THE COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGAL TRAINING CURRICULUM:

The Counter-Terrorism Legal Training Curriculum is a platform for transferring the knowledge and expertise needed to strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice officials to implement the universal legal framework against terrorism. The Curriculum integrates training materials on related topics, such as money laundering and organized crime, developed by other parts of UNODC. The second module in the curriculum, on the international legal framework against terrorism, was disseminated in July 2010 and aims to familiarize practitioners with the requirements and implementation of a wide variety of legal instruments so that they can engage in more effective international judicial cooperation. Furthermore, this module expands upon the political and historical dynamics that led the universal legal framework to evolve into its current form thus allowing practitioners to better understand the particular legal aspects of terrorism-related offences that are defined at the international level.

Overall, the Curriculum harmonizes and systematizes legal concepts and related training materials and information to maximize the impact of training activities delivered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB). It is available to all United Nations Member States in all six UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

The Curriculum is divided into 10 modules, as follows:

1: Counter-terrorism and International Law
2: The universal legal framework against terrorism
3: International cooperation in criminal matters: mutual legal assistance and extradition in terrorist cases
4: Counter-terrorism and human rights
5: Financing of terrorism
6: Counter-terrorism and criminal justice proceedings
7: Aviation-related terrorism
8: Maritime terrorism
9: Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism
10: Use of Internet for terrorist purposes

The modules can be adapted to suit the particular needs, expertise and expectations of specific groups. This tailor-made approach will necessarily result in emphasis being placed on certain sections of each module. The format of the Curriculum fits the needs of a “train-the-trainers” approach and TPB works closely with many national training institutes in order that the curriculum be used as a basis to assist the development of regular national training curricula in requesting countries. Drawing from the experience of UNODC/TPB in delivering training activities, and based on its mandate, target audiences typically include law enforcement officials (police, prosecutors and judges), policymakers and Government officials from key departments (notably Foreign Affairs, Justice and Interior), who are involved in legislative drafting or mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, or who have responsibilities with regard to the ratification of international treaties. 