

Since the last briefing, the update report of the Secretary-General on the GCTS was issued on 29 January.

In his report, the Secretary-General presented a seven-point vision to counter terrorism as the international community emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

They include the need (i) for a reinvigorated multilateral response, (ii) to break the cycle of terrorist violence, (iii) to increase support for victims of terrorism, (iv)

Let me now highlight some progress in strengthening our partnerships and the delivery of capacity building assistance.

First, my Office has continued to strengthen counter-terrorism coordination under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact umbrella.

8 projects on priority and emerging issues, of which 7 have been completed and 11 others are ongoing. The Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform now connects 859 focal point from 131 Member States, the European Union, and the 43 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.

In February, the Compact Working Group on Gender released the outcome report on the dimensions of violent extremism and counter- organized by UN Women last year with UNOCT funding.

Next week, the Kingdom of Spain and UNOCT will co-organize a Virtual Dialogue with Human Rights and Civil Society Partners on Building a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter-Terrorism. This event will help build the momentum towards the postponed, in-person, high-level conference

You will hear more from Dr. Khan and Mr. Miedico in a moment about our capacity-building activities this past quarter, during which UNOCT provided training to a total of 1,061 individuals, organized 16 workshops, and held 19 expert meetings.

Earlier this month, UNOCT re-deployed its programme officer from Mauritania to Burkina Faso, where he is helping coordinate a \$10 million interagency programme to assist the government in grappling with the severe terrorist threat there.

We are looking towards the East African Region, where we are poised to finally open as part of the UN Office in Nairobi (UNON) a regional programme office – an outcome of the 2019 regional High-Level Conference on Africa opened by the Secretary-General and the President of Kenya. When it opens in the next couple of months, the office will implement regional aspects of several of our global programmes.

In Sudan, UNOCT-UNCCT has contributed to a European Union funded project to help the country reintegrate itself into the international community, starting with support for its financial system under the UNCCT Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

And lastly, UNOCT/UNCCT continues to support the rights and needs of victims through the newly expanded Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, based on its four key areas, namely: solidarity, outreach and advocacy; policy coordination; technical assistance; and communication and visibility.

Regular budget and grant-making authority

Our efforts and the progress reported would not have been possible without the continuing support of some Member States and other partners. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all our donors, notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar whose combined contributions accounted for 76 per cent of budget last year; and especially grateful to the EU, U.S. and the Netherlands.

By 2023, the funding provided by the State of Qatar for many of our core positions will expire, and the funds provided by Saudi Arabia for UNCCT are expected to be exhausted next year.

As I briefed you today, since its establishment, the UNOCT has had only eight regular budget posts. We still have no dedicated funding for human rights, gender or monitoring and evaluation functions. We have managed to pull together minimal funding from other sources to have skeletal staff for these purposes.

I, therefore, hope that Member States will positively consider the proposal to put coordination functions.

With those few words, it is my pleasure to now give the floor to their Excellencies, Ambassador Al-Hassan, and Ambassador Santos, for their remarks.

You have the floor, Ambassador al-Hassan.

Thank you.