporting Colombia in Investigating and Prosecuting Financing of Terrorism

Since 2009, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) has been supporting Colombia's efforts to counter terrorism and its financing. UNODC/TPB designed several advanced technical tools, practical simulations and good practices aimed at enhancing national capacities to prevent and prosecute these crimes. Some examples of UNODC/TPB's efforts to support successful interventions of criminal justice officials include mock trials and criminal investigations, a case management tool for comprehensive financing of terrorism investigations and a legislative guide as well as an Observatory of Jurisprudence.

The third edition of the mock trials took place in Colombia thanks to funding from the UNCCT. It was carried out

under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)'s Working Group on Countering the Financing of Terrorism, chaired by UNODC/TPB.

While condemnatory sentences on financing of terrorism by judicial authorities were considered nonexistent until very recently, as a positive result of UNODC/TPB work, the Seventh Criminal Judge of the Specialized Circuit of Bogota provided the fifth condemnatory sentence ever issued in Colombia on terrorist financing charges. Two leaders of criminal groups were sentenced to 13 years in prison. The sentence's main facts linked these criminals with the trafficking and subsequent provision of firearms to FARC. In its preamble, the Judge highlights the relevance of the International

Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism adopted by the General Assembly in 1999, and Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001). He also made explicit reference to the case management tool designed by UNODC/TPB for Colombia to conduct comprehensive and effective investigations of this crime.

In 2015, through the strategic alliance with UNCCT and CTITF, UNODC/TPB will transfer the knowledge and methodology of the mock trial tool to additional countries such as Argentina.

UNODC/TPB technical assistance provided to Colombia represents an important breakthrough in investigations and court proceedings. The condemnatory sentences on financing of terrorism pronounced by judicial authorities were considered nonexistent until very recently. So far, five (5) of them have been already identified by the Observatory of Jurisprudence (<http://observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co/>).



Participants of the third edition of the mock trials on the financing of terrorism in Colombia (©UNODC)

## First Pilot Training Workshop on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism

On 16-18 January 2015, the CTITF Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism held its first pilot training workshop, in Abuja, Nigeria. Twenty-three Nigerian security officials attended the workshop

The UN Resident Coordinator and the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), CTITF Office and OHCHR also took part in the event.

In his remarks, the Resident Coordinator welcomed the convening of the workshop, particularly in response to the threat posed by Boko Haram and the human rights violations it has committed, especially against women and children. He reaffirmed the United Nations' support for Nigeria in

its efforts to fight against terrorism and protect its people.

Speaking on behalf of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria, the Solicitor General noted that confronting the threat of terrorism can be difficult in countries with inadequate laws and weak institutions. The ONSA welcomed the workshop as a positive initiative. The ONSA stressed that frequent sensitization, such as this training, will encourage the armed forces to integrate and promote human rights approaches in their actions.

The training workshop was designed around a core curriculum developed by the CTITF Working Group and focused on three specific areas: The International Legal Framework: Protecting Human

Rights while Countering Terrorism; Legal Limitations on the Use of Force, and The Use of Special Investigative Techniques. The terrorism and international law module explored the overarching international legal regime relating to terrorism and some of the key legal instruments that govern state responses to terrorism threats. The second module examined the advanced techniques - such as mail and telephone interception, eavesdropping and video surveillance - currently being used by counter-terrorism forces around the world and the international human rights norms governing their use. The use of force module explored the wide range of circumstances in which law enforcement and security officials might be called upon to consider using force in the context of counter-terrorism operations, and the international human rights law regime that governs the use of force in such circumstances.

### Workshop for Afghan Officials on Supporting Victims of Terrorism

Recognizing the role of victims as essential to the effective investigation and prosecution of terrorist cases and the importance of developing a system of support and assistance to victims both before, during and after criminal legal proceedings, UNODC/TPB organized a workshop on supporting victims of acts of terrorism and protection of human rights standards in line with national and international legal instruments and good practices. Held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in November 2014, the workshop highlighted the importance of strengthening the criminal justice system of Afghanistan so as to ensure victims' cooperation in terrorist cases by earning their confidence and avoiding secondary victimization, by including physical and emotional protection, financial compensation, and respect for their human rights.



Participants of the Workshop on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism (©CTITF)

## Minister of Justice of France Highlights the Importance of Rule of Law in Countering Terrorist Threats

In a briefing to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on 10 February 2015, the Justice Minister of France, Ms. Christiane Taubira, participated in an interactive session on *'The importance of the rule of law in countering the current terrorist threat'*. "Our principal task is to make sure that the world does not come undone," she told the Committee. "Our response [to terrorist acts] needs to be based on the respect of the rule of law and solidarity in action," she added.

The Minister also outlined France's four pillars of countering terrorism, which

include modernized penal legislation, a government action plan to dismantle terrorist networks, a diversified state answer in terms of public policies, and a rigorous analysis of the phenomenon of radicalization.

"We have to build peace, and peace is built through law. We have to build peace through law because recent situations in several countries have taught us that it is not enough to win a war to achieve peace," Ms. Taubira said.

In her opening statement, Chair of the Committee, H.E. Ambassador

Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations, underlined the importance of the counter-terrorism community continuously evolving: "As terrorist threats shift and change worldwide, we too must adjust and change, and act faster and more forcefully on all fronts and at all levels – nationally, regionally, and internationally. The entire UN counter-terrorism machinery must urgently shift into higher gear; get out of the lingering silo mentality, in order to tackle the threat of terrorism in a more synergetic, effective, coherent, and comprehensive manner. The Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, established in response to the 9/11 attacks, is at the heart of the Organization's efforts aimed at fighting the terrorist scourge.

In his remarks, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), Jean-Paul Laborde, underscored that the terrorist threat must be countered within a rule of law framework and according to the proportionality principle. "Otherwise, in what name are we standing up to terrorism?" he asked.

Following a lively interaction with representatives of Member States, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, emphasized the need for the international community to speak with one voice, letting every terrorist organization know that "the world stands united in withstanding your atrocities."

Relevant documents are available at: <http://bit.ly/1zqKFuW>.



*Christiane Taubira, French Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, addresses the open briefing by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on "The importance of the rule of law in countering the current terrorist threat" on 10 February 2015 – (UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz)*



## INTERPOL's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building and Training Projects

As the world's largest international police organization, INTERPOL's role is to assist law enforcement agencies in its 190 member countries to meet the increasingly complex and globalized challenges of policing in the 21st century by providing technical and operational support. With the newly opened Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore, INTERPOL keeps pace with the latest emerging technological developments in order to proactively tackle novel forms of illicit activities. Through interagency cooperation reinforced by its global capacity building activities, INTERPOL strives to strengthen relationships among member countries' border security, customs, and specialised law enforcement agencies along with its network of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs).

Between September 2014 and January 2015, INTERPOL implemented two ambitious counter-terrorism projects. The first was carried out in the Horn of Africa and aimed to enhance counter-terrorism capability and investigative capacities in the field of terrorist financing. A second project, targeted ASEAN nations and focused on enhancing international collaboration on counter-terrorism.

With the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, INTERPOL provided specialised training to officers from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Yemen which focused on the use

.....  
**The Meeting helped identify and prioritize the needs of Member States in the areas of designations and the freezing of terrorists' assets.**  
 .....

of INTERPOL's global tools and services for counter-terrorism investigations, as well as identifying, monitoring and preventing the financing of terrorism.

The second major counter-terrorism project which INTERPOL is currently implementing is a three-year programme targeting Southeast Asia. Supported by the Government of Canada, this project focuses on

improving counter-terrorism investigation, reinforcing information sharing networks, and encouraging international collaboration amongst law enforcement agencies from all 10 member states of the ASEAN.

Key topics addressed during the training sessions in Southeast Asia included an introduction to the latest developments to INTERPOL's secure global police communications system and highlighted the importance of searching, adding and integrating information into INTERPOL's databases to assist frontline officers at border checkpoints and criminal investigations worldwide. This initiative also incorporates meetings and workshops for high-level delegates, including Heads of NCBs and immigration authorities, to discuss ongoing future projects on strengthening border management and strategies to further expand international cooperation in combating terrorism.



*Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: An INTERPOL official delivers training on the detection of fraudulent currency, in the framework of the Integrated Counter-Terrorism/Terrorist Financing Training Course (©INTERPOL)*

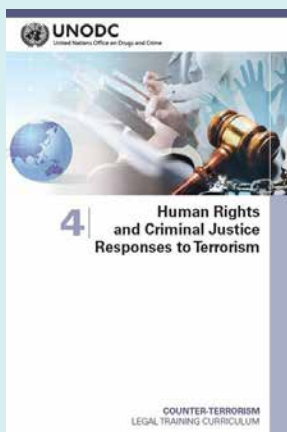
## Two New Modules on the Counter-terrorism Legal Training Curriculum

UNODC/TPB has recently published two new modules which are part of its Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum and focus on thematic areas of the legal and criminal justices aspects of countering terrorism:

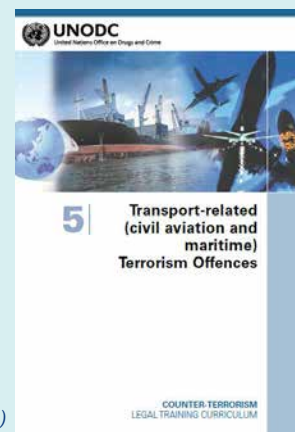
- The module on Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism aims at increasing understanding among criminal justice officials of global and regional human rights norms and good practices, and their practical application in terrorism cases.
- The module on Transport related (Civil Aviation and Maritime) Terrorism Offences is designed to help address the serious global threat presented by terrorist acts against aircraft and ships, their passengers, cargo or crew, or against airports and sea ports.

*a) Module on Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism (©UNODC)*

*b) Module on Transport related (Civil Aviation and Maritime) Terrorism Offences (©UNODC)*



a)



b)

## CTED Delivers Message from the UN Secretary-General to Counter-terrorism Workshop in Kenya

“Terrorism defies our most fundamental shared values and aspirations. It infringes on human rights, undermines international peace and security, and hampers economic and social development.” This was the statement delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General by a delegation from the

Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) at the opening of a national workshop held from 20-22 January 2015 in Mombasa, Kenya. The workshop, which was facilitated by CTED and co-organised by the Government of Kenya and the International Centre

for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), was dedicated to the effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014). It brought together representatives of the government, civil society, faith-based organisations, and international experts to jointly develop a comprehensive approach to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

In the statement, the Secretary-General stressed that efforts to fight terrorism are legitimate and sustainable only to the extent that they are based on respect for the values and principles embodied in the United Nations Charter. Turning to the situation in Kenya, Mr. Ban said it was critical that counter-terrorism strategies are based on inclusion and dialogue so that they do not inadvertently lead to the marginalization of communities. Exclusion only helps terrorist groups gain additional recruits and social support.



*Participants of a workshop in Kenya dedicated to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014), January 2015 (©CTED)*



Participants of the Workshop on International Response to Chemical and Biological Terrorist attacks – 19-20 February 2015 - © IAEA

## Workshop on International Response to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks

While the risk of use of chemical or biological agents by terrorist groups is considered to be low, the evolving terrorist threat of its unpredictability has prompted the UN along with other international organizations to look at jointly developing a preparedness and response plan in case of a large-scale emergency.

To that end, representatives from the United Nations and partner organizations gathered in The Hague at the headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to brainstorm on how to coordinate a response to a terrorist event involving the use of chemical or biological weapons.

The workshop on ‘Enhancing Inter-Operability and Coordinated

Communication in the Event of a Chemical or Biological Attack,’ helped launch a project of the CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Attacks. The project is comprised of two pillars aimed at promoting effective inter-agency interoperability during such emergencies, both in terms of operations and in terms of communication with the public.

At the workshop, there was common ground in noting that while States ultimately carry the primary responsibility to protect their citizens in such an event, the international community would have a major role to play in assisting States to respond to the crisis.

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü noted that the terrorism landscape looked vastly different today than

a decade ago, with methods even more extreme and violent. “Now more than ever cooperation is critical in countering the global threat,” he said. “The risk of terrorist attacks using chemicals and biological agents raises the stakes and potential of causing enormous public harm. All must make efforts to prevent such attacks and to ensure a response is well-coordinated. Although each has their own strengths, expertise, mandates, and face unique challenges, they can accomplish so much more working together than apart.”

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident, which emphasized the need for an effective inter-agency emergency response and preparedness plan. In terms of communication, experience has shown that timely, accurate, consistent messaging was crucial to ensure that the general public is properly informed about the situation.

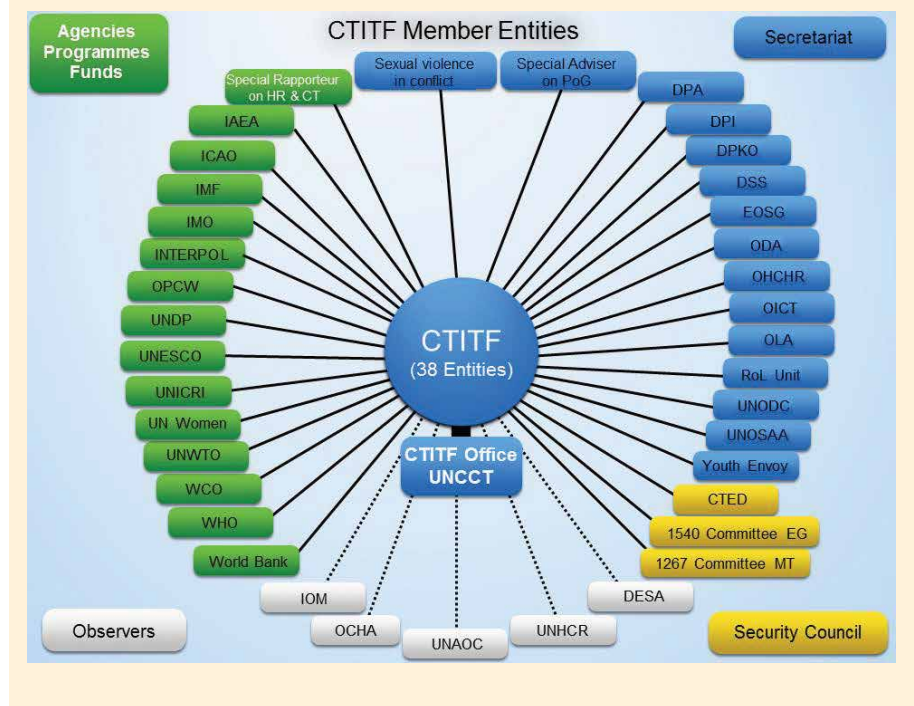
This newsletter reflects on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) entities. Located within the Department of Political Affairs, the CTITF was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 and endorsed by the General Assembly through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) to bring system-wide coordination and coherence in the UN's counter-terrorism efforts. In 2011, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) was created within the CTITF Office to assist Member States' capacity-building.

The United Nations Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes, and affiliated organizations contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy both through their individual mandates and through their membership in the CTITF. The Task Force consists of 38 international entities which by virtue of their work have a stake in counter-terrorism efforts.

The primary goal of CTITF is to maximize each entity's comparative advantage by delivering as one to help Member States implement the four pillars of the Global Strategy.

**The 38 CTITF entities are currently:**

1. Al Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team
2. Counter-terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
3. Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
4. Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
5. Department of Public Information (DPI)



6. Department of Safety and Security (DSS)
7. Group of Experts of 1540 Committee
8. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
9. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
10. International Maritime Organization (IMO)
11. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
12. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
13. Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)
14. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
15. Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)
16. Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)
17. Office of the Secretary-General (OSG)
18. Office of The Special Adviser on The Prevention of Genocide
19. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
20. Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
21. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
22. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism
23. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
24. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
25. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
26. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
27. United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)
28. United Nations Rule of Law Unit
29. UN Women
30. United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
31. World Customs Organization (WCO)
32. World Bank
33. World Health Organization (WHO)

**Observers**

34. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
35. Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
36. United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
37. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
38. United Nations Alliance of Civilizations