Mr. Kibiego Kigen, Director of the NCTC

considerations into national counter-terrorism efforts. He highlighted that in an ever-evolving and dynamic space where terrorism and violent extremism threats exist, measures and responses ought to be developed proactively. He further noted that understanding gender dynamics allows security actors and stakeholders to develop targeted responses that address the unique needs of different gender segments in PCVE and accentuated the integration of gender in the revised 2025 National Strategy on Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (NSPCVE).

The digital <u>Gender and Identity Factors Platform</u> was launched in June 2023 to advance gender and intersectional considerations in CT/ PC/Eefforts through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and policy support.

Background Information

Violent extremism and terrorism continue to pose significant challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the Sahel region, where extremist groups exploit gaps in counter-terrorism capabilities. The exploitation of gender roles and identities remains a key tactic of terrorist and violent extremist organizations, affecting recruitment strategies and the experiences of those impacted by terrorism. Women and girls face heightened risks of sexual violence, forced recruitment, and socio-economic marginalization, while men and boys are also targeted through distinct radicalization pathways.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 2242 (2015), call for the integration of gender perspectives into counter-terrorism policies and programmes. Gender-sensitive approaches would not only enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies but also ensure that responses do not inadvertently exacerbate existing inequalities or grievances that fuel radicalization.

In response to these challenges, UNOCT Gender Unit launched GIFP, with the support of the GAC in June 2023. GIFP serves as a dedicated initiative to advance gender and intersectional considerations in CT/ PCVE efforts through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and policy support.

The Training of Trainers in Nairobi is a key component of this effort. In alignment with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, UNOCT through GIPP developed an innovative Training of Trainers Manual, as well as an accompanying online e-learning course, designed to empower experts with the skills and knowledge to integrate gender-responsive approaches in CT/PC/E policies and programmes. Following **t5affeeited**g, participants will return to their national country to facilitate further training sessions within respective institutions.

UNOCT with the generous support of GAC, as well as IGAD as a substantive partner, remain committed to advancing gender-responsive and intersectional approaches to counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, ensuring that policies and programmes reflect the diverse needs and experiences of affected