



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week **SIDE EVENTS**

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UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK



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UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Enhancing multilateralism and reinforcing nuclear security:
EU support to the UN in promoting the universalization and
effective implementation of the International Convention for
the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)**

19 June, 08:00 – 09:30 EST, Conference room 12

2023 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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Concept note

Introduction

Since 2019, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) have partnered with the European Union (EU) for a joint project on *Promoting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)*. This project represents an important multilateral security partnership to address the persisting threat of nuclear or other radioactive material being acquired or used by non-State actors for terrorist or other criminal purposes.

The side event will present the progress made under the current project (January 2019 - June 2023) and highlight the main priorities for further action which will be addressed under the forthcoming project (July 2023 - June 2026) on *Supporting the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)*, including awareness raising and capacity building activities.

This topic is of particular relevance for three pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, namely:

- Pillar II: *Preventing and combating terrorism*
- Pillar III: *Building States' capacity and strengthening the role of the UN*
- Pillar IV: *Ensuring human rights and the rule of law*

Moreover, the proposed side event is relevant to the following conference themes:

- Towards more effective and resilient Member States' institutions in the evolving global terrorism landscape
- Multi-stakeholder engagement in counter terrorism and PCVE efforts, consistent with human rights and rule of law, to bolster multilateralism and strengthen institutions
- Strengthening capacity building programmes – Making them better fit for purpose to meet resilience needs, including the urgent requirements for repatriation

The side event is co-organized by the EU, UNOCT and UNODC and will engage representatives from Members States involved in the joint project.

Background

ICSANT is one of the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism, essential for international peace and security. As of June 2023, ICSANT has 120 Parties, meaning that more than one third of the world is not yet protected by the Convention. In order to reach its full potential, and to avoid safe havens,

universalization of ICSANT remains a key goal. However, becoming a party is only the first necessary step, as effective implementation (legislative and technical) is also crucial.

Joining ICSANT entails adopting the necessary national implementation legislation to ensure that all requirements set forth in the Convention are adequately transposed into national legal systems. This includes establishing as offences certain conduct involving nuclear or other radioactive material, including terrorist acts, as well incorporating into national legislation prevention and response mechanisms set forth in ICSANT.

ICSANT remains highly relevant, not only for countries with nuclear material and nuclear power programmes, but also for all other countries, given -inter alia- that the Convention covers other radioactive material commonly used in medicine, industry, research and agriculture. It is necessary to continue promoting and supporting the universalization and effective implementation of the Convention, by demonstrating the benefit for all States to join the treaty and prevent and prohibit terrorist and other criminal conduct involving nuclear or other radioactive material by non-State actors. These efforts ultimately contribute to reinforcing nuclear security worldwide and multilateralism.

Objective

The side event aims to increase awareness on the importance of the universalization and effective implementation of ICSANT as well as to present the results of the EU-UN project (January 2019 - June 2023) and the main priorities of the new upcoming project (July 2023 - June 2026). Member State officials engaged in the implementation of the project will share their first-hand experiences in the activities and reflect on the project's impact. UNOCT and UNODC will highlight the main achievements and future activities.