



Tunisian Republic
Presidency of the Government



National Counter Terrorism Commission

First Report

2016 - 2019

November 2020

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Foreword

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(President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission)



Global terrorism has increasingly developed in recent years, putting in jeopardy the values of justice, democracy, peace and human rights. As is the case with other countries, Tunisia has been subjected to numerous terrorist attacks resulting in human and economic losses.

The establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission (CTC) is considered as one of Tunisia's institutional mechanisms putting in place a holistic approach endeavouring to complement the security and military measures with systematic preventive mechanisms to address the drivers of terrorism. In this respect, Tunisia reaffirms its continuous commitment to countering terrorism and violent extremism in line with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter and in total respect of the law, within a comprehensive approach to countering terrorism (CT) and to Preventing Terrorist Financing (PTF) towards the achievement of national and international peace and security.

This first report is a synthesis of the most important activities and achievements of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission over three and a half years of work. It also includes the difficulties and challenges linked to the CTC's establishment and to the availability of human and financial resources necessary to the effective implementation of the tasks entrusted to it.

The activities carried out by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in 2017 and 2018 were rather preliminary, which explains the absence of an activity report about these two years. The present report is, therefore, the first to be issued by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission including preparatory as well as implemented activities and programs from March 2016 until the end of 2019.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission seizes this opportunity to thank all its former presidents, its members and the staff of its permanent secretariat for their efforts. It also extends its thanks to all its partners ranging from international organizations to civil society and government institutions who supported the Commission in overcoming its challenges.

This report seeks to present a comprehensive overview of the activities, projects and programs carried out by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission over three and a half years, shedding light on their dimensions, objectives, implementation methodologies and mechanisms, within the framework of a holistic approach to Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), Countering Terrorism (CT) and Preventing Terrorist Financing (PTF).

The report includes three main parts. The first provides the general framework of the National CT Commission, then presents its activities from its inception, on 22 March 2016 until 31 December 2019 in line with the five axes of its mission. It concludes with an overview of the challenges, suggestions and recommendations aiming to further develop the national CT mechanisms.

We hope that the recommendations and suggestions included in the final section of this report will contribute to further uniting all the stakeholders' efforts in supporting the national CT, PVE and PTF endeavours.

The success of PVE, CT and PTF processes is a challenge that the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the various State agencies, civil society and the private sector are striving to overcome. The Commission affirms its intention to steadfastly move forward in this process and is confident that it will find the necessary support from all the stakeholders.



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Commission's meetings

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- 50 Periodic meetings
- 02 Meetings of the sub-commission in charge of dealing with Tunisian returnees from armed conflict zones
- 09 Meetings of the Sub-Commission for the Implementation of the United Nations resolutions to prevent the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- 02 Meetings of the Sub-Commission of the Wounded and Victims of Acts of Terrorism

06

Meetings held at the regional level at the headquarters of the governorates



Members of the Commission

22

- 04 Representatives of security ministries
- 14 Representatives of non-security ministries
- 04 Experts



Senior officers and officers of the permanent secretariat

9

- 66% Of the senior officers of the permanent secretariat hold a university degree
- 33% Of the senior officers of the permanent secretariat are women



Trainings, sensitization activities, forums and seminars

46

- 20 Trainings
- 13 Sensitization and information activities
- 13 Seminars



Workshops

6

- 20 Workshops organized at the regional level for civil society



Memoranda of understanding concluded by the Commission

4

- 03 Memoranda of understanding concluded at the national level
- 01 Memorandum of understanding concluded at the international level



Decisions

279

- 108 Decisions of the Commission related to freezing the assets of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism
- 171 Decisions of the Commission related to re-freezing the assets of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism



Part I:

General framework

1. General Introduction
2. Legislative framework
3. National Counter-Terrorism Commission: an institutional framework for preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism
4. Milestones

1 General Introduction

1.1. International context

Terrorism is a complex and indeterminate phenomenon. In the second half of the 19th century, several countries witnessed movements which were characterized by a willingness to resort to the use of violence in achieving their goals despite their intellectual differences.

Terrorist crimes are currently globally perceived as the gravest peril in the face of social peace with the emergence of global terrorist and criminal organizational networks which have managed to establish illegal financial flows to launder their resources and finance their criminal activities. This phenomenon has spurred concerted efforts and a further reinforcement of cooperation.

Given the seriousness of this phenomenon, the international community has adopted a series of treaties related to specific types of crimes of terrorism and to the obligations of States towards these acts. Between 1963 and 1999, the international community prepared many legal instruments to counter acts of terrorism; and the United Nations General Assembly ratified many international counter-terrorism conventions.

These international regulations, added to the ratification of the relevant protocols, constitute the international counter-terrorism system, which is the basic framework for international cooperation against terrorism.

Security Council Resolutions 1373, 1526, 1536, 1540 and 1566 constitute a solid and comprehensive basis for countering terrorism on a global scale. These resolutions, ratified by the member states, call for their implementation through national laws that respect the treaties' obligations.

The results of the 2005 World Counter-Terrorism Summit led the General Assembly to adopt the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, for the first time in 2006. The strategy includes an action plan aimed at addressing the conditions that favour the spread of terrorism, suppressing and countering terrorism, taking measures to build states' capacities, strengthening the role of the United Nations and ensuring respect for human rights in a CT context.

Finally, the action plan presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly, on 15 January 2016, calling for the endorsement of a comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism (CVE), based on taking systematic preventive steps to address the underlying push factors driving individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups, is an additional foundation for CVE at the international level.

1.2. National context

Terrorism is not new to Tunisia as the country was subject to sporadic and occasional acts of terrorism before the revolution, namely the Ghriba incident, on 11 April 2002, the attack on the Soundous border post, on 11 February 1995, and the Soliman incidents on 03 January 2006.

Acts of terrorism occurred after the revolution. The security and military forces were targeted and dozens of brave soldiers and security officers were killed in terrorism acts in Rouhiya, in May 2011, Sidi Ali Ben Aoun and Goubellat in October 2013, the presidential security bus was attacked in November 2015 and the Ben Guerdane incidents took place in March 2016. The people of Tunisia owe their lives to the victims of the military and security institutions and to the tremendous sacrifices they made for the sake of the nation.

Tunisian and foreign civilians were also targeted. Perhaps the most dangerous attack was that of the Bardo Museum, on 18 March 2015, in which dozens of foreign tourists were killed, and the attack on a hotel in Sousse, on 26 June 2015.

It was necessary for the military and security institutions to recover and build their capacities. Based on the provisions of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism and thanks to the concerted national and international efforts, many successful and proactive security operations were carried out. Many leaders of terrorist organizations operating in Tunisia were eliminated, terrorist cells were dismantled, other attacks were thwarted and their perpetrators were tracked and referred to justice. The sources of funding and the support for groups stationed in the mountains were neutralized and cut off, the sleeper cells were uncovered and terrorism plans were thwarted before their execution, which led to the weakening of these groups' ability to carry out acts of terrorism. This was translated in the noticeable decline in the pace of acts of terrorism over the past two years, as shown in the following figure:

Percentage of the proactive opérations and acts of terrorism during the 2016-2019 war on terrorism



However, despite these important security successes, a new reality has emerged and a new awareness has developed on international and national levels that effective CT measures aiming at eradicating terrorism can only be achieved within the framework of a comprehensive approach that strives to complement the security and judicial measures with preventive ones. The latter start by diagnosing the phenomenon, understanding its contexts and the factors that fuel it, taking adequate measures to prevent its exacerbation and addressing its causes in order to avoid recidivism and further attacks. ❁

2 Legislative framework

2.1 International treaties and agreements

- * **The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo Convention) 14 September 1963**

Ratified by the Tunisian government according to the law n°1974-86 of 24 October 1974.

- * **The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (The Hague Convention) 1970**

Ratified by the Tunisian government according to the law n°1981-82 of 04 December 1981.

- * **The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Montreal Convention) 23 September 1971**

Ratified by the Tunisian government according to the law n° 1981-82 of 04 December 1981.

- * **The 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents**

Ratified by the Tunisian government on 04 November 1976.

- * **The 1979 New York Convention Against the Taking of Hostages of 17 December 1979**

Joined by the Republic of Tunisia on 03 March 1997.

- * **The 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome Convention)**

Ratified by the Tunisian government according to the law n° 1997-81 of 15 December 1997.

- * **The Protocol for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf, signed in Rome, on 10 March 1988**

Ratified by the Tunisian government according to the law n° 1997-82 of 15 December 1997.

- * **The Arab Convention on Countering Terrorism**

Tunisia ratified the Arab Convention on Countering Terrorism, concluded in Cairo on 22 April 1998, according to the law n°1999-10 of 15 February 1999, which was passed according to the decree n°1999-1470 of 21 June 1999. The Convention emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation to counter terrorist crimes which threaten the Arab countries and their stability, through sharing experiences and information.

*** The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism**

Tunisia ratified the Organization of African Unity Convention for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism, according to the law n°2001-85 of 01 August 2001, which was approved by the Assembly of the African Heads of States and Governments, in Algeria on 14 July 1999, emphasizing the need to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it constitutes a serious violation of human rights, especially the rights related to life, freedom and security.

*** The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings**

According to the law n°2002-17 of 14 February 2002, the Tunisian Republic was authorized to join the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 December 1997.

*** The Convention of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on Countering International Terrorism**

According to the law n°2002-36 of 1st April 2002, the convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Countering International Terrorism was ratified during the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries, held in Ouagadougou from 28 June to 01st July 1999 and signed by the government of the Republic of Tunisia on 11 November 2000.

*** The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing**

On 02 November 2001, the Republic of Tunisia signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 54th session in New York, on 09 December 1999, and approved in accordance with the law n° 2002-99 of 25 November 2002.

*** Agreement between the government of the Republic of Tunisia and the United Nations**

It is an agreement about the regulations related to holding the International Conference on Terrorism in Tunisia, from 15 to 17 November 2007, which was signed and entered into force on 25 October 2007.

*** The Protocol to the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism**

On 25 November 2004, the Republic of Tunisia signed the Protocol to the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism, adopted in Addis Ababa on 08 July 2004, and approved in accordance with the law n° 2007-56 of 31 October 2007.

2.2 Legislative and regulatory texts

2.2.1 Legislative texts

The organic law n° 2015-26 of 07 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, which repealed the law n°2003-75 of 10 December 2003 related to supporting the international CT effort and preventing money laundering, was passed to define the scope of criminalization. It defined the crimes of terrorism in a way that responds to the requirements of deterrence. It is in harmony with the international conventions and guarantees international cooperation in countering the phenomenon of terrorism. It was amended according to the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, which put an end to many problems and practical difficulties resulting from the implementation of the provisions related to countering terrorism or those related to preventing money laundering. It achieved full harmony of the Tunisian legal system in the field of countering money laundering and terrorism financing with the international standards, and its provisions were in line with the requirements of the forty recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), including reviewing the chapter on special investigative methods, to be applied on money laundering crimes and the predicate offenses derived from them.

The most important additions made by the law n°2019-09 of 23 January 2019 are the establishment of the legal and institutional framework and the necessary procedures to implement the Security Council resolutions related to preventing the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The amendment also included the revision of article 67, which extended the composition of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission by adding 03 members representing the Ministries of Social Affairs, Higher Education and Scientific Research and Health.

The amendment also included the revision of article 68, which authorized the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to establish sub-commissions to ensure speed and efficiency in decision-making, especially in the area of freezing the funds and economic resources of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism.

2.2.2 Regulatory texts

- * Governmental decree n° 2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 related to the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures.
- * Governmental decree n° 2016-49 of 15 March 2016, related to the appointment of the president, the vice-president, and the members of the Commission.
- * Governmental decree n° 2019-524 of 17 June 2019 amending and supplementing the governmental decree n° 2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 related to the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures.
- * Governmental decree n° 2019-419 of 17 May 2019 fixing the procedures for implementing the resolutions of the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- * Governmental decree n° 2019-457 of 31 May 2019 amending and supplementing the governmental decree n° 2019-419 of 17 May 2019 fixing the procedures for implementing the resolutions of the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. 🌀

3 The National Counter-Terrorism Commission: an institutional framework for preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism

The in-depth review of the legal system for countering terrorism and the prevention of money laundering came to support, assist and reinforce the international CT efforts and establish a holistic approach to countering the phenomenon of terrorism and all forms of extremism, deterring the perpetrators of crimes of terrorism and protecting and helping terrorism victims.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the organic law n° 2015-26 of 7 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, supported the missions of the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission, whose tasks are mainly to protect against and prevent the illegal financial flows, counter terrorism financing and money laundering and freeze suspicious funds.

For the same purpose, the aforementioned law created a new specialized institutional framework, which is the Counter-Terrorism Judicial Pole, in charge of the crimes of terrorism stipulated in the law on terrorism, which falls within the framework of establishing an effective judicial system in line with the fair trial standards. The establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission is the third mechanism to support the national PVE and CT efforts by establishing a comprehensive approach, which is shown in the composition, tasks and powers of the Commission.

3.1 Establishment of the Commission

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has been established by the Presidency of the Government, in accordance with the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, which was amended and supplemented by the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, to be a mechanism to coordinate the national CT and PVE efforts, as part of a comprehensive approach to dealing with this phenomenon.

It should be noted that the establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission actually happened after passing the governmental decree n° 2016-49 of 15 March 2016 related to the appointment of the president, the vice-president and the members of the Commission.

3.2 Composition of the Commission

As provided for in article 67 of the organic law n° 2015-26 of 7 August 2015, related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, which was amended and supplemented by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, comprises 22 members representing various ministries and organizations directly or indirectly involved in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

The Commission is headed by a representative of the Presidency of the Government and a vice-president representing the Ministry of Justice. They both work on a full-time basis. The Commission is structured as follows:

- * Representative of the Presidency of the Government, president of the Commission, full time.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, vice-president, full time.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, from the General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, member.
- * Two representatives of the Ministry of Interior, members.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Defence, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member.
- * Representative of the Minister in charge of Human Rights, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Finance, from the General Department of Customs, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, from the Forestry Department, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Women, Family and Childhood, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Culture, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Education, from the Programs Department, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Health, member.

The extended representation of the Commission allows the development of a vision, strategic orientations and joint programs that bypass the duplication of efforts.

- * Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, member.
- * Representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, member.
- * Senior investigating judge specialized in terrorism cases, member.

The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission are appointed according to a governmental decree proposed by the relevant ministries and organizations, for a period of 6 years, and a third of the composition of the Commission is renewed every two years.

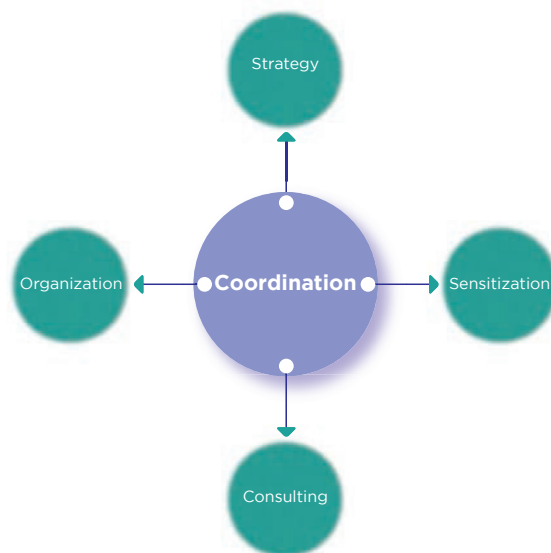
The president of the Commission may invite any experienced and specialized person or representatives of civil society to attend the meetings of the Commission to listen to their opinions on the presented issues.



Group photo of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its permanent secretariat

3.3 Tasks and missions of the Commission

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission carries out several tasks defined, in particular, by articles 68, 69, 70, 103, 104 and 105 of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 on countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, amended and supplemented by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, which may be summarized in five main axes:



➤ Strategic tasks

- * Issue guidelines to prevent and counter terrorism and support the international efforts to combat all its manifestations.
- * Assist in setting up programs and policies aimed at preventing terrorism and suggest mechanisms to ensure their implementation.
- * Collect and analyse data for a national research that diagnoses the phenomenon of terrorism and its financing and the criminal phenomena associated with it, with the aim of identifying their characteristics and causes, assessing their risks and proposing ways to combat them. The research defines the national priorities in addressing this phenomenon, provided that it is updated whenever necessary.
- * Contribute to the revitalization of research and studies to understand the phenomenon and update the legislation regulating the fields related to terrorism, in order to implement the State's programs to address the phenomenon.
- * Propose the necessary measures to be taken with regards to organizations or individuals involved in crimes of terrorism, in light of the information and the judicial precedents presented in reports addressed to the President of the Republic, the President of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People, the Prime Minister and the relevant administrative authorities.

➤ Organizational tasks

- * Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the resolutions of the competent United Nations bodies in the field of countering terrorism, preventing the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction within the framework of Tunisia's willingness to fulfil its international obligations, make recommendations and issue guidelines in this regard.

- * Make decisions to freeze the assets of individuals, organizations and entities included in the United Nations lists prepared by the Security Council Sanctions Committee (Resolution 1267).
- * Make decisions to freeze the funds of individuals, organizations and entities identified by the Commission as being associated with crimes of terrorism (Resolution 1373.)

➤ Sensitization tasks

- * Spread social awareness of the dangers of terrorism through sensitization campaigns, cultural and educational programs, holding seminars and conferences and publishing bulletins and manuals aimed at all the segments of society, in order to support vigilance and build trust and resilience.
- * Organize trainings and supervise programs for capacity building at the national and international levels.

➤ Coordination tasks

- * Cooperate with international and civil society organizations active in the field of countering terrorism and assist them in implementing their programs in this field.
- * Facilitate communication between the various ministries and coordinate their efforts in areas related to the prevention of terrorism, such as the coordination and monitoring of national efforts in implementing procedures for the protection of persons subject to protection according to article 71 of the law n°2015-26.
- * Provide guidance to the victims about the provisions regulating the judicial and administrative procedures to help them settle their situation and obtain appropriate compensation for the damages inflicted on them, strive to follow up on their cases with the public authorities, help them when necessary and remove the obstacles that may hinder their rights.

➤ Consulting tasks

- * Express opinions on draft legal texts related to countering terrorism.
- * Propose practical visions for implementing programs and policies for government agencies, in support of the national PVE, CT and PTF efforts.

3.4 Meetings of the Commission

The Commission started its activities on 22 March 2016 by holding its first meeting headed by the Prime Minister.

Pursuant to the provisions of the governmental decree n°2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 defining the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures, which was amended and supplemented according to the governmental decree n° 2019-524 of 17 June 2019—stipulating that the Commission meets following the summons of its president or vice president at least once a month and whenever the need arises—the Commission held 50 meetings since its establishment and until 31 December 2019, with a weekly meeting during the first period of its activity. 26 meetings were held between 22 March 2016 and 28 December 2016, mainly to:

- * Complete the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.
- * Prepare the regulatory texts defining the organization of the Commission and its operating procedures and those defining the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to PTF and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- * Set the work plan of the Commission in accordance with the missions delegated to it by the law, and start its implementation.

Starting in January 2017, the meetings of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission focused on:

- * Establishing mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.
- * Enforcing the national regime for the implementation of the targeted financial sanctions.
- * Supporting cooperation with international organizations and civil society.
- * Proposing programs and policies related to PVE and countering terrorism, and the mechanisms to ensure their implementation.

Within the scope of its openness to the regions, and to encourage the engagement of the regional and local authorities in implementing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission held 06 meetings at the regional level, during extraordinary sessions at the headquarters of the governorates of Medenine, Tozeur, Nabeul, Sousse, Kairouan and Sfax, to introduce the Commission and its activities and the main axes of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.

The meetings of the Commission are considered legal only with the attendance of the majority of its members, necessarily including its president or vice-president. In the absence of quorum in the first session, the members are summoned to a second session to be held within eight working days, regardless of the number of the members present.

The absence of quorum shall be recorded in the session minutes to be signed by the president of the Commission or its vice-president and the members present.

Decisions shall be taken by the majority vote of the attending members, and in case of equality of votes, the session chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

The voting process shall not be attended by the persons who are summoned to the meetings of the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of the third paragraph of article 67 of the law n°2015-26 mentioned above.

The activities of the Commission shall be recorded in session minutes to be signed by the president of the Commission or its vice-president. Copies of the minutes shall be submitted to the ministries and organizations represented therein.

If a member of the Commission is absent for three (03) consecutive sessions or for six (06) non-consecutive sessions, without valid reasons, she/he shall be considered outgoing and shall be substituted for the remaining period of her/his membership.

3.5 Sub-commissions

In order for the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to be able to carry out all the tasks assigned to it by the law, to overcome the difficulties hindering its operating procedures and to ensure speed and efficiency in making decisions, especially those related to the freezing of funds, and in accordance with the provisions of the new article 68 of the organic law n°2019-09 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, the following sub-commissions were created, consisting of the members represented within the Commission:

➤ **The Sub-Commission for the Implementation of the United Nations Resolutions Related to PTF and that of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

It is responsible for:

- * Examining and deciding on the requests to include individuals, entities or organizations in the national list, received from the competent administrative authorities or received from other countries.

- * Examining and deciding on the requests to include individuals, entities or organizations in the United Nations Security Council's consolidated sanctions list, received from the competent administrative authorities.
- * Periodic Review of the national list and the United Nations list at least every six months.
- * Examining and deciding on the requests for removal from the national list or from the United Nations list.
- * Examining and deciding on the requests for partial lifting of asset freezing.

The Sub-Commission for the Implementation of the United Nations Resolutions Related to the Prevention of Terrorist Financing and of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction is composed of:

- * The president of the Commission
- * The vice-president
- * Two representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, members
- * Representative of the Ministry of Interior, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, from the General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Finance, from the General Department of Customs, member
- * Representative of the Counter-Terrorism Judicial Pole, member
- * Representative of the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission, member
- * Representative of the Technical Telecommunications Agency, member

➤ The Sub-commission for the Wounded and Victims of Acts of Terrorism

It is responsible for:

- * Helping the victims of terrorism and coordinating between the various public institutions to ensure their physical and psychological recovery and providing the necessary social and legal assistance to enable them to secure their rights.

The Sub-commission for the Wounded and Victims of Acts of Terrorism is composed of:

- * The president of the Commission
- * The vice-president
- * Representative of the Presidency of the Republic
- * Representative of the General Commission for the Opponents, Martyrs and the Wounded of the Revolution and The Acts of Terrorism

- * Representative of the Ministry of National Defence (Military Judiciary), member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Interior, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, from the General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Finance, from the General Department of Customs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Education, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Health, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, from the General Department of Forestry, member
- * Representative of the Technical Telecommunications Agency, member

➤ The sub-commission Dealing with the Return of Tunisians and their Families from Armed Conflict Zones

It is responsible for:

- * Coordinating and monitoring the activities of the various ministries and national organizations involved in dealing with the Tunisians who may be returned from armed conflict zones.
- * Preparing a clear and common perception among all the actors and proposing mechanisms to deal with Tunisian returnees from armed conflict zones, by learning from the comparative experiences and adopting the best international practices in the field.

The Sub-Commission Dealing with the Return of Tunisians and their Families from Armed Conflict Zones is composed of:

- * The president of the Commission
- * The vice-president
- * Representative of the Presidency of the Republic
- * Two representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, members
- * Representative of the Ministry of Interior, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, from the General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Counter-Terrorism Judicial Pole, member

➤ The Sub-Commission for the Prevention and Early Detection System Dealing with the Cases of Extremism

It was entrusted with the establishment of a national mechanism for vigilance and early detection of individual behavioural changes and the provision of support to individuals before reaching the stage of violent extremism.

The Sub-Commission for the Prevention and Early Detection System Dealing with the Cases of Extremism is composed of:

- * The president of the Commission
- * The vice-president
- * Representative of the Ministry of Interior, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Justice, from the General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Culture, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Education, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, member
- * Representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, member

The aforementioned sub-commissions hold their meetings when summoned by the president or the vice-president. The summoning is addressed to the members of the sub-commission at least three days before the date of the meeting.

These sub-commissions meetings are only considered legal with the presence of the majority of their members in addition to either the president or the vice-president. In the event of absence of quorum, the members are summoned for a second session, which shall be held three working days after the date of the first session. The sub-commission shall hold its session in this case regardless of the number of attendees. The decisions of the sub-commissions are made by the majority vote of the attending members, and in the case of equality votes, the chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

The deliberations and decisions of the sub-commissions shall be included in the minutes of the sessions to be signed by the sub-commission chairperson and the members present.

3.6 Permanent secretariat

The governmental decree n°2019-524 of 17 June 2019, supplementing and amending the governmental decree n° 2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 related to the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures, defines the organization of the permanent secretariat and its tasks.

The permanent secretariat prepares the activities of the Commission and monitors the implementation of its decisions and recommendations. It also performs all the tasks assigned to it by the president or the vice-president of the Commission.

The permanent secretariat of the Commission is supervised by a senior officer, to which a general manager of the central department position is assigned.

The permanent secretariat consists of:

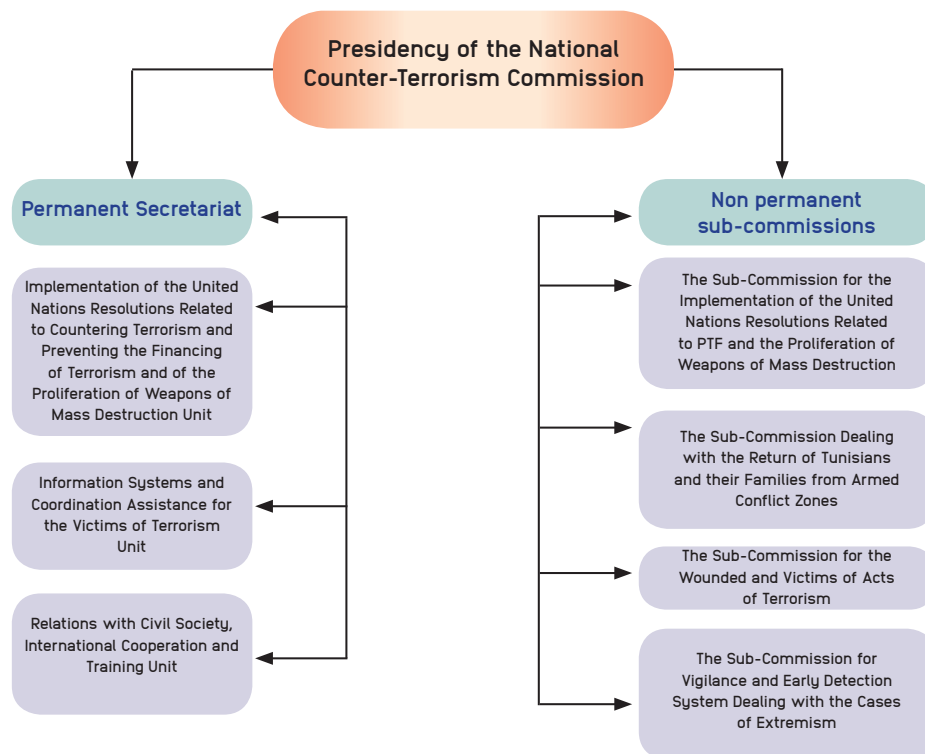
- ❑ Relations with Civil Society, International Cooperation and Training Unit.
- ❑ Implementation of the United Nations Resolutions Related to Countering Terrorism, Prevention of Terrorist Financing and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Unit.
- ❑ Information Systems and Coordination of the Assistance for the Victims of Terrorism Unit.

Supporting the permanent secretariat of the Commission with specialized human resources has been among the most important priorities of the Commission since its inception, in order to be able to meet its obligations under the law.

The human capital of the permanent secretariat was unstable due to the lack of clarity in the organizational chart of the permanent secretariat, as stipulated in the governmental decree n°2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 defining the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures.

In the absence of direct recruitment, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has recourse to the secondment mechanism to gradually support the human resources. The total number of senior officers and officers in the permanent secretariat is nine.

The Commission is still in urgent need to support its permanent secretariat with the necessary human resources to keep pace with the increase of the volume and the nature of work. ❁



4 Milestones

➤ Rotating presidency of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

Four presidents rotated at the Presidency of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission from 15 March 2016 to 31 December 2019.



➤ Establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

On 22 March 2016, at the Government Palace in the Kasbah, the Prime Minister, Mr. Habib Essid, headed the establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism

Commission, which enforces the provisions of Section VI of the organic law n° 2015-26 of 7 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended according to the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019.



First meeting of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission headed by the Prime Minister

➤ Signing of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism

The President of the Republic, Mohamed Beji Caid Essebsi, signed the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, which was developed in a participatory way, on 7 November 2016 with public and civil society organizations.



Signing of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism by the President of the Republic

➤ Signing of the first memorandum of understanding

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with the French Joint Ministerial Commission for the Prevention of Delinquency and Extremism, on 3 May 2018, in the French capital, Paris.



Signing of a memorandum of understanding with the French Joint Ministerial Commission for the Prevention of Delinquency and Extremism, on 03 May 2018

➤ Enforcement of the national regime for the implementation of the targeted financial sanctions



- ❑ Launch of the website of the Commission in August 2017
- ❑ Publication of the first national list for freezing the funds and economic resources of individuals, organizations and entities associated with terrorism in November 2018.
- ❑ Development of guidelines for defined financial and non-financial institutions.

➤ Honouring the team that worked on Tunisia's removal from the list of countries under the monitoring of the FATF

On 22 October 2019, the Prime Minister honoured the team from the Tunisian administration and the financial and legal bodies, including the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, which worked on removing Tunisia from the list of countries under the monitoring of the FATF.



Honouring the team, on 22 October 2019

➤ Signing of grant agreements for associations

In July 2019, and in the scope of supporting the engagement of associations in preventing violent extremism, the Commission signed grant agreements of the value of 3 million Dinars, with (05) five civil society organizations, in partnership with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).



Grant Agreement Signing Ceremony with civil society organizations

➤ **Engagement of the regional and local authorities in implementing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism**

Within the framework of supporting the regional and local authorities' engagement in implementing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, the Commission held extraordinary working sessions in the governorates of Medenine, Tozeur, Nabeul, Sousse, Kairouan and Sfax.



46th meeting of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission at the headquarters of the governorate of Tozeur



49th meeting of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission at the headquarters of the governorate of Sfax

➤ **Hearing of the President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission by the Security and Defence Commission of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People**

Within the scope of communication with the Assembly of the Representatives of the People, the President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission was heard by the Security and Defence Commission on 18 February 2019, during a session in which many issues aimed at supporting the national effort to countering extremism and terrorism were addressed.



Hearing of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission by the Security and Defence Committee at the People's Representative Assembly on 18/02/2019



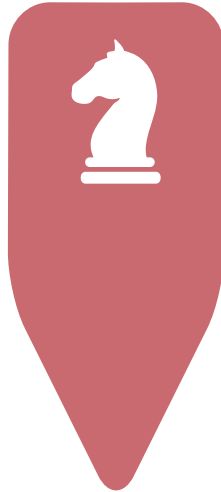
Part II:

Activities of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

1. Strategic Activity of the Commission
2. Organizational Activity: implementation of the national regime to enforce the targeted financial sanctions
3. Partnerships, sharing experiences and international cooperation
4. Advisory Activity of the Commission
5. Sensitization and training activity



1 Strategic activity of the Commission |



1.1 Preparation process of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism

Out of awareness of the dangers of terrorism and the threat it poses to the values and principles of human rights provided for in the Constitution and international agreements, Tunisia is determined to combat this phenomenon. This endeavour is possible through both capacity building via regional and international cooperation—necessary to confront this threat—and developing a National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.

The National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism aims to ensure a clear and common vision among all the actors, consistent with the national CT and PVE effort, while developing national capacities to confront the phenomenon with a comprehensive and multidimensional approach.

In order to achieve this goal, the President of the Republic authorized the development of a National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism upon heading the National Security Council meeting on 12 February 2015. This strategy was prepared using a participatory approach involving all the ministries and organizations directly or indirectly involved in addressing terrorism.

The National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism was signed by the President of the Republic, on 7 November 2016 for a duration of 5 years with the possibility of update, if applicable. The strategy is implemented within the framework of good governance and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

1.2 Pillars of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism

The National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism has defined 59 objectives within four pillars, which are:



Prevention: Preventing and countering all forms of extremism, preventing the recruitment of terrorists and denying them the means that enable them to execute their plans especially by identifying the factors that contribute to the spread of extremism and addressing them. Added to the above, prevention is about confronting the recruitment of individuals in acts of terrorism, enshrining the culture of dialogue and developing educational approaches to build resilience against extremism, enhancing the role of women in preventing extremism, addressing the social, economic, political and intellectual factors that exacerbate the phenomenon of terrorism. This is possible through the identification of potential political and economic alternatives for vulnerable populations—which constitute a fertile ground for recruitment and extremism—, spreading the principles of comprehensive education, spreading the culture of tolerance and diversity and acceptance of the other, developing a moderate and tolerant religious discourse, strengthening international cooperation, especially in the field of judicial cooperation, technical assistance, sharing information, and preventing extremism in prisons and places of worship in total respect of human rights principles.



Protection: Protecting citizens, facilities and sensitive targets from acts of terrorism and mitigating its consequences by securing the borders, the means of transport and the infrastructure, especially by monitoring the use of modern means of information technology, while respecting human rights and protecting the privacy and personal data of citizens in accordance with the Constitution and the relevant international treaties. The aim is to identify the most vulnerable groups to recruitment, countering the illegal use of strategic goods that can be exploited for terrorism purposes or to manufacture explosive materials, preventing their circulation and transport, countering trafficking in persons and illicit trade in goods due to their usual association with terrorism. Protection is also about developing a system to control the movements of persons across borders while ensuring the good management of the national borders and imparting more efficient management of border problems to secure and facilitate international trade exchanges, especially

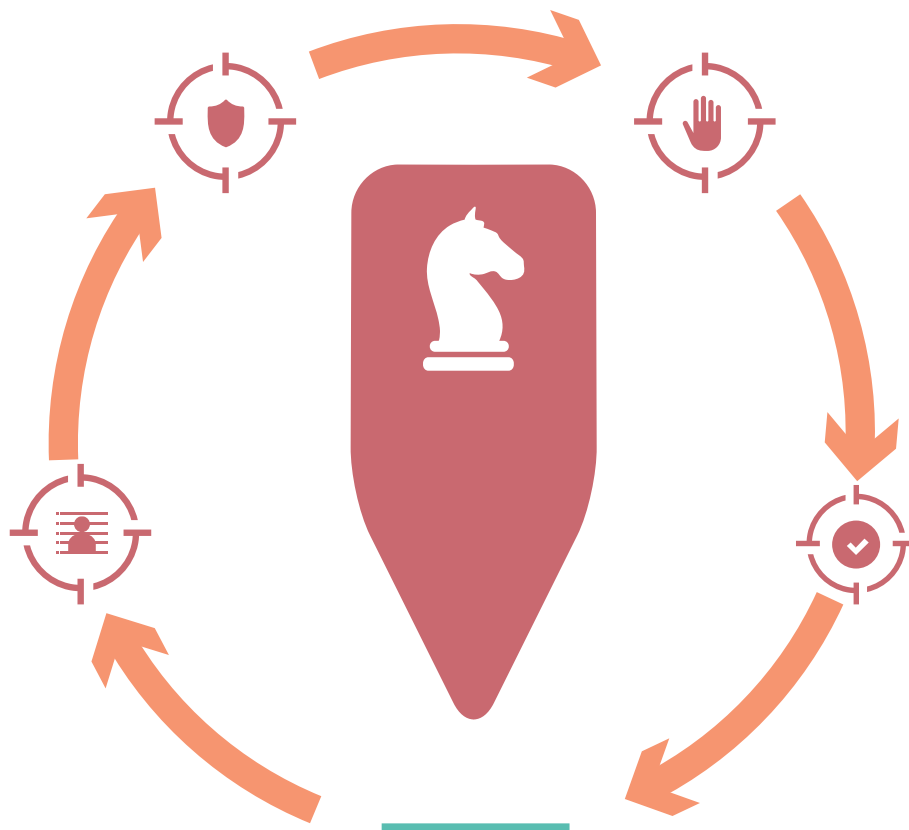
by engaging in the international system of customs and securing the borders while strengthening international cooperation in this field; besides monitoring the financing of associations and non-profit organizations, without restricting the freedom of association and ensuring the independence and transparency of the financial sector and the professional organizations operating in it, developing an integrated and efficient communication system with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its regional groups regarding its activities, action plans and achievements in countering terrorism and its financing especially with relation to indicators and risks of terrorism financing. This also aims at reinforcing legal texts related to the protection and support of victims, by endowing them with a special legal framework commensurate with their situation.



Tracking: Preventing terrorists from planning and carrying out acts of terrorism while ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice, especially by developing and strengthening the human and logistical capacities of the State in tracking terrorists and terrorist groups in an attempt at implementing the resolutions of the National Security Council and the recommendations of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in order to strengthen national capacities to combat terrorism, support judicial cooperation in the field of forensic investigations at the regional and international levels, in accordance with the recommendations and the United Nations resolutions in the field and in line with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This is a reaffirmation that respect for human rights and the rule of law and the establishment of an effective judicial system consistent with international standards for a fair trial are essential components in the field of counter-terrorism.



Response: Preparing to face the repercussions of the acts of terrorism and reducing their impact, especially by strengthening the regional and international cooperation in sharing information and experiences, developing a crisis communication strategy, enhancing the capacities of the security, defence and intelligence forces, adopting mechanisms to prevent the financing of terrorist individuals and groups, ensuring the integrity of the financial sector and specific non-financial institutions and professions and providing the financial, human and technical resources to the relevant departments.



1.3 Ministerial action plans to implement the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism

Pursuant to the provisions of article 68 of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, which states that the National Counter-Terrorism Commission shall strive to assist and facilitate communication between the ministries and coordinate their efforts, the Commission pledged to coordinate the process of the implementation of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, through ministerial action plans, as follows:

- * Submission of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism to all the ministries in December 2016.
- * Organization of three workshops, in February and March 2017, in cooperation with AKTIS Strategy and with the participation of all the ministries, to train them in the field of strategic planning.

- * Preparation of a manual of procedures, which includes a consolidated methodology for the work plans, in May 2017, and its submission to all the ministries. The manual aims to:
 - Consolidate the methodology and procedures for developing work plans.
 - Consolidate the concepts and terminology used in planning.
 - Clarify the roles and responsibilities when formulating the plans and monitoring their implementation.
 - Assist the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in coordinating the efforts of the ministries and the various organizations in implementing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.
 - Monitor the process of preparation of the ministerial work plans, in coordination with the various ministries, and provide support as required. The support program included:
 - * Bilateral meetings between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the teams in charge of work plans at the ministries.
 - * Collective workshops: The first was organized on 20 October 2017 and it was dedicated to the ministries, which prepared their work plans, to define the best practices. The second was held on 14 and 15 November 2017 and was devoted to the rest of the ministries. The third was organized on 22 December 2017 to propose a methodology for coordinating the implementation of the ministerial action plans of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.

The action plans of the ministries are structured according to the four pillars of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism:



Prevention:

The prevention action plans of the ministries were mainly based on the following:

- ✓ Enshrining and disseminating the culture of dialogue, tolerance, diversity and acceptance of the other and developing educational approaches to build resilience against extremism, in order to avoid the spread of extremist ideology by consolidating the sense of belonging to the homeland and integrating special elements in public communication to enhance the culture of citizenship and reject extremism.

- ✓ Developing purposeful cultural and artistic content aimed at enshrining the culture of tolerance, diversity and the acceptance of the other by intensifying cultural and sports activities and creating youth entertainment events.
- ✓ Supporting citizenship and civic culture and the engagement of cultural actors in preventing extremism and terrorism, especially by supporting individual, private and associative initiatives to revitalize the public space.
- ✓ Promoting artistic educational programs to enshrine the meanings of belonging and citizenship through the development and implementation of a program to promote cultural mediation.
- ✓ Striving to address the factors behind the spread of violent extremism and countering them, prisons and places of worship included, while respecting the principles of human rights. This is possible through learning from the experiences of other countries in preventing extremism, evaluating these experiences, implementing the agreements, promoting the programs related to youth employment and seeking to benefit from special programs and initiatives.
- ✓ Reinforcing the family from the risk of disintegration and deviance through communication programs and intensifying artistic activities.
- ✓ Sound education of children through katatib (plural of kotteb: state institution teaching elementary educational skills including learning the Qur'an to pre-school children) by promoting the latter's role and supporting the learning and teaching of the Holy Qur'an.
- ✓ Developing the content of purposeful religious narratives that are in line with the requirements of reality and current phase by updating the scientific evaluation of the Friday sermon and the Imams delivering sermons, developing religious narratives through written and audio-visual media and promoting the dissemination of moderate religious narratives.

Promoting social dialogue by supporting contractual policy and institutionalizing social dialogue.

- ✓ Protect families from the dangers of extremist ideology by educating and sensitizing them to prevent extremist ideas that support terrorism.
- ✓ Protecting children and youth at risk of exclusion and marginalization by developing an approach to social work in the streets and generalizing it among the centres of defence and social integration.

- ✓ Immunizing young people against extremist ideology in all its manifestations by organizing sensitization events on the prevention of violence and all the manifestations of ill-treatment within the family, using positive parenting methods.
- ✓ Containing the phenomenon of street children by preparing a database on this population and setting up a special program to support them, especially during leisure time and school holidays through the creation of a national commission to follow up on the issue of street children and the establishment of a centre to receive these children and guide them.
- ✓ Addressing the social, economic, political and intellectual factors that feed terrorism by defining the effective political and economic options for vulnerable groups which constitute a fertile ground for extremism, to avoid influencing young people and driving them to endorse extremist ideology.
- ✓ Further strengthening the comprehensive support of victims of acts of terrorism.
- ✓ Establishing a system of social vigilance, at the regional and national levels, aimed at monitoring, collecting and processing data related to social maladjustment and conducting field studies on social phenomena that threaten the individual and the society.
- ✓ Ensuring social justice for the various members of society by initiating the preparation of a strategy for countering exclusion and reducing poverty and the reasons leading to it.
- ✓ Supporting and developing the various social programs currently in place, such as the program of support for needy and low-income families, supporting disabled people, aiding children deprived of family support and those born outside of marriage, supporting single mothers and providing social aid, by organizing awareness raising sessions for these different groups with the aim of sensitizing them to the dangers of this phenomenon.
- ✓ Contributing to countering the phenomenon of early school dropout by developing a social work program in the school environment and putting in place networks to address the phenomenon of school dropout and by setting an organizational framework for the school social work program.
- ✓ Economic and social empowerment of families in border areas and areas with high population density by rehabilitating families and enabling them to undertake micro economic projects to prevent extremism and terrorism.

- ✓ Social and economic integration of women, improving their knowledge capacities and ensuring a decent life for them by helping them launch projects which prepare them for integration into the economic life.
- ✓ Preventing the recruitment of youth and the spread of takfiri ideology and religious extremism through mosques, Internet, suspicious associations by contributing to controlling and monitoring suspicious activities inside prisons and places of worship and taking the necessary measures in this regard, while respecting human rights principles and monitoring the changes in the behaviour of some members of the community and their tendency towards isolation or extremist ideology.
- ✓ Preventing the financing of extremism and terrorism and striving to dry up its sources passing through smuggling routes, organized crime and associations by contributing to the development of legislations on money and currency transfer and intensifying international cooperation to prevent terrorist organizations and extremists from obtaining any form of direct or indirect financial support, and also by sharing information with other countries about suspicious financial flows and money laundering and smuggling routes.
- ✓ Preventing the availability of a popular hub for terrorism by contributing to the creation and development of Internet websites devoted to raising awareness and alerting people to the dangers of extremism and terrorism in coordination with national organizations, civil society, the media and all State institutions (taking into consideration comparative experiences: Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which have official websites on the Internet and satellite channels specialized in countering terrorism and spreading alternative narratives) and contributing to the creation and development of warning centres and electronic websites to raise awareness of the dangers of involvement in terrorist groups or organized or transnational crime and improving the existing websites.
- ✓ Protecting children from recruitment by extremist groups and exploitation in acts of terrorism, by increasing the number of mobile clubs for children to cover internal and remote areas and continuing to create sports spaces in institutions dedicated to children.
- ✓ Governance of exploitation of public and private youth and sports spaces and immunizing youth against all forms of polarization and recruitment by creating a new generation of youth and sports institutions that drive youth to pursue their hobbies through innovative and useful activities.

- ✓ Protecting women with special needs from the extremist recruitment and exploitation in acts of terrorism by supporting mothers with children born outside of marriage and protecting women from all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.
- ✓ Preparing a national approach to prevent the online recruitment of new elements by terrorist groups and mitigating the impact of extremist propaganda on young people without compromising the freedom to access the Internet.
- ✓ Reinforcing the role of women in preventing extremism by conducting rehabilitation trainings for mothers in social centres.
- ✓ Reinforcing preventive measures to combat smuggling of migrants and illegal trade in goods and supporting international and regional cooperation in the field by monitoring the current situation of border crossings and initiating their development.
- ✓ Reinforcing international cooperation, especially in the field of judicial cooperation, technical assistance and information sharing, by joining the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.
- ✓ Developing the capacities of the various actors involved in countering terrorism and preventing its financing, such as strengthening and developing the technical and operational capacities of the security units in charge of intervention and developing the capacities and mechanisms of investigation of crimes of terrorism.
- ✓ Developing capacities in the field of border security and exploiting the available opportunities at the national, regional and international levels to prevent the financing of extremism and terrorism through smuggling routes and organized crime, and taking all the necessary measures to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Tunisia through the border strip.
- ✓ Strengthening the legal system to counter all forms of extremism and terrorism by adapting national legislations on countering terrorism, the ratified international treaties, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the international human rights and respect for the rule of law standards with the Constitution and by following the development of comparative legal systems and proposing the necessary amendments and revisions of the various legal and regulatory texts related to preventing extremism and countering terrorism.
- ✓ Developing the social legislation system and aligning it with international legislations.

- ✓ Aligning the return of Tunisian terrorist fighters from conflict zones with national legislations on countering terrorism, with the Constitution and the relevant international standards; and strengthening international cooperation in the field of justice, technical assistance and information sharing in order to address the risks posed by this phenomenon by preparing a manual on the various relevant United Nations resolutions adopted recently, updating them, communicating them to the relevant ministries and making use of available data to the United Nations agencies and international organizations, within the framework of the judicial prosecution of terrorists returning from conflict zones.
- ✓ Reviewing and tightening the monitoring and control system and bodies in youth and sports spaces by establishing an independent body in charge of technical control and coordination with public control bodies, setting up a database for public and private institutions in the youth and sports sectors, setting and updating the list of suspicious people and preparing a program for to monitor them.
- ✓ Creating a local statistical database that provides the data used for calculating the regional development index, by diagnosing the local statistical system and establishing statistical units at the local level.
- ✓ Developing the field of research and statistics, by creating a database that includes the migrants and conducting a research on the factors contributing to the emergence of extremist behaviour among migrants.
- ✓ Developing social workers' interventions with regard to supporting prisoners inside and outside the prison by connecting inmates with their families and preparing an intervention process for each prisoner, providing special funds for the reintegration of prisoners enabling them to launch private projects that help them reintegrate economically and socially; and by implementing the cooperation agreement concluded between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Affairs on the rehabilitation and integration of prisoners.
- ✓ Mitigating risks emanating from prisoners convicted for terrorism cases, especially those returning from conflict zones by reinforcing security and safety in prisons and rehabilitation centers and by developing support programs for this category, with the participation of all stakeholders, in order to reform and prepare them for release and integration.
- ✓ Changing the employee's behaviour in terms of vigilance, precaution, discernment and reporting, by preparing the employee's manual of vigilance, precaution, discernment and reporting and distributing it to employees in the ministry and the institutions under its supervision.

- ✓ Guaranteeing the participation of residents in the various activities related to local communities and local and associative work through the preparation of implementing regulations for the Local Communities Code.



Protection:

The work plans of the ministries on protection were as follows:

- ✓ Strengthening the land and sea border security system by equipping the check points with advanced special equipment and by supporting the land and sea teams and providing the necessary resources.
- ✓ Providing high-quality, high-safety border crossings.
- ✓ Qualifying the human resources and reinforcing capacities in the field of security and safety.
- ✓ Developing the infrastructure and technical equipment of security and safety.
- ✓ Creating permanent crisis management cells and developing a vision for the ultimate creation and funding of a permanent crisis management cell.
- ✓ Protecting society from associations with suspicious activities by prohibiting fundraising in religious spaces.
- ✓ Further reinforcement of the good management of religious spaces by accelerating the development and digitization of the mosques' matrix and granting all mosque staff a mosque staff card and re-training, training and certifying the inspectors at the central and regional levels.
- ✓ Securing and protecting public institutions from acts of terrorism.
- ✓ Contributing to monitoring the public funding of associations, at the regional and national levels, by setting up a database of associations funded by the Ministry at the regional, and national levels and abroad.
- ✓ Preventing extremism inside and outside prisons and rehabilitating people with special needs for their economic and social integration.
- ✓ Setting and updating the list of sensitive public facilities and institutions and preparing a plan to protect them from acts of terrorism.

- ✓ Establishing a comprehensive national program to rationalize the use of information technology, while strengthening the monitoring and control methods through diagnosing the use of new technology equipment and networks and assessing its proficiency and control as well as checking all electronic monitoring equipment installed in public facilities, and developing the information systems through the use of advanced coding and firewalls in networks.
- ✓ Organizing the entry and exit of employees to the workplace by providing special staff badges in ministries and public facilities.
- ✓ Organizing the entry of visitors to the ministries and public institutions through the preparation of a simplified procedural guide to guards in administrative facilities and recruiting enough guards and providing monitoring equipment in ministries and public facilities.
- ✓ Strengthening the capacities to counter the acts of terrorism targeting prisons, rehabilitation centers and facilities belonging to prisons, rehabilitation centers, courts and individuals through reinforcing operational and procedural capacities to protect from terrorist acts and reinforce the electronic monitoring system in judicial and court facilities.



Tracking:

The tracking-related work plans of ministries were mainly based on the following:

- ✓ Developing methods and ways of tracking the movements of terrorists or suspects of extremism and terrorism.
- ✓ Developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of countering terrorism and enhancing the capacities of the security units, given the nature of the transnational crimes of terrorism through reinforcing European support programs for Tunisia especially in the field of high level political dialogue between Tunisia and the EU on security and countering terrorism, restructuring and modernizing the security sector in line with internal advance, intensifying trainings for the security forces and benefiting from international expertise in the field of intelligence.
- ✓ Supporting judicial cooperation at the regional and international levels in the field of forensic investigations in accordance with the United Nations recommendations and resolutions adopted in this field through reinforcing the capacities of specialized authorities in the judicial monitoring and investigation of complex terrorist cases as well as in the field of collection and management of information and development of interrogation techniques, investigation and facilitation of bi-lateral judicial support.

- ✓ Sharing information included in the database related to lost, stolen or forged travel documents and pushing for cooperation in the field of operations at border crossings to thwart the activities of criminal networks which provide false travel documents to illegal migrants and use them for terrorism purposes. This is possible through the good use of black listed wanted individuals by our delegations abroad and through giving due diligence to international reports of missing passports to prevent their use by terrorist organizations.
- ✓ Supporting the bodies in charge of countering extremism and the crimes of terrorism and developing coordination between them, at the domestic and international levels in addition to supporting the relevant judicial structures in charge of countering extremism and terrorist crimes and supporting coordination and cooperation at the national and international levels.



Response:

The action plans of ministries on response were as follows:

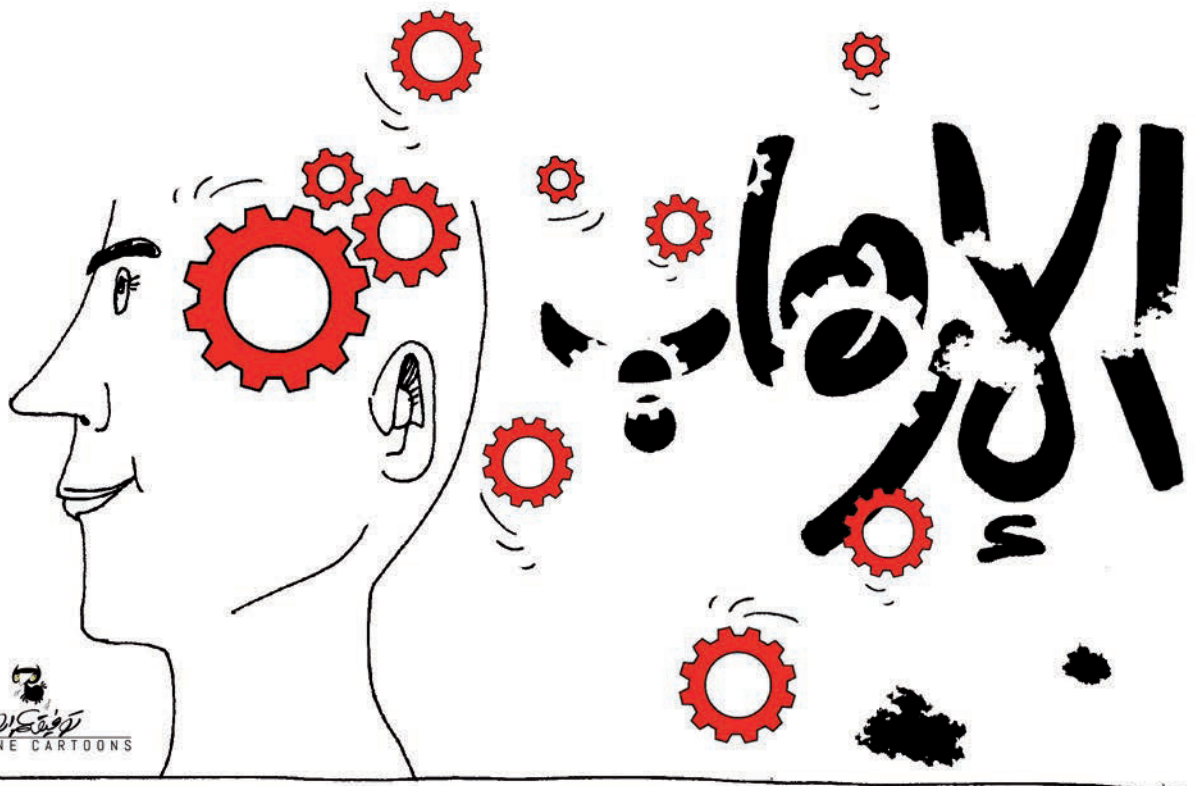
- ✓ Responding to applications to benefit from social housing for the sake of families of martyrs of the internal security forces, the military personnel and the customs, victims of terrorist attacks through fastening the process of studying the application files referred to the Benefits Committee.
- ✓ Developing operational intervention when acts of terrorism occur through implementing a joint leadership crisis committee and reinforcing the regional and international cooperation in exchanging expertise in response upon the occurrence of terrorist attacks.

Developing the ability to communicate and interact while dealing with acts of terrorism through the creation of Media and Communication Offices in the concerned ministries and coordinating with national and foreign media structures to exchange expertise in dealing with terrorist events.

Developing the ability to uncover the circumstances of terrorist acts through developing trainings in terrorist crimes' investigation, intensifying specialized internships and training cycles locally and internationally.

Developing operational intervention upon the occurrence of terrorist acts in respect of basic rights in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and the provisions of the international conventions and treaties through the reinforcement of human and material resources of CT units and establishing CT operational sectors.

الفكر البناء يقضي على الارهاب





2 Organizational activity:
**implementation of the national
regime to enforce the targeted
financial sanctions**



Article 68 of the organic law n° 2015-26 of 07 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, which states, entrusted the National Counter-Terrorism Commission with the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the resolutions of the relevant United Nations bodies related to countering terrorism and preventing the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, within Tunisia's commitment to fulfil its international obligations, to make recommendations and issue guidelines in this regard.

Article 103 of the above-mentioned law empowered the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to freeze the funds or persons, organizations or entities whose link to terrorist crimes and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been established to the Commission or the competent United Nations bodies, and shall prevent making assets or resources available or undertaking any transactions with the designated persons or entities. The procedures for implementing the resolutions of the relevant United Nations bodies shall be defined by a governmental decree.

These missions assigned to the National Counter-Terrorism Commission implement:

- * The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (New York, 09 December 1999), ratified by the Republic of Tunisia by virtue of the law n° 2002-99 of 25 November 2002.

- * The special recommendations of the International Anti-Money Laundering and countering the Financing of terrorism task force, especially recommendation 6 on targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism and terrorist financing and recommendation 7 on targeted financial sanctions related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which require member states to implement targeted financial sanctions regimes to prevent and suppress terrorism financing, and to disrupt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- * The United Nations Security Council Resolutions, especially resolution 1267 (1999), resolution 1373 (2001), resolution 2253 (2015) relating to countering terrorism and preventing its financing, and resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013) on preventing the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

2.1 Development of a legal framework related to the application of the targeted financial sanctions

The legal framework related to the application of the targeted financial sanctions was reviewed in-depth, through the enactment of the organic law n° 2015-26 of 07 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, which was amended and supplemented by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019.

The legal framework related to the implementation of the targeted financial sanctions was completed when the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, jointly with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Tunisian Financial Analysis Committee, prepared draft governmental decrees defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies in relation to preventing terrorism financing, pursuant to the provisions of the second paragraph of article 103 of the aforementioned law, which requires that «procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies shall be defined by a governmental decree.»

Thus, the governmental decree n°2018-1 of 4 January 2018, defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing terrorism financing, was passed. Its provisions were repealed by the governmental decree n° 2019-72 of 1st February 2019, defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies

related to preventing the financing of terrorism and that of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which was also repealed by the governmental decree n° 2019-419 of 17 May 2019 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and that of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which in turn was amended by virtue of the governmental decree n°2019-457 of 31 May 2019. The governmental decree n°2019-524 of 17 June 2019, amending and supplementing the governmental decree n°2015-1777 of 25 November 2015 defining the organization of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and its operating procedures, provides a framework for strengthening its human resources and improving its capacities to enforce the regime of freezing of funds.

2.2 Preparation of a national list of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism

Following the issuing of 108 decisions to freeze the funds and economic resources of individuals, organizations and entities associated with terrorism, and in order to implement the provisions of article 103 of the organic law on countering terrorism and preventing money laundering and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has prepared a national list of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism, after it issued 108 decisions to freeze the funds and economic resources of individuals, organizations and entities associated with terrorism. The Commission had based its decisions on reasonable grounds to suspect that funds are the proceeds of a criminal activity, or are related to terrorist financing crimes including participation in, association with or conspiracy to commit, attempt, aiding and abetting and facilitating the commission, by any undertaking owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by any person or entity, or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof, based on data and information available to it provided by the security, administrative and judicial authorities.

The freezing consists in imposing a temporary sanction on the funds and assets, which includes the prohibition of their use, transfer, movement or access, and aims to dry up the sources of terrorist funding by strictly controlling the suspicious financial flows.

For the first time, on 09 November 2018, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, made 23 decisions to freeze the funds and assets of individuals associated with terrorism. These decisions were published in the Official Gazette n°2018-91 and made available to the public on the Commission's website «www.cnlct.tn».

The next set of decisions to freeze funds and assets, was issued on 24 December 2018 and targeted 40 natural persons and one organization associated with terrorism. Freezing decisions were taken in their regard and published in the Official Gazette n°2018-104.

Within the framework of its continuous efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and dry up its sources, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission made a third batch of decisions, on 02 April 2019, to freeze funds and assets, which targeted 39 natural persons associated with terrorism.

On 21 June 2019, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission decided to freeze the funds and assets of 03 natural persons and one association. Next, on 19 September 2019, it decided to freeze the assets of another natural person.

Date	N° of freezing decisions
09 November 2018	23
24 December 2018	41
02 April 2019	39
21 June 2019	04
19 September 2019	01

Table 1: Freezing decisions issued by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph D of article 7 of the governmental decree n°2019-419 of 17 May 2019, amended and supplemented by the governmental decree 2019-457 of 31 May 2019 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies relating to the prevention of the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which states that “the National Counter-Terrorism Commission shall review the national registry periodically and at least once every six months with the intention of updating or deleting the name of any individual or entity enlisted, if applicable and

in light of new information or data.”, the Commission made 171 decisions to renew the freezing of the funds and assets of individuals and organizations associated with crimes of terrorism, as shown in the following table:

Date	N° of freezing decisions
06 May 2019	23
21 June 2019	41
19 September 2019	39
30 October 2019	23
18 December 2019	45

Table 2: Decisions to renew freezing issued by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

2.3 Circulation of the consolidated sanctions list of the United Nations Security Council

Pursuant to the provisions of article 103 of the organic law on countering terrorism, preventing money laundering and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to the governmental decree n° 2019-419 of 17 May 2019, amended and supplemented by the governmental decree n° 2019-457 of 31 May 2019 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and that of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission pledged to immediately publish the United Nations Security Council resolutions related to countering terrorism and preventing its financing or that of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted in accordance with the provisions of article 7 of the United Nations Charter, especially resolution 1267 (1999), and informed the designated financial institutions and companies and the non-financial businesses and professions of their implementation within the timeframe specified by the law. The Commission also published on its website every addition, amendment, or removal from the United Nations list and informed the relevant bodies of the implementation thereof.

Within the framework of the missions vested in it regarding the possibility of proposing names for inclusion to the relevant United Nations bodies, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission submitted a proposal to the Security Council Sanctions Committee regarding the inclusion of 09 individuals of Tunisian nationality in the United Nations Security Council's Consolidated Sanctions List (ISIS-Al Qaeda).

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission also received from the Ombudsman, through the diplomatic ways, three (03) requests of removal from the United Nations Security Council's Consolidated Sanctions List. There was coordination with the relevant authorities and the United Nations Security Council was provided with the required and available information and data.

The Commission also received official requests from individuals included in the United Nations list for the partial use of their frozen funds. There was coordination with the relevant authorities and the necessary measures were taken in this regard. In order to ensure respect for the deadlines set by the law, related to the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies in relation to preventing the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, especially since the updates to the United Nations list are issued in New York time, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission established a permanent monitoring cell, including representatives of the permanent secretariat of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, tasked with continuous coordination with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to exchange correspondence received by the permanent diplomatic mission at the Security Council, on a timely basis via e-mail.

2.4 Capacity building

The complexity of the procedures and the strict deadlines set by the governmental decree n°2019-419 of 17 May 2019, amended and supplemented by the governmental decree n° 2019-457 of 31 May 2019 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the competent United Nations bodies relating to preventing the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, requires capacity building for all the parties involved in the regime of freezing the funds and assets of individuals associated with crimes of terrorism besides the development of training programs for the members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, the staff of its permanent secretariat and the persons and bodies involved in implementation.

2.4.1 Trainings

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission trained all the parties involved in the funds freezing regime, especially the members of the Commission and the authorities in charge of implementation.

In this context, the Commission participated in and/or organized the following trainings and seminars:

- * 16 and 17 January 2017: Participation in a training at the headquarters of the Central Bank organized by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for the members of the National Commission, representatives of the legislative and legal departments at the Presidency of the Government and representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Finance, on best practices for implementing the Security Council Sanctions Committee's resolutions related to freezing the funds of individuals and terrorist organizations. The French and Belgian experiences in this field were presented in this initiative.
- * 12 and 13 April 2018: The National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in partnership with the relevant Tunisian authorities and with international contributions from France and the European Union, organized an international forum on freezing terrorists' assets at the National School of Management in Tunis. During the forum, the national regime for freezing terrorists' assets and the roles of various implementation bodies were introduced. International experiences in the field were presented by officials from the United Nations, the European Union, France, Italy and Lebanon. Government officials, diplomats and experts from Tunisia and other countries participated in the forum.
- * From 03 to 05 July 2018: The National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), organized a training workshop on «The Implementation of Terrorist Designation and Asset Freezing Regime», with the participation of 40 officials from the members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, the ministries and oversight bodies over the financial sector. The various stakeholders were trained on the operational requirements for the establishment of the national regime for freezing terrorist funds.

- * 18 December 2019: A seminar was organized at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Tunisia on freezing the funds and assets of terrorists, in partnership with the Embassy of Italy in Tunisia, to learn from the Italian experience in the field of investigations related to money laundering crimes and the financing of extremist and terrorist organizations.



Training workshop on «The Implementation of Terrorist Designation and Asset Freezing Regime», from 03 to 05 July 2018



Activities of the seminar held at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Tunisia, on 18 December 2019, on the freezing of terrorists' assets

2.4.2 Information and sensitization days

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized information and sensitization days on the national regime for freezing the funds and assets of terrorists and terrorist organizations and entities.

In cooperation with the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission information days were organized for the Tunisian financial institutions represented by their focal points with the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in November 2018 and February 2019, at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Tunisia. The financial institutions were urged to take the necessary measures to implement the freezing decisions, whether issued by the competent United Nations bodies relating to preventing the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in cooperation with the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission, organized an information day, on Monday 22 April 2019 in the City of Culture, on countering the financing of terrorism and preventing the proliferation of armament. It was attended by the dean of notaries, the dean of chartered accountants and a number of notaries, chartered accountants, real estate agents, jewellery dealers, representatives of defined non-financial professional jobs and representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Finance, Commerce and Tourism, with the aim of introducing the regime for countering terrorism financing and preventing the proliferation of armament and urging the institutions and sectors involved in the implementation to effectively enforce their duties to address the risks arising from the financing of terrorism and armament.

In cooperation with the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized an information day on the national regime for freezing the funds and assets of terrorists and terrorist organizations and entities, for control, security and administrative authorities on Thursday 18 July 2019, at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Tunisia.

To introduce the regime of targeted financial sanctions, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission participated in several television and radio programs and press conferences to present the efforts made to establish the targeted financial sanctions regime.

The official website, the social media pages (Facebook, Twitter) and the e-mail of the Commission were important elements for communication between the Commission and the various stakeholders (the authorities involved in implementation, the individuals and organizations subject to freezing...).

An electronic platform was developed to determine the number of users of the official website with a smart link that classifies them according to professional sectors to which they belong. This platform is used in the field of statistics.



2.5 Guidelines on implementing the national regime for enforcing the targeted financial sanctions

Since the governmental decree n° 2019-419 defined complex procedures along with specific and strict deadlines to implement the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and that of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission prepared guidelines that included a definition of the targeted sanctions, their characteristics and the legal requirements to which the freezing of assets is subject, determined the assets targeted with the freezing, identified the persons in charge with the implementation, and the areas of intervention of all the actors involved in executing the regime of freezing terrorists' assets as well as the procedures to be followed by the Commission, the financial institutions, the undefined financial stakeholders and the administrative and control authorities, at all stages of the process, and those not subjected, to the operation.

The guidelines were circulated and published on the website of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in September 2019, in accordance with the provisions of article 7 (G) of the governmental decree n°2019-419, which states that the Commission shall «publish guidelines on its website for the defined financial institutions and non-financial professions and businesses and any other individual or entity, regarding their obligations to freeze and unfreeze funds, in accordance with the provisions of articles 8 and 9 of this governmental decree».

2.6 Contribution to the removal of Tunisia from FATF monitored jurisdiction

The measures taken by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to establish the regime of financial sanctions related to preventing the financing of terrorism and that of the proliferation of armament have enabled Tunisia to improve its technical compliance rating related to recommendation 6 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and contributed to its removal from the list of «high risk» countries to the list of “monitored» countries, which makes intensive care measures and counter-measures not applicable.

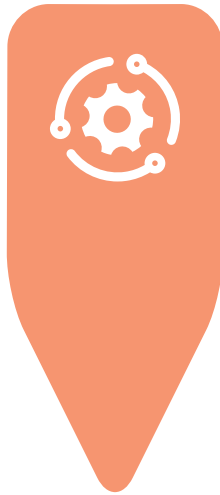
Establishing an integrated national regime for freezing terrorists' assets contributed to removing Tunisia from the list of countries under the FATF monitoring

In committing to implement the FATF action plan to develop a regime of targeted financial sanctions, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has, thus, contributed to the decision-making of the FATF, in its plenary session held in Paris from 16 to 18 October 2019, to remove Tunisia from the list of countries under the monitoring of the FATF, based on the field report following FATF's visit to Tunisia, on 16 and 17 September 2019, which reflected the remarkable progress made by the Republic of Tunisia in addressing the deficiencies in relation to the anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regime.





3 Partnerships, sharing experiences and international cooperation



Pursuant to the provisions of articles 68 and 69 of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, amended and supplemented by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission cooperates, in the framework of carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the legislator, with international and civil society organizations involved in countering terrorism and assists them in implementing their programs.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission also cooperates with its counterparts abroad within the framework of the signed international, regional and bilateral agreements. Cooperation depends on respecting the principle of reciprocity.

Since its inception, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has not been isolated from all the actors in the field of countering terrorism, as it has been keen on building a national and international network.

3.1 Cooperation at the international level

Since its inception, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has sought to establish and build international partnerships to implement its programs and learn from best practices through the development of bilateral cooperation with a number of countries and multilateral cooperation with the international organizations and specialized United Nations agencies.

The participation of the Commission in various international events received wide interest and attention, which contributed to supporting its openness and radiance, constituted a fertile ground for strengthening cooperation and communication and partnership mechanisms with other countries and enhanced its effectiveness in international organizations.

3.1.1 Bilateral cooperation

a. Tunisian-French cooperation



The Tunisian-French cooperation started following a forum on PVE policies and programs and early intervention with persons exposed to extremism, on 05 and 06 December 2018, at the University of Kairouan, in partnership with the French Embassy in Tunisia.

The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission paid a visit to Paris, on 03 May 2018, invited by the Secretary-General of the French Joint Ministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Extremism. A memorandum of understanding was concluded, at that occasion, between the two sides for a period of (03) three years, which could be tacitly renewed for three successive years. The first meeting of the joint team for cooperation was held, as well as bilateral Tunisian-French meetings in the field of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish the general principles for cooperation between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the French Joint Ministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Extremism and to define its modalities.

The two parties cooperate in areas of common interest, notably:

- * Governance and coordination of PVE bodies and programs.
- * Systems of notification and monitoring of extremist individuals.
- * Programs for returnees from conflict zones.
- * Mechanisms to support individuals threatened by or victims of terrorism and violent extremism, especially minors.
- * Countering terrorist propaganda on the Internet.
- * Raising awareness, communication and cooperation with the media and civil society organizations in relation to the phenomena of terrorism and violent extremism.

The cooperation between the two parties takes the following forms:

- * Sharing information, experiences and best practices.
- * Developing, implementing and evaluating joint programs and projects.
- * Joint organization of seminars, forums and workshops.
- * Supporting scientific research activities.
- * Training and capacity building.

b. Tunisian-Italian cooperation

The Commission learned from the Italian experience in the field of investigations related to money laundering crimes and the financing of extremist and terrorist organizations through bilateral cooperation between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the Italian Embassy in Tunisia. Seminars were organized, the most recent of which was held on 18 December 2019 on freezing terrorist' funds and assets.



c. Tunisian- Canadian cooperation

The implementation of the project «Supporting the Network of Experts in Countering Violent Extremism» has been initiated. It is led by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and is under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with the support of the Canadian government.

This project aims to develop a map of initiatives and projects in the field of P/CVE to help in decision-making and networking among practitioners.

Through bilateral cooperation, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission seeks to learn from the Canadian experience in the field of early notification and dealing with extremism.

d. Tunisian-British cooperation

The Tunisian-British cooperation was about providing technical support through the «AKTIS STRATEGY» office, which assisted the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in supporting the ministries, by drafting a methodology manual for the purpose, and setting up a monitoring and evaluation system for the ministerial action plans.

This partnership endeavoured to build the capacities of civil society organizations active in PVE by organizing regional workshops to train them on how to develop, implement and monitor projects.

e. Tunisian-Swiss cooperation

The Tunisian-Swiss cooperation started in November 2016, when the National Counter-Terrorism Commission received representatives from the Swiss Confederation Embassy in Tunisia, within the framework of completing the consultations, which were launched when the President of the Republic signed, on 18 February 2016, in Bern the «Declaration of intentions of Tunisia and Switzerland on the prevention of violent extremism.» It continued with the visit of the Swiss ambassador to Tunisia and the officials in charge of PVE to the Commission and ended with the visit of the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs to Tunisia, on 8 November 2016. The ambassador was introduced to a number of programs funded by the Swiss government in some neighbourhoods in Tunis, in partnership with civil society, to further understand and prevent the phenomenon of terrorism. The Tunisian-Swiss cooperation is mainly embodied by the Swiss embassy's funding of the PVE project in Tunisia "TARABOT: Cohesion to Prevent Violence", by adopting development approaches based on human rights, with the aim of contributing to support the resilience of Tunisia and the Tunisian society to prevent violent extremism.

On the other hand, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission had a cooperation program with the Swiss Confederation in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to develop the communication plan of the Commission, to further present it together with its tasks, activities, programs, vision and values, and strengthen its capacities to ensure good communication with the media, by organizing trainings on institutional communication for the Commission's media unit.

3.1.2 Multilateral cooperation

a. Cooperation and partnership with the United Nations System



United Nations Development Programme:

The United Nations Development Programme in Tunisia took the initiative to organize a workshop for «Analytical Review of the Factors Leading to Violent Extremism in Tunisia in the 2010's», which was published by the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Tunisia, in November 2017, to support the acquisition and assimilation of knowledge and the formulation of public policies in PVE.

The UNDP also financed the participation of a Tunisian delegation in the regional seminar on «Applying the behavioural vision approach in PVE», which was held in Jordan from 12 to 14 December 2017.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission signed a working document with the United Nations Development Programme, on 10 May 2018 on «TARABOT: Cohesion for the Prevention of Violence,» the PVE project in Tunisia, using development approaches based on human rights, funded by the Swiss embassy, with the aim of contributing to support the resilience of the Tunisian State and society to prevent violent extremism.

The project aims to:

- * Provide institutional support for the Tunisian government in PVE.
- * Enhance the participation of non-governmental actors from civil society, the private sector and the local actors to support the comprehensive approach of the Tunisian society in PVE.

The project is set for a period of 3 years, from 2018 to 2021.

The project was launched through a workshop, on 26 and 27 December 2018, organized by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the United Nations System in Tunisia, to define the national priorities relating to PVE and to address the needs of the ministries which are members of the Commission, to reinforce their capacities in implementing their sectoral plans in the field.

Consultative and coordination meetings were held to define the project's main intervention areas and the strategic partnerships that support them.

2019 represented the actual year of the project's through the development of an annual work plan centred around:

1) Defining the national priorities in PVE, monitoring their implementation and reinforcing the capacities of the Commission.

- * Organization of a strategic planning workshop to implement the PVE national priorities in line with the Joint United Nations Programme.
- * Organization of a technical meeting to develop the activities of the Joint Programme for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Tunisia (8 and 9 May 2019) with the participation of representatives of 7 United Nations agencies and international experts specialized in supporting victims of terrorism, devising local multidisciplinary approaches to PVE and strategic communication.

The meeting resulted in grouping the activities into three main axes:

- Supporting the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Extremism for the key ministries.
 - Supporting civil society organizations and institutionalizing the PVE approach at the local level, including strategic communication.
 - Supporting the knowledge and skills of the main stakeholders.
- * Organization of a dialogue session on international recommendations and standards on respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the prevention of violent extremism, with the participation of representatives of civil society and the media.
 - * Organization of study days on "Human Rights, Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism: What is the Role of the Media and Civil Society", on 02 and 03 May 2019.
 - * Provision of logistical support and resources for the Commission, by financing the purchase of furniture and media equipment.

2) Establishing a fund to finance research:

A cooperation program has been created between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, the General Department for Scientific Research, at the Ministry of Higher Education, and the United Nations Development Programme, to establish a fund to finance research, which promotes a common understanding of the terminology related to violent extremism and the prevention strategies, with the aim of:

- Understanding the social, economic, political and cultural dynamics that feed into violent extremism, based on actual empirical evidence.
- Identifying and highlighting the innovative methods and approaches to preventive interventions, which are compatible with the Tunisian context and likely to promote and encourage comprehensive and participatory strategies that respect human rights and development approaches.
- Supporting and helping the creation of a network of experts which brings together researchers and practitioners in the field of PVE, to exchange and share experiences.
- Funding short research papers of 18,000 words on the prevention of violent extremism, with a focus on supporting research projects which adopt a participatory approach based on research and field work, propose innovative solutions and seek to raise awareness of the importance of preventive action in the field of violent extremism.



The fund represented an introduction to a new framework for partnership between public organizations, civil society, the scientific community and technical and financial partners. The call for proposals was launched in July 2019 to support 10 PVE related research projects.

The consultative workshop on the fund's areas of interest contributed to defining the strategy for the implementation of the research projects and the identification of research topics centred on social upbringing and violence, the security and justice systems, the educational systems, the evaluation of PVE interventions and the economic environment.

3) Establishing a network of the Commission's focal points:

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has begun to establish its focal points entrusted with coordination regarding the implementation of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, at the regional level, and with the adaptation of its strategic orientations to the local context, especially through the development of PVE regional plans.



The first meeting of the members of this network, held on 10, 11 and 12 December 2019, introduced the Commission and the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, provided a training on PVE, and discussed the role and tasks of the focal points.

4) Launching the preparatory phase for establishing tripartite national and regional platforms in the field of prevention

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission held a series of national and regional consultative meetings and dialogues in the governorate of Medenine on the mechanisms for establishing tripartite national and regional platforms which bring together government agencies, civil society and the private sector, in order to strengthen national PVE efforts.



5) Survey on the state of social cohesion in the governorate of Medenine

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has initiated a study on the state of social cohesion in the governorate of Medenine, within the framework of the cooperation program between the Tunisian government, the United Nations Development Programme and the Arid Regions Institute of Medenine, in cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics.

This survey aims to:

- Prepare a scientific study on the state of social cohesion in the governorate of Medenine.
Provide a database for social research in the governorate of Medenine.
- Contribute to the production and dissemination of knowledge about social cohesion in Medenine, by describing and analysing the factors of weakness or resilience of this governorate facing social dynamics and instability.
- Experiment and adapt the approach to assessing the social cohesion index according to the specificities of Medenine and Tunisia. In this context, the project team organized a research workshop, which facilitated the allocation of survey tools by the local research team in Medenine, with the help of an international expert, to produce the methodological basis for the Social Cohesion Index and to complete the questionnaire.

6) Producing communication materials

The UNDP supported the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in producing brochures to introduce itself, present its missions and objectives and the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, and preparing the graphic charter of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

7) Sharing information on the prevention of violent extremism at the international level

The United Nations Development Programme participated in organizing regional forums in Tunisia and facilitated the participation of the Commission and its members in international events and study tours.

- Organization of a regional workshop in Tunis, on 25 and 26 February 2019, on PVE national action plans.
- Organization of a regional training workshop on strategic planning for the actors involved in preventing violent extremism, in Tunis, on 27 and 28 February 2019.
- Participation of a Tunisian delegation in the annual conference of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in Malaga/Spain, from 13 to 16 March 2019.

- Participation of the president of the Commission in the 10th meeting of GCERF Board of Directors, in Canada, from 10 to 12 June 2019.
- Participation of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in the African Regional High-level Conference on Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, on 10 and 11 July 2019, in Nairobi-Kenya.
- Organization of a field visit to Belgium for all the members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in November 2019, to study comparative experiences and share experiences in the field of preventing violent extremism.



8) Funding local initiatives for civil society organizations

Within the framework of TARABOT project for preventing violent extremism, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, launched, in 2019, a call for proposals to Tunisian civil society to submit projects on strengthening resilience in the governorate of Medenine, to counter violent extremism. Their period of implementation ranges from 06 to 12 months aiming to enhance resilience in the governorate of Medenine when countering violent extremism. The projects are about one of the following topics:

- Developing joint and multi-stakeholder strategies, including public authorities and the private sector.
- Projects related to a comprehensive intervention strategy to support the participation of women and youth in the local PVE efforts.
- Projects aiming to enhance the role of women as an important agent of change and prevention of violent extremism.

The United Nations Development Programme financed pilot projects in the governorate of Medenine for a number of associations, under the supervision of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. These associations undertook PVE cultural activities dedicated to youth, women and vulnerable groups. These associations are:

□ “Mosaic” Cultural and Artistic Association of Medenine

* Project name: «Illuminations»

* Target group: Housewives

The “Illuminations” project aims to ensure the openness of housewives to the outside world using art as a tool for expression and integration. Therefore, the project facilitates artistic trainings which act as a “safe space” for collective thinking on topics such as violence, discrimination and the role of art in civic participation. Artistic activities are also a way for the beneficiaries to develop their self-confidence and create a source of income.

* Intermediate results:

- Ability of 15 housewives to develop their creative and artistic capacities.
- Ability of 15 housewives to develop their aptitude towards dialogue, trust and social communication for an effective participation in public life by communicating with civil society and the local authorities.

□ “Creative Youth” Association in Medenine

* Project name: «Together to spread the culture of peace»

* Target group: University students in university dormitories.

The project aims to enhance social cohesion in campus, by supporting the creation of cartoons committees in the university dorms and vocational training centres. These committees run cultural and recreational activities and also prevent tensions by acting as mediation cells. Therefore, the association does not only mobilize students, within these committees, but also the directors and the supervisors of the dorms through trainings (on the manners of juveniles at-risk, conflict management, citizenship and human rights, negotiation skills ...).

* Intermediate results:

- Mobilization of 42 young people in the cartoons committees in 5 university dorms and strengthening their capacities in facilitating dialogues through cultural cartoons.
- Enhancing the mentorship capacities of 42 young people from the cartoons committees to prepare for the new academic year and support the integration of new students in campus dorms.

“Tributaries of Education” Association in Medenine

* The name of the project: «Our Home»

* Target group: families

The project entitled «Our Home» enhances family communication as a tool to prevent risky juvenile behaviour in partnership with social workers from the region. Thus, the association provides psycho-social support to the members of beneficiary families in order to enhance the climate of dialogue at home.

* Intermediate results:

- The members of 12 families benefited from multidimensional social support, in terms of educational counselling, family conflict management, access to health services, etc.
- 50 family members participated in a recreational retreat, in order to enhance family cohesion.

“Irada (Will)” Association in Ben Guerdane

* Project name: «Dialogue and Solution»

* Target group: Youth, women and families of violent extremism victims.

The project aims to enhance the role of youth and women in the production and dissemination of an alternative narrative to violent extremism based on a participatory diagnosis of the factors that affect social cohesion. The association contributes to enhancing the beneficiaries’ capacities to master information and communication technology, to produce/disseminate the messages that enhance collective life.

In addition, the project supports the families of violent extremism victims in order to reintegrate them into society, by trying to facilitate their contact with the social partners.

* Intermediate results:

- Participation of 40 young men and women in the diagnosis of the factors affecting social cohesion and training them on information and communication technology.
- Building trust between 4 families of violent extremism victims and social workers in order to provide psycho-social support and meet their specific needs.

The Source of Development” Association in Ben Guerdane

Project name: Independent women and women committed to a better partnership with the local actors in the field of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Target group: rural women

The project supports the economic empowerment and the social participation of women living in rural areas. Following a participatory diagnosis of the needs of women in the region, the association supports them in formulating solutions and strengthens their capacities through strategic communication activities and increasing awareness of human rights and civic participation. The project also supports the social and economic empowerment of the beneficiary women, through income-generating activities.

* Intermediate results:

- Participation of 25 women in rural areas in the participatory diagnosis of the challenges hindering their social, economic and civic integration.
- 25 women in rural areas adopted communication and dialogue techniques for their civic participation.
- Reinforcing the capacities of 25 women in rural areas in managing their own intergovernmental organizations.

« Our Prospects » Association in Ben Gherdane

* Project name: “We participate ... and protect ourselves”

* Target group: youth

The association creates spaces for dialogue for the youth of Ben Guerdane by bringing together key actors, such as parents, teachers, young workers, local authorities and imams to identify and diagnose the factors behind the decline in youth participation in public life and suggest measures to render this participation more effective. This methodology is an opportunity for young people to commit themselves to thinking about initiatives that are likely to meet their needs.

* Intermediate results:

- Mobilization of 60 young people in adopting non-conventional forms of participation in public life, development and implementation of community initiatives that respond to the issues they define as priorities.

“Tunisian Association of Street Arts” in Djerba

* Project name: “Together we build life”

* Target group: youth and women

The project aims to enhance youth resilience in countering violent extremism, by developing artistic activities, especially the forum theatre. The project promotes youth participation in cultural activities and paves the way for the formulation and expression of their opinions, concerns and the violence to which they are exposed or which they witness. The project presents its artistic products and directly addresses the public in a participatory way based on public debate on sensitive issues.

* Intermediate results:

- Participation of 100 young people in the participatory diagnosis of violence-related phenomena.
- Performance of 03 plays by 100 young people on the issues they face, including violent extremism and gender-based violence.



The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism:

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate have played a pivotal role in supporting Tunisia in PVE, countering terrorism and PTV.

In this context, a workshop was organized, on 28 February and 01 and 02 March 2017, on developing partnerships between the government, the local communities, civil society and the private sector in order to formulate recommendations on eliminating the factors leading to terrorism, with the aim of sensitizing the private sector, including insurance agencies and banks, about the significance of their role in the context of creating economic opportunities for young people and countering their recruitment.

In addition, a workshop was organized, on 19 and 20 July 2017, on enhancing the engagement of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1624 (2015) and 2178 (2014).

Within the framework of enhancing the capacities of the Tunisian authorities in the field of setting sanctions' lists against terrorists and freezing their assets, the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate organized a training workshop, in July 2018, on implementing the regime for freezing terrorists' funds, during which the various stakeholders were trained on the operational requirements for the establishment of the national regime for freezing terrorists' assets.

b. Cooperation and partnership with the European Union

The cooperation between the European Union and the National Counter-Terrorism Commission was about developing the national regime for freezing funds, by contributing to the organization of an international forum on freezing terrorists' funds, on 12 and 13 April 2018, during which comparative experiences in the field were presented.

In the context of strengthening the capacities of the Tunisian authorities to counter terrorism, the European Union, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Project in Tunisia «ATRAS», recruited an expert to support the Commission mentoring the associations active in the field of PVE and in various relevant projects. The expert's tasks are the following:

- Coordination and strategic monitoring of civil society organizations' projects which are under implementation in the field of PVE.
- Coordination and strategic monitoring of the European Neighbourhood Policy projects in this field.
- Mapping and creation of a matrix of actions implemented by civil society organizations in the area of PVE.
- Preparation of a short report on the European Union's mechanisms to support civil society in preventing violent extremism.
- Strengthening the relationship between the Commission and the civil society organizations active in this field.
- Supporting communication between the various projects relevant to PVE in order to shed light on their activities and results.



c. Institutions emanating from the GCTF



Hedayah International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism:

Within the framework of the multilateral approach to preventing extremism among children and youth, including those returning from armed conflict zones, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in cooperation with the International Centre Hedayah for Countering Violent Extremism, prepared a pilot project that was launched at the beginning of 2018.

The project will:

- Train and develop the capacities of frontline actors working with children, minors and youth in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism, especially practitioners under the supervision of the Ministries of Social Affairs, Justice, omen, the Family and Childhood. The training includes the levels of prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation and integration.
- Train the relevant stakeholders, such as civil society organizations and senior practitioners under the ministries in charge of childhood, youth, vocational training, employment and religious affairs, as well as child and family judges.
- Think collectively about developing a national plan to deal with the issue of violent extremism in relation to children and youth, based on a multilateral approach, specializations and dimensions.

One of the training workshops organized by Hedayah Centre for senior practitioners from the relevant ministries in dealing with children and youth



In this context, 03 workshops were organized in 2018 and 04 workshops were held in 2019 for the experts and practitioners working in the field of children threatened by or exposed to extremism and for civil society organizations.



Tunisia joined the Board of Directors of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, represented by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, following a formal request made by the Tunisian Embassy in London, during the GCERF Board meeting, which took place on 27 and 28 June 2017 in London.

The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission participated in the eighth meeting of the GCERF Board of Directors, which was held on 30 and 31 May 2018 in Lausanne. One of the points in the agenda of the aforementioned meeting was dedicated to the approval of the partnership strategy between Tunisia and GCERF, including the financing of activities in the field of PVE for the next three years.

On 15 August 2018, the GCERF Board approved the allocation of funds for Tunisia, estimated at \$ 5 million, for the next three years, through competitive grants for civil society initiatives, regional and local authorities, university and research institutions and other stakeholders, to enhance the capacity of local communities in preventing violent extremism, especially in rural areas, suburbs of major cities and border areas. It was agreed, after the meeting of the president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission with the Executive Director of GCERF, which was held in Tunis on 16 August 2018, that the Commission would supervise the allocation of grants and monitor them through the Country Support Mechanism thanks to the coordination role it plays with the governmental and international agencies and civil society.

The first meeting of the support mechanism was held on 16 October 2018. It included 8 representatives of the Commission, a representative of GCERF, a representative of civil society and a representative of the donors. Priority was given to youth, women and education initiatives to address extremism at the local level, in order to provide grants based on requests for proposals, which were published and selected jointly by the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, represented by its president, vice-president and the head of the permanent secretariat and by representatives of GCERF.

In November 2018, the first request for proposals was issued to finance civil society initiatives, regional and local authorities and university institutions in the field of preventing violent extremism at the local level, with an amount reaching \$ 1 million, while the total amount allocated to financing projects in Tunisia is \$ 5 million for the period 2018-2020.

GCERF has awarded grants to 5 Tunisian associations active in the field of capacity building for local communities in PVE, with a value of \$ 01 million, in 2019, through a request for proposals for associations active in PVE. After evaluating the proposals, on 25 March 2019, GCERF adopted the criteria for selecting the associations and signed agreements on 4 July 2019 with the following five associations:

➤ **Association of the Forum of Applied Social Sciences:**

submitted the project «Monitoring digital resilience against violent extremism in countering hate» aiming to support the capacities to enhance digital resilience in countering violent extremism and hate speech.

➤ **Tunisia Plus**

submitted the «Implementation» project, which aims to combat violent extremism, by improving professional integration, in cooperation with the Social Defence Centres in Soukra and Medenine.

➤ **We Love Sousse**

submitted the «Program to combat the escalation of extremism and violent extremism among youth and women, especially in the rural areas of southern Tunisia and the Greater Tunis», which aims to prevent the escalation of violent extremism and to encourage youth and women of the concerned regions to participate in the development of their regions, while providing employment opportunities.

➤ **Forum El Jahedh**

submitted the project «Network of the Imams Facilitators of Social Cohesion», which aims to create a network of imams, who contribute to facilitating social cohesion and conflict management.

➤ **Mobdiun**

submitted the “The Youth of Kram West are Innovators” project which aims, in cooperation with the Youth Centre in Kram, to adopt a local approach based on preventing violent extremism through the establishment of spaces for youth and culture and encouraging the Tunisian authorities to disseminate this experience at the national level.

In partnership with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, a workshop was organized, from 27 to 30 August 2019, for the associations to train them on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, to which they must adhere to in order to implement their PVE projects.

Training
for the five
associations



The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission participated in a Board meeting with GCERF, which was held in Geneva on 21 and 22 November 2019, during which it was approved to allocate three (03) million dollars for Tunisia on the 2020 budget, to support civil society organizations working on PVE programs and to support trainings in prisons as well as CSOs working on rehabilitation programs for returnees from armed conflict zones.

3.1.3 Official visits

Since the launch of its activities, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has been the centre of attention at the international level. It received several invitations and requests for visits, including:

- **09 September 2016:** Visit to the Commission of the Canadian ambassador to Tunisia, Carol Mc Queen, accompanied by representatives of the Canadian embassy in Tunisia (the Political and Security Advisor of the embassy, Sirur Harsha, the Education and Information Program Officer at the embassy, Ridha Bilel, Mr. Herman Deparice-okomba, director of the Centre for Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence, and Mr. Farid Bekal, a psychologist in the same centre.

The Canadians emphasized the need to benefit from the experiences of the two countries in the field of countering extremism leading to violence. The discussion also dealt with various aspects of support and assistance, which can be provided by the Canadians to the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to meet its needs and enable it to carry out the tasks assigned to it and benefit from the Canadian experience of the Centre for Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence, within the context of CVE in Tunisia.

- **20 October 2016:** Visit to the Commission by Dr. Jehangir Khan (Director of the Counter-Terrorism Unit at the United Nations Political Affairs Section), Mr. Hamad Al-Saeed (Senior Advisor to the United Nations) and representatives of the United Nations Permanent Mission in Tunisia. The meeting dealt in particular with the “Global Program for Assistance to the United Nations Member States in Dealing with the Phenomenon of Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters,” noting that Tunisia expressed its initial agreement to participate in this program, by providing an opportunity for a United Nations team of experts to meet and interview some returnees from armed conflict zones and prepare a research for this purpose, which the Tunisians will receive and whose results will enrich the comprehensive research, which is being prepared with the participation of a number of member states. The Director of the Counter-Terrorism Unit, at the United Nations Political Affairs Section, expressed his hope that the National Counter-Terrorism Commission would play an important role in completing this research to help Tunisia embody this program as soon as possible. In this context, he suggested sending a delegation to coordinate with the Commission to study the priorities of the Tunisian government in PVE and define its needs and the potential support that can be provided by the United Nations agencies in terms of support for Tunisia to become a pioneer in implementing the United Nations programs in this field, including developing the capacities of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

- **18 November 2016:** Visit to the Commission by representatives of the embassy of the United States of America in Tunisia, namely, Michael Massy (Director of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism) and Jonathan Pichia (Political Advisor). The meeting was an occasion to discuss the prospects for cooperation between the Commission and the Embassy of the United States of America in the fight against terrorism.
- **21 November 2016:** The Commission received representatives of the Swiss Confederation in Tunisia. The visit took place within the framework of completing the consultations launched upon the President of the Republic's signature, on 18 February 2016 in Bern, of the «Declaration of intentions of Tunisia and Switzerland on the prevention of violent extremism». The visit of the Ambassador of Switzerland to Tunisia and continued with the officials in charge of PVE to the Commission and ended with the visit of the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs to Tunisia, on 8 November 2016, and his acquaintance with a number of programs funded by the Swiss government in some neighbourhoods in Tunis, in partnership with civil society, to further understand and prevent the phenomenon of terrorism.
- **25 November 2016:** Reception of the Senior Officer of the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mark Ince Brown, accompanied by the Australian Ambassador to Malta, Mrs. Jane Lambert, the Deputy Australian Ambassador to Egypt, Mrs. Lisa White, the Senior Liaison Officer at the Australian Embassy in Lebanon, Mr. Marco Dukmanovic, and the Assistant Secretary of the Australian Embassy in Rome, Mrs. Isabella Swift. The Australians affirmed that there are several points in common between the two countries' CT experiences, they called for support in the field of intelligence cooperation between the two countries and expressed their hope that the competent departments in Tunisia would provide the Australians with any data obtained regarding Australian terrorists. They highlighted the support provided by the Australian government to Tunisia to rehabilitate prisoners.
- **02 February 2017:** Visit to the Commission by Mr. Ben Emmerson, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the context of countering terrorism, with representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Tunisia.
- **29 June 2018:** Meeting with Mrs. Carol Mc Queen, the Canadian Ambassador to Tunisia, and Mr. Fadi Dagher, Director General of Longueuil Police in the Province of Quebec, at the headquarters of the Commission, within the scope of the Tunisian-Canadian cooperation in the prevention of violent extremism.

- **8 July 2018:** The Commission received a delegation from the European Parliament as part of a visit to Tunisia from 16 to 18 July 2018. The European Parliament delegation expressed its interest in the Commission's experience, especially its adoption of a comprehensive approach to countering terrorism.
- **6 August 2018:** Visit of Mr. Khaled Kosser, Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). During the meeting, the ways to reinforce the existing cooperation between the two sides, in light of the GCERF Board's approval, on 15 August 2018, to allocate funds to Tunisia for the next three years to support civil society initiatives, regional and local authorities, university and research institutions and other actors to enhance the capacities of the local communities in PVE were discussed.
- **5 September 2018:** The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission received, Mr. Diego Zorella, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and the Coordinator of the United Nations System. The meeting was an occasion to review the existing cooperation between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the various agencies of the United Nations System and to discuss ways of supporting it in the future, especially in the areas of prevention of violent extremism and the establishment of the Tunisian national regime for freeing terrorists' assets.
- **09 October 2018:** Meeting at the headquarters of the Commission with Mr. Lorenzo Fanara, Ambassador of Italy to Tunisia about supporting the Tunisian-Italian cooperation in the field of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, including sharing experiences and expertise in the field of CT funding.



- **30 October 2018:** The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission held a meeting with Mr. Jahangir Khan, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office at the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. The meeting was an occasion to address the prospects for cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations System, especially in the field of PVE and implementing the regime for freezing terrorists' assets.
- **09 November 2018:** Meeting with Mr. Christopher Harnisch, Assistant Coordinator for Countering Violent Extremism at the Office of Counter-Terrorism at the United States State Department, at the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. It was an occasion to highlight the various national efforts in countering terrorism. In this regard, aspects of joint cooperation between the Commission and the US State Department's counter-terrorism office were discussed.



- **09 January 2019:** The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission received Mr. Khaliq Dad Lak, the National Coordinator of the Pakistani Counter-Terrorism Authority, who was accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Hassan, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Tunisia, at the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. The meeting dealt with the approaches of the two countries in developing and implementing strategies to combat terrorism and violent extremism and the possibility of sharing experiences and expertise between the two parties in the future.

- **04 March 2019:** Visit of Mr. Jahangir Khan, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, to the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. The meeting was about the constructive approaches in developing and implementing strategies to combat terrorism and violent extremism, the various ongoing programs and the efforts of the United Nations System in supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, with an emphasis on the need to further support cooperation in this regard.
- **05 March 2019:** within the framework of cooperation between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the American Embassy in Tunisia, a meeting was organized with a military mission, consisting of senior officers of the United States Army Aviation Center, at the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission to present the Commission, its tasks and the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism and to share experiences in countering terrorism and violent extremism.



Study visit of senior officers of the United States Army Aviation Center to the headquarters of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission

- **02 July 2019:** The President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission received Mrs. Michele Coninx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee in New York at the headquarters of the Commission. This meeting fell within the framework of cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations agencies involved in countering terrorism and violent extremism.
- **15 July 2019:** The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission received Mrs. Lila Pieters, the representative of UNICEF in Tunisia, at the headquarters of the Commission. This meeting was about reviewing the most important PVE children-related activities carried out by the Commission, especially in developing and building the capacities of the various actors and practitioners in this field.
- **16 July 2019:** Visit of a delegation from the European Union's program for countering money laundering and PTF, during which ways of cooperation between the two parties were discussed in the framework of implementing the European regional project for countering financial crimes and countering terrorist financing.
- **04 October 2019:** Meeting with Mr. Fathi Jarray, President of the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture, Ms. Sana Bouzouche and Ms. Gabriel Reiter of the International Organization Against Torture. It was an occasion to introduce the tasks of the two authorities and an opportunity to get acquainted with the various activities in addition to discussing ways of cooperation in common areas related to respecting children rights.

The Commission also received several invitations to attend consultative meetings, including the following:

- **03 May 2018:** The president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission paid a visit to Paris upon the invitation of Mrs. Muriel Domenach, Secretary General of the French Joint Ministerial Commission for the Prevention of Delinquency and Extremism.
- **11 June 2019:** Participation of the president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in the meeting of GCERF Board of Directors held in Ottawa, Canada.

3.2 Cooperation at the local level

3.2.1 Partnerships with public organizations

Within the framework of supporting the national PVE and CT efforts of various State institutions, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has concluded memoranda of understanding with the following bodies:

➤ **Memorandum of Understanding with the Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime Security Pole**

It was concluded in Tunis, on 17 October 2018, and it was signed by the president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the General Director of the Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime Security Pole.

➤ **Memorandum of Understanding with the General Department of Associations and Political Parties headed by the government and the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission**

It was concluded, on 12 September 2019, and it was signed by the president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, Mr. Mokhtar Ben Nasr, the General Secretary of the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission, Mr. Lotfi Hachicha, and the director in charge of managing the General Department of Associations and Political Parties headed by the government, Mr. Ali Amira.

These two memoranda of understanding aim to establish a general cooperation framework between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the aforementioned bodies, by defining the areas and mechanisms of cooperation.

The areas of cooperation of common interest are:

- Coordination and sharing information related to violent extremism and terrorism.
- Cooperation in developing visions and programs related to violent extremism and terrorism, submission of related proposals, and coordination of the efforts of the involved parties.
- Development, implementation and evaluation of joint programs and projects in the field of preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism.
- Cooperation in carrying out studies, research and reference analyses.

The cooperation mechanisms are the following:

- Holding periodical joint meetings to discuss issues of common interest.
- Organizing joint activities, seminars and trainings.
- Establishing common working methods that enable rapid and effective coordination, when required.

➤ **Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

It was concluded on 13 April 2019 at the inauguration of the mid-term evaluation forum for the federated research projects in the field of countering terrorism which was held in Sousse on 13 and 14 April 2019. The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Professor Selim Khalbous and the president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, Brigadier-General Mokhtar Ben Nasr, signed a memorandum of understanding which aims to:

- Support the implementation of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research's action plan for the enforcement of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism.
- Prepare the reference elements for the national research on the phenomenon of terrorism, stipulated in article 68 of the organic law n° 2015-26 of 7 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering.
- Prevent situations of extremism at campus.
- Organize sensitization campaigns and trainings on preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism.
- Encourage scientific research, conduct studies, research and analysis, and connect researchers with institutions of higher education and scientific research working on preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism.
- Prepare a database of academic and research experts and experiences in the field of preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism.
- Develop, implement and evaluate joint programs and projects in the field of PVE and countering terrorism.



3.2.2 Supporting the engagement of local authorities in countering extremism and terrorism

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission held six (6) extraordinary working sessions at the headquarters of the governorates of Medenine, Tozeur, Nabeul, Sousse, Kairouan and Sfax, bringing together the members of the Commission with regional and local authorities in each governorate to introduce the Commission, the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism and to strengthen the role of these regional and local authorities in supporting the national CT efforts and implementing the strategy.

In line with its openness to interior regions to involve the various components of civil society thereof and to break with centralization using a development approach, the Commission created a network of representatives in all the governorates of the Republic (48 representatives), with two representatives from each governorate.

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, trained its representatives in the regions to strengthen their capacities through workshops on «prevention of violent extremism» from 10 to 12 December 2019, as part of the implementation of the project «TARABOT».

3.2.3 Support to the engagement of civil society in countering extremism and terrorism

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission paid great attention to its partnerships with local civil society organizations and was keen on including associations in its activities, with the aim of ensuring their engagement in countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism. In partnership with the Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom, regional workshops were organized within the framework of the TARABOT Program for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Tunisia starting with the governorate of Medenine, then Tozeur, Sousse, Kairouan, and Nabeul and ending with the governorate of Sfax in October 2019 with a workshop entitled «The role of civil society in preventing violent extremism.»

In accordance with the legal tasks entrusted to it for the implementation of the cooperation with civil society organizations, the Commission held meetings with representatives of organizations, such as Search for Common Ground, to discuss possible ways of cooperation related to the phenomenon of terrorism.

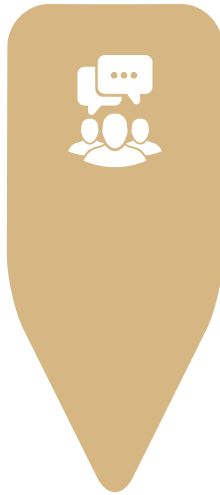
The National Counter-Terrorism Commission also contributed to the organization of forums, workshops and seminars, in which civil society organizations participated to ensure their engagement in countering and preventing violent extremism.



Consultative meeting between the President of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and civil society organizations

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4 Advisory activity of the Commission |



4.1 Express opinion on draft legal texts

The organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended by the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, assigned to the National Counter-Terrorism Commission advisory missions to express opinion on the draft legal and regulatory texts related to preventing terrorism and violent extremism. This consultation remains non mandatory and the concerned stakeholders are under no obligation to provide it with relation to draft legal texts (organic and ordinary laws) or regulatory texts (decrees and decisions).

Within the framework of its missions, the Commission expressed its opinion on the following draft legal and regulatory texts:

- The draft of the organic law amending and supplementing the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015, relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering.
- The draft law governing intelligence prepared by the law and legislating departments of the presidency of the government.

- The draft organic law on associations.
- The draft governmental decree of 2018 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the competent United Nations bodies related to PTF and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which was reviewed on three consecutive occasions in 2019, and for which an opinion was expressed in coordination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).
- The governmental decree n°2019-359 of 22 April 2019 regarding the creation of a committee in charge of examining the reparation files of victims of terrorist attacks within the General Commission for the Opponents, Martyrs and the Wounded of the Revolution and The Acts of Terrorism, and defining its composition, its missions and its operating procedures.
- The governmental decree n°2017-70 of 19 January 2017, relating to the National Security Council.

4.2 Help to set up CT and PVE programs and policies and propose implementation mechanisms

Under the Prevention pillar, the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism affirmed the necessity of community resilience against violent extremism through:

- Developing educational and cultural approaches, disseminating the principles of comprehensive education and spreading the culture of tolerance, diversity and the acceptance of others.
- Strengthening the role of women and the family in preventing violent extremism.
- Defining the political and economic options that are viable for vulnerable groups to achieve integration in society and prevent violent extremism.

“ CVE requires a comprehensive approach that includes taking systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalization and to join extremist groups. ”

Tasked with proposing practical scenarios to implement programs and policies for the governmental authorities and supporting the national CT and PVE effort, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission supervises a group of international PVE projects and funds dedicated to several categories, especially children, youth and women.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has contributed to the launch of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325, under the supervision of the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly, in cooperation with UN Women. The national plan aims mainly to benefit from the global normative framework on women, peace, security and participation in creating an enabling environment for the implementation of commitments related to women's peace and security in accordance with the aforementioned Security Council resolution.



4.2.1 Preventing violent extremism

Radicalization leading to violence is a complex phenomenon that requires a multidisciplinary approach based on scientific data and arguments.

Like other countries prone to terrorism, Tunisia is striving to find effective means to uncover the causes and ways leading to violent extremism, in order to prevent the act of terrorism from happening, which requires a good understanding of the individual pathways leading to extremism, including the push and pull factors, for an early detection of a behavioural change and an early-stage treatment thereof.

Despite the difficulty and sensitivity of the work, comparative experiences have shown that dealing with extremism pre-emptively is more effective than reacting to it. Experiences have varied according to the countries and sometimes according to the regional or local context of dealing with what is considered as a grey zone with relation to extremism leading to violence. In this grey area, individuals seem to experience a change of behaviour and show signs of extremism, but the traditional security and judicial approach may not be adequate enough, given that the elements of a crime are not present. At the same time, pre-emptive intervention will be useful in stopping the process leading to extremism.

“Establishing an integrated program for raising awareness and education on the dangers of terrorism and for continuous sensitization to encourage citizens’ engagement in the effort to combat terrorism and violent extremism.”

The National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism includes several sections aimed at ensuring a clear and common vision to CVE and to Countering Terrorism within a comprehensive and multidimensional approach.

In this context, and given the centrality of the role of youth in the rising and advancement of societies, as it is the mainstay of the present and the future, and considering the extent of the impact of the phenomenon of terrorism on youth, a national seminar was organized on Wednesday and Thursday 25 and 26 December 2019, entitled “Youth Against Terrorism”, in the presence of Mr. Ahmed Adhoum, Minister of Religious Affairs, Mr. Hatem Ben Salem, Acting Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Ms. Naziha Abidi, Minister of Women, Family, Childhood and the Elderly, Ms. Kaouthar Hedhli, Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Mr. Rached Bettaieb, president of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission shares the vision of the action plan presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly, on 15 January 2016, which calls for a comprehensive approach that includes not only basic security measures to counter terrorism, but also systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to extremism and joining violent extremist groups taken jointly with the participation of citizens, various social groups, State agencies, the private sector and civil society.



Believing in the importance of mobilizing resources and in joint and coordinated international actions to counter violent extremism, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission was able to deepen regional, Arab and international cooperation and build partnerships and cooperation projects with countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop the national capacities in the field of countering violent extremism.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission also paid great attention to its partners from the various civil society organizations, including at the local level, and was keen on involving the associations in its activities, by establishing a space for dialogue and regular and permanent communication with the various civil society organizations active in PVE.

In accordance with its coordinating role entrusted to it by virtue of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 relating to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, amended and supplemented by the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, the National Commission has been keen on enhancing coordination between the various agencies involved in the field of PVE. The extended representation of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, which is composed of the various organizations involved in the field of prevention of violent extremism, has allowed the setting up of a vision, strategic orientations and horizontal joint operational programs and avoided the duplication and gaps in efforts. The success of this coordination remains essentially linked to the effective and continuous participation of all the parties represented in the Commission and to sharing information in an open and efficient way.

4.2.2 Dealing with returnees from armed conflict zones

Among the National Strategy for Countering Terrorism's objectives is addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), by strengthening the legal framework to criminalize their polarization and the facilitation of their transfer into conflict zones, and striving to orient them towards special CVE programs which ensure their reintegration.

Tunisia considers the United Nations resolutions, especially the Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) - which is the reference resolution on the issue of FTFs - and the resolution 2396 (2017) - sponsored by Tunisia - as the primary reference on the issue of the return of FTFs and their families.

Tunisia particularly supports the comprehensive approach called for in these resolutions. In addition to developing strategies for prosecution, Tunisia is endeavouring to rehabilitate and reintegrate the foreign terrorist fighters and their families, including women and children, with the participation of various civil society organizations.

In the context of dealing with the issue of the return of terrorist fighters from armed conflict zones, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission has built partnerships and cooperation projects with international organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop national capacities in this area.

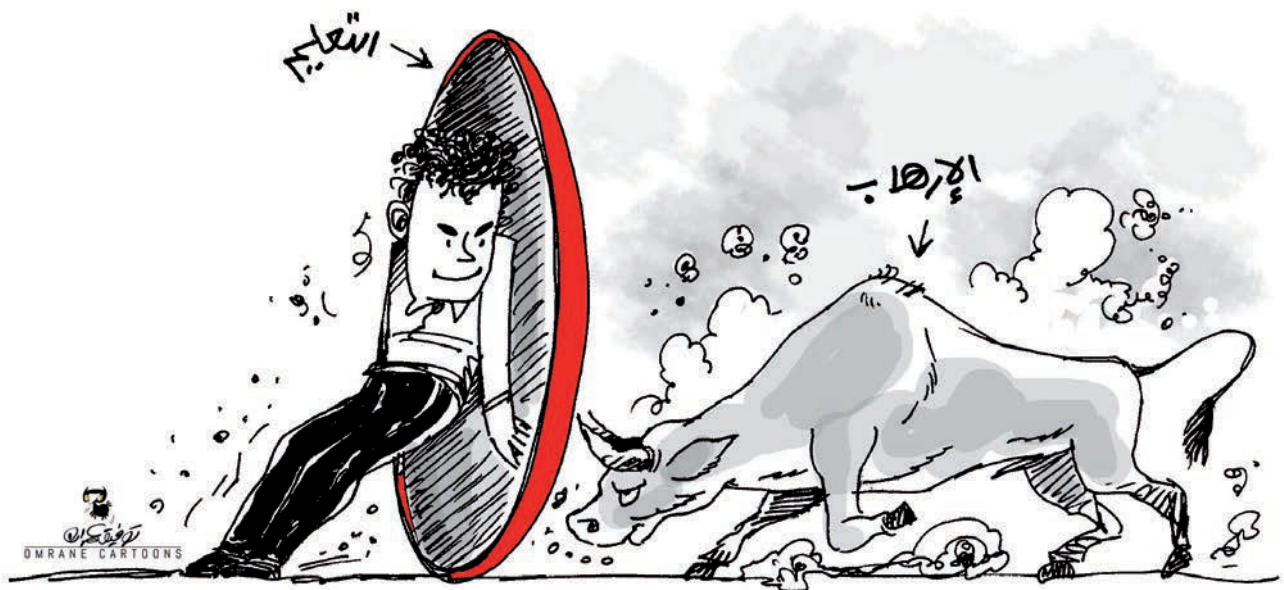
In this context, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, in cooperation with the International Centre Hedayah for Countering Violent Extremism, prepared a pilot project, which was launched in 2018.

This project will enable the capacity building of public institutions and organizations, civil society organizations, at the national and local levels, with practitioners and experts dealing with extremism among children and youth, from a P/CVE angle among children and minors, and dealing with extremist children and youth, including the returnees from conflict zones.

To implement this project, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized three training workshops in 2018 and four trainings in 2019 for the child protection delegates, the social defence centres and Child Correction and Rehabilitation Centers.

Tunisia is keen on engaging in all the international efforts aimed at addressing the threats arising from the return of FTFs to their countries of origin or to other countries, including their families, while endeavouring to benefit from the international cooperation opportunities and sharing experiences and the best practices in P/CVE and their rehabilitation and reintegration. This was expressed when Tunisia hosted the regional workshop of the Global Counterterrorism Forum on the return of the families of FTFs (Tunis, 8 and 9 February 2018).

التعليم هو الدرع





5 Sensitization and training activities |



Article 68 of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 on countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, supplemented and amended by the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, states in point 11 that the National Counter-Terrorism Commission shall «raise social awareness on the risks of terrorism through sensitization campaigns, cultural and educational programs, holding conferences and seminars and publishing bulletins and manuals”. Point 12 of the same article also states that the Commission shall “organize trainings and supervise programs for capacity building at the internal and external levels”.

5.1 Training, education and sensitization

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized a number of workshops, trainings, sensitization forums and study days to introduce the Commission, its missions and tasks to educate on the dangers of terrorism and to continuously raise awareness of citizens to engage them in CT and CVE efforts.

The Commission organized and participated in 46 trainings, sensitization and study activities, as shown in the following tables:

Training and education sessions

Topic of the activity	Parties involved	Target groups
Training on “developing effective mechanisms to deal with the phenomenon of the return of foreign fighters from conflict zones, in Rome, from 04 to 07 October 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Centre Hedayah - National Counter-Terrorism Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission - The experts from the ministries involved - The representatives of civil society
Roundtable on sharing experiences and best practices on dealing with and preventing violent extremism, on 22 and 23 November 2016, in order to strengthen and enhance the capacities of the Commission, by providing the opportunity for its members to exchange views and review a number of international experiences and best practices on dealing with violent extremism and the return of foreign fighters from conflict zones, like the Kenyan, Jordanian and Dutch experiences, and studying the various approaches and difficulties that were encountered and the way they were addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies in Tunisia - The Center for International Cooperation at New York University - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission - The focal points of ministries.
Roundtable on “Extremist ideology inciting for violence in prisons: countering strategies and containment mechanisms”, on 24 November 2016. It dealt with the criteria and tools for assessing the danger of prisoners, the options presented for their categorization, and the approaches adopted to deal with them in a balanced way that takes into account the respect for the law and the standards of human rights. In addition, several international experiences were reviewed, regarding the programs prepared to counter violent extremist ideology in prisons and the extent to which these experiences can be adapted to respond to the Tunisian context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The High Commissioner for Human Rights - The Ministry of Justice – The General Department of Prisons and Rehabilitation. - Penal Reform International, Middle East and North Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The prisons and rehabilitation staff - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission
Workshop on supporting joint cooperation between the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and the United Nations, on 06 and 07 December 2016, during which the various activities and programs of the United Nations agencies in Tunisia, in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and the United Nations Secretary-General’s plan on preventing violent extremism were reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations system - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the Counter-Terrorism Commission - The focal points of the Commission and of the ministries - The representatives of the various United Nations agencies accredited to Tunisia.
Training on the best practices for implementing the decisions of the Security Council Sanctions Committee relating to the freezing of the funds of terrorist individuals and organizations, on 16 and 17 January 2017, and review of the French and Belgian experiences in this field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Central Bank of Tunisia. - The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The representatives of the legislative and legal departments at the Presidency of the Government. - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Interior. - The representatives of the Ministry of Finance.
Study day on the role of the national judge in countering terrorism, on 25 January 2017, during which the international Human Rights standards in the context of countering terrorism and the limits of the right to use investigative methods for countering terrorism were reviewed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The High Commissioner for Human Rights in Tunisia. - The High Institute of the Judiciary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Senior judges.

Workshop on “Enhancing the involvement of civil society and the private sector in implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1624 (2015) and 2178 (2014)”, on 19 and 20 July 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society. - The private sector. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
First training workshop as part of the relevant parties’ approach to prevent extremism among children, from 12 to 15 March 2018. A group of Tunisian and international experts facilitated the workshop with the participation of representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Second training workshop as part of the multi-agency approach to prevent extremism among children, from 26 to 29 June 2018. A group of Tunisian and international experts facilitated the workshop, with the participation of representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Training workshop on implementing the regime of freezing terrorists’ assets, on 05 July 2018, during which the various stakeholders were trained on the practical requirements for establishing the national regime for freezing terrorists’ assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The authorities involved in implementing the freezing decisions.
Workshop on the prevention of extremism through human rights development approaches, on 27 September 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The United Nations System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The focal points of the Commission and of the ministries - The representatives of the United Nations agencies in Tunisia
Third training workshop as part of the multi-agency approach project to prevent extremism among, from 01 to 05 October 2018. A group of Tunisian and international experts facilitated the workshop with the participation of the representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Civil society organizations and the private sector active in the field of childhood and youth with relation to violent extremism
Regional study day to define the legal understanding of the terms and concepts used in terrorism lawsuits, within the framework of implementing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, on 18 October 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Religious Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The religious preachers and imams
Organization of a study day on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the relevant United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of the proliferation of weapons, on 04 February 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Tunisian financial institutions represented by their focal points with the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

Workshop on the «Prevention of Violent Extremism in the Arab Countries», on 25 and 26 February 2019, during which Arab experiences in countering violent extremism and countering terrorism and adopted security measures were presented through preventive approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The United Nations Development Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The governmental agencies, the relevant experts and civil society organizations - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
First training workshop from the second phase of the multi-agency approach project to prevent extremism among children, from 26 to 28 February 2019. The workshop was facilitated by a group of Tunisian and international experts, with the participation of practitioners from the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs and the Childhood Protection Delegates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The Childhood Protection Delegates. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Second training workshop from the second phase of the multi-agency approach project to prevent extremism among children, from 25 to 28 March 2019. The workshop was facilitated by a group of Tunisian and international experts, with the participation of practitioners from the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs and the Childhood Protection Delegates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The childhood protection delegates. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Study day on the CVE national approach for civic education teachers, on 18 April 2019, to highlight the importance of civic education courses in cultivating the values of citizenship, enshrining the feeling of belonging to the country and countering extremism and terrorism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The regional delegation for education and training in Sidi Bouzid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic education teachers
Third training workshop from the second phase of the multi-agency approach project to prevent extremism among children, from 17 to 21 June 2019. The workshop was facilitated by a group of Tunisian and foreign experts, with the participation of their counterparts from the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs and the Childhood Protection Delegates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The Childhood Protection Delegates. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The civil society organizations and the private sector active in the field of childhood in relation with violent extremism.
Training on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for a proper implementation of regional PVE projects, from 27 to 30 August 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The associations that have signed grant agreements with GCERF.
Final workshop of “The Multi-agency Approach to Preventing Extremism among Children and Youth” on 06 November 2019. It was an opportunity for the actors in the field of child protection to unify the concepts and knowledge about radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism and use a unified terminology. It was also an opportunity to support the capacities and efforts of the practitioners for a proper disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration and education process jointly with civil society organizations and regional and local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The International Centre Hedayah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the Ministry of Justice. - The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs. - The Childhood Protection Delegates. - The representatives of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Training session for the regions' focal points on the prevention of violent extremism, on 10, 11 and 12 December 2019, to enhance their knowledge and the tools necessary for the implementation of the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, taking into account the specificities of each governorate and helping to prepare a regional PVE plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The United Nations Development Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focal points in the regions.

Sensitization and information activities

Topic of the activity	Parties involved	Target groups
Workshop, on 28 February and 01 and 02 March 2017, on developing partnerships between the government, the local community, civil society and the private sector, with the aim of elaborating recommendations on eradicating the drivers of terrorism to sensitize the private sector, including insurance companies and banks, on the important role they can play in creating economic opportunities for young people and countering their recruitment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the local communities. - The representatives of civil society. - The representatives of the private sector.
Workshop to launch the activities of the regional axis of the project "Prevention of Violent Extremism through Human Rights-Based Development Approaches", on 22 and 23 October 2018 in Medenine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Development Programme. - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Representatives of civil society. - Regional senior officials in the governorate of Medenine.
Information day on the national regime for freezing terrorists and terrorist organizations' assets on 19 November 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focal points at the financial institutions. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The representatives of the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission.
Information days for civil society organizations in the governorates of Medenine and Zarzis, on 15 and 16 December 2018, within the framework of associative initiatives in the region and the dialogue on the role of civil society in enshrining a comprehensive approach to PVE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The United Nations Capital Development Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society organizations.
Workshop on "The Role of Civil Society in Preventing Violent Extremism in the Northern Governorates", on 28 February 2019, aimed at raising awareness on the importance of community involvement and effective partnership mechanisms between public organizations and civil society organizations in the field of preventing violent extremism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Aktis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of civil society in the northern governorates.
Workshop on "The Role of Civil Society in Preventing Violent Extremism in the Southern Governorates", on 05 April 2019, aimed at raising awareness on the importance of community participation and effective partnership mechanisms between public organizations and civil society organizations in the field of preventing violent extremism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL French acronym). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of civil society in the southern governorates.
Information day on countering terrorist financing and preventing the proliferation of armament, on 22 April 2019, with the aim of introducing the regime for countering the financing of terrorism and preventing the financing of the proliferation of weapons. It was about urging the concerned institutions and sectors to effectively carry out their duties to address the risks arising from financing terrorism and armament.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The bailiffs - The chartered accountants - The real estate agents - The jewellery dealers - The representatives of defined non-financial professional sectors and businesses - The representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Finance, Trade and Tourism.

Workshop on “Human Rights, Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism: What is the Role of the Media and Civil Society?”, held in the capital, on 2 and 3 May 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The High Commissioner for Human Rights. - The United Nations Development Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The media professionals. - The representatives of civil society. - The international organizations.
Workshop on “the role of civil society in preventing violent extremism” for the governorates of the centre, on 27 and 28 June 2019, aimed at raising awareness on the importance of community participation and thinking about effective partnership mechanisms between the public organizations and civil society organizations operating in the field of preventing violent extremism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL French acronym). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of civil society in the governorates of the centre.
Information day on the national regime for freezing the assets of terrorist individuals, organizations and entities, on 18 July 2019, at the headquarters of the Central Bank of Tunisia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The auditing authorities. - The security and administrative authorities - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Reflection workshop on the Scientific Research Fund on Violent Extremism in Tunisia, on 22 July 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. - The United Nations Development Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researchers. - Representatives of governmental organizations. - Economic, Social and Associative partners.
Final workshop on “The Role of Civil Society in Preventing Violent Extremism” on 31 October and 01 November 2019. This event is part of the efforts of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission aimed at preventing the dangers of extremism, introducing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism and raising awareness on the importance of community participation in PVE efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom (UTIL French acronym). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the Commission. - The representatives of national, regional and local organizations. - The civil society organizations representing all the governorates of the Republic.
Information days for the submission of project proposals by civil society on the prevention of violent extremism in the governorates of Medenine, Tataouine and Gabes, on 04, 05 and 06 December 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Development Programme. - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Civil Society organizations.

Forums and seminars

Topic of the activity	Parties involved	Target groups
Overseeing the International Forum on «Prison and Extremism: Concepts and Facts» on 26 September 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Search for Common Ground. - The Ministry of Justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The prisons and rehabilitation centers' staff. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - Civil Society.
Seminar on «The Contribution of the Civil Society Organizations Working on issues relating to Women and PVE», on 20 and 21 December 2016. The activities, programs and approaches of the associations active in the field of youth and women were presented with a focus on the role of youth and women and on enhancing their capacities to address the phenomenon of violent extremism through the quantitative and qualitative development of cultural and artistic activities, economic empowerment of youth and strengthening the capacities of civil society to spread awareness on the dangers of terrorism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The National Youth Observatory. - The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research – CAWTAR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The associations active in the field of youth and women. - The national organizations.
Seminar on the exploitation of intelligence information within the framework of the legal prosecution of crimes of terrorism, from 18 to 20 January 2017. The experiences of the countries participating in the workshop were presented, which stressed the importance of strengthening relations between the intelligence apparatus and criminal investigation through good coordination in the context of legal prosecution of terrorist crimes to guarantee the success of those prosecutions and reduce impunity. Achieving this depends on an equation between the security-intelligence method of obtaining information and the judicial approach based on respecting human rights and guaranteeing the conditions for a fair trial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). - The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegations from Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. - The United Nations experts, the representatives of international and regional organizations and of embassies accredited to Tunisia. - The representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of National Defence. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
International forum on early intervention with persons exposed to extremism, on 18 October 2017, within the framework of networking and sharing experiences and visions among the experts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The Embassy of Canada in Tunisia. - The United Nations System. - The European Union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of international organizations. - The representatives of other countries. - The representatives of civil society. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
International forum on freezing the terrorists' assets at the National School of Management in Tunis, on 13 April 2018. The national regime for freezing terrorists' assets was introduced and the roles of the various implementation agencies were presented, with a review of the international experiences in the field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The National School of Management. - The European Union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The authorities in charge of implementing the freezing decisions.
Tunisian-French Forum on the policies and programs to prevent violent extremism and intervene at an early stage with the persons exposed to extremism, on 05 and 06 December 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The embassy of France. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government officials, experts, academics and representatives of civil society organizations from Tunisia and France. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.

International seminar on scientific research and countering terrorism on 05 and 06 February 2019, to set up ways and mechanisms for an effective partnership between the scientific research sector, on the one hand, and experts in countering terrorism from the judicial, security and military fields, on the other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The office of the European Union in Tunisia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior officials and researchers from Tunisia, The Maghreb, Arab, African and European countries. - The representatives of international organizations working in the field of countering terrorism. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Seminar on “the legal and procedural aspects of dealing with the return of foreign terrorist fighters and their families”, on 20 June 2019, focused on the legal framework and judicial proceedings adopted in both European countries and Tunisia regarding the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, especially on the issues of proof, the return of terrorist fighters and their families, the relevant challenges, prison conditions, reintegration and rehabilitation, with a focus on the situation of minors and the European best practices adopted by the member states to deal with the issue of terrorist fighters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission in Tunisia - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of civil society. - The representatives of administrative and governmental bodies. - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
Seminar on “Cooperation between Tunisia and the European Union for the Prevention of Violent Extremism and Radicalization”, on 24 September 2019, which aimed to share experiences, expertise and resources to address the common challenges, and to counter extremist discourse on social networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission in Tunisia - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The representatives of the ministries working on violent extremism and countering terrorism. - A group of European and Tunisian experts. - The representatives of civil society organizations.
Scientific seminar on “Violent extremism of youth on the social networks”, on 09 December 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Sfax. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The researchers. - The representatives of civil society.
First National Conference on the Strategies for Preventing Violent Extremism in Tunisia, on 12 December 2019: the starting point for developing a comprehensive action plan to prevent violent extremism in Tunisia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Civilian Alliance for Security and Freedoms (ASL, French acronym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society organizations. - Administrative and governmental organizations
Seminar to share experiences on intelligence, financial analysis, financial disclosure surveys and the freezing of assets, on 18 December 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The embassy of Italy. - The Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission. - The representatives of administrative and security authorities. - The members of the Tunisian Financial Analysis Commission.
National seminar on youth against terrorism, on 25 December 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Religious Affairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The administrative and governmental bodies. - Civil society.

5.2 Communication and the development of the Commission's communication tools

5.2.1 Communication as a key pillar of the Commission's activities

5.2.1.1 Communication

Communication is an important pillar of the activity of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission since its inception. The orientation of the Commission is focused on building a relationship of cooperation and investing it in monitoring the activities and programs with the aim of introducing itself, its missions and supporting its important role in preventing extremism and countering terrorism.

The various media outlets of different types have contributed to covering some of the activities of the Commission, such as the International Seminar on Scientific Research and Countering Terrorism, held in Tunis in February 2019, aiming to set up ways and mechanisms for an effective partnership between the scientific research sector, on the one hand, and the experts in countering terrorism from the judicial, security and the military fields, on the other. This is similar to the regional workshops organized in 2019 in Medenine, Tozeur, Nabeul, Sfax, Sousse and Kairouan on "The role of civil society in preventing violent extremism".

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission participated in many television and radio programs in order to introduce its tasks and activities in general, and the efforts made to establish the regime of targeted financial sanctions, in particular. Its activities were also regularly covered by written and electronic newspapers.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized some press conferences, including the press conference held at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Government, in the Kasbah, during which the president of the Commission announced, for the first time, 23 decisions for freezing the assets of persons associated with terrorism, which were published in the Official Gazette n°2018-91 and included in the national list of individuals, organizations and entities associated with crimes of terrorism, made available to the public on the Commission's website, www.cnlct.tn. This comes within the framework of the action plan of the money laundering and terrorism financing regime. On the occasion, the president of the Commission highlighted that Tunisia has taken important steps in developing its legal and institutional framework to establish a fully effective national regime to address terrorist financing. Among the elements of this regime is the freezing of assets that belong to individuals, organizations and entities associated with terrorism. He stressed that the establishment of the national regime for freezing assets will contribute to qualifying Tunisia to exit the list of countries subject to the monitoring of the FATF, and that Tunisia is always committed to comprehensively counter terrorism, including its financing. It is a commitment in which our country has taken important steps, relying on the best practices in this field.

5.2.1.2 Diversification of the means of communication

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission endeavoured to diversify its means of communication, by establishing various communication channels to support its sensitization activities, on the one hand, and to provide timely and updated information, on the other hand.

- The website

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has launched an official website to introduce itself and to publish data about its tasks, activities and notifications. The Commission was keen on complying with the provisions of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, which was amended and supplemented by the organic law n°2019-9 of 23 January 2019, and the governmental decree n° 2019-419 of 17 May 2019 defining the procedures for implementing the resolutions adopted by the competent United Nations bodies related to preventing the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This decree was amended by the one n°2019-457 of 31 May 2019, by dedicating a link to circulate the consolidated sanctions' list of the United Nations Security Council and the national list of individuals and organizations associated with crimes of terrorism, to ensure the implementation of the decisions to freeze the assets within the legally specified deadlines. This website has been linked to the Presidency of the Government portal at www.cnlct.tn.

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission strived to develop the aforementioned website and secure it from hacking and piracy, in coordination with the Digital Department Unit of the Presidency of the Government, and to provide the French version of the website, as part of a project to strengthen the capacities of the Commission, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme.

The website of the Commission includes the following data:

- Presentation of the Commission
- The strategic framework
- The activities of the Commission
- The prevention of the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

- The partnerships
- The support to victims of terrorism
- Reports and studies



- The e-mail

In 2017, an email, info.sanctions@pm.gov.tn, was created enabling every person, against which a decision to freeze assets was taken, to submit requests remotely (partial removal, deletion from the United Nations list or the national list).

In conjunction with the issuance of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission of its first decisions related to freezing the funds and assets of individuals and organizations associated with crimes of terrorism, in November 2018, an email, webmaster.cnlct@pm.gov.tn, was created to ensure the proper monitoring of the implementation of the freezing decisions and to answer the legal questions received by e-mail from the authorities in charge of the implementation.

- The official Facebook page



The National Counter-Terrorism Commission created an official page on Facebook to cover its most important activities and notifications, clarify its tasks and communicate its preventive approach to the largest possible segment, given that the platform is important in terms of number of subscribers.

Given the effectiveness of Facebook, the Commission decided to support the official page with additional procedures and resources, namely linking the page to the website and the Twitter page of the Commission. This made it possible to add posts to the page and led to a significant increase in the number of subscribers.

- The official Twitter page



In late 2018, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission subscribed to Twitter and created an official account to tweet about its orientations and approaches with the international institutions and organizations, which mainly communicate on Twitter, and to publish all the latest developments, including the notifications, news, reports, photos and information about the activities of the Commission (seminars, sensitization campaigns, and workshops...).

- YouTube channel



A YouTube channel was created including all the official videos of the Commission, as well as the speeches and presentations of the president and the members of the Commission in seminars and in the media.

- The monthly newsletter



The National Counter-Terrorism Commission prepares a monthly newsletter for the most important milestones and activities of the Commission during the month, to be published on the website and sent to the media.

5.2.1.3 Development of the Commission's communication plan of the Commission

The National Counter-Terrorism Commission has engaged the most important actors in the media and communication sector to define the forms and means of developing and implementing an integrated communication plan to raise awareness and sensitize on the dangers of terrorism and violent extremism and ways to counter them.

In this context, the National Counter-Terrorism Commission cooperated with the Swiss Confederation, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, to develop the communication plan of the Commission to further introduce itself, its tasks, activities, programs, vision and values. This plan includes:

- The creation of a communication unit at the permanent secretariat of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
- Strengthening capacities to ensure good communication with the media, by organizing trainings on institutional communication for the communication unit.
- The creation of a logo for the National Counter-Terrorism Commission.
- The development of the trademark and visual identity of the Commission.
- The development of the website and social network pages of the Commission.

5.2.2 The media is a partner in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism

Striving to adopt a holistic approach that aims to support the national efforts in preventing violent extremism, while adhering to the international human rights standards and striving to ensure a true partnership with the media, as it is the most strategic partner capable of openness to and communication with society, in its various components, and as the Commission believes in the importance of the role that can be played by the media in this field, The National Counter-Terrorism Commission organized a workshop in May 2019 for the media and communication professionals, which was an occasion to invite the media to participate and think about the mechanisms and means of sensitization and the possibilities of preventing violent extremism, to enhance knowledge about the international standards of human rights and the fundamental freedoms, while countering terrorism and violent extremism, to sensitize the media about their role in establishing a discourse in line with the nature of the proposed approach in relation to balancing human rights, on the one hand, and countering terrorism and violent extremism, on the other; and to create a public opinion that is against violent extremism and engaged in the national effort of preventing this phenomenon. It was also an occasion to support the dialogue and discussion with the media on the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, and ways to implement it and review the principles and good practices of media coverage of events related to terrorism.



Part III:

Recommendations and Suggestions

Article 70 of the organic law n°2015-26 of 7 August 2015 related to countering terrorism and preventing money laundering, amended and supplemented by the organic law n° 2019-9 of 23 January 2019, stipulates that “the National Counter-Terrorism Commission shall prepare an annual report about its activity, which must include its proposals to develop the national mechanisms for countering terrorism. It shall be submitted to the President of the Republic, the President of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People and the Prime Minister». In this context, the Commission submits the following recommendations and proposals:

Regarding the prevention of violent extremism

The Commission recommends:

- ① Strengthening a joint cross-government vision for the development of public policies that address social problems, specifically among young people and vulnerable groups, and promote social inclusion and economic empowerment.
- ② Adopting an alternative discourse that is able to counter religious intolerance (treating people as disbelievers or promoting such attitude) or the incitement to or the promotion of hate or enmity on the basis of race, religion or sect, through multiple channels that ensure communication between the various social groups.
- ③ Launching a national dialogue to develop religious affairs in terms of structure and content.
- ④ Achieving community security by strengthening the partnership between State agencies and all the components of society.
- ⑤ Gathering national research experts within the framework of a program of sustainable national research and renewal, with national funding, on countering terrorism and preventing extremism, in partnership with the National Counter-Terrorism Commission and all the relevant ministries and organizations. The programme should target research useful to countering terrorism in the fields of both technology and social and human sciences.
- ⑥ Establishing a sustainable mechanism for PVE training, under the supervision of the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, for trainers and practitioners in the fields of childhood, youth, education, social work and security, with the aim of providing public and private sectors and civil society actors with practical mechanisms to deal with situations of vulnerability and extremism and to support them.

- ⑦ Striving to provide comprehensive support for the victims of acts of terrorism, as part of the national effort to prevent violent extremism.
- ⑧ Speeding up the amendment of the law n° 2001-52 of 14 May 2001 related to the prison system, to ensure the prevention of the risks of recruitment in prisons, to include provisions that define criteria for classifying the prisoners involved in terrorism cases and to regulate their treatment.
- ⑨ Accelerating the review of the draft national service law, given the opportunities provided by the national service to support a large group of youth and train them on patriotism and on the values of citizenship, especially tolerance and coexistence.
- ⑩ Establishing a national system for early detection of behavioural changes and for monitoring the first indicators of extremism, and striving to support vulnerable groups by providing them with psychological, social and educational assistance.
- ⑪ Supporting the international counter-terrorist effort to implement the strategy and the action plans of the ministries, by diversifying the partnerships stemming from the international and regional cooperation taking into account the different aspects of countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Regarding countering terrorism and preventing its financing

The Commission recommends:

- ① Expediting the adoption of a legal framework governing the intelligence activities, to ensure good coordination between all the actors in the field of countering terrorism and the best and efficient use of intelligence information and its sharing among all the parties involved in countering terrorism and law enforcement, and ensuring a unified leadership.
- ② Enforcing the role of the National Intelligence Centre, established according to the governmental decree n° 2017-71 of 19 January 2017.
- ③ Developing the legislative system related to countering cybercrime, especially the use of Internet for terrorist purposes, by expediting the review of the draft law on countering crimes using information and communication systems.

- ④ Reinforcing the partnership between the public and the private sectors and their networking in order to develop the security system.
- ⑤ Tightening the sanctions for smuggling crimes as they are closely related to terrorism and money laundering crimes.
- ⑥ Enhancing the role of all types of media in countering terrorism, by developing investigative journalism, establishing a discourse based on tolerance, coexistence and the acceptance of the other in addition to countering hate speech and extremism.
- ⑦ Reviewing the National Strategy for Countering Extremism and Terrorism to ensure the engagement of the regional and local authorities in countering terrorism, preventing its financing and preventing violent extremism.
- ⑧ Supporting the missions of governors, at the regional level by expanding their administrative regulatory powers, to ensure greater efficiency, especially in the field of preventing crimes of terrorism.
- ⑨ Reinforcing the establishment of the community committees and the chief of sector positions for more coordination with the security services and to report any information that would compromise public security.
- ⑩ Establishing a legal framework governing NGOs, as some associations are subject to special regulations that make the decree-law n° 2011-88, governing the associations, not applicable to them.

Regarding correction, rehabilitation and social reintegration

Supporting the system of rehabilitation, training, preparation for release from prison and social reintegration, including for prisoners involved in terrorism cases. In this context, the Commission recommends:

- Extending jurisdiction to the post-sentence stage, by assigning the authority to follow up on released prisoners to the judge responsible for the execution of sentences, with the assistance of the prison and rehabilitation departments and the offices of judicial support.
- Establishing a legislative framework to encourage the setup of public and private companies inside prisons to employ prisoners while they are serving their sentences and to provide them with jobs after their release.
- Expediting the review of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedures, to reduce overcrowdedness in prisons, which hinders the employment of prisoners and the implementation of the training, rehabilitation and preparation for release programs.
- Defining terms for the various stages of the criminal proceedings, to reduce their duration, which will ensure that crimes are tried within reasonable time, to enable the victims and their families to enjoy their rights and to guarantee the application of the procedures in force.



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