Terrorism and violent extremism are serious and evolving threats to international peace, security, human rights, and sustainable development, injuring victims, families, and countries.

UNODC’s Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022-2027) supports Member States to prevent and counter terrorism through inclusive strategies, policies, and legal means, with a focus on the safety and protection of people.

This Programme, grounded in lessons learned over the course of the last twenty years, is designed to promote crime prevention and criminal justice policies and practices that respect human rights norms, build resilience from the ground up, strengthen alliances between authorities and civil society, prevent radicalization to violence, ensure accountability for crimes and justice for victims.

The Programme advances the UN Secretary General’s “Our Common Agenda”, by promoting a strengthened social contract between Governments and people that is anchored in human rights, and supports solidarity, accountability, and equality.

The Programme applies these core principles through its commitment to leave no one behind, and by aiming to reduce inequalities that make people more vulnerable to terrorism and its effects. It integrates preventative measures as main change enablers and focuses on empowering individuals and communities to lead fulfilling lives through reduced risks associated with terrorism.

This includes the active and equal participation of women and girls and youth engagement in preventing and countering terrorism.

This Programme succeeds UNODC’s Global Programme Strengthening the Legal Regime Against Terrorism (2003-2022), through which UNODC has assisted 70 Member States per year on average and trained more than 37,000 officials in total.

The development of this new Global Programme has been informed by all the recommendations of a final independent evaluation (conducted in 2021) of its predecessor, as well as input from more than 70 Member States, UN entities, regional and civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities. This includes youth-led global and grass-roots organizations, with equal representation between male and female interlocutors.

Since 2003, the UN General Assembly and Security Council have adopted approximately 90 resolutions mandating UNODC to support Member States with the international legal framework against terrorism, as well as crime prevention and criminal justice responses to terrorism.
Relevant priorities of the latest review of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) by the UN General Assembly on 30 June 2021 (A/RES/75/291) are integrated into this Programme.

This Programme is the primary vehicle to implement the UNODC Strategy (2021-2025) thematic pillar of preventing and countering terrorism. The Programme further supports the region- and country-specific UNODC strategic visions.

**OUR OBJECTIVES**

The Programme pursues three outcomes, based on UNODC’s core mandates related to the international legal instruments against terrorism, crime prevention and criminal justice:

1. **Increased Member States’ adherence to, and implementation of, the international legal framework against terrorism.**
   - Adherence to the international legal instruments against terrorism
   - National counter-terrorism legislation

2. **Increased development and implementation of terrorism prevention measures** that are partnership-based, gender-responsive and youth-empowering.
   - Research and analysis
   - Evidence-based policies and strategies
   - Education and awareness-raising related to peace and terrorism prevention
   - Resilience to extremist narratives online
   - Youth-led, socially inclusive platforms and networks
   - Collaborative approaches

3. **Increased effectiveness of criminal justice institutions** to address issues related to preventing and countering terrorism, in line with international human rights obligations, and through international cooperation in criminal matters.
   - Human rights compliant counter-terrorism measures
   - Tools to improve policy and practice
   - Case management
   - Measures to address the links between terrorism and organized crime
   - Countering the financing of terrorism
   - International cooperation
   - Access to justice, legal aid, and representation
   - Prison and detention management to prevent violent extremism and promote rehabilitation

**PARTNERSHIPS**

A key to the successful implementation of this Programme is the expanded use and promotion of effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships.

**Member States**

Central to the Programme is the collaboration with Member States and their institutions responsible for legal, prevention and criminal justice responses to terrorism. These partnerships involve all stakeholders in Member States’ criminal justice systems. This includes law- and policymakers, police and other law enforcement agents, prosecutors and defence lawyers, judges, and prison officials.

**Civil Society, Academia, and Private Sector**

Development of initiatives with youth-led organizations, women organizations, academic institutions and the private sector in support of the Programme’s implementation will be conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner. The Initiatives will aim at increasing the evidence-base for preventing terrorism, improving the whole-of-society development of national policy, supporting education and awareness raising, and building trust between authorities and communities.

**UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**

Coordination within the UN system is conducted through the UN Global Compact. It aims to strengthen the UN’s common action to support Member States, at their request, in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) and other relevant UN resolutions and mandates.

**UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT)**

UNODC and OCT coordinate and cooperate on a wide range of policy initiatives and programme implementation. To maximize the respective mandates, comparative advantages, and strengthen collaboration, UNODC and OCT agreed to a joint Plan of Action in December 2020.

**UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

CTED conducts assessments to review the compliance of Member States with Security Council resolutions that address terrorism, in which UNODC often participates and provides its expertise. In turn, CTED’s assessments provide a basis for identifying national technical assistance needs, and subsequently developing and implementing responsive technical assistance initiatives.