



GCTF

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM



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www.theGCTF.org

The GCTF was officially launched in New York on
22 September 2011.

Core mission of the GCTF: **support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy** around the globe. Work closely with the United Nations and other relevant multilateral bodies.



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**The 30 founding members of the GCTF
are:**

Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



- GCTF provides **a venue for national counterterrorism (CT) officials and practitioners to meet with their counterparts from key countries in different regions to share CT experiences, expertise, strategies, capacity needs, and capacity-building programs.** GCTF prioritizes capacity building in areas such as rule of law, border management, and countering violent extremism.
- GCTF is inclusive, even-handed, and transparent. It is **an informal, action-oriented, and flexible platform.**



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GCTF Structure:

GCTF is run by a strategic-level **Coordinating Committee**, co-chaired by Morocco and the Netherlands (rotating chairs)

The Administrative Unit of the GCTF functions out of the Netherlands

Three thematic GCTF Working Groups:

- **Countering Violent Extremism** (Australia and Indonesia)
- **Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law** (Nigeria and Switzerland)
- **Foreign Terrorist Fighters** (Jordan and the United States)

Two regional GCTF Working Groups:

- **East Africa-Horn of Africa Region Capacity Building** (European Union and Egypt)
- **West Africa-Sahel Region Capacity Building** (Algeria and Canada)



The following is a non-exhaustive list of key partners and stakeholders:

- **United Nations (UN)**
- **African Union**
- **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**
- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**
- **Council of Europe**
- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**
- **Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)**
- **Hedayah, UAE**
- **Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**
- **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**
- **International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ)**
- **INTERPOL**
- **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**
- **Organization of American States (OAS)**

Resources and Guidance: The GCTF Good Practices Memoranda

These Include:

- **Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector**
- **The Hague –Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon (and Addendum)**
- **The Hague Memorandum on Good Practices for the Judiciary in Adjudicating Terrorism Offenses**

Resources and Guidance: The GCTF Good Practices Memoranda

- Provide guidance to governments and practitioners on good practices for criminal justice system and for countering terrorism
- Note: Good not Best Practices
- Practical in Application
- Agreed to in Plenary sessions by all 30 GCTF Members
- Represent important consensus across legal systems (including civil, common law, shariat, socialist and mixed legal systems)
- Represent an important contribution to Public International Law

Additional GCTF Good Practices Memoranda (continued)

- **Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders**
- **The Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists**
- **Recommendations for Using and Protecting Intelligence Information In Rule of Law-Based, Criminal Justice Sector-Led Investigations and Prosecutions**

GCTF Framework Memoranda

(continued)

- **The Madrid Memorandum on Good Practices for Assistance to Victims of Terrorism Immediately after the Attack and in Criminal Proceedings**
- **Plan of Action on Victims of Terrorism**
- **The Good Practices on Community Engagement and Community-Oriented Policing as Tools to Counter Violent Extremism; and**
- **The Ankara Memorandum on Good Practices for a Multi-Sectoral Approach to Countering Violent Extremism.**
- **Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Good Practices for Education and Countering Violent Extremism**

GCTF continues to develop and add
additional materials

GCTF Toolkit: Website

Resources

(In English, French and Arabic)

<https://toolkit.thegctf.org/>



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***Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective
Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice
Sector***

**Drafted by the Criminal Justice Working Group and
Approved by the GCTF Plenary.**



The Rabat Memorandum implements UNSCR Guidance

- UNSCR 1373 (2001), requires **that all Member States shall ensure that any person** who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts **is brought to justice**, and *decides* that all States shall ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses sufficient to **provide the ability to prosecute and to penalize in a manner duly reflecting the seriousness of the offense...**
- **UNSCR 2178 (2014):** *Calls upon all Member States*, in accordance with their obligations under international law, **to..... develop and implement prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies** for returning foreign terrorist fighters



Background:

- the CJ-ROL Working Group recognized that the **primary objective** of any effective criminal justice response to terrorism is **to prevent terrorist incidents**
- The criminal justice system **must also be able to respond to terrorist acts with fair and effective investigation, prosecution, and punishment** in the unfortunate event that they occur.



- **Strong and effective counterterrorism policies are not incompatible with respect for human rights.**
- **Counterterrorism efforts can best succeed when they are grounded in human rights obligations and the rule of law.**



- *Rabat Memorandum* 15 Good Practices cover the full spectrum of the Criminal Justice Sector issues related to a comprehensive, rule of law-based CT strategy and program
- *Rabat Memorandum* **recognizes that judges have a significant role, directly or indirectly, in the development and implementation of each of the 15 Good Practices**



The GCTF's CJ Working Group also recognized that:

- A strong and independent judiciary that fairly and expeditiously adjudicates terrorism and other national security offenses is the keystone in the foundation of a rule of law based criminal justice system
- A set of good practices on the role of the judiciary in handling counterterrorism and other national security cases could assist states in achieving that goal



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Criminal Justice Sector and Rule of Law Working Group

The Hague Memorandum

***Good Practices for the Judiciary in
Adjudicating Terrorism Offenses***



The Hague Memorandum looks to the Underlying International Law supporting the Role of an Independent Judiciary:

The right to a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal is articulated in Article 10 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and Article 14 of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (the ICCPR)



- **Good Practice 1: *Identify and Assign Specially Trained Judges***
- **Good Practice 2: *Support the Use of Continuous Trials in Terrorism and other National Security Cases***
- **Good Practice 3: *Develop Effective Trial Management Standards***
- **Good Practice 4: *Support Special Measures to Protect Victims and Witnesses in the Trial Process***



- **Good Practice 5: *Supporting the Right of the Accused to a Fair Trial with Adequate Legal Representation***
- **Good Practice 6: *Support the Development of a Legal Framework or Guidelines for the Use and Protection of Evidence from Intelligence Sources/Methods***
- **Good Practice 7: *Contribute to the Development of Enhanced Courthouse and Judicial Security Protocols and Effective Courtroom Security***



- **Good Practice 8: *Develop and Articulate Media Guidelines for the Court and Parties***
- **Good Practice 9: *Ensuring Victims of Terrorism Access to Justice***