

## Building In-Depth Knowledge of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) project to increase knowledge and understanding of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has crossed yet another milestone with the first regional workshop for South-East Asian countries held in Bali, Indonesia on 3-5 November 2010.

The workshop, organized by the CTITF Office in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia, attracted about 70 participants from South-East Asian governments, the United Nations, regional organizations and civil society groups.

The workshop was opened by Vice-Foreign Minister Triyono Wibowo of Indonesia, who warned against complacency as the threat of terrorism remains formidable in the region. "Terrorist



networks in South-East Asia have suffered major setbacks as a result of such increased cooperation, but states must continue to be vigilant, as that threat of terrorism is still present and continues to be dangerous in the region", he said.

Participants acknowledged the need to develop educational curricula that promote tolerance, counter violent extremism and build capacity for non-violent

*continues on page 2*

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- p1 Building In-Depth Knowledge of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
- p2 Letter from the CTITF Interim Chairman
- p3 I-ACT Priority: Nigeria
- p4 Supporting Victims of Terrorist Crimes

- p5 The Terrorist Who Came Home
- p6 Countering Terrorist Narratives through the Internet
- p7 Strengthening Border Security to Counter Terrorism
- p8 Central Asian Initiative in Motion
- p9 Securing Fair Trials for Alleged Terrorists

- p10 Preventing Terrorist use of WMD
- p11 Bringing Terrorists to Justice
- p12 Non-Profits Vulnerable to Terrorism Financing
- p13 Jean-Paul Laborde: Interview with Former CTITF Chairman
- p14 UNICRI Visit to Russia
- p15 Activities of the CTITF Office

## Building In-Depth Knowledge of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

*continued from page 1*

conflict resolution; community policing; the development of national criminal justice systems in the region; and the protection of human rights as a fundamental basis for countering terrorism.

### Additional Action

Other recommendations that emerged from the workshop, although not legally binding, include support from the international community to strengthen



Above: Triyono Wibowo, Vice-Foreign Minister of Indonesia. Right: Participants attending the first regional workshop on building in-depth knowledge of the Global Strategy in Bali, Indonesia.



and sustain capacity-building efforts for counter-terrorism programmes in the region, and involve more governmental

departments, including development and finance ministries, as well as civil society organizations and groups representing victims of terrorist crimes.

## Letter from the CTITF Interim Chairman

It gives me pleasure to share with you this year's first edition of *The Beam* at a time when the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) is at an exciting stage of our development. The past year was marked by a number of achievements, most notably by the renewed commitment from Member States in the General



Robert Orr

Assembly towards combating terrorism more effectively. This year is the time to enhance the scope and scale of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and see it lead to tangible results.

In December last year, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, the former chairman of CTITF, accepted a new assignment with the Supreme Court of France. We appreciate his contributions to CTITF's work, in particular the institutionalization of the CTITF Office.

The implementation of the Strategy at the national and regional levels is a goal to which we all aspire and towards which we are all working. In the last six months the CTITF Working Groups have made considerable progress through substantive collaboration on a number of issues. Much more is yet to come.

I am optimistic that the solid cooperation between the CTITF and all its partners will continue to enrich the United Nations' contribution on its countering terrorism mandates, and help build the CTITF as a solid platform for its entities to think and work together.

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

### United Nations support

In an interview with *The Beam's* Verona Lambert, Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), commented on the value of building capacity and institutions that can disrupt and head off terrorist attacks. "Common defenses of terrorism depend on strengthened capacities. Identifying the needs for capacity-building in the counter-terrorism field, then matching these with funding from donors, is one of our priority activities", explained Mr. Smith.

He added that while counter-terrorism efforts must necessarily continue to focus on security and law enforcement, the value of programs addressing educational curricula reform, promoting community tolerance and advancing the protection of human rights is increasingly recognized as critical to a successful comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy.

The next workshop to build in-depth knowledge of the Global Strategy will be held in Southern Africa this spring. ■

## I-ACT Priority: Nigeria

### CTITF Initiatives

As the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) attempts to expand perhaps its most ambitious initiative on integrated technical assistance delivery, the priority is to ensure that Nigeria, one of the first partnering countries, is provided the support needed to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

“What’s needed in the border space outlined under the strategy is concrete support to individual countries on counter-terrorism. Now it is delivery time, and this step is crucial. If we succeed in Nigeria, that model can be replicated and we can meet the high demands out there”, said Robert Orr, the Assistant Secretary-General in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Orr was addressing representatives of 14 Permanent Missions to the United Nations and 10 CTITF entities at the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative stakeholder meeting on Nigeria on 23 November 2010 in New York. The stakeholder meeting was convened to attract funding for critical gaps in conflict prevention, de-radicalization, internal law enforcement coordination and cooperation, the rule of law and human rights areas.

Speaking at the same meeting was Bukun-Olu Onemola, Nigeria’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations. “We have threats and vulnerabilities in Nigeria: the Niger Delta crisis and the recent bomb attacks in Abuja during Nigeria’s 50th independence anniversary are concerns. This kind of partnership will help strengthen our efforts to resolve these issues”, he said.

The CTITF Office, in consultation with Nigerian authorities and CTITF entities, conducted a mapping and gaps analysis exercise to identify needs that require further technical support in 2011. As a result, relevant CTITF entities have developed concept notes corresponding to key areas in need of further technical assistance. The concept notes were presented to donors during the stakeholder’s meeting.

Susanne Bilello, Senior Public Information Officer at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), presented activities within the realm of pillar I of the Global Strategy, directed towards conflict prevention and de-radicalization of youth in Nigeria through education and dialogue.



*Ambassador Bukun-Olu Onemola of Nigeria*

Jo Dedeayne-Amann, Policy Coordination Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), presented activities that could be offered jointly with the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in strengthening the rule of law and human rights in countering terrorism, particularly capacity-building efforts targeting criminal justice practitioners.

Ahmed Seif El-Dawla, Chief of Section, the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), presented activities which could be offered jointly with Interpol to support internal coordination and information-sharing among Nigerian law enforcement.

Manuel Vasquez, Project Manager at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), briefed stakeholders on planned activities for Nigeria, including anti-money laundering and countering financing of terrorism.

The CTITF Office is currently following up with interested donors on the proposals presented and consultations with regard to the addition of further partnering states/sub-regions are currently underway. Member States expressed an interest in seeing the I-ACT Initiative expanded, where appropriate, to other regions, including the possibility of having the Initiative work on a regional or sub-regional basis. ■





## Supporting Victims of Terrorist Crimes

### Working Groups

While the horrendous impact of a terrorist attack cannot be repaired completely, providing some kinds of assistance to the victims and their families can lighten the burden.

By organizing a workshop for a select group of experts in Siracusa, Italy, last December, the CTITF took its first concrete steps to compile a study of best practices on supporting victims of terrorist crimes and related offenses as defined in the national and international law.

Hosted by the Sicily-based International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, the meeting brought together CTITF members along with a group of experts and government

representatives from various regions of the world as well as a UN staff member who was a victim of the bombing attack on the UN complex in Algiers in December 2007.

Addressing the participants was Jean-Paul Laborde, Chairman of CTITF, who noted, “Today the activities of CTITF increasingly focus on producing useful deliverables that would take the agenda of the victims forward. CTITF, together with its partners, shall work on the development of an international consensus on assisting victims of terrorist crimes and related offenses as defined by national and international law”.

Participants examined existing national, regional and global legal

measures and practices designed to assist victims of terrorist crimes, as well as victims of other crimes including victims of gross violations of international human rights law. The existing exercises were used to distil best practices and possible recommendations that could serve to support Member States in their efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

**“CTITF, together with its partners, shall work on the development of an international consensus on assisting victims of terrorist crimes and related offenses as defined by national and international law.”**

The Global Strategy calls on Member States to consider “putting in place, on a voluntary basis, national systems of assistance that would promote the needs of victims of terrorism and their families and facilitate the normalization of their lives”, as well as on striving to “promote international solidarity in support of victims”, which “could include exploring at the General Assembly the possibility of developing practical mechanisms assistance to victims”.

The Siracusa workshop is a follow-up to the Secretary-General’s 2008 victims’ symposium, which had as its overall aim to make practical advancement on the set of concrete recommendations made by the participating victims. These included the strengthening of legal instruments at both the international and national levels, providing victims of terrorist acts with legal status and protecting their rights; establishing accessible health services that can provide victims with comprehensive support over the short, medium and long term; providing financial support to victims; and improving the media coverage of victims of terrorism. ■



## The Terrorist Who Came Home

### CTITF Initiatives

The CTITF, in cooperation with the Government of Algeria, premiered the documentary film *The Terrorist Who Came Home* at a reception hosted by the International Peace Institute (IPI) on 10 January 2011. This is the first in a series of documentaries intended to highlight the stories of former terrorists and demonstrate the negative impact of terrorism on their communities.

The film depicts the life of an Algerian combatant who endured years of heavy fighting before deciding to abandon that lifestyle to focus on his family and future within Algerian society.

Voices of former fighters have in many instances persuaded former



comrades in arms to disavow violence and benefit from reconciliation programmes offered by States, as observed by Richard Barrett, the Coordinator of the Al Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team, who leads the CTITF documentary project.

“The key issue for the Task Force project is to raise public awareness of the real consequences of terrorism. We hope to get other individuals to talk about how they came to join terrorist groups, the consequences of their actions and their decision to leave, and at the same time feature victims of their acts to ensure that the personal stories of both sides can be understood. Many people join terrorist organizations because they feel alienated or lack a sense of purpose or belonging. There are, unfortunately, millions of people who don’t have jobs, or who are poor or otherwise disadvantaged and yet they don’t engage in terrorist activity. An unfulfilling economic or social status doesn’t give anyone the

*Left: Ambassador Mourad Benmehidi of Algeria and Richard Barrett*

*Below: Former Algerian fighter Djamel Ouldja at home.*

right to attack and kill their neighbours or anyone else”.

Algeria has suffered from terrorism since the 1990s. However, since the introduction of the Civil Concorde in 1999 and the 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, the attacks and recruitment of terrorists have subsided significantly according to Mourad Benmehidi, the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations.

**The film depicts the life of an Algerian combatant who endured years of heavy fighting before deciding to abandon that lifestyle to focus on his family and future within Algerian society.**

“The core issue was to have those who took up arms against the State to give up, come back to normal life and seek leniency according to the law. The programme has produced great results. It has allowed more than 2,000 armed people to rejoin society, while more than 10,000 have surrendered and recruitment has almost stopped”.

Benmehidi said the reintegration process has been effective due to the incentives provided to both ex-combatants and affected communities. “We start by taking care of victims and their families before we approach the terrorists. In order to win the acceptance of society we provide social and financial programmes for victims prior to extending amnesty and eventual reintegration to those who have caused harm”.

The CTITF documentaries project aims to produce several films highlighting such examples from around the world. The next two cases to be filmed will focus on individuals from Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. The documentaries are produced by UNTV in the Department of Public Information. ■





## Countering Terrorist Narratives through the Internet

### Working Groups

As terrorists find themselves under increasing pressure to prove their relevance, they turn to the Internet to reach out to potential supporters by offering simplistic analysis and unrealistic solutions to issues of political, economic and social concern. Countering these messages was at the heart of the discussion at the conference convened by the CTITF Working Group on Countering Terrorist Use of the Internet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 24 to 26 January 2011.

The conference brought together close to 150 senior officials and counter-terrorism experts from governments, international and regional organizations, think tanks, academia and the private sector, as well as representatives from the media.

*The first international conference on Countering Terrorists Narratives held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.*



Some present were keen to form a mechanism that could react quickly and effectively to counter or even preempt narratives disseminated by terrorist groups through the Internet. Others proposed mapping the target audiences, particularly vulnerable communities who had proved susceptible to the terrorist message. There was universal agreement on the need to identify messengers who could deliver counter-narratives with conviction and credibility.

Speaking at the opening session Richard Barrett, the co-Chair of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, said, “we

**Participants were unanimous on the need for action, stressing the importance of deconstructing terrorist messages and crafting counter-narratives while taking into account their local context.**

will focus on the best ways to use the Internet to undermine the appeal of terrorism, to expose its lack of legitimacy and its negative impact and to undermine the credibility of its messengers”.

He pointed to the need to craft messages that resonated with target audiences at an individual and group level. “We need messages that recognize the difficulties and frustrations people face but offer alternatives to violence and are simple and transparent. Identifying the right people to deliver these messages is another key factor”.

Participants were unanimous on the need for action, stressing the importance of deconstructing terrorist messages and crafting counter-narratives while taking into account their local context. They also saw the need to exploit the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of terrorist narratives, for example by highlighting the gap between what the terrorists say and what they actually do. Terrorists are particularly vulnerable on the grounds that the overwhelming majority of their victims come from the communities they claim to protect.

Participants agreed on the value of engaging a wide array of actors in crafting and delivering counter-narratives, including civil society groups, especially victims, as well as the private sector.

The Working Group’s report will reflect the many proposals and suggestions that emerged from this well-attended and lively meeting.

*continues on page 7*



## Strengthening Border Security to Counter Terrorism

### Working Groups

Deterrence of global terrorism includes effective border security systems, processes and measures that could provide early warning of potential threats and deny terrorists and their wares safe passage across borders.

Traditionally, border control efforts have focused on combating document fraud, smuggling, customs fraud and the flow of illicit drugs and weapons, but the terrorist attacks on the United States of 11 September 2001 and those

perpetrated against other States over the intervening decade have prompted governments to consider broader approaches to securing their frontiers against potential terrorist attacks.

### Restrictions at entry points

Governments now apply controls to ensure that people and goods crossing borders comply with international conventions, domestic legislation and related prohibitions and restrictions. While these safeguards help to detect illicit weapons, money and other forms

of assistance used to support terrorists and their criminal activities, political will and cooperation among States is critical.

“A strong commitment at the national level and cooperation across borders can have a big impact in preventing individuals or groups that are intent on carrying out terrorist attacks from slipping through the net”, said Mike Smith, head of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

“International organizations and United Nations entities dealing with border security issues have made key contributions which include international instruments, standards, guidelines and recommended practices; however, these contributions are not centralized and in a few instances not well known”, said Mr. Hassan Baage, CTED representative to the CTITF.

The CTITF Working Group on Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism, which is co-chaired by CTED, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization, is leading the effort to consolidate available counter-terrorism border control information into a compendium.

The compendium that the newly formed Working Group is compiling will provide an added source of guidance to Member States in their efforts to address terrorist threats encountered at their borders. In addition, the CTITF Working Group will consider available reports on new and emerging trends, as well as relevant assessments and studies. Furthermore, the Working Group could organize regional meetings and other events to promote good practices. The Working Group also stands ready to assist States that have specific border management and control needs. ■



Mr. Mike Smith,  
Executive Director,  
CTED.

Left: A man  
crosses a border  
in Timor-Leste.

*continued from page 6*

The conference was organized by the United Nations and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences in Riyadh, in partnership with the Center for Global Counterterrorism Cooperation based in Washington, D.C., and was supported by the Governments of Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The Riyadh conference followed the meetings of both the CTITF Working Group on the legal aspects of the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

in Berlin, Germany, in January 2010, and the Working Group on technical aspects in Seattle, USA, in February 2010.

The Working Group aims to produce practical proposals and recommendations for the consideration of Member States. Subject to further financial support, the Task Force through its Working Group will now collaborate with interested States in crafting and delivering counter-narratives through a range of projects currently under consideration. ■



## Central Asian Initiative in Motion

### Working Groups

Following the September launch last year, the CTITF initiative to support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia kicked off the first in a series of expert meetings in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 15-16 December 2010.

The Bratislava meeting examined the particular and prevailing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism as well as the measures and practices in place to safeguard human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

The strong links between terrorist and organized crime groups, and the spillover effect of instability in the neighboring sub-region, were central in the discussion. “There is a danger of

intensifying activities of various extremist, terrorist and criminal groups and networks operating in Central Asia, fuelled by instability in the wider region and porous borders”, said Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).

The representative of the European Union, Milana Lickova, made a similar observation: “The trafficking of Afghan opium and heroin and the emerging radical extremist movements pose a serious threat to the security not only to the Central Asia countries but to the region as a whole”.

With this initiative in place, CTITF Chairman Jean-Paul Laborde was optimistic that Central Asian would move to combat terrorism more strategically and holistically. “This initiative will include every aspect of counter-terrorism — organized crime linkages, conflict

*Representatives of Central Asian States, regional organizations, UN and EU participating in the first regional meeting to support the implementation of the Global Strategy.*

prevention, improved border management, protecting human rights, promoting dialogue and conducting trainings”.

The next meeting is slated for late March this year and will focus on measures to prevent and combat terrorism, while the third meeting will explore issues related to building and strengthening state capacity to fight terrorism.

Based on the outcomes of the three expert meetings, a regional action plan to be adopted by a ministerial conference will be drafted in the course of the next 18 months. The action plan will consist of a tangible set of initiatives to be pursued jointly by governments, regional and sub-regional organizations and the United Nations to implement the Global Strategy.

CTITF hopes the initiative will also serve as a model for similar regional implementation projects. “This is a unique step since it’s the first time we are doing this with a regional perspective and, therefore, we are also looking at this initiative to set the example for similar future work within other regions”, said Laborde.

The project is a joint initiative of CTITF, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) and the European Union. ■





## Securing Fair Trials for Alleged Terrorists

### Working Groups

Relentless terrorist attacks around the world have triggered counter-terrorism responses which, in some instances, have compromised the fundamental principles of fair trial and due process. Some States continue to use indefinite and incommunicado detention of terrorist suspects without the possibility of review of the legality of the detention. Some States have limited the access to the judicial process to those charged with acts of terrorism, while other States use evidence obtained through torture and ill-treatment, and broaden the use of anonymous witnesses and the kind of evidence that can be withheld from the defence. Guarantees for those charged with terrorist offences, such as access to counsel, are often limited.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism is hosting a series of regional expert symposiums on issues related to the protection of human rights in the context of countering terrorism.

The first meeting, for South East Asia, took place in Bangkok on 17-18 February this year and focused on securing the fundamental principles of a fair trial for persons accused of terrorist offences. Participants included representatives of ministries of justice, judges, prosecutors and other practitioners working specifically on this issue who provided key first-hand practical knowledge from countries in the region, as well as international law experts, representatives of civil society and members of the CTITF.

The expert meeting assessed and analyzed the obstacles and challenges to

implementing the requirements for fair trial as set out in international human rights law and standards; identified other rights key to securing the fundamental requirements of a fair trial in the context of counter-terrorism; and exchanged experiences and good practices to be recommended by and to Member States.

### Due process should be respected regardless of context

Leading CTITF efforts is the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). “States are under the obligation to ensure that all guarantees of due process are respected where any individual is arrested, charged, detained

and prosecuted regardless of the context. Guaranteeing due process rights is critical for ensuring that anti-terrorism measures are effective, respect the rule of law and are seen to be fair”, said Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, in New York.



ASG Ivan Šimonović

He added that “safeguards must be put in place to ensure that anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention is entitled to take proceedings before a court, so that the court may decide on the lawfulness of the detention, and that governments do not act outside the law and do not bypass the judicial process”.

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. ■



## Preventing Terrorist Use of WMD

### Working Groups

When it comes to the growing threat of a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the United Nations and the partners are not taking any chances.

Last year the CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD produced a report on how the existing inter-agency mechanisms would respond to a terrorist attack where nuclear or radiological weapons are used. The Working Group is embarking on a similar project with regard to chemical and biological weapons to be conducted at the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).



The Working Group plans to carry out a comprehensive review of the existing capabilities to identify and address vulnerabilities in the event of such an attack. The level of efficiency in the provision of assistance to affected States will be examined.

A report will be produced with recommendations on what should be done to execute a well coordinated, integrated response and provide support to mitigate a terrorist attack using chemical, biological and toxin.

Meanwhile, the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) conducted a “table-top exercise” to test the preparedness of States to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals in Warsaw, Poland, on 22 November of last year.

This was the first time such an exercise had been organized. It attracted about 150 participants, including government representatives, international and regional organizations and NGOs.

*Left: A team inspects a vehicle for WMDs.*

*Below: Meeting of the Serbian CBRN Team, UNICRI and the European Commission on 19 October 2010.*



*Ahmet Üzümcü,  
Director General of  
the Organization for  
the Prohibition of  
Chemical Weapons.*

At the same event the OPCW promoted the Programme on Chemical Safety and Security, to encourage participating States to exchange experiences and discuss challenges to the safety and security of chemical facilities worldwide.

The OPCW Director-General, Ahmet Üzümcü, described the merits of the initiative: “The Programme on Chemical Safety and Security is intended to contribute to the efforts being made on a global basis to address the danger that non-State actors, including terrorists, may use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons or materials. It will focus on enhancing the preparedness to prevent the malicious use of

toxic chemicals and to address the growing risks associated with terrorism”.

In another development, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is helping the European Commission in creating Centres of Excellence to deal with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation.

The CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) is a network of regional initiatives dedicated to improving national policies and capacities as well as international cooperation in the area of CBRN safety

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## Bringing Terrorists to Justice

Bringing terrorists to justice is a daunting undertaking for prosecutors, in part because many terrorist acts are planned and executed across borders. Increasing international cooperation, harmonizing laws, conducting joint investigations, and simplifying and expediting extradition procedures were central elements agreed by prosecutors as critical in ensuring that terrorists are brought to justice.

**“Experience of Member States shows that despite facing obstacles due to the complexity of terrorism cases, it is possible to bring terrorists to justice while also respecting the rule of law and human rights.”**

Senior counter-terrorism prosecutors and experts from around the world shared views and experiences in bringing terrorists to justice at a three-day seminar hosted by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) last December in New York.

At the opening session of the event, Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, spoke

on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “Your day-to-day work places you on the front lines of denying safe haven, strengthening border controls and pursuing leads, all in the name of bringing terrorists to justice and helping victims and survivors”,

### What was discussed?

Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey and Chair of the CTC in 2010, echoed Migiro’s remarks. “Prosecutors form the essential bridge between law enforcement authorities, who are involved in the arrest and investigation of terrorists, and the judicial authorities, who must determine the level of guilt and punishment to be imposed”.

Topics discussed throughout the seminar included cooperation against terrorism, evidence and witnesses, extradition, investigation of attacks, mutual legal assistance, prevention of terrorism and prosecution of terrorism cases.

A key objective of the seminar was to highlight the successes of Member States

in these critical areas and to acknowledge the challenges encountered by different legal systems. “Their cooperation across borders is vital in countering terrorism, a serious threat to international peace and security”, said Mike Smith, head of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) requires all Member States to bring terrorists to justice. However, the country visits and other activities of the Committee have shown that this requirement poses a major challenge for criminal justice systems.

“Experience of Member States shows that despite facing obstacles due to the complexity of terrorism cases, it is possible to bring terrorists to justice while also respecting the rule of law and human rights”, said Smith.

As a follow-up to the seminar, CTED will submit to the Committee a report for its consideration, compiling challenges and good practices developed and employed by the participating prosecutors. ■



*Deputy Secretary-General  
Asha-Rose Migiro.*



*Ambassador  
Ertuğrul Apakan  
of Turkey.*

*continued from page 10*

and security. Within the framework of CoE, UNICRI and the European Commission promote the establishment of National CBRN Teams.

Serbia is the first country that established a National CBRN Team for the implementation of the initiative. The

Serbian team is composed of experts from different ministries and national bodies. “Many governmental institutions deal with specific areas related to the CBRN issue. Some deal with biological—others with chemical, radiological and nuclear—issues, but the various entities were working in isolation. We had to enhance coordination between ourselves”, said Marko Milivojevic, Serbia’s National Focal Point.

The Centres of Excellence are developed with the involvement and technical support of relevant International/Regional Organizations, EU Member States and other stakeholders through a coherent and effective cooperation at national/regional and international level. For more information on the CoE initiative you can visit the website: [www.cbrn-coe.eu](http://www.cbrn-coe.eu) ■

## Non-Profits Vulnerable to Terrorism Financing

### Working Groups

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) three-year global initiative to prevent abuse of the charitable sector for the purpose of terrorism financing was launched in London on 18 January by the British Minister of State for Security, Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones.

**The non-profit sector is vulnerable to abuse in a number of ways. NPOs can be used to raise, transfer and divert funds for terrorist purposes.**

More than 60 experts and policy-makers from all over the world gathered for a three-day expert group meeting to offer the United Nations advice and guidance on how States can identify risks and prevent financiers of terrorism from abusing charities while ensuring that the dynamism of the non-profit sector is maintained.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) is

leading the initiative on behalf of the CTITF Working Group on Tackling the Financing of Terrorism, in partnership with the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation and the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Representatives of the CTITF Working Group (including IMF, INTERPOL, UNODC, the World Bank and the Monitoring Team of the Security Council “1267 Committee”), the Financial Action Task Force, regional bodies, 21 States and several non-profit organizations (NPOs) also participated.

The non-profit sector is vulnerable to abuse in a number of ways. NPOs can be used to raise, transfer and divert funds for terrorist purposes, to provide direct logistical support to terrorists, or serve as a cover for their operations.

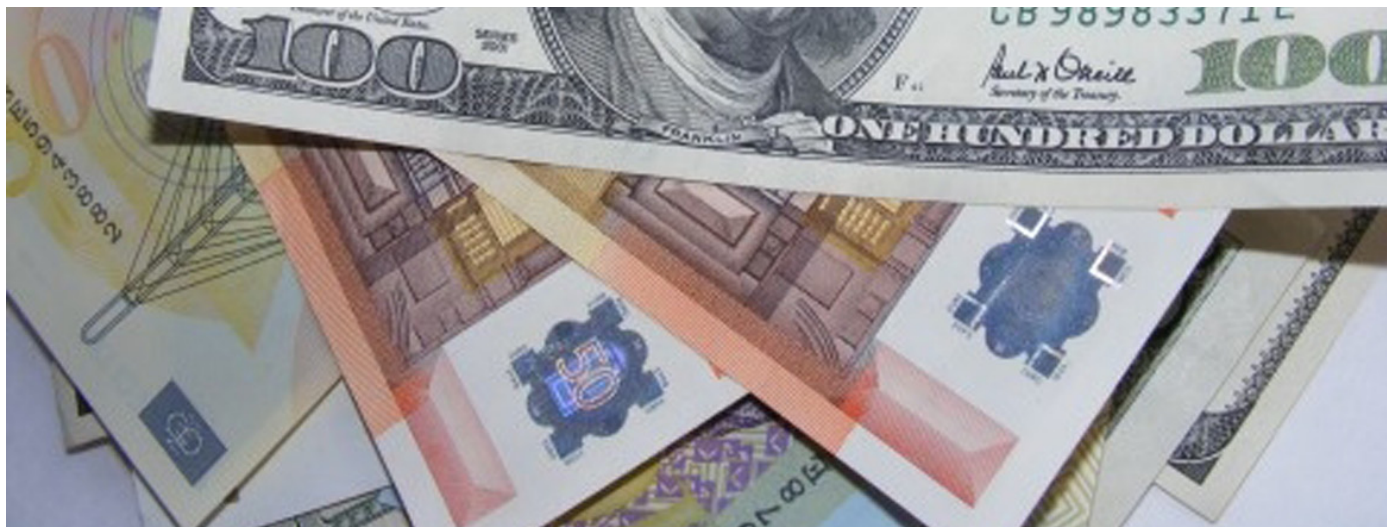
Thankfully, these examples are not the norm. Most NPOs operate responsibly and provide valuable services to the community, especially to those in need. However, it is important that States provide the necessary protection, including through a frank

assessment of risks and vulnerabilities in the highly diverse charitable sector, in order to ensure that they do not suffer the reputation risk that could deter donors from funding.

### Improving transparency in NPOs

Participants in the expert group meeting considered methodologies used around the world, in particular efforts to increase the transparency and accountability of the non-profit sector. They also shared a number of regulatory models and practices that could provide guidance to States in implementing tailor-made solutions to counter the risk of terrorism financing in the non-profit sector. The solutions may vary from one context to another but should all respect fundamental human rights principles, including freedom of association.

The findings and recommendations of the London meeting will serve as a basis for a series of regional events, which are aimed at developing unique regional perspectives on how to successfully address the issue of terrorism financing as it relates to the non-profit sector, and which will eventually feed into capacity-building on a global basis. ■





## Jean-Paul Laborde: Interview with Former CTITF Chairman

After serving as the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) for almost two years, Jean-Paul Laborde returned to France in January 2010 to take up a position as a Judge in the French Supreme Court. In an interview with Verona Lambert, Laborde shared his experience as the leader of the Task Force and his vision as far as the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is concerned.



**Q:** You have been CTITF Chairman for almost two years. How would you describe your experience?

**A:** The first word which comes to my mind is *support*. In the Global Strategy, there are so many issues that should be dealt with under the four pillars by the CTITF entities. These issues require explanation and support to counter-terrorism actions undertaken by the various agencies-members of the Task Force. For example, how to support OHCHR and UNODC in promoting respect for human rights while countering terrorism? How to support DESA and UNDP in their peripheral work which is critical in reducing violent extremism? How to get the CTITF agencies, with diverse mandates, to work together? All of these issues require constant explanation,

**In the Global Strategy, there are so many issues that should be dealt with under the four pillars by the CTITF entities. These issues require explanation and support to counter-terrorism actions undertaken by the various agencies-members of the Task Force.**

liaison, cooperation and coordination, which is the role of the Chairman of the Task Force.

Second word is *push*—the real challenge is to push the [Global] Strategy into its implementation phase with full respect to the equal implementation of the four pillars.

Third word is *help*—securing the necessary help requested by countries to implement the Strategy, especially through the I-ACT or other programmes.

Fourth word is *dialogue*—facilitating the multifaceted and multi-agency dialogue to bridge the gap between Member States and the agencies.

**Q:** What were the challenges as Chair and how did you overcome them?

**A:** Before the GA adopted resolution 64/297 in September 2010, through which we can have a permanent dialogue with Member States briefings, it was really challenging to make the countries understand what the Task Force was doing, to get their input and policy guidance. It was very difficult to

provide programme information with full transparency on the work of the Task Force as a whole and not consider CTITF as an additional agency. Now we have established channels for dialogue with Member States through open briefings, the CTITF website and the Beam.

**Q:** Would you say you have accomplished what you wanted to achieve so far?

**A:** I believe in what has been done and what could be done. When I arrived the CTITF concept, or general framework, was already there, thanks to Bob Orr, but it had to be materialized into a real UN structure. Now we have:

1. The CTITF office to support the agencies;
2. A broader mandate which has established permanent dialogue with Member States;
3. Projects which provide entities with enough funds to achieve common goals through common activities such as countering the abuse of the Internet by terrorists; prevention, response and mitigation of terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction; tackling the financing of terrorism; promoting respect for human rights and etc.

What needs to be done?

1. Enhancing the coordination of projects through a common database.
2. Promoting projects of various agencies every year through briefings to Member States, donors and other stakeholders.
3. Launching of a comprehensive policy to support full implementation of the Strategy.

*continues on page 14*

## UNICRI Visit to Russia

At the invitation of the Russian Peoples' Friendship University of Moscow, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), met with government officials, researchers, civil society representatives and members of the Nizhniy Novgorod Muslim community to discuss policies,

programmes and good practices to counter the appeal of terrorism in the Russian Federation. The mission, which took place on 27-30 October 2010, explored with Russian national and local institutions various ways to enhance the exchange of information on policies to counter the appeal of terrorism, as well

as to establish a platform of cooperation between UNICRI and relevant Universities in Russia.

### Countering the Appeal of Terrorism

The UNICRI Center on Policies to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism was opened in Lucca, Italy, in May 2010, to provide early intervention against terrorist recruitment and radicalization. The Center serves as a platform for Member States to learn from one another and share information and lessons learned about their policies to address a wide range of issues concerning the appeal of terrorism, such as programmes and practices on the prevention of terrorism, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, counter-narratives, specific programmes in prisons and schools, educational programmes, involvement of the civil society, inter-religious and intercultural programmes, and policies that aim at lowering political tensions.

The Center is planning to organize its first workshop in spring 2011 and will deliver its first report in the second semester of the same year. ■



*continued from page 13*

4. Sustaining the flow of information, supported by a regular budget Information Officer in the Task Force.

**Q:** *What's your vision as far as the Strategy is concerned?*

**A:** The Strategy should have one head. Many countries and agencies are confused by the variety of agencies working on United Nations counter-terrorism issues. There should be a conductor, or "Mr. Strategy", who should be the Special Representative of the Secretary-General pioneering the Strategy. The Strategy should have one voice under

**There should be a real programme, politically and financially well-established, to support the victims of terrorist crimes.**

the guidance of the Secretary-General and within framework of DPA.

Also, there should be a real programme, politically and financially well-established, to support the victims of terrorist crimes. At the end, terrorism does have a face and that face is the people who are really suffering from this phenomenon. Every two years,

there should be an evaluation on the impact of the projects. What we have done? What should be pushed forward to implement the Strategy? This will open new avenues for new projects. Terrorism cannot be defeated by law enforcement measures alone, but by a comprehensive approach which should include constructive inter-religious and -ethnic dialogue, education, support to the victims, socio-economic development, political inclusion and so on.

**Q:** *What advice would you give your successor?*

**A:** Be persistent and patient! ■



## Activities of the CTITF Office

### CTITF Initiatives

The CTITF Office organized a consultative meeting on 22 November 2010, bringing together 26 participants representing 14 CTITF entities. The meeting, which was hosted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in New York, aimed to provide a platform for sharing lessons learned, ideas and challenges for the way forward for more effective information-sharing among CTITF entities within the context of the I-ACT Initiative.

The meeting was opened by the Executive Director of CTED, Mike Smith, and the Chair of CTITF, Jean-Paul Laborde. Both speakers highlighted the importance of information-sharing and the value added of the I-ACT information-sharing system in this regard.

The participants were given an in-depth training on the use of the I-ACT information-sharing and content management system. They also benefited from briefings by representatives of Burkina Faso and Nigeria, the two current I-ACT partnering states on their governments' counter-terrorism measures and priorities.

I-ACT is one of the most advanced tools for information-sharing within the UN, and provides an additional layer to the coordination role of the CTITF Office. The CTITF Office aims to further strengthen the informal group of working-level focal points to foster support for the I-ACT Initiative, as well as CTITF activities more broadly. ■

**I-ACT is one of the most advanced tools for information-sharing within the UN, and provides an additional layer to the coordination role of the CTITF Office.**

## CTITF Holds Open Briefing for Member States

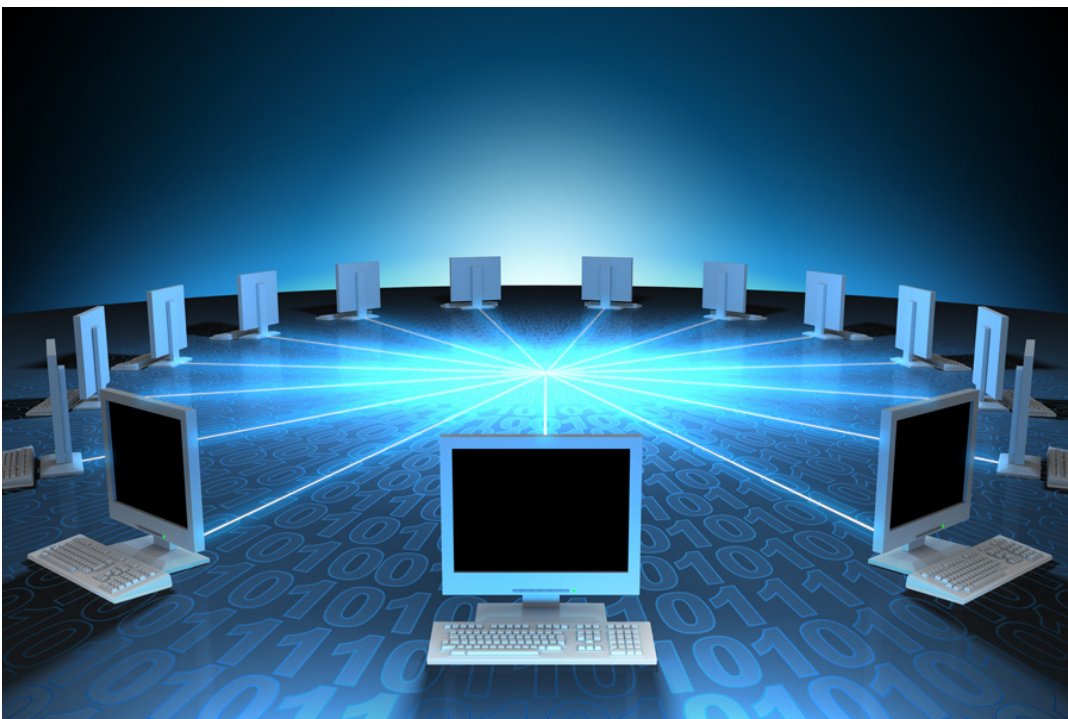
On 28 September 2010, the CTITF office, together with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized a briefing for Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the UN in Vienna on their activities in helping Member States implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Chair of the CTITF briefed the Member States on the mandate and activities of the CTITF, particularly on the planned activities in Central Asia, Sahel and on the I-ACT Initiative, as well as on the outcome of the second review of the Global Strategy and the side-events that took place during the review in September 2010.

The CTITF Chairman participated in the South-East Europe (SEE) Regional Coordination Conference on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation held in Sarajevo on 30 November – 1 December 2010.

The Conference served as a forum for both Member States from the SEE region and international and regional actors to discuss the Regional Strategic Document on Justice and Home Affairs for 2011-2013 and action plan. Several speakers stressed the need for better coordination and the usefulness of a joint database for activities in the region. The CTITF office gave a short overview on the I-ACT initiative and the I-ACT information

*continues on page 16*



system as an example of a coordination mechanism system that could be adapted in this regard. ■

On 22 December 2010, the CTITF Chairman, Jean-Paul Laborde, briefed Member States on the significant progress and achievements made by the Task Force in its coordination role, as well as on projects designed to support countries in implementing the Global Strategy. The CTITF work centred around several areas: victims of terrorist crimes, preventing and responding to WMD attacks, tackling the financing of terrorism, protection of human rights, and the Integrated Assistance on Countering Terrorism, (I-ACT); countering the abuse of the internet by terrorists and exploring public-private partnerships on counter-terrorism issues; border management; building in-depth knowledge of the Global Strategy; and communications and outreach.

“My purpose is to provide a snapshot of the range of topics on which CTITF entities are engaged in, and it is

## 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 30 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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Above: *The United Nations General Assembly in session.*

only growing at this stage. For example, in 2011, CTITF has invited UNIDO and the Alliance of Civilization to join the Task Force. CTITF’s focus on supporting victims of terrorist crimes will intensify through a media training programme for victims, as well as a study on financial support for them. UNODC is spearheading the study on criminal justice response to supporting victims”, Laborde reported.

The speech provides a complete overview of CTITF activities and can be accessed on the CTITF website.

Laborde also briefed Members of the European Union (EU) on the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) initiative for Central Asia on 20 December 2010. The briefing was in the margins of the first experts’ meeting held in Bratislava on 15-16 December. The initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) located in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and sponsored by the EU. ■

## Staff Movement in CTITF Office

Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah joined CTITF Office in December last year. Before joining the CTITF Office he was Director of the Office of the Spokesman in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. He has vast experience of multilateral counter-terrorism issues. He served at Pakistan Missions in New York and Pretoria. He holds a masters degree in Economics. He is currently Officer in Charge of the CTITF Office.

Ms. Irma Lacey retired from the United Nations in December last year after serving in various offices of the United Nations. The CTITF Office is grateful for her long service and dedication to the work of the United Nations. ■

