Launch of the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, Qatar

PRESS RELEASE

New York, 7 December 2020 - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), in partnership with the State of Qatar, launched today the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, established as a UNOCT Programme Office in Doha. Member States, including representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Doha, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations, and the United Nations Global Counter



perform three core functions: (conduct and advance research in behavioural sciences to better understand the drivers and factors contributing to radicalization leading to violent extremism and terrorism; provide capacity-building assistance to Member States, regional organizations and civil society partners to develop and implement programmes, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioural



understand what actually affects people's decisions and behaviours. This will help ensure that policies and programs respond to the actual motivations and are thus more effective."

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Conventional policy design, policy making, and policy debates often ignore behavioural sciences and insights, hereby ignoring that context matters; be they geographical, historical, political or cultural contexts. These approaches fail to recognise citizens as agents of change who are driven by more than stimulus and incentives. We have to rethink our policy making

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC research draws on insights from the behavioural sciences, for example for our flagship World Drug Report, and our longstanding experience with implementing surveys in a number of countries and contexts can contribute to the development of research methodology."

H.E. Mr. Miguel ngel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

The concept itself is a forward-looking approach into means of countering and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism based on science and research. Let us agree that no one is born as a terrorist. Nor that all terrorists are essentially religious extremists



currently do. Behavioural insights techniques are often impactful at a tactical level. But over time, and when employed across a number of interventions, they can

For more information:

- For all materials and full statements, please visit:
 https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/behavioural-insights (Arabic)
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