The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting was held at NACTA on 14 December 2022 which included participants from all relevant federal ministries and provincial home departments. In his opening remarks the Chair, Mr. Muhammad Inkasar Khan, Member NACTA acknowledged the progress made since the last meeting as number of activities were organized in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore for counter-terrorism officials. The Chief of Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Programme (CTCBP) Mr. George Braun from Canada appreciated the strong interest of all project stakeholders in implementing activities and offered to share the Canadian experience on Data Fusion Centre for real-time information sharing amongst counter-terrorism officials. A detailed presentation on project activities was delivered by the Director Counter Terrorism, NACTA Mr. Malik Samiullah after which a questions and answer session followed.
2nd Workshop on United Nations Sanctions Regime

A Workshop on United Nations Security Council Sanctions Regime was held in Lahore from 15-16 December 2022. The event was jointly organized with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). The workshop brought together members of district intelligence units, financial intelligence and law enforcement officials from across 10 agencies to discuss Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) under the UNSC Sanctions Regime in Pakistan and facilitated an opportunity to share knowledge and tools on best practices for implementation of TFS regime. Major aspects covered during the workshop included UNSCRs 1267, 1988 and 1373 sanctions regime; asset freezing and asset confiscation processes were discussed; and incorporation of TFS into broader AML/CFT national coordination and strategy to effectively counter terrorism financing.

Web Story

Provincial Criminal Justice Committee Meeting

To improve coordination on CT issues, criminal justice committee meeting of Sindh Province was held in Karachi on December 21, 2022. It aimed to develop coordination among the stakeholders on CT issues and to formulate a guideline that would be useful for each stakeholder in knowing their specific role for strengthening coordination. During the meeting, UNODC presented details of technical support provided to CT stakeholders in Sindh. Other agenda items covered included specialized training programs for investigation officers in light of the observation of Hon’ble Sindh High Court, draft guidelines by Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) for emphasizing coordination during terrorist financing cases.
Strengthening Border Management to Counter Terrorism

On December 13, 2022, a meeting was held with Mr. Jan Muhammad, Additional Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The Federal Investigation Agency is countering threats of foreign terrorist fighters, terrorism financing and online radicalization, while they play a critical role in overall coordination with international police-to-police including with INTERPOL.

The gender and human rights aspect of CT investigations and Pakistan’s commitment towards upholding human rights were discussed. The potential of the FIA to play an important role the UN CT Travel Programme was identified. This would be through Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records (API & PNR) that could be made available through airlines.

Meeting with National Coordinator of NACTA

On December 13 2022, the visiting delegation from Canada along with UNODC officials met with Mr. Muhammad Tahir Rai, National Coordinator along with other senior officials of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA).

NACTA plays an important role in overall monitoring of the National Action Plan, which has resulted in a significant reduction in terrorism related incidents across the country over the last decade. With the emergency of new threats, the discussions focused on the recent financial contribution by the Government of Canada under the Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program (CTCBP) which enables UNODC Country Office Pakistan to deliver technical assistance to counter-terrorism officials across the country.

NACTA officials appreciated the support to Pakistan under the CTCBP funded project which would help ensure that women recruited into CT roles are provided training opportunities and positioned for operational leadership roles, and that CT organizations are aware of international best practice to ensure that gender and human rights protections are streamlined into policies, SOPs, and training.
Visit to National Police Academy followed by meeting with Commandant

On December 13 2022 at the National Police Academy (NPA), the delegation from Global Affairs Canada and UNODC Country Office officials met with Mr. A.D. Khawaja, a Pakistani police officer currently serving in NPA as Commandant. The visiting delegation expressed support of National Police Academy in supporting this project by customizing the counter-terrorism curriculum for Provincial Police Academies incorporating human rights and gender responsive for developing a more national harmonized approach to countering terrorism. The importance of training officials from all Provinces in a single setting was discussed, as it would encourages exchange of experiences, and builds a strong sense of community amongst practitioners dedicated to preventing and countering terrorism.

During the meeting importance of training on modern terrorism investigative techniques, use of social media to gather information, undertaking social network analysis, and emerging technologies exploitation by terrorists such as crypto currency and use of Darkweb was also discussed. Lastly, it was highlighted that the NPA serves as a “centre of gravity” in terms of learning and best practice – and how the adoption of gender and human rights focus by the NPA sets an important precedent for Pakistani law enforcement.

Improving coordination through Case Management & Monitoring System

On December 13, 2022, the delegation from Canada along with UNODC officials met with Mr. Raja Naeem Akbar, who is serving as the Law and Justice Secretary. The importance of Case Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) for the Ministry of Law was discussed, and how using this would contribute towards efficiency, improving oversight, accountability and bringing transparency in case management. The Document Versioning System (part of the CMMS) would establish a central repository for case laws/statues and would assist in keeping track of latest amendments in legislation to improve provincial and national coordination. The CMMS platform will give the Ministry of Law greater visibility on progress being made on gender and human rights issues as well. The Secretary emphasised on the importance of this initiative and thanked the visiting CTCBP delegation from Canada and the UNODC for their support.
Promoting use of Forensic Evidence in Terrorism Cases

A meeting with Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Tahir, the Director General of Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA), located in Lahore was held. The PFSA is the first modern forensic laboratory in the country to support law enforcement agencies. After a detailed tour of the facility, discussions focused on the need to continue working together in improving forensic standards in all the Provinces and for ensuring the use of forensic evidence in disciplines related to firearms, fingerprints, explosives, and digital forensics.

The CTCBP delegation along with UNODC identified that forensic evidence upholds human rights in the context of Pakistan. As forensic evidence increases in prominence, there is a corresponding reduced need to rely on traditional investigative techniques such as interviews and suspect confessions.

Meeting with Director General, Counter Terrorism Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On December 15 2022, the delegation from Canada along with UNODC held a meeting with Mr. Asim Ali Khan, Director General (Counter Terrorism Division), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UNODC acknowledged the role CT Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has played in bringing together with all stakeholders to develop and subsequently support in implementing the counter-terrorism pillar of the Country Programme. The CTCBP delegation from Canada highlighted upon Canada’s contribution under the project which complements Pakistan’s efforts under the National Action Plan in preventing and countering terrorism.

The importance of gender responsiveness and human rights into counter-terrorism related technical assistance programmes was discussed and how it increases confidence in information sharing amongst Member States.
Establishing PIUs under UN CT Travel Programme

On December 15 2022, the delegation met with Mr. Syed Asad Raza Rizvi, a senior officer of the Pakistan Customs.

The officials from Global Affairs Canada, Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program (CTCBP) appreciated for the role of Pakistan Customs in interdicting the illegal flow of firearms, cash and drugs entering or exiting the country. The UN CT Travel Programme which is a key initiative under the Canadian funded project for Pakistan was discussed and the role of Pakistan Customs as a focal point was appreciated. Mr. Rizvi acknowledged the long-term support of various counter-terrorism initiatives which would be funded by Canada and implemented by UNODC Country Office until April 2026. The support would include establishing Passenger Information Units at three different airports across the country and technical assistance in improving investigative capacity on trade-based financing, cash couriers, bulk cash smuggling across border crossings.

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