

2026 Counter-Terrorism Week

SIDE EVENTS

26 June 2026 (1300-1500hr)

Location: Norwegian Permanent Mission to the UN, New York



**Strong Cities
Network**



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Morocco
to the United Nations in New York



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCCT)

Global Frameworks - Local Action

Unleashing the Potential of Cities in Facilitating the Localisation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Background

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) by consensus. In the intervening two decades, each of the eight periodic reviews of the UNGCTS has underscored the importance of developing and operationalising human rights-based, cross-sectoral approaches to address these threats, including by harnessing the potential of women, young people and local communities, while recognising the specific vulnerabilities and resilience capacities of cities across different regions.

This side event will draw attention to the important role that cities and their leaders can play (and increasingly are playing) in preventing and responding to these threats in a way that complements both existing security-led actions with preventive, development-oriented and community-based approaches and other national government measures and grassroots efforts led by civil society stakeholders.

For example, cities are well positioned to help 1) communities better understand and mitigate violent extremist and related threats, 2) identify and address the conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism, 3) protect soft targets including during mega sporting and other events, 4) support victims, 5) engage and empower young people in their role as prevention actors, 6) facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of returning “foreign terrorist fighters” and former violent extremist offenders, 7) prevent hate speech, including in online spaces, 8) facilitate intercommunal and other dialogue and understanding that can reduce intolerance and hate, and 9) support long-term recovery following a violent extremist or related incident.

This event will provide member states reviewing the UNGCTS and UN Coordination Compact entities and other stakeholders the opportunity to hear directly from mayors and other representatives of local

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governments, who have critical contributions to make localizing and sustaining the whole-of-society approach called for in the Strategy.

Concept:

The side event will feature a geographically diverse and gender-balanced panel of mayors and other local leaders from across the Strong Cities Network (295+ cities across 70+ countries) to draw attention to the practical ways in which cities are contributing to UNGCTS' implementation and how, if equipped with the necessary mandate, resources, training and expertise, they can be catalysts for sustainable localisation of the UNGCTS as it enters its third decade, with a particular focus on capacity building needs in developing contexts.

Objectives:

To raise awareness among Member State representatives and UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities of the practical and often unique contributions cities are making to UNGCTS implementation at the local level and the importance of prioritizing cooperation and collaboration with this often-overlooked stakeholder in the UNGCTS' third decade.

Details:

1. **Co-Organisers:** Strong Cities Network and the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN
2. **Partners:** Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
3. **Format:** Hybrid; lunch will be served for those attending in person.
4. **Interpretation:** The event will be conducted in English
5. **Webcast:** The event will not be webcast.