Note from the Co-Chairs

Egypt and the European Union (EU), Co-Chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum’s (GCTF) Capacity Building in the East Africa Region Working Group (EAWG), welcome readers to this update of the Working Group’s activities and achievements over the last six months.

Terrorist attacks across borders throughout the East African region during 2019 and in the first quarter of 2020 underscore the ongoing importance of the work of the GCTF, the EAWG, countries of the East African region, the GCTF-Inspired Institutions and their partners in the region.

Going forward into 2020, the primary objectives of the EAWG remain relevant – to provide a forum for information exchange, networking and cooperation among a variety of stakeholders to promote dialogue, understanding, sharing of analysis and lessons learned with a view to building collaborative partnerships in order to address the dynamics and requirements of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the East African region. In addition, the EAWG aims to mobilise adequate resources to continue this important work.

The EAWG will continue to work on its current focus areas throughout 2020, namely: counterterrorism legislation and related training; national and regional action plans on preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism; countering terrorist financing (CTF); strategic communications; inter-faith dialogue; and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism.

The Co-Chairs look forward to ensuring the EAWG remains a relevant and dynamic platform for advancing counterterrorism work throughout the East African region in 2020.

Finally, Egypt and the EU wish to thank the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria for its continued support in producing the EAWG Newsletter.

The EAWG Co-Chairs, Egypt and the EU, in cooperation with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), organised a High-level Side Event on Countering the Financing of Terrorism in New York on 26 September 2019.

The meeting brought together 70 participants representing 20 countries and eight organisations. The workshop sought to: promote discussion on the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2462 (2019) on preventing and combatting the financing of terrorism; exchange ideas on how to further enhance cooperation and synergies between the UN and the GCTF; increase visibility and involvement of the GCTF in countering the financing of terrorism-related activities; and identify and explore ways to strengthen the role of the UN as a capacity-building provider in the East Africa region.

Opening statements were made by the Egyptian and EU Co-Chairs, Ambassador Ihab Fahmy and Ambassador John Gatt-Rutter, as well as the Under-Secretary-General of the UNOCT, Vladimir Voronkov. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Dr Markos Tekle, and Kenyan Presidential Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism and Director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Dr Martin Kimani, participated in the event.

Session 1 was dedicated to an overview of the terrorism and terrorism financing threat in the region, including the potential nexus with transnational organised crime, with inputs from Ethiopia and Kenya. Derek Leist, an anti-money laundering and CFT specialist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, focused his presentation on the terrorist threat and the implementation of UNSCR 2462 (2019) in the East African region, as well as the work of the Financial Action Task Force to combat the financing of terrorism.
Session 2 dealt with the importance of international and regional cooperation in countering the financing of terrorism and explored how best to integrate the UN and GCTF agenda towards the implementation of UNSCR 2462 (2019).

Session 3 addressed capacity-building needs in the region, with presentations on current and envisaged projects to address these needs. In particular, Dr Jehangir Khan, Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and the UNOCT, reiterated the UN’s commitment to working with the East African region, specifically through its work with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group on its regional CFT plan.

Ambassador Ihab Fahmy and Ambassador John Gatt-Rutter closed the meeting by thanking participants for the rich discussions, as well as the GCTF Administrative Unit and the ISS for their contributions to the event.

### Activities of the GCTF-Inspired Institutions

**Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Geneva**

Kenya: During the third and fourth quarters of 2019, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) signed three additional grants to support the operationalisation of County Action Plans through County Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Engagement Forums in Garissa, Isiolo and Nyeri in Kenya.

The decision to fund these new grants came about through discussions with the National Counter-Terrorism Centre, the Chair of GCERF’s country support mechanism and the Chair of GCERF’s accelerated funding panel. The objective of the new initiative is to pilot the use of GCERF funds to support local governments. The new pilot will be closely monitored through a standardised results framework.

GCERF is now funding nine grants in Kenya.

Somalia: GCERF recently completed a country needs assessment in Somalia and the Somali government has identified an individual to chair GCERF’s Country Support Mechanism (CSM) in Somalia. GCERF, with support from the CSM Chair, is planning to launch a call for expressions of interest in the first quarter of 2020.

*For questions or further information, contact: Kristen O’Connell, Governance and Partnerships: k.oconnell@gcerf.org*

**The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, Malta**

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) is delivering innovative and practical capacity building and training to practitioners in the East African region, with near-equal female practitioner participation in the past year.

The [IIJ Judicial Capacity Building Initiative: East Africa Workshop on Evidence – Abuja Recommendations](#) brought together judges, prosecutors, investigators and the military to identify challenges and opportunities presented by witness testimony and forensic and electronic evidence in terrorism cases through the practical application of the Abuja Recommendations to a multi-phased fact pattern exercise.
The IIJ Global Central Authorities Initiative: Regional East Africa Workshop on Enhancing Judicial Cooperation engaged judges, prosecutors and investigators on modalities for enhancing regional and international cooperation in terrorism cases, applying the IIJ Good Practices for Central Authorities to real-world case studies.

The first iteration of the new IIJ Core Course: Successful Prosecution of Counterterrorism Cases applied relevant good practices in the successful investigation, case development and trial phases of terrorism prosecutions to real-world cases, with a specific focus on forensic evidence, ensuring voluntary statements from terrorist suspects, and safeguards during undercover operations.

The IIJ Juvenile Justice Initiative: Sectoral Workshop for Judges convened regional practitioners to examine and apply to their national experiences the IIJ Judges’ Juvenile Justice Practitioners’ Note – one of five sector-specific notes being developed to support the Neuchâtel Memorandum’s operationalisation.


For further information, contact: Allison Curtis, Senior Manager for Communications & Strategic Planning: curtisa@theiij.org

Hedayah, Abu Dhabi

As part of its ongoing programme on Community Oriented Policing for CVE, Hedayah delivered a number of workshops to the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) in 2018/2019. The TPF wanted to ensure that lessons learned from those engagements were further disseminated to other officers and conceived of a Community Policing for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) training manual.
The curriculum for this training manual was developed during a drafting workshop with the TPF coordinated by Hedayah and the Commonwealth CVE Unit in Bagamoyo, Tanzania from 28 October – 1 November 2019.

During the launch workshop, participants relayed good guidance on the subject of curriculum drafting, reviewed previous lessons and agreed upon the following modules for inclusion in the training manual:

1. Community policing and PVE: concepts and relationships
2. Context specific drivers of violent extremism and radicalisation in Tanzania: case studies in and around Tanzania
3. Radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism: legal and policy frameworks
   a. The rights approach vs. the community policing approach
4. Gender and PVE: locating women, youth and children in violent extremism conducive to terrorism, radicalisation and terrorism
5. Addressing CVE through community policing and intelligence

Upon completion, a cohort of about 20 staff representatives from the TPF training division was responsible for drafting a preliminary training manual. Following its review, this material will be rolled out across the country in 2020.

This curriculum is important as it will be disseminated to all police officers across Tanzania, ensuring that they are aware of the importance of a community oriented approach to policing as well as their role in P/CVE efforts.

For more information on the work in the region, particularly with regard to Community Oriented Policing for CVE, please contact: Jessalyn Brogan Walker, Program Manager; jessalyn.walker@hedayah.ae

4 Special Feature

Policy Toolkit on The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism

Under the umbrella of the GCTF Nexus between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism Initiative and in partnership with the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the Netherlands launched the Policy Toolkit on The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism in March 2019.

This Policy Toolkit marks the culmination of a process of research and consultation involving four regional meetings: in Algeria for the West African and Sahel region in October 2017; in Albania for the Balkan region in February 2018; in Singapore for the Southeast and South Asian region in March 2018; and in Kenya for the Horn of Africa and East African region in May 2018. These meetings brought together government representatives, international experts and practitioners, members of international and regional organisations, and academics.

The Policy Toolkit is designed to support practitioners, policymakers and other governmental experts to formulate responses to the nexus between transnational organised crime and terrorism and to translate the GCTF’s The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorism into concrete actions.

The Policy Toolkit covers legal considerations, research and information sharing, local engagement and capacity building, and law enforcement.

Among others, the Policy Toolkit refers to the following examples of good practice in the East African region:
• Good Practice 12: Support the further development of private and public sector partnerships to assist in combatting the nexus, including, but not limited to, the field of financial investigation.
In Kenya, the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) created a set of indicators to support the reporting of suspicious transactions. Partners from the private sector report on suspicious transactions to the FRC, which gives feedback on the type of information to be included in such reports (expert information). See: http://www.frc.go.ke/downloads.html

• Good Practice 13: Effective dialogue and cooperation between state and non-state actors (local communities) need to be established, based on mutual trust and understanding.

• Good Practice 14: Empower communities to build resilience against transnational organised crime and terrorism.
In East Africa, the Peace Initiative in Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan organises events that bring together citizens and families from across borders to share cultural experiences and foster friendly relationships in order to prevent conflicts and radicalisation in the region. See: https://www.paxforpeace.nl/our-work/programmes/south-sudan-uganda-and-kenya-peace-dialogue-and-reconciliation and https://www.paxforpeace.nl/our-work/programmes/peace-sports

• Good Practice 16: Make sure that communities have access to basic services, and bolster employment and development through launching economic initiatives.
The Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP) – a collaboration between Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia in East Africa – aims to speed up growth in the region through the improvement of infrastructure in order to ease the movement of people, goods and services. See: http://www.mfa.go.ke/?p=2028

• Good Practice 18: Acknowledge the role of the media as a target group and a facilitator by promoting greater awareness among journalists of the interface between transnational organised crime and terrorism.
The Handbook on Reporting Terrorism by the Media Council of Kenya and International Media Support is a tool for Kenyan media professionals who are reporting on issues of terrorism and seeking to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism while doing so. See: https://www.mediacouncil.or.ke/en/mck/images/Downloads/A-handbook-on-reporting-terrorism.pdf

• Good Practice 23: Strengthen the capacity of judicial systems to combat the nexus and ensure that legal professionals are trained to recognise links between transnational organised crime and terrorism.
Within the CT-Morse initiative of the EU, the Capacity Building of Law Enforcement and Judiciary programme aims to enhance regional and national capacity to combat terrorism in line with international law and with full respect for human rights, as well as promoting regional cooperation, in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. See: http://ct-morse.eu/projects/projects-by-geographic-region/

The Policy Toolkit is available at: https://www.thegctf.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=GZAXnYJWfuO%3d&portalid=1
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 Canada are the Co-Chairs of 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: adminunit@theGCTF.org

The ISS supports the GCTF East Africa Working Group to implement activities, with funding from the Government of Norway.