



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Launch of the Flagship Capacity Building Behavioural Insights Academy (BI Academy) - its Role in Enhancing Institutional Cooperation and Multilateralism 19 JUNE 2023, 5:15-6:30PM (EST) UNOCT HQ (Conference Room 11) & online

1. Rationale and context

Rationale:

The planned side event, organized in hybrid format by the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism (BI Hub) in Doha, aims to launch the Behavioural Insights Academy (BI Academy) and present the outcomes of its pilot training. Taking place during The Third Counter-Terrorism Week (CT Week), the event provides an opportunity for UNOCT to introduce its novel capacity-building project on using behavioural science for prevent and counter violent extremism, and present its participants' feedback. The event will also feature the experience of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) College of Public Policy as a strategic partner of the BI Hub, along with the outline of plans for the BI Academy, including its mentorship and UN-standardized certification approach. Launching the BI Academy during CT Week will attract potential mentors and protégés, showcasing its success and role in the BI programme.

Background:

In 2021, the Secretary-General issued a Guidance Note on Behavioural Insights, which provided new perspectives and solutions for addressing violent extremism. Building upon this directive, the UNOCT BI Academy has been developed to enhance capacity in utilizing behavioural insights to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The UNOCT BI Academy stands out by offering a distinctive approach that goes beyond traditional ideologies and explores the power of behavioural insights. The training program, guided by the principles outlined in the UN Secretary-General's Guidance Note, is designed to empower senior-

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level personnel from UN entities, Member States government institutions, and civil society organizations at both global and local levels. These individuals play a crucial role in influencing program and policy decisions, challenging assumptions, and implementing sustainable behavioural insights practices within their respective institutions.

Led by experts in applied behavioural insights, the training program equips participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills in areas such as design thinking, behavioural interventions, impact measurement, and data-driven decision-making. The ultimate goal is to enable participants to drive positive change and enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism efforts.

By participating in the BI Academy, individuals have the opportunity to become internal experts and advocates for behavioural insights within their organizations. This not only enhances their own professional capabilities but also contributes to the development of more informed and effective CT/PVE policies and programs. The connection between becoming a BI expert and the broader work areas of CT and UNOCT is emphasized, highlighting the tangible outcomes that can be achieved through the application of behavioural insights.

Overall, the UNOCT BI Academy offers a unique and impactful platform for participants to acquire essential skills, gain in-depth knowledge, and champion the use of behavioural insights in their respective domains.

2. Introduction

The side event, organized in partnership with the State of Qatar, is well-aligned with the priorities of the Third High-level Conference and United Nations Counter-Terrorism (CT) Week. Hosted by the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism (BI Hub) in Doha, the meeting aims to showcase innovative approaches in the prevention and countering of radicalization. By highlighting the strategic partnership with the State of Qatar and its commitment to countering and preventing violent extremism, the launch of the BI Academy emphasizes the importance of leveraging behavioural science and technology to address the evolving challenges of terrorism. Through the training programme, we aim to foster institutional cooperation, share best practices, and promote the adoption of evidence-based strategies in its prevention efforts.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the proposed side event are aligned with key priorities of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The event aims to:

- Highlight the innovative approach of the BI Academy in capacity building, specifically in the context of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. By showcasing the value of behavioral science, the event will underscore how behavioral insights can shape effective programming and policy development in these critical areas.
- Promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration in the fields of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. The event will provide a platform for knowledge-sharing and discussions on emerging trends, best practices, and the evolving global terrorism landscape. It will foster an environment conducive to exchanging ideas and experiences among diverse stakeholders, including experts, practitioners, policymakers, and civil society representatives.
- Encourage strategic and practical partnerships among counter-terrorism actors. The event seeks to mobilize synergies and resources by facilitating networking opportunities and fostering collaboration among participants. It aims to establish meaningful partnerships that can contribute to joint programming, coordination, and the implementation of effective counter-terrorism strategies.

By focusing on these objectives, the side event will not only align with the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy but also highlight the added value of the BI Academy in the fields of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.

4. Relevance of the Topic to the HLC

The BI Academy side event is highly relevant to the theme of the Third High-level Conference and CT Week, "Addressing Terrorism through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation." It contributes to key counter-terrorism priorities and aims to enhance knowledge sharing and cooperation by bringing together regional experts and professionals from diverse institutions. The BI Academy's capacity-building project aligns with UNOCT's objectives and supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017), incorporating CTED's analysis and recommendations. By linking the BI Academy to CTED, the event emphasizes the practical relevance of behavioral insights in shaping effective counter-terrorism strategies. This highlights the value of the BI Academy in addressing the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism.

5. Expected Outcome of the Side Event/Results

The BI Hub and the Academy have a comparative advantage in facilitating collaboration by promoting innovative approaches to capacity-building, fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, identifying good practices in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, and strengthening international cooperation. Through the upcoming event, we aim to increase

awareness of the BI Hub's work, showcase the impact of the BI Academy, and encourage collaboration among diverse counter-terrorism actors. The expected results include an enhanced understanding of the potential of behavioral science, increased engagement in PCVE/CT efforts, and the establishment of strategic partnerships to advance the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

6. Co-organizers or partners hosting the Side Event

Member States: The State of Qatar as a leading member of the international community in the fight against terrorism brings its strong commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism as a co-organizer of this side event.

Academic Institutions: Qatar's Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a renowned research-focused institution, contributes its expertise in counter-terrorism and serves as the Strategic Partner of the BI Academy.

International Organization: The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to research, training and technical cooperation in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice. As the co-organizer of the side event, UNICRI brings its expertise in understanding and analyzing the factors influencing individuals to engage in terrorism or support extremist ideologies.

NGO Partner: Search for Common Ground and Berghof Foundation. Their participation enhances the event's focus on fostering dialogue with civil society and academia, and promoting effective approaches to tackling violent extremism.

7. Expected participants/ expected number of participants

The side event expects between 50 and 100 participants (joining offline and online), including representatives from Member States, UN entities, academic institutions, civil society organizations and experts in the field of counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism. The diverse participation will contribute to fruitful discussions, knowledge-sharing and the identification of good practices in capacity building and countering terrorism.

8. Contact/Focal Persons

Maciej Damian Dachowski dachowski@un.org

9. Programme/Agenda

Opening Session: Welcome to Behavioural Insight Academy 2023	
15 minutes	<p>Moderator: Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, Chief, UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter-Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter Terrorism • Opening remarks by HE Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations • Remarks by the representative of UNICRI
20 minutes	<p>Session 1: Overview of the BI Academy and launch of the promotional video</p> <p>Session 1 will provide an overview of the BI Academy, including its objectives, curriculum and target audiences. This will be followed by the launch of the 7-minute BI Academy promotional video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Martin, leading expert and curriculum designer of the BI Academy • Maciej Dachowski, Project Management Officer, UNOCT BI Hub in Doha
10 minutes	<p>Session 2: Leveraging Innovation in Policy Planning and Design: Exploring Collaboration between BI Hub and HBKU's College of Public Policy</p> <p>Session 2 will focus on BI Hub and the HBKU's College of Public Policy cooperation and potential for partnership. It will provide an overview of harnessing innovation in policy planning and design. HBKU representative will share insights on the tools and strategies used for university's academic and training programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. M. Evren Tok, Associate Professor and Programme Coordinator for the MA Programme in Islam and Global Affairs at the College of Islamic Studies and the Assistant Dean for Innovation and Community Development, HBKU CPP, Qatar
15 minutes	<p>Session 3: Transforming Knowledge into Action: Impact of Behavioural Insights Academy on Counter-Terrorism Strategies</p> <p>This session, organized in collaboration with 'Search for Common Ground' NGO and Germany-based Berghof Foundation, will feature three representatives sharing firsthand experience with the recently conducted pilot edition of the BI Academy and how they have successfully implemented the newly gained knowledge into their daily work. Through insightful presentations and practical examples, participants will learn about the tangible impact of behavioural insights on shaping effective counter-terrorism strategies.</p>

	<p>The session will highlight the importance of translating knowledge into action and showcase innovative approaches in preventing and countering violent extremism.</p>
	<p>Moderator: Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, Chief, UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter-Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michel Pierre Mbei, Country Director, Search for Common Ground, Central African Republic • Mr. Ilkham Umarakhunov, Project Coordinator, Search for Common Ground, Kyrgyzstan • Ms. Lara Azzam, Senior Project Manager, Middle East and North Africa Unit • Ms. Nicole Rieber, Senior Project Manager, Global Learning for Conflict Transformation
	<p>Session: 4: Panel Q&A</p>
10 minutes	<p>Moderator: Ms. Aynabat Atayeva, Chief, UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter-Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderated Q&A session with panelists • Questions from the audience
	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Closing remarks outlining the way forward in enhancing international cooperation in countering terrorism through training and capacity building.</p>
10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism • HE Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

10. Online registration link:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/792e8258-1158-4b90-be88-66bdc082cc81@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70>