Note from the Co-Chairs

With this new edition, Egypt and the European Union wish to inform readers of the first achievements of our joint undertaking as Co-Chairs of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Capacity-building in the East Africa Region Working Group (EAWG).

The Cairo meetings held in April this year allowed us foremost to collect views on the draft working group programme that will centre around the six previously agreed priorities – border security, CT legislation and related training, P/CVE Action Plans, countering terrorist financing, strategic communications, and interfaith dialogue. We also received during lively discussions input and feedback on three GCTF Initiatives: the Initiative on Addressing the Challenge of Returning Families of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, the Initiative to Address Homegrown Terrorism and the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism Initiative. We are grateful to the Netherlands who had organised shortly after the Fourth Regional Meeting on the latter topic, which helped in bringing the East Africa perspective to the fore. Each of these Initiatives have in the meantime finalised best practice documents that are available on the GCTF website. We recommend that active use is made thereof.

We also recognized the need to involve further relevant existing bodies such as the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), which provided us with a very useful overview of current trends. We also agreed to explore synergies with our sister working group dealing with West Africa.

Short summaries of the workshops on countering extremist narratives (sponsored by Egypt) and on the countering the financing of terrorism (sponsored by the EU) can be found in this newsletter. A full report on all Cairo meetings can be found on the GCTF portal. The EAWG Co-Chairs will report on these activities at the Fourteenth GCTF Coordination Committee Meeting in the margins of this year’s UNGA73.

We now look to the local coordinators network to promote the GCTF’s Framework Documents, to help feed into the newest Initiatives and activities - Memorandum on the Use of Rule of Law-based Administrative measures in a CT Context; Initiative on Improving Capabilities for Detecting and Interdicting Terrorist Travel through Enhanced Terrorist Screening and Information Sharing - and to involve as usual in all of this important partners such as IGAD/Djibouti Centre, the GCTF-Inspired Institutions and other organisations, notably the UN.

Finally, we wish to thank the ISS in Pretoria for their continued support in producing our newsletter!
Counter Extremist Narratives Workshop

On 15 and 16 April, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacekeeping (CCCPA) in partnership with the Governments of Egypt and Japan, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme organised an expert workshop in Cairo, Egypt titled “Towards a Comprehensive Approach to Countering Extremist Narratives Conducive to Terrorism in the East and Horn of Africa.”

Key recommendations from the workshop are as follows:

1. On Research:
   - Developing counter narratives, including religious and ideological narratives.
   - The role of women and gendered perspectives in violent extremism groups in the East and Horn of Africa.
   - A network of researchers in the East and Horn of Africa region working on Counter narrative and violent extremisms and providing necessary support to the network to carry on its activities.
   - Developing a practical guidelines document on implementing CVE initiatives in East and Horn of Africa region bearing in mind the specific regional dynamics.

2. On Capacity Building:
   - Developing Counter-Narratives within the East and Horn of Africa region.

3. Developing tools for monitoring and evaluation of counter-narratives in the East and Horn of Africa region.

Workshop of the Countering the Financing in East Africa: Sharing of Good Practices

On 16 and 17 April, in Cairo, Egypt in the framework of the EAWG, DEVCO B5 organised a workshop to consider the good practices in respect of Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) in East Africa amongst the key public and private sector actors as well as regional and international bodies, and Civil Society Organisations. Around 110 participants from intelligence agencies, law enforcement agencies, Financial Intelligence Units (FIU), the judiciary, civil society organisations, private sector and international organisations and GCTF Members discussed how to build trust and strengthen collaboration and the effectiveness of the operational chain between government, civil society actors, the private sector and international organisations in the common effort against terrorism and specifically CFT.

The workshop was conceived around the life cycle of terrorism and specifically from the CFT perspectives; development, receipt and analysis of intelligence, actions taken by law enforcement; the role of FIUs in interacting with the regulated sector; the provision and development of evidence in the judicial process; the role of the Non Profit sector and civil society organisations in the nexus between P/CVE and CFT; the role of international organisations facilitating the resolution of cross border challenges; and finally the assistance provided by the donor community and implementing partners in supporting programmes to enhance effectiveness and sustainability in the afore mentioned areas. Participants agreed on the relevance of the topic and the need to increase the effectiveness and strengthen platforms, engagement and operational practices in the region in order to adopt and implement effective multi-level CFT strategies to reduce the capability and actions of extremist and terrorist groups.

The EU, under its Horn of Africa Anti-Money Laundering/CFT multi-year project, is currently supporting a research study, designed to provide an overview of the risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities inherent in cash-intensive economies. The study has been designed to further inform regional evidence-based programming and is inclusive of the entire CFT life-cycle. It was suggested in the event that we should explore the possibility that GCTF consider the preparation of a good practices memorandum on CFT in respect of capacity building.

International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), Malta

In March 2018, the IIJ published its new Judicial Guidelines for the Horn of Africa Region, produced in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) https://bit.ly/2mR0dY2. The EU-funded IIJ Judicial Guidelines provide a practical and tailored regional framework for implementing and operationalizing the GCTF’s The Hague Memorandum on Good Practices for the Judiciary in Adjudicating Terrorism Offences in the Horn of
African region. In April 2018, the IIJ Judicial Guidelines served as the framework for a four-day national workshop in Addis Ababa. The workshop was convened under the IIJ’s Judicial Initiative, one of eight IIJ core initiatives. Funded by the European Union, the workshop was an opportunity for Ethiopian judges, investigators, public defenders and private lawyers to share experiences in the handling of terrorism cases and to promote implementation of the Hague Memorandum.

For more information contact: Mr. Soufiane EL Hamdi, Program Manager elhamdis@theiij.org

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Geneva

In May 2018, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) Board approved a 1st round National Application from Kenya for US$ 5 million through 2021. Grants will enable three civil society based consortia to support women, youth, religious leaders and teachers to address drivers of violent extremism in Garissa, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Wajir counties. Activities will focus on uprooting stereotypes, addressing historical grievances, improving socio-economic inclusion, and using media to reinforce positive messages and social cohesion. Implementation is expected to start in August/September of 2018.

For more information contact: Ms. Sylvia Raulo, Senior Grants Officer s.raulo@gcerf.org

Hedayah

Hedayah, in partnership with UNESCO, UNESCO IICBA, facilitated a train-the-trainer meeting to deliver its Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E) program in South Sudan. With support of the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa, the PVE-E program starts in September 2018 in Juba aiming to train teacher-trainers on key PVE-E objectives and classroom approaches.

In August 2018, Hedayah released its third report on counter-narratives Undermining Violent Extremist Narratives in East Africa: A How-to Guide. The report captures guidance and good practice collated at a workshop conducted by Hedayah and the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) in February 2018. Hedayah’s Community Policing for CVE program in partnership with the Commonwealth CVE Unit worked with 25 police academy trainers from five different police training facilities throughout Tanzania. The focus of this training was to emphasize the connection between community policing and CVE and highlight the important role of police academy training in embedding the community policing ethos in the Tanzanian Police Force.

For more information contact: Ms. Sara Zeiger, Program Manager sara.zeiger@hedayah.ae

ICEPCVE

On April 25, the Intergovernmental Authority on development (IGAD) officially inaugurated in Djibouti the ICEPCVE, which has been operational since October 2016. IGAD is the first Regional Economic Community (REC) to implement the UN Plan of Action to PVE, calling on all states and RECs to develop local and regional strategies in curbing violent extremism.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Djibouti’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, Kenya’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jamal Mohamed Hassan, Somalia’s Federal Republic Minister of Planning, Eng. Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary and the chief guest Amb. Donald Y. Yamamoto, the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, US Department of State. On the occasion, IGAD also launched the Regional Strategy for P/CVE in the Horn and Eastern Africa Region.
ICEPCVE empowers State and Non-State actors to challenge and undermine violent extremism, and enhance resilience and capacity of youth, women, religious leaders and civil society in CVE ideologies through generating positive alternative narratives.

For more information Contact Person: Dr. Simon K. Nyambura, Director simon.nyambura@igad.int

Special Feature

The Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism Initiative – Fourth Regional Meeting

On 8 and 9 May, the Fourth Regional Meeting of the “Nexus between transnational organised crime and terrorism initiative” was held in Nairobi. The workshop was organised by the Netherlands in partnership with UNICRI and was hosted by Kenya. The workshop was attended by government representatives from Eastern & Horn of Africa (Chad, DRC, Djibouti, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda), GCTF Members (Algeria, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, EU, France, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Qatar, Spain, UK and US) and partner organisations (CCCPA, Global Initiative, ISS, INTERPOL, RAND, UN).

Some of the highlights of this meeting included:

• Recognition that there is a lack of data and an assumptions driven approach requiring more research on the nexus;
• On research and information sharing, the main challenges remain the information gathering, lack of verifiable information, secretive and decentralized nature, rapidly changing trends, lack of witness protection and silo mentality.
• On capacity building for law enforcement, the main challenges remain the need to be up to date with latest technology, whole-of-justice chain approach and the private sector engagement.

The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism, will be presented for endorsement at the Ninth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting in September 2018. Subsequently, the Netherlands will launch a Policy Toolkit in view of operationalizing the Good Practices document.

Calendar

| Sept 24 | Fourteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting, The Roosevelt Hotel, New York |
| Sept 26 | Ninth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting, The Roosevelt Hotel, New York |
| Sept 26 | The EU, GCERF, and the Kofi Annan Foundation Panel Discussion: “Listen! A Youth Perspective on Preventing Violent Extremism”, 15h00-17h00, The Roosevelt Hotel, New York |
| Sept 27 | EU and Denmark, Partnerships for Countering Terrorist Influence, 09h00-13h00, New York |
| Sept 27 | ISS, European Union, Canada, Norway, Mapping of PVE Initiatives in East and West Africa, 15h00-17h00, 666 Third Avenue, New York |

About the Global Counterterrorism Forum

The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) is an informal, multilateral counterterrorism (CT) platform that identifies areas of civilian counterterrorism where national capabilities can be strengthened. It provides a dedicated platform for sharing expertise, strategies, and capacity-building programmes. The GCTF has five Working Groups. Three are thematic (Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law; Countering Violent Extremism; Foreign Terrorist Fighters) and two which are geographic (East and West Africa). The Working Groups identify challenges and mobilize political will, financial resources, and expertise to implement those activities.

Morocco and the Netherlands co-chair the GCTF. The 30 members of the GCTF are: Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States.

For more information, contact the GCTF Administrative Unit. Email: adminunit@theGCTF.org