



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

2021 Second Counter-Terrorism Week

Countering and Preventing Terrorism in the Age of Transformative Technologies: Addressing the Challenges of the New Decade

Side Event: Innovative Ways for Counter-Terrorism Training and Capacity-Building: Opening of the New UNOCT Training Office in Rabat

Concept note

Thursday, 24 June 2021

10:00 – 10:45 EST / 3:00 – 3:45 UCT+1

Background

On 6 October 2020, Morocco and UNOCT signed the Host Country Agreement establishing the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, based in Rabat. The Office will serve as a regional counter-terrorism training hub.

Together with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Programme Office will develop capacity-building assistance in the form of accredited training programmes that leverage local, regional and international expertise to deliver specialized skills training. Developing the capacities of Member States to investigate complex cases, make well-formulated decisions and gather evidence in support of investigative activities is essential to all counter-terrorism efforts. The best way to accomplish these efforts is by raising professional standards through advanced and specialized counter-terrorism-related training, as envisioned by the Rabat Programme Office.

Objectives

The Programme Office will directly respond to the recommendations, gaps and needs identified during several assessments undertaken by the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), including its Trend report from March 2018 on returning foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). It will address common challenges shared by many Member States in Africa such as lack of specialist training courses, poor intra- and inter-agency cooperation, need for developing and implementing comprehensive investigative, border security management (BSM), and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) strategies that address counter-terrorism, and lack of guidance and reference tools to support States in enhancing investigations, BSM and PRR processes.

Taking into account these challenges, the Programme Office will aim to ensure:

- The identification and development of a cadre of specialist national and regional trainers;

- The development of national counter-terrorism policing, BSM, prison management, prevention, deradicalization and reintegration curricula comprising the national standards for learning and development (and related national qualifications and assessments), together with a comprehensive range of learning programmes and materials;
- The identification, development and promotion of good practices within safe learning environments;
- The provision of knowledge, skills and tools specific to the professional development of those working in specialist counter-terrorism, BSM, prison management, prevention, deradicalization and reintegration roles;
- The identification, development and promotion of ethics, values and standards of integrity, as well as the protection of human rights;
- The building of adequate and necessary capacity to investigate and disrupt terrorist plots while ensuring the integrity of evidence-based prosecution efforts;
- The improvement of national, regional and international partners' capacity to share covert investigatory information and evidence with national, regional and international authorities; and
- The development of regionally tailored training materials to be used by prison staff, post-release programmes and specialists involved in disengagement work.

The Programme Office will work with partners to ensure that all training products and programmes are accredited by respected academic or professional institutions.

Draft programme

- Opening ceremony
- Opening remarks by H.E. Mr, Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates
- Opening remarks by Mr. Voronkov Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT
- Remarks by H.E. Mr. Mouhamadou Youssifou, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroun in Morocco, Dean of African Ambassadors in Rabat
- Remarks by Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, the UN Resident Coordinator in Morocco
- Remarks by Mr. Carlos Reis, Head of UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Rabat, Morocco
- Q&A with press corps