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## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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**Integration and coordination of efforts by the  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by  
Member States in the field of crime prevention and  
criminal justice: ratification and implementation of  
the international instruments to prevent and  
combat terrorism**

## Technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report reviews the progress made in 2016 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in supporting Member States with the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, as well as the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The report also highlights key achievements of the Branch in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and the evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations, including on the need for enhanced support to meet those challenges, for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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\* [E/CN.15/2017/1](#).



## I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the key activities conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in 2016. The Branch, through its Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, further enhanced its provision of technical assistance to Member States, upon request, with a view to supporting their criminal justice systems in efficiently responding to terrorism while respecting human rights and the rule of law.
2. The UNODC mandate in terrorism prevention has been reiterated in several United Nations resolutions. In particular, in its resolution 70/177, entitled “Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism”, the General Assembly requested UNODC to continue its work, including in supporting Member States to counter emerging threats. The resolution also stressed the need for UNODC to further strengthen its work related to specialized areas, such as the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the financing of terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters, among others.
3. UNODC is one of the key contributors to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular its pillar III, which focuses on counter-terrorism capacity-building. In its resolution 70/291 entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review”, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the capacity-building activities undertaken by United Nations entities, including UNODC, and encouraged the Office to further enhance the delivery of its counter-terrorism technical assistance to Member States.
4. Another important development was a thematic discussion on terrorism prevention held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna on 24 May 2016. To facilitate the discussion, UNODC made available a discussion guide on criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism, and technical assistance in support of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols ([E/CN.15/2016/6](#)).
5. In its technical assistance delivery, the Office draws on its unique field presence, with UNODC terrorism prevention experts currently based in Colombia, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Uzbekistan. UNODC plans to continue strengthening its network of terrorism prevention experts in the field and the working relationship between headquarters and field staff.
6. Its mandate, expertise and operations enabled the Office to be uniquely positioned to address the increasingly complex and multidimensional nature of terrorism in a coherent, comprehensive manner. UNODC maintains specialized technical competence in crime prevention, criminal justice and rule of law issues, all of which have a close connection to the practical ways and means of preventing and suppressing terrorism. The Office takes advantage of these synergies to address all types of crimes in an integrated manner.

## II. Delivery of technical assistance

7. The key objective of UNODC work on terrorism prevention is to strengthen the criminal justice response to terrorism. This is done by promoting the ratification of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and assisting with their incorporation into national legislation; building the capacity of national officials to implement counter-terrorism legislation, including with regard to newly emerging threats; and promoting international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through facilitating requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

8. In 2016, the Branch continued working closely with recipient countries in order to tailor technical assistance to their specific priorities and national context. New programmes were developed for, inter alia, Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Nigeria, as well as for countries in Central, South and South-East Asia. Despite the lack of funding, consultations continued on the next phase of technical assistance for Afghanistan.

9. The Branch also assisted national authorities of Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Mali and Yemen, which requested support in strengthening their national counter-terrorism strategies in the parts related to the work of the Branch. UNODC also further contributed to the development and implementation of national and regional strategies in the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group of the whole.

## **A. Technical assistance activities**

### **1. Ratification and legislative assistance**

10. In 2016, UNODC continued to provide legislative assistance to requesting Member States for the harmonization of their national legislation with the provisions of the international legal instruments against terrorism. This work contributed to 21 new ratifications of those instruments by assisted Member States and to the drafting and review of 14 additional pieces of counter-terrorism legislation.

11. UNODC further advanced its work with parliamentarians and policymakers and enhanced cooperation and coordination with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. The Executive Director of UNODC attended the 10th plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly, held in Tirana on 18 and 19 February. The Office entered into the strategic partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union through the development of a joint initiative to promote the collective parliamentary response to terrorism, and contributed to a session of the Union's 134th Plenary Assembly, held in Lusaka from 19 to 23 March.

12. During the period under review, legislative assistance was provided to several Member States, including Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, and Turkmenistan. The Branch continued to support the Government of Tunisia in its implementation of the new counter-terrorism legislation and national strategy, which were both developed with the substantive contribution of UNODC.

13. Throughout 2016, UNODC, the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Iraqi authorities worked closely together to review the country's draft counter-terrorism law and the Iraqi draft law on the freezing of terrorists' assets. For this purpose, the Office held two legislative meetings in Vienna, in April and October.

14. Additionally, legal advice was provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 5 and 6 October, UNODC, in cooperation with that country's National Coordination Committee against Terrorism, organized a national seminar on the draft counter-terrorism law in Kinshasa.

15. UNODC legal advisory services were also instrumental in the review of Sri Lanka's draft counter-terrorism legislation in order to ensure its compliance with the international obligations, standards and norms related to the criminalization, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of crimes related to terrorism. The Branch also responded to the request of the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat to assist in the revision of its model counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime legislation, including at the Pacific Legislative Drafting Workshop held by the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat in Auckland on 18 and 19 May 2016.

## 2. Capacity-building to implement counter-terrorism legislation

16. During the reporting period, the Branch's capacity-building focused on a broad range of specialized areas of counter-terrorism, including emerging issues, in line with the needs and priorities of recipient Governments. Through a series of national and regional activities, the participants were provided with in-depth knowledge and skills required to apply counter-terrorism legislation in their daily work and investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases more effectively, as well as strengthening their capacity to cooperate regionally and internationally.

17. National capacity-building has been provided to, inter alia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Overall, the Office assisted 50 Member States and carried out 90 national and regional workshops through which 2,369 criminal justice officials were trained, 351 of which were female.

18. In addition to ongoing programmes, UNODC initiated several new technical assistance projects. In May, the Office launched the next phase of a multi-year European Union-funded partnership of Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for strengthening the capacity of Nigerian criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases, in accordance with the rule of law and human rights. Furthermore, in Abuja from 13 to 15 December, at the request of the Nigeria's Office of the National Security Advisor, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate held technical consultations and a high-level segment for Nigeria to consider approaches for prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating persons associated with Boko Haram.

19. A project on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism in the Middle East should also be noted. The increasing number of violent extremist prisoners pose a new set of challenges for prison administrations. In this context, UNODC provided training to officials from Iraq, Jordan and Yemen on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence, held in Jordan from 8 to 10 November.

### (a) Suppressing the financing of terrorism

20. Preventing terrorists from accessing financial resources is crucial to successfully countering the threat they represent. The evolving nature of terrorist financing poses a challenge to policymakers, legislators, prosecuting authorities and the judiciary in disrupting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating related crimes.

21. In 2016, UNODC continued to strengthen the ability of Member States, upon request, to implement measures against the financing of terrorism, pursuant to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, relevant Security Council resolutions, and the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. The Office further enhanced its capacity-building on aspects of investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorist financing, freezing, seizing and confiscating terrorist assets, detecting and disrupting illicit flows used to finance terrorism, and strengthening regional and international cooperation.

22. In these efforts, the Branch works closely with the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, as well as with relevant United Nations entities, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

23. In 2016, UNODC activities on investigation and judicial responses to the financing of terrorism included a regional workshop on countering the financing of terrorism for the Maghreb countries, held with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in Algiers from 2 to 4 February; eight sessions of Colombia's inter-institutional committee to prevent and counter terrorism and its financing; specialized training on judicial responses to emerging threats posed by terrorism financing for Yemen, held in Amman from 19 to 21 May; and national workshops on countering the financing of terrorism for Algeria and Nigeria, held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July, and in Abuja from 12 to 14 July and from 18 to 21 October.

24. UNODC mock criminal investigations and mock trials on terrorism, terrorist financing and linkages to serious related crimes continued to be utilized as relevant and efficient training methods in technical assistance delivery. Six mock criminal investigations and trials on the financing of terrorism were held in Colombia and Argentina; and four moot courts on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related offences were held to the benefit of criminal justice officials from Jordan and Yemen.

25. During the period under review, UNODC also kept exploring ways to address the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism. For this purpose, on 17 October, the Branch organized a high-level meeting on strengthening criminal justice responses to the phenomenon of terrorists benefiting from links with transnational organized crime, on the margins of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was held in Vienna.

26. In 2016, the Office also kept working with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to address the illicit sale of antiquities for the purposes of terrorism financing. For example, detailed sessions on trafficking in antiquities were part of a workshop for officials from Yemen held in Amman from 19 to 21 May.

27. Kidnapping for ransom remains a source of income for terrorist groups. Upon request from countries of the Middle East and North Africa, UNODC delivered a regional workshop on preventing and denying the benefits of kidnapping for ransom by terrorists in Jordan from 7 to 9 November.

**(b) Addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters**

28. The flow of foreign terrorist fighters to armed conflict zones and their return to their countries of origin poses numerous specific challenges to criminal justice officials and investigators at the national and transnational levels and at all stages of the criminal justice process.

29. In 2016, UNODC further advanced the implementation of its initiative on criminal justice responses to foreign terrorist fighters for countries of the Middle East and North Africa and South-Eastern Europe. Through that initiative, UNODC seeks to strengthen national legal frameworks and criminal justice capacity to efficiently respond to the foreign terrorist fighter threat and implement requirements of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). In addition to national capacity-building, the Branch partnered with the Hedayah centre to organize an international conference on preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism as related to the threat posed by such fighters, which was held in Abu Dhabi from 26 to 28 April.

30. The delivery of technical assistance to four Central Asian countries on criminal justice capacity-building to counter emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters, also progressed well. The project focuses on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), mainly on preventive measures, legal challenges and criminalization of related offences and respective regional cooperation.

31. The following workshops were organized:

(a) A national workshop for Algeria on the investigation and prosecution of foreign terrorist fighter cases, held in Algiers from 19 to 21 January;

(b) Three national workshops, for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, on criminal justice capacity-building to counter emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters, held in coordination with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in Astana on 12 and 13 May, in Bishkek on 9 and 10 August, and in Dushanbe on 21 and 22 December;

(c) A regional workshop for Sahel countries on strengthening subregional capacity to better address the foreign terrorist fighter threat through border management and control, held in Dakar from 26 to 28 July;

(d) A regional workshop on countering the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon: administrative measures and regional and international cooperation mechanisms, held jointly with OSCE in Bishkek from 4 to 6 October;

(e) A subregional workshop for Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon on regional judicial cooperation in foreign terrorist fighter cases, held in Beirut from 15 to 17 November;

(f) A national workshop for Iraq on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of foreign terrorist fighter cases, held in Beirut on 7 and 8 December.

**(c) Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes**

32. Following the biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 30 June and 1 July 2016, the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/291, specifically expressed concern at the increasing use, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts.

33. In 2016, UNODC continued to provide specialized training on legal and practical aspects of the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases involving the use of the Internet, in both the national and international contexts, the use of sophisticated technical equipment, the preservation and recovery of digital evidence, and the use of social networks. It also focused on anonymous web browsing and analysis of communication channels used by terrorists, as well as on the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the freedoms of expression and association, in investigating and prosecuting Internet-based terrorist offences. To support its technical assistance delivery, the Branch continued to extensively utilize its publication *The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*.

34. In providing its technical assistance, UNODC enjoys excellent partnerships with the Cyberterrorism Group of the Spanish Guardia Civil and the Special Operations Group of the Italian Carabinieri, as well as the Counter-Terrorism Command of the London Metropolitan Police Service. Study tours on the premises of these specialized police services and the demonstration of relevant methodologies and equipment used in the investigation of Internet-based terrorist offences demonstrated its particular efficiency and relevance. In collaboration with the Italian Carabinieri, in Velletri, Italy, from 18 to 22 April, the Office organized a one-week training for Libya on the use of special investigation techniques in criminal investigation of digital communications channels. In Madrid from 2 to 4 June, another training session on the use of special investigation techniques in criminal investigations was carried out by UNODC with the Cyberterrorism Unit of the Spanish Guardia Civil for Yemeni officials.

35. Furthermore, the Branch attended the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on preventing the exploitation of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, held in New York on 30 November and 1 December.

**(d) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism**

36. During the period under review, UNODC, in line with its mandate, continued to promote the ratification and implementation of the seven international legal instruments which, to varying degrees, deal with the criminalization of certain acts by non-State actors involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, as well as the implementation of relevant obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

37. The multi-year efforts of UNODC in promoting those instruments contributed to the milestone entry-into-force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on 8 May.

38. UNODC also continued to promote the implementation of the legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism at the national level. In 2016, the Office contributed to the review of Turkmenistan's legislation to implement conventions and protocols related to such terrorism and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

39. The Office further advanced the provision of technical assistance on preventing and countering the dual use of chemical materials for terrorist purposes, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization and building on the recommendations of its Programme Global Shield. To that end, two specialized visits were held for relevant authorities from Iraq, held in Tokyo in February and London in March, in order to expose them to counter-terrorism criminal justice policies and good practices, including as related to preventing the dual use of chemical materials.

40. To further promote legal instruments related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, UNODC released a new module on *The International Legal Framework against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism*, developed in cooperation with Member States and relevant international entities and institutions.

41. In delivering technical assistance related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, UNODC continued to partner with relevant entities, such as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its Group of Experts, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

42. In its capacity of observer, UNODC participated in the tenth anniversary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, held in the Hague on 15 and 16 June. Moreover, the Office contributed to a workshop on new and emerging threats to nuclear security held by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in Vienna on 29 February and 1 March, and participated, as part of the delegation of the Secretary-General, in the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., on 31 March and 1 April.

43. The Office also substantively contributed to several events on promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). These include a regional seminar for African parliamentarians held by the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in partnership with the 1540 Committee and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (Abidjan, 22-23 February); and an OSCE seminar for national points of contact for implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (Kaliningrad, the Russian Federation, 28-30 June).

**(e) Addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences**

44. Civil aviation and maritime navigation have been and continue to be vulnerable targets for terrorist groups. To counter and prevent terrorist attacks against means of transportation, UNODC continued to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the transport-related counter-terrorism legal instruments and strengthen the capacity of criminal justice officials to implement these standards. To

that end, the Branch continued to use its counter-terrorism legal training module on transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences, which was developed in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2014.

45. In the framework of the project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in Jordan, UNODC organized a national workshop on transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences in Amman from 25 to 27 October. The event was particularly relevant in view of Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), adopted by the Council at its meeting on 22 September related to the threat terrorism poses to civil aviation.

46. The Office also continued maintaining close working relations with other international organizations dealing with transportation security. In this context, for example, UNODC contributed to a national legal workshop for Tunisia on the implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, held by IMO in Tunis from 20 November to 2 December.

**(f) Providing assistance and support to victims of acts of terrorism**

47. The General Assembly, in various resolutions, recognized the importance of incorporating effective measures related to the status, rights and role of victims of terrorism into legal and criminal justice responses to counter-terrorism.

48. In 2016, the Branch continued, upon request, to build the capacity of Member States to address the needs of victims of terrorism before, during and after criminal justice proceedings. To that end, UNODC organized national training sessions in Algeria (Algiers, 1-3 March), Lebanon (jointly with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Beirut, 9-10 November) and Yemen (Cairo, 29 July-1 August).

49. Building upon its earlier technical assistance in the region, UNODC made good progress in the delivery of a project for Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and the Philippines on supporting measures to strengthen the rights and the role of victims of terrorism within national criminal justice and counter-terrorism frameworks. In that context, UNODC delivered technical assistance at the national level to the Maldives (Male, 17-18 August) and Indonesia (Jakarta, 25 October), and at the subregional level to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and the Philippines (Bangkok, 20-21 September).

50. Furthermore, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance on victimology to Afghanistan. To that end, the Office organized a workshop for Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on 9 and 10 March, and an expert group meeting in Vienna on 1 and 2 December, jointly with the University of Sussex.

51. Furthermore, upon an invitation from the office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, UNODC substantively contributed to a conference on supporting victims of terrorism held in New York on 11 February.

**(g) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism**

52. In 2016, UNODC further mainstreamed human rights into all aspects of its counter-terrorism legislative and capacity-building assistance. Human rights norms and good practices are integral elements of the technical assistance addressing such thematic areas such as special investigation techniques, the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism, foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization, parliamentary supervision of counter-terrorism measures, the rights of victims and witnesses of acts of terrorism.

53. In addition to integrating human rights elements into ongoing projects, since 2013 UNODC has been implementing a dedicated human rights component with a view to strengthening national capacity to apply human rights norms, standards and good practices in countering terrorism. To reinforce efforts in this regard, the

Branch continued to utilize its module “Human rights in the criminal justice responses to terrorism”, developed in 2014 in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

54. Technical assistance activities on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism at the national level were held for Mauritania (with OHCHR, Nouakchott, 11-13 October), and the Niger (Niamey, 28-30 November), and, at the regional level, for Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia (with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Marrakech, 19-21 July).

55. UNODC, in collaboration with the Nigerian Bar Association, also delivered workshops for Nigeria’s criminal defence and human rights lawyers on human rights in the investigation, prosecution and trial of terrorism cases.

56. The treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups continued to pose a great challenge to many Member States that have been seeking technical assistance from UNODC. In 2016, the Branch co-organized with the UNODC Justice Section several activities in the framework of a project addressing the treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. The project is being implemented with substantive contributions from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and OHCHR. Technical assistance was delivered at the national level for the Niger (Niamey, 20-22 September) and Tunisia (9 March), and at the subregional level for Sahel countries (Dakar, 1-3 June), and for Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon (Amman, 18-20 July). From 13 to 15 December, UNODC organized an expert group meeting on this topic for the development of a handbook, to be published in 2017.

57. To mainstream a gender perspective in counter-terrorist measures, UNODC also initiated first technical assistance delivery to Iraq on preventing and suppressing the recruitment of women by terrorist groups. The workshop was held in Hurghada, Egypt, from 6 to 8 September 2016, and examined the phenomenon of female recruitment by terrorist groups in general, drivers for its growth, and the legal framework governing how to combat it. The Office also partnered with OHCHR to start a capacity-building initiative on gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism. It will be launched in 2017 with pilot technical assistance for West Africa.

#### **(h) Developing technical assistance tools**

58. Since its establishment in 2003, the Branch has developed 40 technical assistance tools, such as practical guides, handbooks, manuals and counter-terrorism legal training modules, which it has used as an integral part of its capacity-building activities.

59. Throughout 2016, the Branch has been devoting a great deal of effort to the development of several new publications and tools. UNODC complemented its counter-terrorism legal training curriculum with a new module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. On 16 June in Bogotá, the Office launched a guide for criminal investigation for the Colombian judicial police, which was developed by UNODC with the support of the Ministry of Justice of Colombia and the Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation of Spain. UNODC has been also reviewing its module 2, on the universal legal framework against terrorism, of the counter-terrorism legal training curriculum, and is working on a new publication on countering terrorism in the international law context. Both new tools will be made available in 2017.

60. The online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform continued to be an important tool for capacity-building training and now has 1,496 users from more than 125 countries. In 2016, the Branch continued focusing on expanding the thematic coverage of online courses and live events. A new online course addressing human rights-related aspects while countering terrorism has been created. The development

of online courses addressing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes has also started.

61. In addition, UNODC maintained its Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism database ([www.unodc.org/tldb](http://www.unodc.org/tldb)) and the Observatory of Jurisprudence for the Americas on counter-terrorism, its financing and serious related crimes ([www.observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co](http://www.observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co)).

**(i) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions**

62. To further promote professional legal training on counter-terrorism issues, the Office continued strengthening its partnerships with criminal justice sector training institutions.

63. In 2016, UNODC conducted missions to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> to meet with judicial training institutions and national authorities for the development of training materials on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases involving foreign terrorist fighters in South-Eastern Europe. To that end, the Office also convened an expert group to review training materials under development in Vienna on 6 and 7 September.

64. To further increase the impact and sustainability of the human rights component, in 2016, UNODC delivered several human rights-related train-the-trainer workshops for Libya, Nigeria and Tunisia. For example, in July, UNODC launched a train-the-trainers course on human rights and counter-terrorism for Nigeria, and delivered in Abuja three of four workshops planned under this initiative (12-15 July, 30 August-2 September, and 21-25 November).

65. Jointly with the Tunisian national institute for the training of the judiciary, the Office has been developing training modules on respecting human rights and the rule of law in gathering evidence in terrorism cases, police custody and pretrial detention of suspects in terrorism cases, and children associated with violent extremist and terrorist groups. UNODC also advanced its work on the development of training materials on human rights and criminal justice responses for Kenya, the launch of which is planned for March 2017.

**3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism**

66. The increasing number of cross-border investigations poses a major challenge to practitioners and requires more efficient, faster cooperation between Member States. National criminal justice officials encounter diverse types of challenges, especially while investigating cases involving individuals, evidence, witnesses, victims or the proceeds of the crime located across borders.

67. On 12 December, the Security Council held a high-level open briefing on international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, at which the Council adopted resolution 2322 (2016), seeking to further strengthen the international response to terrorism. The resolution, inter alia, recognized the role of UNODC in promoting cooperation among Member States in order to efficiently prevent terrorist acts and bring terrorists to justice. Prior to the briefing, UNODC, together with the Government of Spain and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, held a side event entitled “Enhancing counter-terrorism international cooperation: 24/7”.

68. In line with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), UNODC intends to further enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the provision of its technical assistance to Member States,

<sup>1</sup>All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

upon request, to promote international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters, especially with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance.

69. In 2016, the Office continued promoting inter-State cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism by facilitating requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition. To that end, UNODC further supported the effective functioning of the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries. In addition to the sixth annual meeting of the platform focal points (Dakar, 28-30 March), briefings were organized to promote the platform in Mali and Senegal. Building on the positive results achieved in the Sahel, the Office intends to support the establishment of a similar platform for Central African countries, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources.

70. Aspects of international judicial cooperation are incorporated into all technical assistance activities, including on emerging threats. Below are examples of assistance delivered in 2016 to promote, inter alia, inter-State cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism:

(a) A regional workshop for Maghreb and Sahel countries on strengthening mutual legal assistance in terrorism cases, including in connection with organized crime, held in Tunis from 21 to 23 March;

(b) A regional workshop on the use and exchange by judicial authorities of intelligence and classified information in terrorism cases for the Maghreb and Sahel regions, held in Tunis from 19 to 21 April;

(c) A specialized training workshop for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries on the use of special digital communication channels, held with the office of the permanent observer for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to the United Nations in Vienna from 26 to 29 September.

71. In addition to regional-level assistance, workshops on various aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism were carried out for Algeria (Algiers, 24 May), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa, 22-24 March), Mali (Bamako, 27-29 September), Nigeria (Abuja, 21-23 June and 20-22 September) and the Niger (Niamey, 22-24 November).

72. Effective coordination among all entities that deal with terrorism is also essential at the domestic level. UNODC assistance to Iraq on the reform of the Iraqi financial intelligence unit and its cooperation with the national and international stakeholders in counter-terrorism matters constitute an excellent example of such support.

## **B. Partnerships**

73. Partnerships with entities of the United Nations system and subregional, regional and international organizations have contributed to enhanced coordination and cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance to Member States, including through joint implementation of several projects.

### **1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force**

74. To ensure that its counter-terrorism work is carried out in the broader context of United Nations system-wide efforts, UNODC continued actively participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and cooperating with the Task Force entities, including through the Task Force's working groups, and the Task Force's Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative.

75. In 2016, UNODC contributed to the elaboration of the I-ACT framework for the Group of Five Sahel countries (Sahel G-5) and worked with other entities of the Task Force within the I-ACT in order to further enhance the capacity of Burkina

Faso, Mali and Nigeria to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

76. UNODC kept partnering with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. In 2016, UNODC successfully finalized a three-year delivery of mock trials on countering the financing of terrorism for Argentina and Colombia, which were funded by the Counter-Terrorism Centre. UNODC and the Centre were also working closely on the development of new joint projects, including a project on managing violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

77. Throughout 2016, UNODC participated in all the thematic working groups of the Task Force. The Office efficiently chaired the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on countering the financing of terrorism, with the Task Force's office; chaired the working group on legal and criminal justice responses to counter terrorism, with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate; and co-chaired, with the Executive Directorate, a working group on border management and law enforcement.

78. Additionally, the Branch efficiently coordinated the contribution of UNODC to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's foreign terrorist fighter capacity-building plan, comprising projects of Task Force entities to support Member States in their efforts to stem the flow of such fighters. Ten of the 37 proposed projects were submitted by UNODC.

79. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's working group on preventing violent extremism. In that context, the Executive Director of UNODC participated in the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations at Geneva on 7 and 8 April 2016, and in the meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group to Prevent Violent Extremism held in New York on 27 October.

80. UNODC also substantively contributed to the working groups on supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; protecting critical infrastructure, vulnerable targets, the Internet and tourism security; and protecting human rights while countering terrorism. The Branch regularly participates in the meetings of the working group of the whole on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies and its activities.

## **2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism**

81. The counter-terrorism work of UNODC is carried out in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. In 2016, UNODC participated in the Committee's assessment visits to Kyrgyzstan and Kenya in February, to Sri Lanka in April, and to Kazakhstan in May. The Committee and its Executive Directorate, in turn, provided guidance on countries in need of assistance and participated in UNODC activities, providing briefings on the role of the Committee and the priorities identified in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent resolutions.

82. During the period under review, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in their respective capacities, have been jointly implementing the following projects funded by the European Union: (a) a project on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb; (b) the Nigeria/European Union/UNODC/Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate partnership programme on strengthening criminal justice responses for multidimensional security (terrorism); and (c) the UNODC five-year initiative on criminal justice responses to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

83. Cooperation continued with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

84. The Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) remained an important UNODC counterpart on issues related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. To that end, the Office attended an informal meeting of the Committee in Madrid on 12 and 13 May and a training course for the points of contacts for the 1540 Committee from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Committee in Santiago from 24 to 26 October.

### **3. Partnerships with other organizations**

85. In addition to the entities mentioned above, in order to enhance the effectiveness of its technical assistance activities, in 2016 the Branch worked with the following international and regional organizations: Arab Maghreb Union; Academic Council on the United Nations System, African Union Commission and African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism; Council of Europe, Department for Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, European Union including the European Parliament, Eurojust, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, European Court of Human Rights, Financial Action Task Force, Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, Global Counterterrorism Forum, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, Gulf Cooperation Council, Sahel G-5 secretariat, IAEA, INTERPOL, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, League of Arab States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, OHCHR, OSCE, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre, Special Tribunal for Lebanon, UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

86. In 2016, UNODC further enhanced its cooperation and policy dialogue with the European Union and its entities. Particularly instrumental is the generous financial support of the European Union for several UNODC projects, including multi-year programmes for Nigeria and the Maghreb, and for the UNODC initiative on the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters for the Middle East and North Africa and South-Eastern Europe.

87. UNODC further enhanced coordination and cooperation with OSCE. The two organizations jointly delivered three national workshops, as well as one regional workshop for Central Asian countries. In 2016, UNODC also participated in several OSCE events related to the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, including an OSCE counter-terrorism conference on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (Berlin, 31 May-1 June), and a seminar for Uzbekistan on universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and other international and regional legal instruments related to terrorism (Tashkent, 14-16 September).

88. IAEA remained an important partner for UNODC for the promotion of the international legal instruments related to nuclear security. As part of this ongoing cooperation, the Office contributed to the 11th IAEA Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting (Vienna, 11-12 April), and the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions (Vienna, 5-9 December).

89. UNODC continued to partner with INTERPOL in the development and delivery of capacity-building in the field and online activities through the UNODC online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform. The areas for cooperation include the

investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases, countering the financing of terrorism, including trafficking in antiquities, disrupting the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and facilitating international cooperation in terrorism-related cases. As part of this ongoing partnership, UNODC contributed, inter alia, to a seminar for Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional stakeholders on countering the use of social media for terrorist purposes, held by INTERPOL in Singapore from 13 to 15 July.

90. The African Union Commission, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Economic Community of West African States, the Sahel G-5 secretariat and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development also remained important UNODC partners, especially when delivering technical assistance to countries of sub-Saharan Africa. For example, UNODC attended the meeting of the Sahel G-5 secretariat, held in Mauritania on 8 and 9 November.

91. During the period under review, UNODC continued to participate in meetings of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in particular its working groups on capacity-building in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, the rule of law and criminal justice and foreign terrorist fighters. The Office contributed to the development of the new Global Counterterrorism Forum Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counter-Terrorism Context, and the Addendum to the Hague-Marrakesh Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon. UNODC participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum Coordinating Committee meetings held in the Hague on 12 and 13 April and in New York on 19 September, and the Forum's ministerial plenary meeting, held in New York on 21 September.

92. UNODC enjoys excellent cooperation with OHCHR, including under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's working group on promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism, as well as in the delivery of capacity-building activities (see examples of UNODC-OHCHR collaboration in the section on reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism, in paras. 52-57, above).

93. Successful partnership with Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies should also be noted. UNODC participated in the 33rd and 34th meetings of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, held in Buenos Aires from 1 to 5 August, and in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 5 to 9 December.

#### **4. Cooperation with donors and recipients**

94. UNODC continues to partner with the relevant authorities of recipient countries in order to set priorities and ensure a targeted delivery of assistance on the ground. To that end, UNODC has been engaged in close consultations with permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations and national counterparts in capitals to ensure ownership of the technical assistance programmes by recipient countries.

95. In 2016, UNODC developed several technical assistance programmes and contributed to the development of the UNODC country programmes for Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Iran (Islamic Republic of), and the UNODC regional programmes for the Sahel, East Africa, and West and Central Africa.

96. For example, the Office worked with Chad's authorities to formulate a multi-year technical assistance programme which constitutes an important element of the UNODC contribution to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Another important development was consultations held in December with national authorities of Sierra Leone for the elaboration of a multi-year assistance programme for supporting national efforts to strengthen rule of law-based criminal justice measures against terrorism.

97. Since 2003, pledges and contributions have been made by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Pledges and contributions have also been made by the following organizations: the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, European Union, IMO, INTERPOL, International Organization of la Francophonie, Indian Ocean Commission, OSCE, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the University of Sussex, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

98. Several States also supported UNODC through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

### **C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact**

99. Ensuring the effectiveness of its activities and their relevance to the needs of Member States are key priorities for UNODC. To monitor progress and identify the impact of its technical assistance, it applies a sound monitoring, evaluation and reporting system based on a project implementation workplan and results-based logical framework.

100. At the stage of formulating a project, the Branch identifies a set of expected accomplishments and outcomes. Then, at all stages of project implementation, monitoring is conducted by the Branch's staff using evaluation forms, including at the training sessions, at which the recipients of the training are given a feedback questionnaire after each major activity, which helps to determine their satisfaction with the services received. The officials receiving the training assess the knowledge and experience acquired, the relevance and usefulness of the content of the training course and the tools and materials used, and the general and logistical aspects. That evaluation process helps to identify further priority needs of the project beneficiaries and lessons learned, in order improve future programming. Further, project beneficiaries are invited to join a worldwide community of practitioners on the UNODC online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform, which offers access to additional information, thematic discussions and training.

101. Strong results-based management and reporting tools have helped the Branch to demonstrate measurable results. To date, the Branch has been using several tangible indicators, such as the increase in the number of States assisted by UNODC that become parties to the international legal instruments, the number of pieces of counter-terrorism legislation reviewed and/or drafted with UNODC's contribution and the number of officials trained.

102. In addition to self-evaluations, periodic independent evaluation of UNODC counter-terrorism work is regularly undertaken to assess the programme's relevance, effectiveness and impact, under the leadership of the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit. The latest evaluation was undertaken in 2015, the report of which is available on the UNODC website.

103. The 2015 independent mid-term in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism produced several recommendations for the management and staff of the Branch on further enhancing the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of its programming. Recommendations include, inter alia, improved cooperation between the Branch headquartered in Vienna and the field offices, review of the technical assistance sustainability strategies, the development of impact indicators and establishment of a functioning monitoring and evaluation system. The Branch has been taking several concrete steps to address these recommendations.

### III. Priorities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch for 2017

104. In 2017, the Branch will continue to support the Member States' efforts in strengthening their legal regimes and criminal justice systems against terrorism, in full compliance with the rule of law and human rights.

105. In particular, the Branch will continue promoting the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism; assisting Member States with the incorporation of their provisions into national legislation; building the capacity of criminal justice officials to apply and implement counter-terrorism laws and regulations; and promoting regional and international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

106. Promoting the ratification of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, in particular those with a low level of ratification or those which have not yet entered into force, including the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, will remain a priority.

107. In line with requests by Member States and relevant United Nations resolutions, UNODC, in addition to traditional thematic areas, will strengthen its capacity-building programmes to support Member States in newly emerging thematic areas such as foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization and return, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

108. The Branch will be also implementing, jointly with the UNODC Justice Section and relevant United Nations entities, technical assistance on the treatment of children recruited or exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, on gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism in the context of the human rights component of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, and on the management of violent extremism prisoners and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons.

109. Moreover, the Branch will continue to develop and implement tailored country-specific, long-term technical assistance programmes and ensure that they respond to the priorities of Member States.

110. The Branch will also reinforce its efforts to further develop thematic knowledge and technical assistance tools. The web-based online training platform and legislative database will be further expanded to meet new technical and thematic requirements.

111. In line with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), UNODC also intends to further enhance, in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the provision of its technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to promote international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism. Subject to funding availability, the Office plans to expand its existing database of central authorities with a directory of designated focal points for terrorism cases.

112. Human rights will continue to be made an integral element of all project proposals by supporting efforts by Member States to strengthen the compliance of their counter-terrorism measures with international standards of human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

113. The Branch will also ensure the visibility of its work on terrorism prevention by raising the awareness of services available for Member States, and promoting better utilization of tools, resources, and web-based platforms.

114. Implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism will remain one

of the Branch's priorities, including those parts of the recommendations related to ensuring the impact and sustainability of its technical assistance, and further streamlining communication and coordination with the relevant UNODC field offices.

115. The Branch will also continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with donor governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, including through implementing a result-based management approach and improving the quality of concept notes and reports.

116. Finally, the Branch intends to further strengthen cooperation with offices within UNODC, with the other entities of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication, ensure synergies and contribute to the "One United Nations" approach in the delivery of counter-terrorism technical assistance.

#### **IV. Recommendations**

117. The Commission may wish to express gratitude to donor countries for the voluntary contributions made available to UNODC and to invite Member States to increase the level of extrabudgetary and regular budget resources to enable the Office to continue to implement its work in the area of terrorism prevention.

118. The Commission may wish to encourage those Member States that have not yet done so to accede to and/or ratify, as well as fully implement, the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, with assistance from UNODC as needed.

119. The Commission may wish to invite Member States to avail themselves of the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC in order to build the capacity of criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases.

120. The Commission may wish to encourage Member States to increase international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism by developing formal and informal mechanisms to assist with requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

121. The Commission may wish to encourage Member States to utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC to strengthen their criminal justice systems, including with regard to the newly emerging threats, such as foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and the destruction of cultural heritage by terrorists, as well as criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and children recruited or exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

122. The Commission may wish to provide further guidance with regard to the UNODC technical assistance work on the criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism, in terms of both content and delivery mechanisms, and to better tailor the assistance to the evolving needs of Member States.