Postgraduate Diploma on Peaceful Coexistence: Reinforcing Peace, Human Rights and Development

The contemporary challenges of multilateralism
13 October 2025

Today

1. Introduction

2. The UN Counter-Terrorism Framework

3. Practical case studies

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Introduction

02

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Framework

UN Counter-Terrorism Framework

Introduction: Key developments in the International Legal Framework on Counter-Terrorism

What is the UN "CT Architecture"? How does it work to support Member States combat terrorism?

Global Terrorism Trends – a recent history, new and emerging threats

Future challenges

International Legal Framework

1960s – 1990s: Development of 12 (*now* 19) legal instruments on terrorism acts

1990s: General Assembly efforts –Measures to eliminate international terrorism, ad-hoc draft Convention

Use of new Sanctions regimes (1963 -)

2001 – present: Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), *terrorism poses a threat to international peace and security*

20 SCR resolutions since on CT

FTF (SCR 2178), primary responsibility &

human rights compliance (SCR 1456),

countering terrorist narratives (SCR 2354),

promoting tolerance (SCR 2686)

Definitions

Counter-Terrorism Architecture

Security Council: Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED and Sanctions Committees

General Assembly: Establishment of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (2017) and Global CT Compact (2018)

UN capacity-building and technical assistance support to Member States

Checks and balances:

a. Sanctions Ombudsperson

b. Special Rapporteur on CT & Human Rights

Trends in Global Terrorism

1980s establishment of Al Qaeda, "Afghan Mujahideen"

a. High capacities: Training, resources, marketing

b. Targeting & tactics - lone wolves, affiliates

Emergence of ISIL/Da'esh (2004) and its Caliphate (2014)

a. Far-enemy vs. Near-enemy

b. Territorial control, battle experience, 'Foreign Terrorist Fighters'

Evolution towards conflict zones, new "epicenter" in Sahel

a. Co-option, exploitation of localized grievances & conflict

b. Counter-terrorism deficits

Growth in "far-right violent extremism" or XRIRB

a. Transnational linkages – online

b. Growth in youth/online radicalization

9th Review Global Counter Terrorism Strategy

Summary

Member States are guided in their counter-terrorism efforts (*legal, operational, preventative)* by the International Legal Framework on Counter-Terrorism

The CT Architecture in the UN incorporates the Security Council and the General Assembly, and calls for coordination and capacity building, among others
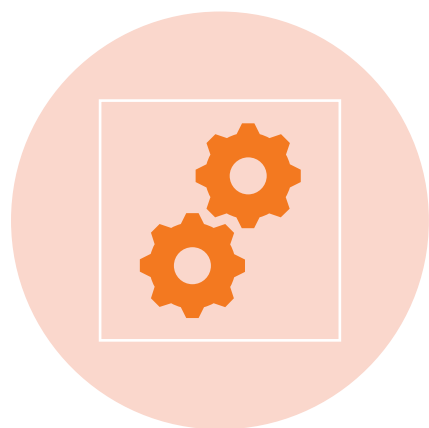
There are ongoing challenges for the architecture to respond to emerging trends and issues in terrorism and violent extremism

03

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism conducive to Terrorism

FRAMEWORK

GLOBAL PROGRAMME

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE?

Framework

Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015)

8th Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2023) (A/RES/77/298), which, building upon the latest reviews, urges unity and increased cooperation across the UN System and Member States to tackle new and emerging threats, such as terrorist attacks on the basis of XRIRB and the misuse of new technology for terrorist purposes, encouraging Member States to develop programmes enhancing interreligious and intercultural understanding and respect.
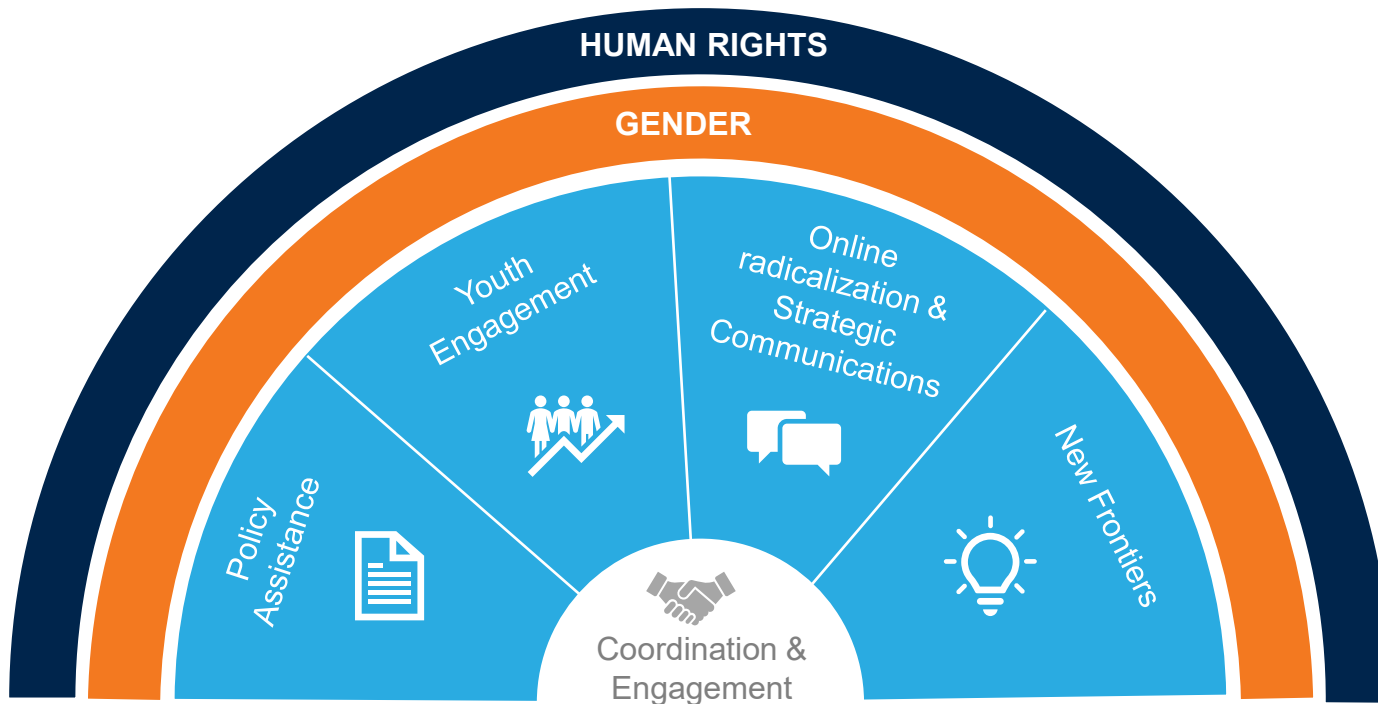
Key UN Resolutions

Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) (S/RES/2178), which makes explicit the link between violent extremism and terrorism and recognizes the need for prevention: "violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism", requires collective efforts, "including preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups and becoming foreign terrorist fighters".

Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) on the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (S/RES/2354), which calls on all United Nations entities to ensure greater coordination and coherence with donors and recipients of counter-terrorism capacity-building; that counter-narrative measures and programmes should be tailored to different contexts; that all measures must comply with Member States' obligations under international law; and that research into the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism is necessary to develop more focused counter-narrative programmes.

Security Council resolution 2686 (2023) on Hate Speech (S/RES/2686), which (i) urges Member States to share good practices promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence and address hate speech and extremism in a manner consistent with applicable international law, (ii) highlights inter-religious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool to achieve peace, social stability and internationally agreed development goals, (iii) condemns misinformation, disinformation and incitement to violence against United Nations peacekeeping operations, and (iv) highlights the necessity to involve local communities, women, youth, civil society and religious leaders whenever appropriate to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Global PCVE Programme - An Overview

UNCCT Global Programme on PCVE
Global Expertise, Local Delivery

HUMAN RIGHTS

GENDER

Youth Engagement

Online radicalization & Strategic Communications

Policy Assistance

New Frontiers

Coordination & Engagement

Geographical Reach

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST

CARRIBEAN

SOUTH ASIA

AFRICA

CENTRAL ASIA

SOUTH EAST ASIA

OCEANIA

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Three examples

Youth Engagement and Empowerment

Online radicalization to terrorism: video games and gaming adjacent platforms

The impact of Artificial Intelligence on PCVE

Example: Youth Engagement for PCVE

Empowerment

Training, coaching and mentoring young leaders to engage with their peers on difficult conversations

Communication

Augment the voice of young women and men to show the powerful and positive role they play to promote peace and social cohesion in their communities

Engagement

Establish mechanisms for meaningful youth inclusion; build a UNCCT network of youth alumni; and broker dialogues with senior officials
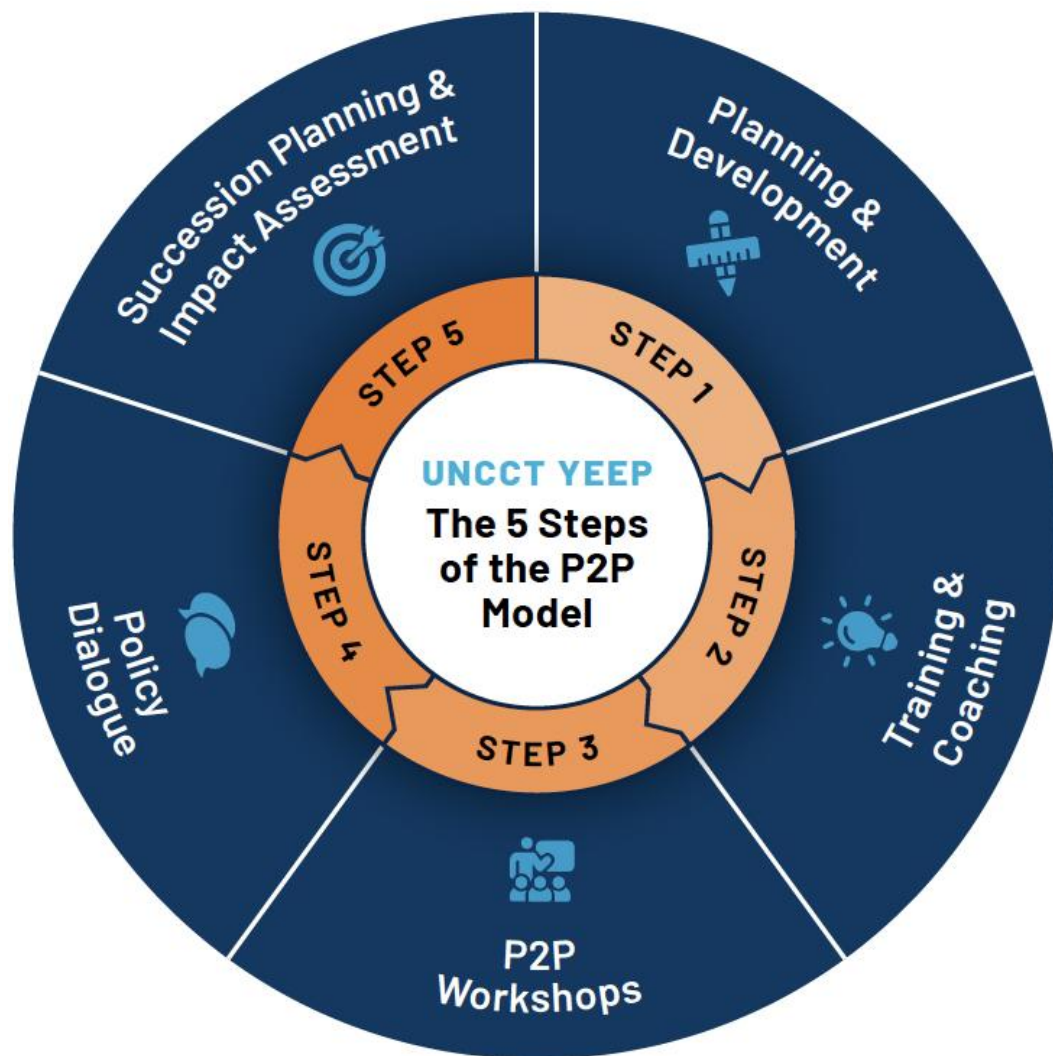
Local partnerships

Emphasis on synergies within the UN system, and leveraging the position of civil society organizations and private sector actors

YEEP Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Model

UNCCT YEEP
The 5 Steps of the P2P Model

- STEP 1 — Planning & Development
- STEP 2 — Training & Coaching
- STEP 3 — P2P Workshops
- STEP 4 — Policy Dialogue
- STEP 5 — Succession Planning & Impact Assessment

Rationale

| PIVOT | Scenario Based Planning | YOUNG LEADERS | Access to youth at the grassroots | SEMI-VIRTUAL | Online training, maintaining value of F2F | BRIDGING THE GAP | Facilitate meaningful interaction |

P2P Model: Strengths

→ Adopting a flexible approach

→ Policy dialogues provide a unique opportunity for young people to engage with key decision-makers

→ Local partners play a key role in shaping programme delivery

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Example: Gaming and Violent Extremism

2022 Study: The Intersection of Gaming and Violent Extremism (Global)

→

2024/2025: Level Up: Gaming and Violent Extremism in Africa

→

2025/2026: Gaming and Extremism in Southeast Asia

Harms: Exposure to Extremism is Commonplace

Over 80% of respondents have encountered some violent or hateful content in gaming spaces

More than 30% of respondents report frequent exposure to:
- **Misogyny**
- **Racism/xenophobia**
- **Homophobia**

Around 2/3 responded they have seen **extremist content** in gaming environments

How do gamers respond to this content?
Most **ignore** it, some **block** users, or **leave** the space.
Few **report**, even fewer **react**, because "reacting gives attention", which will "only encourage more of it".

"The Next Billion Gamers will be African"

Demographics: 349 million people across Africa play video games (**10%** increase YoY)
- Nearly 50/50 male/female players
- **Median age is 19.2**

**Revenue across the Continent: $1.8 billion** (**12.4% increase YoY** vs 2.1% globally)
- Egypt ($386 million); Nigeria ($300 million); South Africa ($278 million)
- Eritrea and Niger are fastest growing markets.

Platforms & Leagues
- Mobile (92%), almost all on Android (85.74% market share). Accounted for 90% of industry income.
- Mobile games are also now interactive, multiplayer
- Half of players use computer games; a third consoles
- Gaming centers are also popular (communal hubs)
- Esports leagues present in 30 African nations.

Studios (Rapidly Expanding)
- 250 game studios based across the continent
- From 2023 to 2024, West Africa increased from 12 to 57 (a nearly five-fold increase); in Southern Africa from 5 to 35 (seven-fold increase); and in East Africa from 8 to 24 (three-fold).
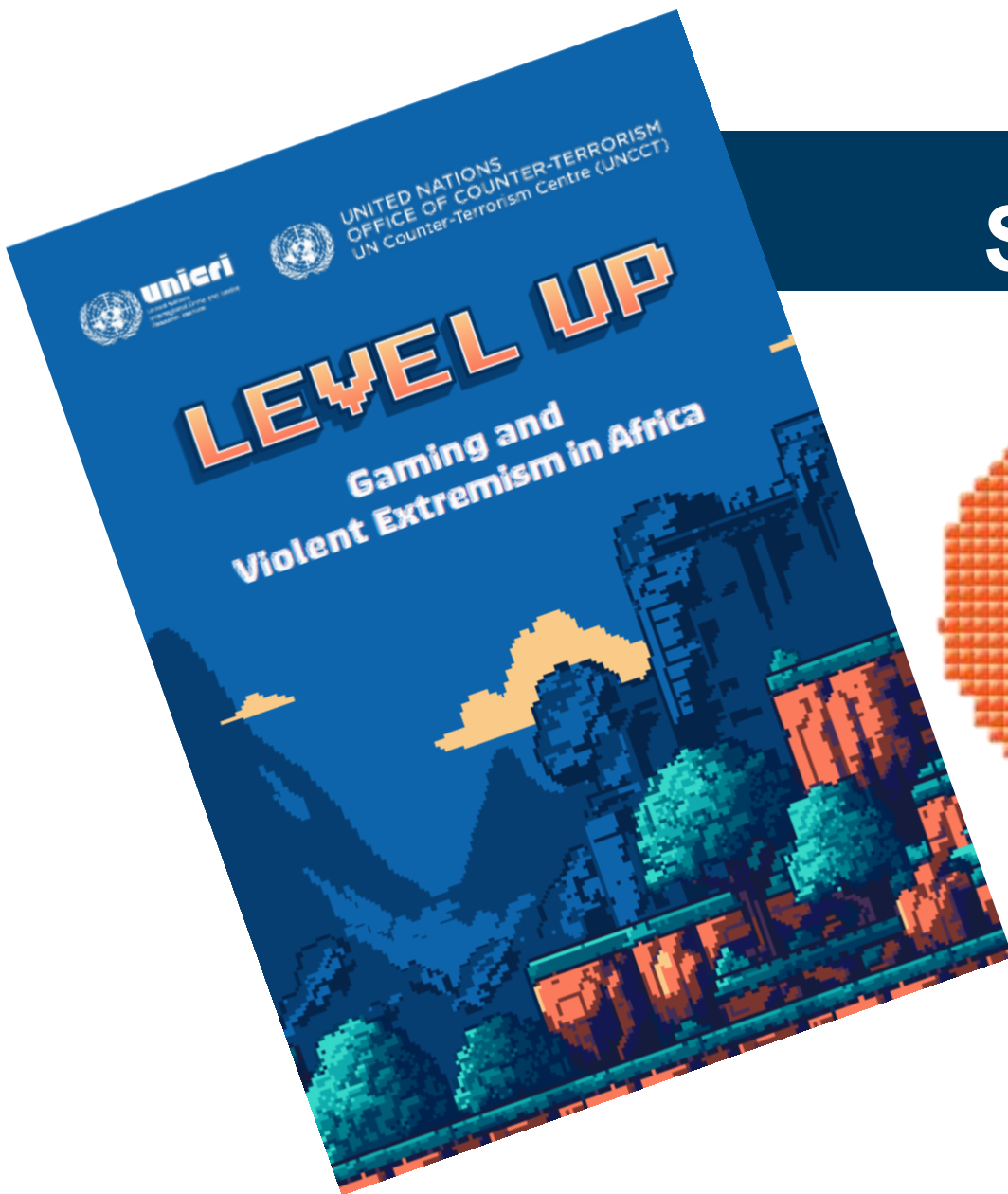
Scan to receive a copy

What can we do?

Detect

- Improve **early warning monitoring and research** focused on gaming, specifically through open source investigations, surveys, and research data requests for gaming platforms to understand TVE across surfaces on the continent.

React

- Provide **targeted training** for intelligence and law enforcement, counter-terrorism teams, platform trust & safety staff, and community moderators.

Prevent

- Support **positive interventions to boost resilience** in gaming communities against violent extremism, such as through esports mentorship programs, retooling violence prevention social and behavioral change programs to be deployed on gaming platforms, and improving offline integration with gaming corners and cafes.
- Develop basic **gaming literacy** curricula that discusses online harms from a variety of perspectives, from CSAM to TVE.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS!

Are you a gaming community leader, a community moderator, or a guild chief from Indonesia, Malaysia or the Philippines? Are you in between 18 and 29 year old?

Then join the
'Building Safer Online Gaming Communities'
initiative and help us create inclusive gaming environments, resilient to online harms and violent extremism.

MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY
bit.ly/PCVE-Game-Com

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
3 October 2025

Tailored training and mentorship to content moderators, community leaders, or guild chiefs to:

Safeguard moderator wellbeing – Training and support protect moderators' mental health from repeated exposure to harmful content.

Spott extremist cues – Training to better detect coded language, memes, and gamified extremist content.

Protect rights while moderating – Support ensures moderation balances safety with freedom of expression and human rights standards.

Address cross-platform threats – Skills and tools allow moderators to track harmful activity across gaming, chat, and social media spaces.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Korea

'Artificial Intelligence and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism' Initiative

March to Aug 2025

Mapping and scoping exercise

To identify, consult and gather good practices examples from key AI and PCVE stakeholders

June to Sept 2025

Joint Practice Guide on AI and PCVE development

To set out the latest evidence and emerging good practice on terrorist exploitation of AI

July to Oct 2025

Virtual dialogues and deep dive consultations

To ensure the Practice Guide reflects a broad and inclusive range of stakeholder perspectives

Sept to Nov 2025

'Train the Trainer' curriculum and pilot on AI and PCVE

To foster peer-to-peer learning and provide actionable resources and guidance for integrating AI into PCVE policy and programming

December 2025

Launch event

To raise awareness about the Practice Guide and the project impact in the PCVE field, as well as discuss the institutional uptake of the project outcomes

125 respondents
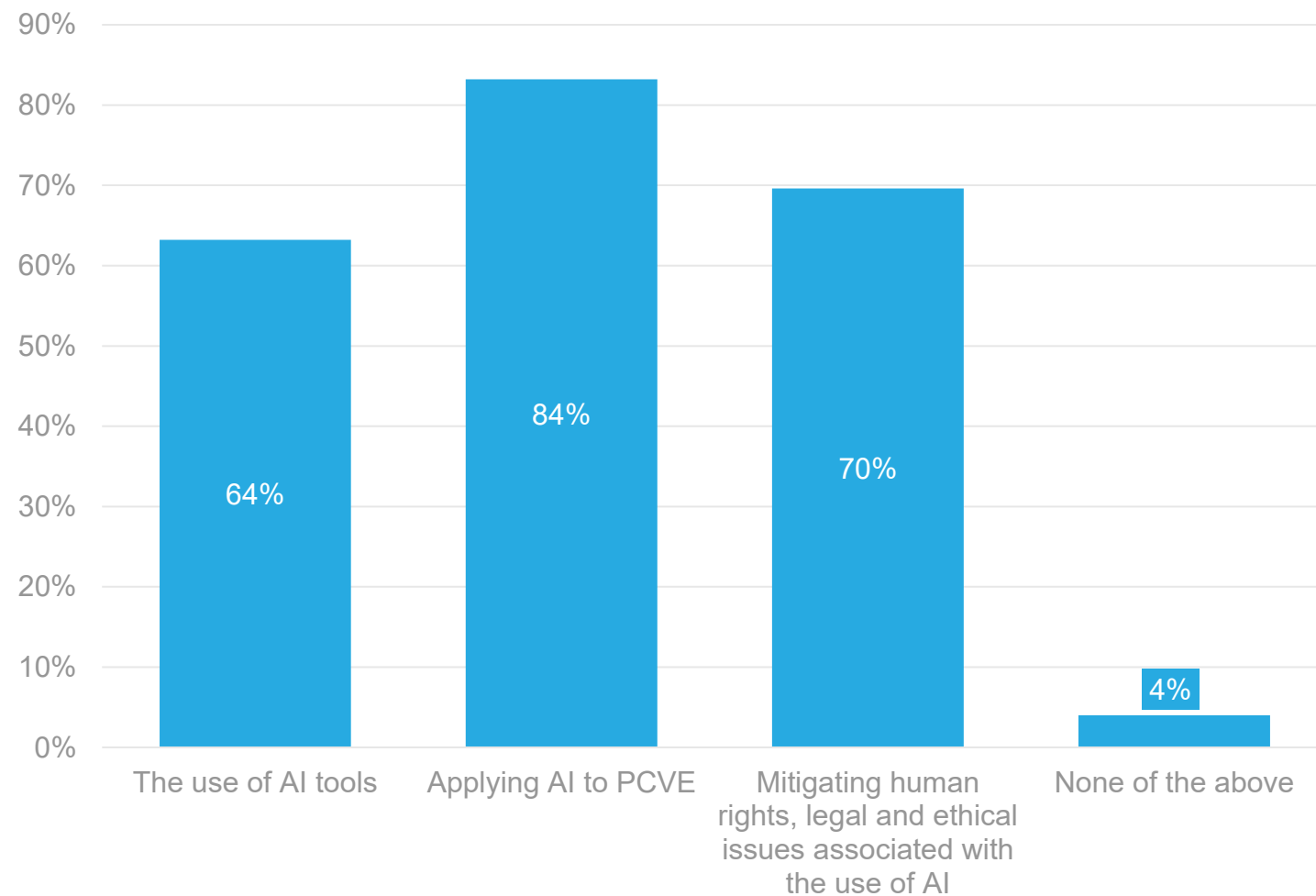
46 countries

Median Age: **46**

Women: **42%**   Men: **51%**   Non-Binary: **1%**

Prefer not to say: **6%**

70%

Never received training on AI

I would like to receive training on...

64%	84%	70%	4%
The use of AI tools	Applying AI to PCVE	Mitigating human rights, legal and ethical issues associated with the use of AI	None of the above

Case Study 2: Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
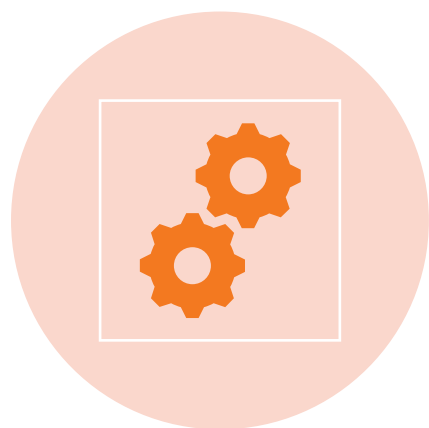
FRAMEWORK

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Builds the **capacity** of Member States to develop and implement **comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration (PRR) strategies** for individuals associated with terrorist groups

The term "individuals associated with terrorist groups" includes:

- persons suspected or convicted of terrorism-related offences nationally or internationally i.e. includes but is not limited to **foreign terrorist fighters** (FTFs)

- accompanying **family members** e.g. spouses and children

- examples: former associates of Al-Shabaab in Somalia, Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin, Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia; and people who have been residing in camps and places of detention in northeast Syria following the territorial defeat of ISIL/Da'esh in 2019 (70,000 people from 47 countries)

In response to Security Council resolutions 1393 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2349 (2017) and 2396 (2017), Member States' strategies need to address the **diverse circumstances** of these individuals, and ensure PRR strategies are design and implemented **in accordance with international law**

Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Response Structure

1. Criminal justice responses

Capacity building on:

- Human rights compliant investigations and prosecutions

- The collection, use and sharing of battlefield evidence

- Gender aspects of criminal justice responses

- Trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches

- Victim participation in criminal proceedings

- International cooperation on criminal matters

2. Screening & initial assessments

Sensitizing Member States to the need for screening and initial assessments

Capacity building on:

- Human rights and gender considerations when conducting screening and initial assessments

- Trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches to conducting screening and initial assessments

Facilitating the sharing of best practices from different regions

Facilitating interagency cooperation

3. Disengagement as part of rehabilitation

Encouraging whole-of-society approaches

Capacity building on:

- Human rights-compliant disengagement interventions in custodial and non-custodial settings

- Providing MHPSS as part of rehabilitation

- The social aspects of rehabilitation

4. Measuring rehabilitation & reintegration outcomes

Capacity building on:

- The technical aspects of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) to measure rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes

Example: Camps with ISIL affiliated populations in Syria and Iraq

Humanitarian Concerns: health, extreme weather and violence in the camps

Human Rights Concerns: indefinite detention, violation of right to fair trial and due process, infringement of right to education and best interest of the child, right to nationality, preserving the family unit

Security Concerns: ongoing conflict, uncontrolled return, potential external attack, radicalization to terrorism in the camps, continued support to ISIL in the detention facilities, witness intimidation

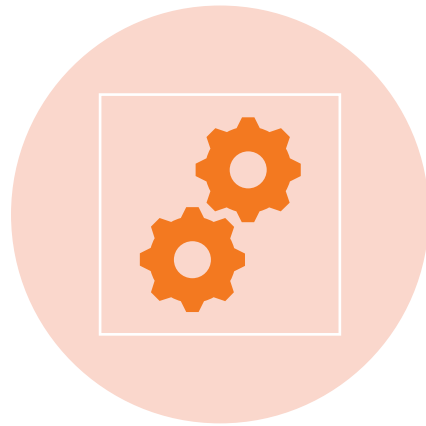# Example Response: Global Framework

Different UN agencies involved in various topics- urgent need for coordination

Different countries adopted disparate set of positions on the subject

Call for Coordinated UN Action: 15 partners together produced the Global Framework

Case Study 3: Victims of Terrorism

FRAMEWORK

GLOBAL
PROGRAMME

WHAT DOES THIS
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Programme overview

The only United Nations programme dedicated to supporting victims of terrorism, humanizing the impact of terrorism on individualsand communities, and ensuring that victims' voices are at the core of counter-terrorism and prevention efforts.

Four Key Priorities: Solidarity & Advocacy (amplifying victims' voices), Policy & Collaboration (advancing policies and partnershipswith States, UN, and CSOs), Capacity Building (strengthening laws, policies, and services), and Empowerment (enhancing victims'visibility as advocates, educators, and peacebuilders).

Guided by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Pillar I – addressing conditions conducive to terrorism.

Pillar IV – ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Anchored in Key UN Resolutions

GA resolution 72/165 – proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism.

GA resolution 73/305 – reaffirmed the importance of supporting and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism.

The Programme ensures **victim-centric, trauma-informed, inclusive, and participatory approaches** that foster resilience, preventsecondary victimization, and promote global collaboration for a future free from terrorism.

Solidarity, outreach and advocacy

International Day of Remembrance:
Established by UNGA as a global platform of solidarity, observed every 21 August. In 2025, the theme was *United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism*. The 2024 commemoration reached 41M+ people worldwide and featured the UN SG, UNOCT USG, Member States, and victims from around the world, amplifying voices and raising global awareness.
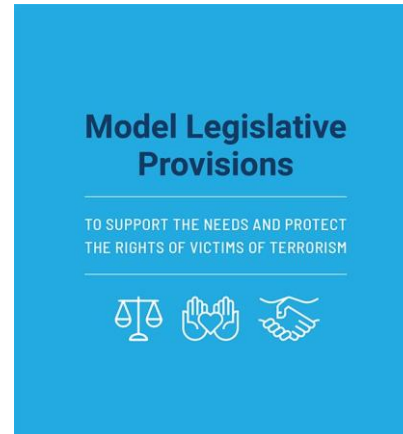
International Conference on Victims of Terrorism
Building on the Global Congress in 2022, the first International Conference was held in 2024 in Spain, establishing a biennial global platform for solidarity, advocacy, and policy dialogue. It gathered 430 participants from 67 countries. Iraq has announced its intention to host the 2026 International Conference.

Policy and coordination:

Launch of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) the first-ever global network bringing together 120+ victims and associations worldwide. VoTAN strengthens solidarity, amplifies advocacy, and promotes collective action, showcasing victims as powerful advocates, educators, and peacebuilders.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
Remembrance of and Tribute
to the Victims of Terrorism

Model Legislative Provisions

TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS AND PROTECT
THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

VOTAN
Victims of Terrorism Associations Network

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) – A Global Framework for Victims' Rights
Launched the **Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) and National Comprehensive Action Plans (NCAPs) project** to strengthen national legislative and policy frameworks for victims of terrorism. Successfully piloted in the **Philippines** and **Nigeria**, engaging **115+ stakeholders,** the MLP has become a key reference tool to advance **victims' rights, assistance, and protection** worldwide.

Storytelling and Visibility:
Memories Campaign & Legacy Gallery – Amplifying Victims' Voices
Flagship initiatives amplifying victims' voices through exhibitions and digital storytelling. The **Memories Campaign** reached **30,000+ visitors** in Spain, France, and UNHQ New York, while the **Legacy Gallery** engaged youth audiences with **8,000+ impressions** and **3,500+ followers**. Together, they foster global remembrance, resilience, and advocacy.

Summary

There are many complex challenges for multilateral bodies in implementing the International Counter Terrorism architecture, including the changing nature of terrorism and violent extremism

Three areas of examples of diverse responses to this challenge are in PCVE, PRR and Victims of Terrorism

UNOCT remains flexible in responding to shifts in threats and emerging coordination needs