The Co-Chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Capacity-building in the East Africa Region Working Group (EAWG), Egypt and the European Union (EU), would like to update readers on the activities and achievements of the Working Group over the last six months, as another productive term of the EAWG Co-Chairs draws to a close.

GCTF Members, countries of the East African region and the GCTF-Inspired Institutions, together with their partners, have continued their important work on many issues relating to the focus areas of the EAWG. These focus areas include countering terrorist financing, ensuring border security management and integrating gender perspectives into counterterrorism responses.

As part of its key activities, the EAWG hosted a workshop on strengthening national and regional awareness of the Rabat and Neuchâtel memoranda and the Abuja Recommendations in late August. A summary of this event can be found in this newsletter, along with updates from the GCTF-Inspired Institutions and a feature profiling the Judicial Guidelines for Adjudicating Terrorism Offences in the Horn of Africa region published in 2018.

As will be showcased in this newsletter, the activities of the EAWG and its partners during this period reflect a deep and ongoing commitment to engaging with and building the capacity of law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant actors in East Africa.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank participating countries of the East African region, the GCTF-Inspired Institutions and EAWG partners for their engagement and hard work throughout 2019. The Co-Chairs would also like to thank the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), which has produced this newsletter and assisted with implementing the activities of the EAWG.

Egypt and the EU look forward to another fruitful term for the EAWG.
Workshop on the Abuja Recommendations (28–30 August 2019)

A workshop on Strengthening National and Regional Awareness of the Abuja Recommendations was hosted by Egypt and the EU in their capacity as EAWG Co-Chairs in Kampala, Uganda, from 28–30 August 2019. The participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda included national and regional policymakers, senior officials and representatives from regional and international institutions.

Based on discussions and inputs from a range of experts in the field, the GCTF Abuja Recommendations on the Collection, Use and Sharing of Evidence for Purposes of Criminal Prosecution of Terrorist Suspects were developed in 2018 to help address the complexity of prosecuting terrorists in Africa.

The Abuja Recommendations encompass the arrest, detention and prosecution of terrorists in the context of respecting human rights and the rule of law. This set of recommendations is complemented by the GCTF Neuchâtel Memorandum, which serves as a guide for practitioners and policymakers in developing and implementing programmes and policies regarding children associated with terrorist acts or violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

This is especially important considering the high number of children currently radicalised to violence, recruited and involved in terrorism-related activities.

Speakers and participants at the workshop outlined the complexities of executing the Abuja Recommendations in East Africa, reviewed international and regional obligations relating to the prosecution of terrorists, and discussed actions currently being taken to meet these.

Importantly, the workshop profiled lessons and challenges from East Africa relating to prosecutorial strategies that are currently effective, emerging activities aimed at making prosecutions more effective, and how best to promote the effective prosecution of terrorists while respecting human rights and the rule of law.

Discussions around the Neuchâtel Memorandum informed participants’ understanding of how to address the specific circumstances of juveniles engaged in terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism in line with the Abuja Recommendations.
Activities of the GCTF-Inspired Institutions

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Geneva

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) represents the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. GCERF is operational in seven countries, including Kenya in the East Africa region.

Kenyan organisations receive funding from both the GCERF core funding mechanism (CFM), which enables national organisations to receive funding for up to three years, and the accelerated funding mechanism (AFM), which provides small, short-term grants. Under the CFM, three organisations have been contracted, who will in turn work with sub-grantees in order to reach target communities in remote areas. Under the AFM, which asks for private sector co-financing contributions, grants were signed with three organisations. These grants finance projects that focus on young women, developing and implementing strategies for preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism (P/CVE) in prisons nationwide, and strengthening relationships between youth and state actors. In total, GCERF funds 17 Kenyan civil society organisations, two of which have never received funds from an international donor source.

GCERF is committed to strengthening existing structures and reinforcing the leadership role of the Kenyan government by ensuring that initiatives funded by GCERF are aligned with the National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism and the County Action Plans. GCERF ensures that programme updates are shared with the National Counter-Terrorism Centre and the County Community Engagement Forums that are situated in each county.

During GCERF's June Board Meeting, Somalia was approved as a partner country. GCERF has since conducted a security assessment and began preparations for a Country Needs Assessment. GCERF is currently seeking commitments to fund grants for impact in Somalia.

For questions or further information, contact:
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Hedayah, Abu Dhabi

As part of the global intervention on Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E) conducted by Hedayah and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Hedayah and UNESCO’s International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) published a toolkit entitled Classroom activities for preventing violent extremism through education in East Africa.

The aim of this toolkit is to provide teachers in East Africa with activities and lessons that they can conduct in the classroom. The activities are designed for primary and secondary school teachers. It strongly encourages teachers to adjust activities according to the dynamics of their classrooms and available resources.

In July 2019, Hedayah also released the Swahili and Somali translations of Undermining Violent Extremist Narratives in East Africa: A How-to Guide. The Guide captures the good practices and guidance collated at a workshop conducted by Hedayah and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in February 2018.

All of the resources above are available on Hedayah’s website, www.hedayahcenter.org

For more information on the work in the region, particularly with regard to PVE-E & counter-narratives, contact:

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Developing Capacity for the Adjudication of Terrorism Cases in the Horn of Africa Region

Many states in East Africa currently face a range of terrorism-related transnational security threats, as well as legislative gaps for countering terrorism and capacity gaps in the application of the rule of law and human rights international standards.

Trial court judges often handle tremendous caseloads resulting from case management workloads, delay tactics by advocates, insufficient eye-witness evidence and little to no forensic evidence. They also experience serious threats to their lives from terrorist and transnational criminal organisations.

In addition, judges from all courts are being exposed to more complex transnational cases requiring knowledge of international legal principles and mechanisms.

In order to address these challenges and meet growing concerns around these issues, criminal justice institutions in the region recognised that developing more robust and efficient mechanisms for handling terrorism cases would benefit long-term efforts.

With the generous support of the EU, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) hosted a series of workshops tailored to provide technical assistance to the judiciary in the Horn and East Africa regions.

The workshops covered a range of issues and challenges faced by the judiciary while handling terrorism-related cases, with topics varying from structural and organisational issues to operational challenges.

Judicial Guidelines on Good Practices for the Judiciary in Adjudicating Terrorism Offenses in the Horn of Africa Region (2018) was the result of this capacity-building programme. Produced by the IIJ in collaboration with the ISS, the guidelines were developed in close consultation with and validated by judicial authorities in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Somaliland, Tanzania and Uganda. The Judicial Guidelines can be accessed at: https://theiij.org/wp-content/uploads/Judicial-Guidelines-on-Good-Practices-for-the-Adjudication-of-Terrorism-Offences.pdf.

This important document first identifies priority areas and specific challenges faced by judges and other criminal justice stakeholders working on terrorism-related cases at the trial level in the region. It then maps out comprehensive guidelines and recommendations relating to trial management standards, admissibility and assessment of evidence, juvenile justice in the terrorism context, special measures to protect victims and witnesses, sentencing and special trial challenges.

The Judicial Guidelines, designed to help judicial officers assigned to terrorism cases, are premised on the nine good practices that need to be established to enhance the legitimacy of judicial systems, minimise the risk of human rights violations, and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards and principles.
These good practices are: using specially trained judges; using continuous trials; developing effective trial management standards; establishing measures to protect witnesses and victims; maintaining the right of the accused to a fair trial with adequate legal representation; establishing a legal framework for the use and protection of evidence from intelligence sources and methods; developing effective courthouse and courtroom security; developing media guidelines regarding the court and parties to the trial; and ensuring victims of terrorism have access to justice.
# Upcoming EAWG Activities and GCTF Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Sixteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting</td>
<td>The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Tenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting</td>
<td>The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>GCTF EAWG High-level Side Event on Countering the Financing of Terrorism</td>
<td>The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, United States</td>
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## About the Global Counterterrorism Forum

The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) is an informal, multilateral counterterrorism 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 mobilise political will, financial resources and expertise to implement those activities.

Morocco and the Netherlands are the Co-Chairs of the GCTF. The 30 members of the GCTF are: Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, EU, 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: adminunit@theGCTF.org

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