Note from the Co-Chairs

With this fifth edition of the Newsletter, Egypt and the European Union wish to inform readers of the progress and achievements of our joint undertaking for the second year as Co-Chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Capacity-building in the East Africa Region Working Group (EAWG).

This Newsletter comes days after the successful Second Plenary Meeting of the GCTF EAWG in Nairobi, in which Egypt and the EU expressed their commitment to continue to serve the region, and their willingness to serve as the Co-Chairs of the EAWG for a further two-year period (decision to be taken during the GCTF 15th Coordinating Committee Meeting, in Malaga, Spain, 13-14 March 2019). A summary of the proceedings of the plenary will be presented in this Newsletter.

The EAWG has embarked on implementing its workplan, which was developed over the past couple of years and informed by the 2018 Cairo meetings. The workplan centres around the six previously agreed priorities – border security, counterterrorism (CT) legislation and related training, P/CVE Action Plans, countering terrorist financing, strategic communications, and interfaith dialogue. We will be exploring synergies with our sister capacity-building in West Africa working group on border security later this year.

We recognized the great efforts that the East African region and individual countries have taken in responding to the threat of terrorism in the region. Although setbacks have occurred, such as the Dusit2D Complex attack earlier this year in Nairobi, the impressive interagency coordination to prevent further deaths following the attack is testament to the increasing capacity to respond to terrorist attacks.

A short summary of the side event on the margins of the EAWG Plenary on law enforcement capacity building responses against terrorism in East Africa (sponsored by the EU) can be found in this newsletter. A full report on all Nairobi meetings will be made available on the GCTF portal. The Working Group Co-Chairs will report on all of this at the Fifteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting in Malaga, Spain.

We look forward to engaging and building the capacity of East African criminal justice and other relevant actors through a number of workshops to promote the GCTF’s Good Practice Documents and to involve as usual in all of this important partners such as 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!
GCTF Capacity-building in the East Africa Region WG Plenary Meeting

The Second Plenary Meeting of the GCTF Capacity-building in the East Africa Region Working Group (WG) assessed progress in the region since the previous meeting in Cairo in 2018. The meeting was chaired by Amb. Ihab Fahmy of Egypt and Amb. John Gatt-Rutter of the European Union (EU).

Amb. Martin Kimani, Director of Kenya’s National Counter Terrorism Centre, opened the meeting. He noted that global actors could learn from African experiences and vice-versa.

This opening session emphasised the need to move beyond norm setting (e.g. producing standards, good practice instruments, etc) to implementation of these. Presentations were made by Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Yemen and the following themes emerged:

- Developing new policy and legislation or updating existing measures
- Strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms and international cooperation mechanisms:
  - Strengthening national counter-terrorism co-ordination structures and related institutions;
  - Regional collaboration to address multiple threats; and
- Establishment or improvement of operational systems and strategies

Intergovernmental institutions, such as the African Union Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), and the African Union Committee of Intelligence and Security Services in of Africa (CISSA), and the IGAD Security Sector Programme (ISSP), and the United Nations also provided presentations on a variety of policy and implementation support activities.

A session was held on Countering Terrorism Online, with presentations from Switzerland, the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and Columbia University. The final session on a Comprehensive Approach to Counter Radicalization included presentations from the Institute for Security Studies, the Global Center on Cooperative Security, and Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping (CCCPA).

The GCTF-Inspired institutions also provided reports of the work in the region, which are profiled later in this report.
International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), Malta

The IIJ was pleased to welcome practitioners from across East Africa to many of the 20 workshops it held between September 2018 and February 2019, including the IIJ Judicial Capacity Building Initiative: Horn of Africa Regional Workshop, held in Istanbul in partnership with Turkey’s Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. More than 40 judges, prosecutors and other practitioners from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda participated in the workshop, which focused on regional implementation and operationalization of The Hague Memorandum on Good Practices for the Judiciary in Adjudicating Terrorism Offenses, utilizing IIJ Judicial Guidelines developed specifically for the HoA region. Practitioners and experts from East Africa also participated in workshops under other IIJ Core Initiatives, including Global Central Authorities, Addressing Homegrown Terrorism (Rabat-Washington GPs), and RFTFs (criminal justice responses to RFTFs and their Families), and two new work streams on Battlefield Evidence and an Intel-into-Evidence core curriculum.

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Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Geneva

Following the approval of the Kenya National Application by its Governing Board in May 2018, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) signed grant agreements with three consortia of Kenyan civil society organisations to support women, youth, religious leaders, and teachers to address drivers of violent extremism in Garissa, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Wajir Counties. The GCERF-funded programs will build capacities and confidence of youth to reject violence; support connections among community members, security actors, and potential change agents; provide youth with entrepreneurship trainings to access livelihood activities; enhance promotion of inter-religious tolerance; strengthen the capacities of religious leaders and teachers to engage in preventing violent extremism; and support women to enhance their capacities to build cohesion and foster tolerance among religious communities.

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Hedayah

Hedayah, in partnership with UNESCO, UNESCO IICBA and under the guidance of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction in South Sudan, facilitated a teacher-trainer program in October 2018 in Juba, South Sudan on the topic of Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E). The PVE-E program was delivered with the support of the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa with an aim to train teacher-trainers in South Sudan on key objectives and classroom approaches.

Hedayah also conducted an evaluation and mentorship visit to various locations in Uganda, to follow-up on a workshop held to train teachers in Uganda during January 2018. The final evaluation report was released in January 2019.

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 the guidance and good practices collated at a workshop conducted by Hedayah and the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

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On 21 and 22 February, a side event was held on the margins of the GCTF EAWG Plenary in Nairobi was held on the topic “Law Enforcement Capacity Building Responses Against Terrorism in East Africa”. The workshop was organised by the Counter-Terrorism Monitoring, Reporting and Support Mechanism (CT MORSE) and sponsored by the European Union. The event was attended by government representatives from East Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen), GCTF Members (Algeria, Australia, Canada, Egypt, EU, Morocco, Netherlands, Spain, UK and US) and partner organisations (CCCPA, GCCS, IIJ, ISS, INTERPOL, UN).

The event was focused on strengthening information and evidence-based exchanges across the East African region. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of and discuss opportunities to fuse the collective efforts of different agencies, and share good practices on regional and national cooperation which closely aligned with the need for sustained security and stability.

The event was divided into five sessions with expert and technical presentations as follows:

The INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa, UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Somali Police Force, Kenya National Counter Terrorism Centre and the EU-funded project in the Greater Horn of Africa on Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism gave an overview of law enforcement responses to terrorism in the region in the first session.
The Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Kenya and Uganda, Banadir Regional Appeal Court in Somalia and the Public Prosecution Office in Spain presented successful experiences in building criminal cases against terrorists following attacks in those countries in the second session. The session highlighted the experiences of these countries in the management of voluminous evidence, sources of information and data collection, use and sharing of intelligence and evidence in various jurisdiction.

The third session focused on the collection and use of intelligence for purposes of criminal trials in the form of actionable evidence. Various jurisdictions from France, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and the UK shared the challenges and limitations that they experience in the use of intelligence in counterterrorism investigations and prosecutions. Discussions at plenary revealed that the legislative frameworks of many East African countries do not support the conversion of intelligence into evidence, but the intelligence and investigating authorities in these countries have to some extent found ways of working together in order to avert, prevent and/or address terrorist attacks. Further inquiry into this subject was noted.

Session four focused on the importance of strengthening collaboration between law enforcement and the justice system at the national, regional and international levels. Recognising the transnational nature of terrorism operations, speakers from the Uganda Police Service, National Police of Djibouti, the Office of the Attorney General of Somalia and the Federal High Court of Ethiopia explored measures and instruments that could be put in place in order to strengthen institutional cooperation as well as actions to improve institutional capacities at national, regional and international levels.

The last session showcased regional counter terrorism capacity-building field training exercises. Speakers from INTERPOL, Crime Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Unit, Rwanda, Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism and the Regional Counter Terrorism Centre of Excellence focused on regional joint training exercises that assess readiness to counter terror threats, combine efforts to counter, react and investigate terror attacks, improve awareness of different types of attack with a view to enhance regional cohesion and cooperation.
### Upcoming EAWG Activities and GCTF Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>March</td>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>Fifteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting, <em>IUNION Hotel, Malaga, Spain</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>13–14</td>
<td>GCTF EAWG and West Africa Working Group Workshop on Border Security, <em>Dakar, Senegal</em></td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>23–24</td>
<td>GCTF EAWG Workshop on the GCTF Rabat and Neuchâtel Memoranda and the Abuja Recommendations, <em>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</em></td>
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<td>Sept</td>
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<td>Sixteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting, <em>The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
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<td>Tenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting, <em>The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States</em></td>
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### 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 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

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