THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH BRIEFING

2011 has got off to an auspicious start for the UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), with a series of new global counter-terrorism capacity building activities, the launch of a unique on-line technical assistance tool and the 2011 UNODC Symposium on strengthening the response to terrorism by addressing connections with related criminal activities. The Symposium attracted as many as 100 Member States and 36 UN entities, international, regional and sub-regional organizations to the venue to exchange views on terrorism prevention in the larger context of organized crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and corruption. TPB’s goals in 2011 aim to build upon the conclusions of these discussions and continue to deepen the counter-terrorism technical assistance and capacity building activities undertaken with national and regional criminal justice stakeholders across the globe.

UNODC/TPB Chief
Ms. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin

HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY - MARCH 2011

- UNODC HOSTS 2011 SYMPOSIUM: TAKING STOCK AND DEFINING THE WAY FORWARD – STRENGTHENING THE RESPONSE TO TERRORISM BY ADDRESSING CONNECTIONS WITH RELATED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES
- UNODC ON-LINE COUNTER-TERRORISM LEARNING PLATFORM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED
- NEW SAHEL REGIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER WAY
- 29 COUNTRIES ASSISTED THROUGH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES DELIVERED AND 502 OFFICIALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TRAINED

THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH’S MANDATE

The mandate of TPB is to provide assistance to requesting countries in the legal and related aspects of counter-terrorism, especially for ratifying and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism and for strengthening the capacity of the national criminal justice systems to apply the provisions of these instruments in compliance with the principles of rule of law, in the context of complying with the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions and implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
UNODC 2011 Symposium: Taking Stock and Defining the Way Forward - “Strengthening the Response to Terrorism by Addressing Connections with Related Criminal Activities”

On 16 and 17 March 2011, the UNODC held a Symposium co-sponsored by the Governments of Austria, Colombia, and Turkey to foster discussion on the possible connections between terrorism and other forms of serious crime. Terrorist acts continue unabated around the world and remain one of the main threats to the security of countries and their citizens. At the same time, the connections between terrorist activities and other forms of serious crime, such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering are a matter of growing concern, pointing to the need to enhance coordination of efforts to strengthen a global response.

This Symposium provided a platform for over 350 representatives from 100 UN Member States and 36 UN entities, international, regional and sub-regional organizations to discuss connections between terrorist acts and related criminal activities, how such connections manifest themselves, what they mean for governments and practitioners and how they can be effectively addressed. The role and possible contributions of the various actors involved were also tackled.

During the opening high-level session, H.E. Mr Michael Spindelegger, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria noted the need for enhanced cooperation in the face of terrorism. Representing a network of individuals affected by terrorism, the Symposium was also addressed by Carie Lemack, director and co-founder of a survivor-focused NGO, the Global Survivors Network who placed emphasis on the position of victims.

The Symposium marks a decade since the adoption, in September 2001, of the Vienna Plan of Action Against Terrorism, which has been at the forefront of the UNODC assistance programme for countering terrorism. In the past 10 years, UNODC’s work in supporting Rule of Law-based responses to terrorism has increased considerably, with significant progress made by Member States in implementing the international legal regime against terrorism.

A promising vehicle to connect practitioners worldwide with a view to exchanging information, sharing best practices and enhancing cooperation, is UNODC’s new virtual counter-terrorism learning platform which was also presented during the Symposium.
NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST TERRORISM IN AFGHANISTAN
Kabul, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (6 to 11 February 2011)

This two-day workshop was attended by fifteen representatives from Afghanistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Legislative Department, Financial Intelligence Unit, Ministry of the Interior, Attorney General’s Office and the National Security Council. It took stock of Afghanistan’s existing counter-terrorism legislation and discussed the extent to which the international legal instruments against terrorism have been implemented at the national level.

During the workshop, experts from TPB/UNODC presented draft legislative proposals, which were discussed with the relevant national authorities along with the possibility of future activities in Afghanistan on counter terrorism in the course of 2011.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING WORKSHOP ON THE INCORPORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AGAINST TERRORISM FOR IRAQI OFFICIALS
Dead Sea region of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (22 to 24 February 2011)

Attended by 17 officials representing various Iraqi government bodies, the workshop focused upon the Iraqi draft Anti-terrorism Act established under Articles 61 and 73 of the Iraqi Constitution. Following an analysis of the law by UNODC/TPB experts and discussions held during the workshop, proposed amendments were put forward in order to ensure the Counterterrorism Law incorporated all relevant international legal standards. Participants agreed to continue cooperation with UNODC to finalize the draft Anti-terrorism law and work with relevant government bodies to submit the revised draft to the Iraqi parliament.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL CASES RELATED TO COUNTER TERRORISM
Amman, Jordan (27 to 28 February 2011)

Focusing on substantive training for criminal justice practitioners on implementing the international legal instruments against terrorism into national legislation, this national workshop gathered 27 officials from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Furthermore, participants and experts were able to exchange information and expertise on ways to overcome impediments related to the fight against terrorism at the operational level.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST TERRORISM
Belize City, Belize (15 to 18 March 2011)

During this one-day legal technical assistance workshop, legal analysis and comments on the legislation of Belize related to counter-terrorism were provided to 18 participants from Belize’s criminal justice and law enforcement sectors, including the Defence Force, Police Department, Coast Guard, Financial Investigation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Border Management Agency, Attorney General’s Office and Customs and Excise Department.
NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE INCORPORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN NATIONAL LEGISLATION
Abuja, Nigeria (22 to 24 March 2011)

Organized jointly by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and UNODC, this national workshop gathered together over forty participants, representing a wide array of national entities involved in counter-terrorism. These included the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ATS Police, Direction for State Security Services, Federal High Court, National Judicial Institute, NDLEA, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit and Economic and Financial Crime Commission. The workshop provided broad coverage of international, sub-regional and national legal frameworks to combat terrorism and organized crime and examined the experiences of other regions in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AGAINST TERRORISM AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE
Bogotá, Colombia (24 March 2011)

Involving 80 participants from Colombia’s Law enforcement agencies, Parliament, Ministry of Interior and Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the workshop aimed to provide legislative assistance to legislators of the Congress of Colombia to enhance the number of ratifications of the international legal instruments against terrorism. As a result of this activity, an agreement for cooperation between UNODC/TPB and the Chamber of Representatives of the Congress of the Republic of Colombia was signed.

THEMATIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES & SPECIALIZED TOOLS

Due to the complex nature of terrorism, and in order to meet the Member States’ evolving needs, TPB has increasingly focused on specialized thematic areas, such as financing of terrorism, international cooperation in criminal matters in relation to terrorism, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, and victims of terrorism. TPB has also developed the capacity to respond to the evolving challenges of counter-terrorism by building up activities in new areas such as the use of internet for terrorist purposes. TPB expertise in these thematic areas is supported by the publication of a large number of technical tools in all UN as well as several local languages to enable the creation the necessary expertise among selected criminal justice officials.

LAUNCH OF THE UNODC COUNTER-TERRORISM LEARNING PLATFORM

On 17 March 2011, UNODC’s TPB officially presented its new online Counter-terrorism Learning Platform (http://ctlp.unodc.org) at UNODC’s Vienna headquarters. The Platform is an interactive tool specifically designed for the provision of tailor-made training to criminal justice officials in the fight against terrorism, whilst bringing together practitioners involved in counter-terrorism across the globe into a single virtual community where they can share their experiences and perspectives in the fight against terrorism. Hence, platform members remain abreast of legal developments and benefit from both networking and continuous learning opportunities, further enhancing the sustainability of UNODC capacity building activities.

The Vienna launch saw TPB experts presenting the significant advantages of the Platform to Member States and the wider UNODC community. Although TPB’s online learning activities will not replace standard workshops involving face-to-face interaction with participants, this new delivery method will provide significant added-value in terms of TPB’s global impact. The advantages of offering distance-learning activities include: sharing
UNODC/TPB expertise with a worldwide audience; increasing opportunities for training by reducing time and space barriers for participants; allowing them to study while remaining on-the-job and significantly reducing travel expenses. In order to ensure its global reach, the interface of the platform is available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Two six-week online training courses have since been delivered through this new Platform to assist criminal justice officials to develop the skills and knowledge required to effectively utilize the channels for international legal cooperation envisaged in the international legal regime against terrorism. The first course, for students judges of the National School for Magistrates in Algeria, focused on Global Norms against Terrorism. The second course, on International Criminal Cooperation against Terrorism, was organized jointly with INTERPOL and was provided to selected magistrates in the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

TPB’s latest training course on “Global Norms against Terrorism at Work: Setting International Law in Motion”, to be delivered in English, will run from 3 June to 15 July 2011. Further information on the Platform and upcoming activities can be accessed at the following website address:


PREVENTION OF AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE USE OF INTERNET FOR TERRORIST PURPOSES

This three-day workshop, held in Algiers, Algeria from 8 to 10 March 2011, saw TPB experts providing capacity building assistance to 35 representatives of Algeria’s Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Transport, General Directorate for Customs, General Directorate for National Security, Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group, National Gendarmerie, Ministry of Defence and the wider Algerian judiciary. Participants were provided with an overview of the international legal framework against terrorism, national and international experiences of legislating, investigating and prosecuting the use of internet for terrorist purposes, and current international police cooperation strategies to combats this problem.

THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES THROUGH THE USE OF CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

The latest in a series of consultations and technical assistance activities in Nigeria, this workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria from 27 to 30 March 2011, trained 44 officials from Nigeria’s government ministries, law enforcement and intelligence bodies in the prevention and fight against terrorist financing. Particular emphasis was placed on the international legal framework against terrorist financing, experiences in the investigation and prosecution of cases as well as on comparative preventive and legislative measures. The workshop also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices, and concrete needs to enhance national capacity were identified.
TPB works jointly with regional and international partners throughout the world, cooperating with organizations to maximize impact, avoid duplication of activities, and bring multiple sources of expertise on terrorism issues to countries around the world.

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION BETWEEN FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS (FIU) IN CENTRAL ASIA**

Astana, Kazakhstan (25 to 26 January, 2011)

Organized by UNDOC/TPB, the World Bank and the US Embassy in Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the Committee on Financial Monitoring of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Rosfinmonitoring, the workshop provided training to 29 representatives from the FIUs of Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Iran. Particular focus was placed on the operational aspects of FIUs as well as cooperation between FIUs and other agencies, particularly law enforcement officials and prosecutors. The workshop also provided national participants with the opportunity to share different perspectives and national experiences on their anti-money laundering and counterterrorism efforts.

**TPB CONTRIBUTION ON TERRORIST FINANCING DURING THE TRAINING ACTIVITY ON COUNTER-TERRORISM FOR IRAQI ANTI-TERRORISM JUDGES, ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER STUDIES IN CRIMINAL SCIENCES (ISISC)**

Syracuse, Italy (2 to 4 February 2011)

During the two-day session in Syracuse, Italy, in February 2011, TPB delivered expert presentations to ten Iraqi anti-terrorism judges on the international legal framework against the financing of terrorism and the sources of terrorist financing, including typologies and cases. These presentations formed part of a three-week training programme for Iraqi anti-terrorism judicial officers, held between 23 January and 11 February 2011 at the ISISC facilities in Syracuse, Italy. Contributing highly specialized expertise to this ISISC initiative embodies TPB strategic efforts to enhance its partnership and collaboration with criminal justice education institutions across the globe.

**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR NORTH AFRICAN AND SAHEL COUNTRIES ON JUDICIAL RESPONSES TO TERRORISM AND OTHER TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL THREATS IN THE REGION, ORGANIZED BY THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM (ACSRT) IN COOPERATION WITH UNODC/TPB**

Algiers, Algeria (15 to 17 February 2011)

Gathering 20 criminal justice and law enforcement officials from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Sudan, this workshop provided a forum to exchange experiences and good practices promoting mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other transnational criminal threats. It also offered participants an opportunity to discuss problems hampering international cooperation in criminal matters in the sub-region. Specialized officials from ACSRT and international experts from Belgium, Canada, Interpol, Italy, and Switzerland contributed to the discussion, sharing their experience and concrete cases with the participants.

**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) REGION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON TERRORISM CASES**

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (13 to 15 February 2011)

Organized by UNODC/TPB in association with Naif Arab University for Security Studies the regional workshop provided training, legislative advice and the opportunity for debate to criminal justice practitioners from the MENA region, including the Republic of Yemen, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Officials from non-MENA states - the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Islamic Republic of Pakistan – also benefitted from the training and discussions held during the workshop.
The Sahel Programme 2011

The Sahel region has emerged as a safe haven for criminal and terrorist groups. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) previously known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (SGPC) has conducted many acts of terrorism in this region and terrorist incidents have been on the rise since 2008. In this context, and considering the need to enhance the judicial cooperation between countries confronted by this terrorist threat, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC has developed a regional project targeting the Sahel region. The countries involved in the project include Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, which form part of the Regional Judicial Platform for Sahel countries, launched in June 2010 with the support of UNODC.

The main goal of the Sahel program is to strengthen the national and regional capacities of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger to fight terrorism through the effective implementation of the international counter-terrorism legal framework and to enhance international cooperation in criminal matters. Many activities have been organized in this regard, including a “Training of Trainers” course for the Sahel countries, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 3 to 11 November 2010. The objective of this course was to train three nationally designated trainers on the global legal framework against terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters and to provide them with the necessary good practices and methodologies to train other judges and/or prosecutors as well as law enforcement officers. As a follow-up to this activity, basic training workshops for criminal justice officials will be organized in each of the four countries and will be delivered by the respective national trainers, with the support of TPB.

In addition to the On-line Counter-terrorism Learning Platform course on international cooperation in criminal matters offered to selected judges and prosecutors from Sahel countries in early 2011, TPB developed a practical guide to effective extradition and mutual legal assistance requests in criminal matters to Sahel countries. Given that it is critical for practitioners to acquaint themselves with the national legislation of other countries in order to lodge effective Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition requests, this guide provides a compilation of national legislation from Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger on international cooperation in criminal matters.

Furthermore, coordination and communication between institutions, particularly the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, is extremely important in ensuring the process of judicial cooperation requests. Therefore, TPB organized a national training workshop on international cooperation in criminal matters for criminal justice officials and for foreign affairs officials, which took place in Bamako, Mali, from 4 to 7 April 2011.

In continuing the implementation of the Sahel project, TPB intends to organize national training workshops for law enforcement officials on the legal framework against terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters in Burkina Faso and in Mali. In addition, training courses on the universal legal framework against terrorism will be developed for law enforcement officials of the Sahel region. In order to enable national practitioners from Mali to write and process Mutual Legal Assistance requests effectively, a National Workshop on drafting international cooperation requests for criminal justice officials will also be organized in Mali.

Additionally, TPB publications and tools that may be useful for Mauritanian magistrates will be translated into Arabic and Standardized Mutual Legal Assistance request forms need to be drafted for Sahel countries to facilitate the judicial cooperation between the countries.

Finally, the Second Meeting of the Regional Judicial Platform of Sahel countries will be held in Niamey, Niger, from 17 to 19 May 2011. The European Judicial Network (EJN) and the Justice Platform of the Ocean Indian Commission (IOC) will be invited to participate in this meeting, the purpose of which, will be to evaluate the Sahel Platform, improve its functioning though sharing of experiences and connect the platform to other judicial networks.
In order to strengthen the Branch’s ability to focus on delivering expected results, TPB has developed a standardized monitoring and reporting approach. TPB’s management strategy involves defining realistic results, monitoring progress toward their achievements, integrating lessons learnt into management decisions, and reporting on performance. The Branch’s monitoring and evaluation framework contains performance indicators and tools through which to collect baseline data against which progress is measured both at periodic intervals and at the conclusion of the project. TPB uses this data to measure and critically analyze impact, make changes to activities in order to increase effectiveness (if required), glean lessons learned for the purpose of information-sharing and organizational learning, and to inform the development of future projects.

TPB’S INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Early 2011 brought with it the establishment of a new standardized information management system developed by TPB. This comprehensive system provides the IT structures for TPB to track its training activities around the world, administer questionnaires regarding training events and generate specialized reports on the results. As such, this new standardized information management system plays an integral role in the Branch’s monitoring and evaluation strategy and therefore TPB’s ability to provide high-quality, tailor-made technical assistance to requesting states.

EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT OF THE TERRORISM PREVENTION BRANCH’S ACTIVITIES

TPB’s latest combined training evaluation report on technical assistance activities provided by TPB between October 2010 and March 2011 highlights among other things the positive course evaluations completed by participants, particularly with respect to their self-assessment of knowledge and skills transferred during the training courses.

Knowledge (Rating min 1/ max 5)
**Skills** (Rating min 1/ max 5)
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