



The Terrorism Prevention Branch Briefing

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CHIEF TPB FOREWORD

Terrorism continues to represent a serious threat to the international community. It takes advantage of political instability in countries and regions, weak central governments and economic and social disparities. The United Nations, since the unanimous adoption of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, has strengthened its work, including by developing a holistic approach to terrorism, and ensured better internal coordination. The Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, as one of the 31 entities participating in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the key provider of capacity building assistance in the criminal justice field, has doubled its efforts to ensure timely provision and specialized assistance to its Member States, upon request.

Throughout 2012, under my leadership, the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has strengthened its work with Member States and provided them with legal technical assistance to ratify and fully implement the 18 international legal instruments against terrorism.

Owing to the generous financial and in kind support from many Member States this year, the Branch was able to reach out to over 1800 criminal justice officials in 43 countries worldwide, assisting them with enhancing their knowledge and expertise with regard to the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorist cases.

Building up on the work of my predecessors, we have been focusing on the provision of effective and tailored counterterrorism services to our Member States, including through an enhanced and innovative programme of technical assistance activities. Among those activities, I would like to recall a few: the preparation and the launch of a unique technical assistance tool the *Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*; the development of a mock trial on terrorism and a mock criminal investigation; as well as strengthened efforts to facilitate international judicial cooperation, including by strengthening the existent judicial platform in the Sahel and in other regions.

As we move forward with our work, I intend to focus on the following three priorities:

1. Continue to refine our strategy on terrorism prevention and capitalize on our unique field presence, to ensure that TPB's counter-terrorism technical assistance remains sustainable and responsive to current and emerging needs of Member States;
2. Continue to evaluate and refine the monitoring of our work to ensure at all times efficiency, relevance, and impact of our technical assistance activities;
3. Continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination with UN entities and relevant international and regional organizations in order to coordinate synergies, use mutual strengths and avoid duplication of efforts.

I am confident that, focusing on the priorities outlined above, TPB will further enhance its work as the key provider of legal technical assistance in preventing terrorism to the UN Member States. TPB's close ear on the ground, its strong legal expertise and its ongoing open dialogue with its Member States, will continue to ensure TPB's progress in supporting its constituency with preventing and combating the scourge of terrorism, in the months and years to come.

Marta Requena
Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch
Division for Treaty Affairs
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC/TPB Launches Report to Assist Member States Counter the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes

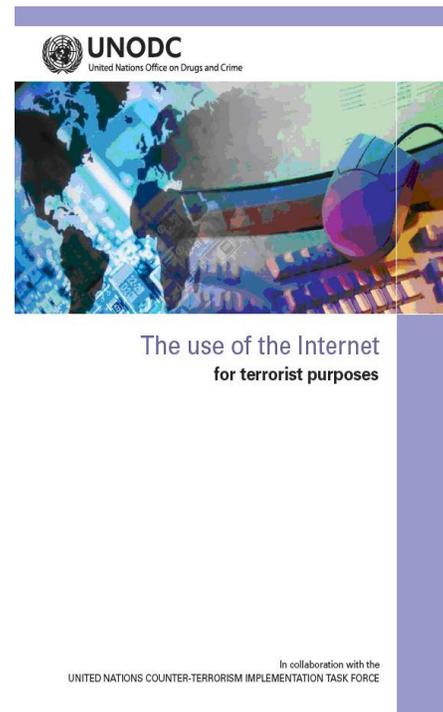
The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC concluded one year of hard work and close consultations with Member States, international experts and the public sector, with the release of an innovative technical assistance tool tackling the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

At the launch event on 22 October 2012, Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, underscored the relevance of this TPB-led initiative: “The Internet neither knows, nor respects international borders. Potential terrorists use advanced communications technology often involving the Internet to reach a worldwide audience with relative anonymity and at a low cost.”

Terrorist groups and their supporters make extensive use of Internet technologies to recruit, finance, spread

The handbook, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), aims to support criminal justice practitioners worldwide by filling an important gap in global efforts against terrorism: “This technical assistance tool is the first of its kind to provide Member States with actual judicial cases and real investigations where the Internet was the key instrument for the commission of terrorist acts. It is not only a report, but also a practical tool providing concrete examples for policy-makers, investigators and prosecutors to help them deal with the specialized nature of these cases”, Ms. Marta Requena, Chief TPB, explained at the launch.

The new UNODC publication provides an invaluable contribution to ongoing efforts to prevent and combat



From left to right: Mr. Sandor Pinter, Hungarian Minister of Interior, Ms. Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Austrian Minister of Interior, Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, Mr. James Brokenshire, UK Minister for Crime and Security and Mr. Georg Maassen, President of the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, at the press conference following the launch event.

propaganda, train and incite followers to commit acts of terrorism. However, the disparity in national legal environments and law enforcement capacities makes the investigation and prosecution of such instances particularly challenging.

terrorism, by promoting a better understanding of the ways in which communications technologies may be misused in furtherance of acts of terrorism, as well as by providing guidance on current legal frameworks and practice at the national and

international levels relating to the criminalization, investigation and prosecution of terrorist cases involving the use of the Internet. Produced with financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom, the publication is intended for use both as a stand-alone resource for criminal justice practitioners, and in support of the capacity-building initiatives of UNODC.

The launch event was hosted by the Austrian Ministry of Interior and was attended by leading European political figures, including Austrian Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner, UK Minister for Crime and Security, James Brokenshire, Hungarian Interior Minister, Sandor Pinter, and Georg Maassen President of the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution as well as by international experts and the media.

UNODC/TPB's Mock Trial: An Innovative Training Tool

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
Confucius

If imitation is the easiest way to learn wisdom, then it is the best candidate as training method. TPB recently developed one of its most innovative tools to train criminal justice officials in Latin America: a Mock Trial on terrorism, its financing and linkages with serious related crimes. This advanced tool will initially be implemented in Colombia, in Bogota and Medellin, at the beginning of 2013 to train judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, customs and migration officials as well as officials from the financial intelligence unit, among others.



The Mock Trial has been developed within the framework of TPB's technical assistance programme in Colombia- Strengthening Institutional Capacities of Criminal Justice System to Counter Terrorism, and it is also one of the major outcomes of the work carried out by the *Inter-institutional Committee to Prevent and Fight against Terrorism, its Financing and Serious Related Crimes*. The Committee, currently formed of twelve national institutions and three international bodies, was established last year by UNODC/TPB together with the Ministry of Justice of Colombia, as part of efforts to promote and strengthen interagency coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing, build up national investigative and prosecution capacities, and facilitate the development of policy and national strategies for the prevention and fight against terrorism and related crimes.

The new tool aims at strengthening institutional capacities to prosecute

terrorism, its financing and other serious related crimes included in the case study. In particular, it intends to strengthen the practical skills of criminal justice officials in prosecuting these crimes through a six-week programme, following a two pronged

approach:

- An in-depth training on prosecution strategies, including the handling of evidence, countering manipulation of evidence, witnesses, interrogation and counter-interrogation
- A practical exercise on conducting the trial (five exercises of chain of custody, indictment, preliminary audience and the trial).

Advantages

- ✓ Developed within the Inter-institutional Committee and directly with the support and coordination of its members, the tool is based on real challenges faced by police officers and prosecutors in their daily tasks addressing criminal activities related to terrorism and other serious crimes.
- ✓ It includes an approach that integrates a combination of offences, such as Terrorism,

Financing of Terrorism, Money Laundering, Trafficking of Arms, among others;

- ✓ It comprises special investigative techniques such as undercover agent and wiretapping, as well as chain of custody exercises;
- ✓ It covers the entire trial process from the chain of custody to preliminary hearings and oral trial simulations.
- ✓ It includes not only the trial per se, but also a previous training for criminal justice officials on the judicial process.
- ✓ It can be used throughout the Latin American region requiring only a prior adaptation to the penal system of the country in which it will be implemented.

Methodology

Through the guidance provided by experts and members of the Inter-institutional Committee, participants of the mock trial follow a six-week programme that provides them with the necessary instruments to solve the case. The programme is divided as following:

Six Week Programme

Week 1: Academic activity guided by experts on prosecution strategies, followed by the distribution of roles for the mock trial;

Weeks 2, 3, 4 and 5: Participants are divided into relevant groups to work

on drafting the indictment (Prosecutors), the theory of the case and evidence to be presented at trial (Defense), and familiarity with the case (Judges). During the fifth week, the work of each of the groups will be shared to allow all participants to acquire all the information before the mock trial exercise;

Week 6: Conduct the entire trial, including five chains of custody

exercises, formulation of indictment, preparatory audience and the oral trial.

Implementation

Two mock trials will be implemented by TPB in 2013, one Medellin in February/March and a second one in Bogota in April/May.

UNODC/TPB expects to continue building new strategic alliances in order to implement the programme,

not only in Colombia but also in the rest of the region.

Interested recipient countries and/or international and foreign cooperation agencies are welcome to contact UNODC/TPB to develop a specialized programme on Mock Trials and/or the ad-hoc establishment of an *Inter-institutional Committee to Prevent and Fight against Terrorism, its Financing and Serious Related Crimes* coordinated by UNODC/TPB their respective countries.

TPB's Key Role in Combating Nuclear Terrorism

At the initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the threat of nuclear terrorism was brought into the limelight on 28 September 2012, when 130 Member State representatives, relevant international organizations, UN agencies and civil society gathered round at the UN Headquarters in New York for the first ever UN High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism.

The main purpose of the meeting was to highlight global efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and strengthen the legal framework against it. Participants underscored the imperative of taking swift collective action against this threat, especially in view of the disastrous consequences a single act of nuclear terrorism could have on humanity as a whole.

UNODC understands the magnitude of the challenge and has made the prevention of nuclear terrorism one of its top priorities. In line with its General Assembly mandate, the UNODC, through its Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), is undertaking sustained efforts to promote the ratification and effective implementation of the seven international legal instruments dealing with nuclear terrorism.

For almost a decade, TPB has been raising awareness of the relevant instruments among policy-makers and

has established itself as a key provider of specialized legal assistance to Member States aimed at building the capacity of their criminal justice and law enforcement officials to address nuclear terrorism.

In an effort to equip Member States with the necessary tools to implement the international legal framework against nuclear terrorism, the TPB organizes professional training events

against nuclear terrorism.

In carrying out its activities relevant to combating nuclear terrorism, the UNODC works in close partnership with relevant national authorities, such as Ministries of Justice, Interior, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Parliaments, but also with specialized international and regional organizations and entities, including



Mr. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director and H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-hwan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea co-chaired the Plenary Session of the High-Level Meeting

on the effective implementation of relevant conventions and protocols, provides legislative assessments and supports the drafting of legal provisions harmonized with the

the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and

its Group of Experts, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

In 2009, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism granted UNODC official observer status noting: "UNODC's commendable work in addressing issues related to counter terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, has already had a positive impact in promoting implementation of the universal legal framework against terrorism. This includes the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540, and the International Convention for

the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism".

The High-level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism served as an important opportunity to increase the visibility of TPB's enduring engagement in this area. Participants at the high-level event welcomed the positive impact that UNODC's Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism (implemented by the Terrorism Prevention Branch) has had in increasing the number of ratifications and achieving effective implementation of the international legal instruments against nuclear terrorism. In addition, Member States

were invited to avail themselves of UNODC's successful and long-established technical legal assistance programme and capacity-building activities, and to continue supporting them.

In his oral remarks, UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov, who acted as a co-chair for the Plenary Session, underscored the urgency of addressing what he called "one of our greatest global challenges" and expressed UNODC's firm commitment to continue enhancing capacity-building efforts to assist Member States in complying with their international obligations related to the prevention of nuclear terrorism.

Facilitating Regional Judicial Cooperation: The Platform of Penal Judicial Cooperation of the Sahel Countries

Established in 2010 in Bamako with the support of the Terrorism Prevention Branch, the Judicial Platform for the Sahel was born out of a perceived need for strengthened cooperation between criminal justice officials of four Sahel countries, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.

Conceived as a judicial network of national focal points designated by the Ministers of Justice of the region, the Platform aims to both identify technical assistance needs related to strengthening judicial cooperation and to facilitate extradition procedures and mutual legal assistance between the authorities of the four states members of the Platform.

Since its creation, the Sahel Platform has been central to enhancing the capacity of practitioners in the region to employ mechanisms supporting

international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism. For

guide on how to lodge such requests, which can be accessed online through the TPB web page.

In line with its founding Charter adopted in 2010, national focal points of the Sahel Platform meet at least once a year to share experiences, assess the functioning of the Platform and to formulate recommendations for further improvement.

The third meeting of the national focal points of the Platform, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 6-8 November 2012, resulted in the adoption of a new Charter, and Internal Regulations of the Platform, defining new

functioning rules and regulations and opening the gate for other Sahel countries to adhere to the Platform, including Chad and Senegal, which have formally expressed their wish to join the judicial network. The meeting of the focal points was followed by a



From right to left: Mr. Pierre Lapaque, UNODC Regional Representative, together with Ministers of Justice of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali at the third meeting of the Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel

example, the national focal points have developed, in close cooperation with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC, standardized forms for mutual legal assistance and extradition requests to Member States of the Sahel Platform, and have also put together a

meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the Member States, which was key to supporting ownership and institutionalization of the Platform. Moreover, the meeting contributed to strengthening cooperation with networks and organizations sharing the same goals, such as EUROJUST, the Quadripartite mechanism against

terrorism between Belgium, France, Spain and Morocco, and the African Center for Studies and Research on Terrorism. Following the meeting in Burkina Faso, the Platform is now called: “Platform of Penal Judicial Cooperation of the Sahel Countries”. Drawing on the positive experience and good results achieved through the

judicial Platform of the Sahel, consultations with relevant authorities are ongoing with respect to the establishment of a network of national central authorities and prosecution offices for West Africa, within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States.

The UNODC Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform: An Effective Technical Assistance Tool

Although a recent addition to UNODC’s technical assistance tools, the online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform was fast in proving its relevance and value to ongoing capacity-building efforts undertaken by the Terrorism Prevention Branch.

Since its launch in 2011, the breadth and scope of the online training courses delivered through the Platform have been constantly expanding, and so has the number of international practitioners benefitting from the learning and networking opportunities offered by the Platform.

By fall 2012, eight online courses had been carried out through the Platform, training 217 practitioners in 37 countries worldwide, including the Sahel, West Africa and Indian Ocean regions. The courses, which combine tailor-made professional development activities with live debates on counter-terrorism issues, cover a wide range of topics, including the Universal Legal Regime and International Criminal Cooperation against Terrorism.

Latest Developments

The second half of 2012 brought about important developments. In July 2012, the Terrorism Prevention Branch successfully delivered its first intensive two-week summer course on

the Universal Legal Regime against Terrorism to criminal justice and law enforcement officers worldwide.

In addition, following the regional workshop “Training of the Trainers on UNODC/TPB technical assistance tools on counter-terrorism” held in Colombia in October 2011, TPB launched in September 2012 its first

Testimonials

“I thank the Platform team and especially UNODC experts for their commitment and willingness to share their knowledge and experience.”

Judge, Legal Advisor at the Ministry of Justice, Madagascar

“An online course that provides participants with study flexibility is what I have been looking for a few years now, given my position that requires my presence in the office every day. Many thanks to the platform team!”

Prosecutor, Algeria

“I wish to thank the UNODC for this initiative. As terrorism seems to be gaining ground in all corners of the world, tackling it is timely. This training is therefore welcome and will allow practitioners to be better equipped to address such a challenge.”

Deputy Prosecutor, Burkina Faso

online training course in Spanish, targeting 30 participants from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries, including officers from different Schools of Magistrates and Prosecutors of the region. The aim of the course was two-fold: strengthening the capacities of criminal justice officials to prevent and fight terrorism, while promoting the inclusion of comprehensive anti-terrorism programs within the training schedules

of their respective national institutions. The six-week course addressed substantive legal issues related to the Universal Legal Regime against Terrorism, covering a wide array of topics which range from the development of the aforementioned regime and its integration within the broader context of international criminal law, to the criminalization and prosecution of acts of terrorism, international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and the role and functions of the different UN bodies involved in counter-terrorism matters, among others. The launch of this first modern, cost-effective training tool in Spanish has been possible owing to the generous contribution of the Government of Colombia.

The Branch has also implemented, from September through October 2012, a five-week online course on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters against Terrorism, in collaboration with the Department of Penal Affairs and Pardons of the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, training 30 Moroccan criminal justice officers.

As part of an unprecedented effort to facilitate networking between counter-

terrorism experts and practitioners, real-time online discussions are delivered each week, allowing the Members of the Platform – known as

the “Worldwide Community of Practitioners” which has expanded to 815 members to date – to debate on various thematic related to counter-

terrorism and engage in lifelong learning.

Building Capacity to Prevent and Counter Terrorism

The Terrorism Prevention Branch is mandated to provide specialized technical assistance to requesting Member States on the ratification and incorporation into national legislation of the 18 international legal instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, and to strengthen capacity by providing training to criminal justice officials on how to apply these legal instruments in their daily work in compliance with the rule of law.

In 2012, the TPB has continued its capacity building work on a number of thematic issues, both at the regional and national levels.

Nigeria: Benefiting from Best Practices in the Adjudication of Terrorism in the United Kingdom

A group of 17 judges of the Federal High Court of Nigeria had the opportunity to learn from the experience developed in the United Kingdom to adjudicate terrorism, owing to the partnership of UNODC/TPB and the United Kingdom, with Nigerian authorities (National Judicial Institute and the Federal High Court), and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The four-day workshop, which took place in London in October, brought together Nigerian judges, UK experts, representatives from UNODC/TPB, the UN’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), and the Commonwealth Secretariat, to discuss challenges, lessons learned and practice developed in the adjudication of terrorism. Lord Alexander Charles

Carlile, former independent reviewer of the British anti-terrorism legislation, was among the experts.

The discussions focused on, *inter alia*, the importance of having a human rights perspective in countering terrorism, the role of judges with special skills and experience in trying

security measures during trial. Of particular importance was the occasion to discuss with members of the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria the possibility of including in the training curricula for judges, a chapter focusing on the legal aspects of counter-terrorism.



Nigerian Judges meet in London for a TPB-led specialized workshop on key counter-terrorism issues. Organised in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Kingdom

cases of terrorism, the importance of judicial security, standards for witness protection in trials related to terrorism, the need for coordinated work among investigation and prosecution in bringing terrorists to justice, and how this and international judicial cooperation is reflected in the international legal instruments against terrorism.

In addition, Nigerian judges had the opportunity to visit and observe the workings of the Courts of Old Bailey and Woolwich and exchanged views with British judges on proceedings and

This activity is in line with the bilateral cooperation between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, the technical assistance provided to Nigeria by UNODC/TPB, the efforts of Nigerian the authorities to strengthen the criminal justice capacity in the country, the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Terrorism, and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mexico: Preventing and Combating Terrorist Financing

In the framework of the agreement recently reached between the Attorney



General's Office of Mexico (PGR) and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC to develop a series of capacity-building activities on counter-terrorism related matters, a specialized training workshop on "The Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and its Financing: Legal Framework and Mechanisms of International Cooperation", was carried out in Mexico City from 25-29 September 2012.

The workshop, which was attended by 44 prosecutors and investigators from the Vice Attorney General's Office for the Investigation of Organized Crime, covered a broad range of topics, from the universal legal regime against terrorism and its financing, to special investigation techniques and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters related to terrorism.

During the four-day activity, experts from Argentina, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, Eurojust and INTERPOL, shared their experience and best practices in the investigation and prosecution of acts of terrorism.

Participants had the opportunity to work together with the international experts and one UNODC specialist in analyzing and solving case studies concerning the investigation of acts of terrorism and its financing, while also addressing important aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters.

support provided by UNODC to this end.

As part of the above mentioned agreement, a specialized workshop on "The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes" was carried out in Mexico City from 29-31 October.

Afghanistan: Reaching out to the Provinces

The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC has recently completed its first workshop aimed at harmonizing the practices in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related offences among the provinces of Afghanistan, in accordance with the international standards.

During a three-day activity that took place in the Afghan capital from 6-8 November 2012, counter-terrorism practitioners from 17 Afghan provinces, including law enforcement, prosecution, intelligence officers and judges, had the opportunity to meet, discuss and share views on challenges and best practices, among themselves

In her opening remarks, Ms. Marisela Morales Ibañez, Attorney General of Mexico, stressed the importance of enhancing the capacity of national officials to prevent and fight terrorism and welcomed the

as well as with UNODC and other international experts.

The workshop identified bottlenecks in the criminal justice systems at the provincial level which impinge on the investigation and prosecution of serious terrorism-related offences. Active discussions touching upon all the stages of the criminal process resulted in the development of practical and legislative solutions and recommendations, adopted on the basis of consensus among all the participating provinces.

Participating donor community -the United States and Germany- as well as high-level officials of the Ministry of Interior, including a member of the High Council of Afghanistan, the Director General of National Security Prosecution and the Afghan Financial Intelligence Unit, among others, commended TPB's initiative and highlighted its important contribution to facilitating coordination and information exchange between law enforcement, prosecution and the



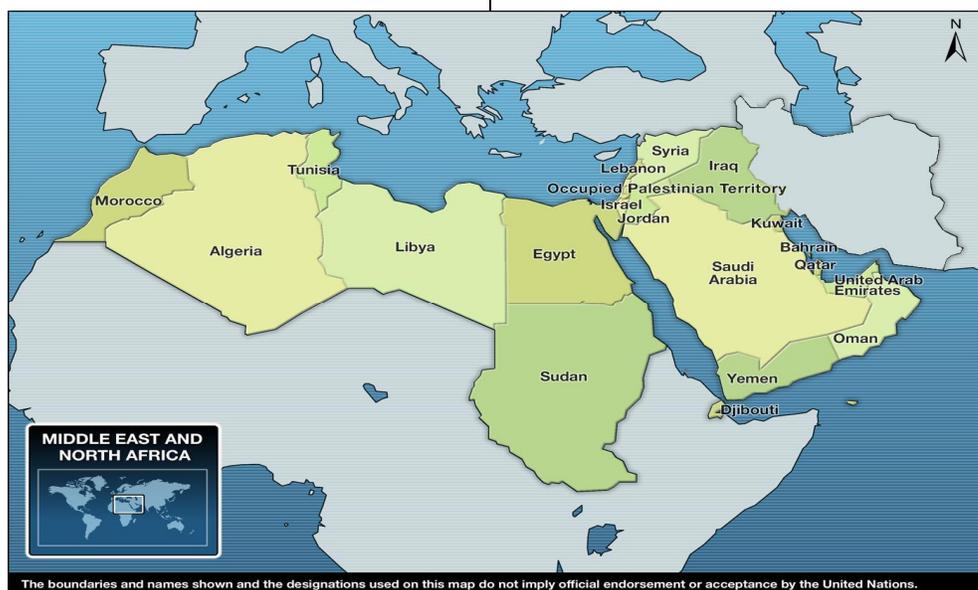
Opening remarks delivered by General Abdul Jamil Khohistani, Director General, Counter Terrorism Department of the Ministry of Interior

judiciary at the provincial level, in an open and frank environment.

The activity, which forms part of a comprehensive technical assistance programme in the country, paved the way for more targeted specialized initiatives at the provincial level, including in the important area of assistance to victims of acts of terrorism.

Middle East and North Africa: Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism

The Government of Morocco has also agreed to host a regional conference on International Cooperation



The overall technical assistance provided to MENA countries this year contributed to strengthening the capacities of more than 170 practitioners and played an important role in enhancing cooperation in criminal matters among Arab states.

Morocco

Within the framework of a Plan of Action developed with the national authorities in Morocco, TPB, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Morocco, has successfully implemented two workshops; one on “The Prosecution, the Investigation and the Adjudication of Terrorist Cases”, based on UNODC’s training tool the *Digest of Terrorist Cases* in May 2012 and a second one on “The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes” in September.

Moreover, in line with the capacity-building efforts undertaken by the TPB and the Government of Morocco, two additional national training activities focusing on the support to victims of acts of terrorism and on investigations on digital communications channels are scheduled to take place in December 2012 and January 2013.

Mechanisms.

Algeria

In Algeria, a two-year project concluded in March with the organization of two national training workshops on the International Legal Framework against the Financing of Terrorism and Money-laundering and on the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism and its Financing. Revised legislation on money-laundering and terrorism financing were adopted following these activities. The national authorities have expressed their keen interest in continuing the successful cooperation with the TPB and are considering ways of strengthening their collaboration in the framework of the ongoing partnership between UNODC as a whole and Algeria.

Egypt

In late February, TPB organized, in cooperation with the League of Arab States (LAS) in Cairo, two regional workshops tackling the issue of regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism; the first on the “Cooperation between regional and sub-regional organizations in implementing the UN Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions”, and the second one on exploring “Ways of establishing an Arab judicial cooperation network in the field of combating terrorism”. The two workshops brought together high-level officials from 18 Arab countries and a number of regional and international organizations, including the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the Committee established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), the 1267 Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the European Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the African Union, to discuss ways of strengthening regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, including through the creation of a regional judicial cooperation platform.

Participants indicated great interest in and support to the establishment of an Arab Judicial Cooperation Platform, which they perceived as an essential tool to facilitate vital information sharing and other forms of cooperation in the region. This gained new impetus with the approval by the General Secretariat of Arab Ministers of Justice of a paper drafted jointly by UNODC/TPB and LAS on the procedures for the establishment of such a platform. The Arab Judicial Cooperation Platform is expected to be launched during the next LAS Summit which will take place in March 2013.

Tunisia

Consultations between the TPB and Tunisian authorities are ongoing with regard to the development of a Plan of Action on activities aimed at strengthening the legal regime against terrorism. As part of the plan, the Branch has been requested to support the establishment of an International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law to be based in Tunis, which will provide rule of law-based training to practitioners.

The mandate of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is to provide specialized assistance to requesting Member States in the legal and related aspects of counter-terrorism, especially for ratifying and implementing the 18 universal legal instruments against terrorism, and also for strengthening the capacity of their criminal justice systems to apply the provisions of these instruments, in full compliance with the principles of the rule of law and human rights.

For further information on the expertise and services provided by the Branch, please contact us at:

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