



**GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting**  
Thursday, 7 October 2021

GCTF Inspired Institutions: Looking to the Next Decade  
Remarks by Mr. Thomas Wuchte (5 minutes)  
IIJ Executive Secretary

Thank you Co-Chairs.

The IIJ is a key partner in the GCTF mission. Our mandate is clear: supporting the implementation of the GCTF good practices through the design and delivery of impactful capacity-building for criminal justice practitioners in our shared geographic focus regions.

Today, I will focus on the *impact* of that mission; drawing on the experiences of our more than 7000 Alumni, who are now ambassadors for the GCTF and rule of law-compliant counter-terrorism.

**The IIJ Core Initiatives & Workstreams build practitioner capacity around *emerging counter-terrorism challenges*.**

One of those Initiatives, Global Central Authorities, supports implementation of the *Rabat Memorandum*, the *UN Global CT Strategy* and *Security Council Resolutions* by strengthening the engines of international judicial cooperation.

During a series of regional workshops, the IIJ identified an urgent priority: the harmonisation of the processing of inbound and outbound mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition requests.

With support from the United States, the IIJ partnered with Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to produce *East Africa Regional MLA Guidelines*. Tanzania has already formally adopted the guidelines, and Uganda will soon follow. Both countries are now *proactively* taking the next steps: Tanzania has taken the lead in drafting an operational manual, based on the IIJ guidelines, for its new practitioners; and, at Uganda's request, the IIJ is supporting practitioners at the national level.

With support from the UK Central Authority, the IIJ then worked with Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria to develop *West Africa Regional Guidelines*. This was followed by bilateral work with The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria to support operationalisation.

So we now have real impact and momentum in two key regions.

But, the IIJ is not stopping there. We are partnering with the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (O/SESG-GL) to further expand the scope of the standardised guidelines to all other ICGLR Member States, and in the coming year, we will work with practitioners in the MENA region and French-speaking West African countries.

This is capacity-building with sustainable impact.

**Allow me to share an Alumni story from our innovative online Counter-Terrorism Academic Curriculum (or eCTAC).**

Mr. Lafama Prosper Thiombiano is the Prosecutor of Faso, a province in Burkina Faso, west of the capital. Prosper is the key point of contact for all terrorism-related cases in his jurisdiction.

In December, he successfully completed our francophone eCTAC course on *proactive investigations and prosecutions*. He described the experience as “intensive”, and successfully “putting [the practitioners] back in the centre of what [they] should be doing in proactive investigations”. He said the IIJ course was “a breakthrough” in terms of online training; training he would not otherwise have had during the global pandemic.

Prosper is already implementing the skills and techniques he learned. He turned what he had learned on evidence-gathering and the importance of

procedural safeguards in compliance with human rights, into *a number of successful investigations* under his authority. Success he directly attributes to his IJJ training and the GCTF good practices.

IJJ Alumni leave our courses and workshops empowered; they are ambassadors for Human Rights- and Rule of Law-compliant counter-terrorism and the GCTF mission. Prosper, like so many of our Alumni, is paying forward what he has learned. He has shared techniques and good practices with his colleagues. He is advocating for the rule of law and protection of human rights. And he effected change at the interagency level, establishing a consultation framework to improve coordination between investigations and the Public Prosecution Office. Prosper *is* the GCTF Mission In Action.

This impact would not be possible without the vision, commitment and support of our donors – whether through

- Institutional grants;
- support for our eCTAC or new Research Agenda; or
- funding for our Core Initiatives & Workstreams.

Visit our new website ([theijj.org](http://theijj.org)) to hear more from our Alumni and specific examples of how you can partner with the IJJ to put in action the GCTF good practices.

Thank you.