

# National Counter Terrorism Centre



**NCTC Newsletter - Volume 58: April - August 2022**

## First Ever “UN Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sports and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism” Held in the Maldives!

24-26 May 2022



[nctc.gov.mv](http://nctc.gov.mv)

NCTC co-hosted the first ever “UN Global Programme on the Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sports and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism” in association with Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, UNOCT, UNICRI, ICSS, and UNOAC.

Speaking at the opening session, DG of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor explained the role of sports as a source of empowerment and tolerance, and the need for awareness in securing major sporting events against terrorism to retain sports and their values for a resilient community.



In his keynote speech, Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment Ahmed Mahloof highlighted the government's priority to youth and sports development and the plan to instill Islamic values in order to build safe communities. He also emphasized importance of vigilance to address threats to sporting events.

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This is the first such program and is one of the new initiatives under the UN Global CT Strategy. The 3-day program was divided into 3 thematic groups. The first day focused on the security sector, National Sports Council, and sports associations. The second day was focused for personnel working in the sporting field while the final day was focused on CSOs.



NCTC welcomes initiatives by all of our partners to foster resilience in the community through community-centric programs as outlined in the National Action Plan on P/CVE.

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“Young people are an enormous asset to our societies. We must cherish them, invest in them and empower them.”

*António Guterres*



# **NCTC Participates in Stakeholder Discussions on the Draft National Maritime Security Strategy and Draft Defence White Paper**

*8 August 2022*



Head of Programs and Awareness of NCTC participated in the stakeholder discussions on the draft National Maritime Security Strategy and the draft Defence White Paper.

The workshop was held to engage with national stakeholders to identify concerns, comments, and questions about the draft documents for the better alignment of documents with complementing agencies and government policies.



Formulation of the National Maritime Security Strategy (NMSS) is a project led by the Ministry of Defence, with the assistance of the Australian Government. The aim of this project is to articulate

a unified vision for the security of Maldives' maritime domain, maritime national interests, and ensure security of proximate and regional maritime environment

Meanwhile, the Defence White Paper lays the broad framework for the integration of the defence force's capabilities with those of other defence sector agencies, security services and institutions to provide a unified response to national security threats and challenges. It also puts forth policy directives to ensure the defence sector agencies closely align their actions, human resource developmental plans and resource acquisition to affect change in crucial areas such as climate security and green defence, integration of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, technology integration and modernization.

Given the Maldives' geography and demographics, an interagency framework in a whole-of-nation approach ensures comprehensive security to safeguard the nation against all forms of threats.

# Transparency Maldives in Collaboration with Home Ministry Launches Two Publications

31 August 2022



Transparency Maldives in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs launched two publications. They are: Situational Analysis of the Pathways to Social Reintegration for Offenders and Drug-Dependent Persons in the Maldives and the Study on Prison Radicalization in the Maldives. Both studies were conducted by independent research teams with support from relevant stakeholders.

The “Situational Analysis of the pathways to social reintegration for offenders and drug-dependent persons in the Maldives” highlights the obstacles to successful social integrations for offenders in the Maldives. The report can be accessed [here](#).

The study on “Prison Radicalization in the Maldives” focuses on the drivers of radicalization in prisons and shares recommendations aimed at empowering Maldivian communities to resist radicalization and bolster human rights, and can be accessed [here](#).

Independent research such as these studies are vital to strengthen academia in the field of security studies as well as cultivate a culture of evidence-based approach to policymaking in P/CVE.





# **NCTC Participates in Meetings of The Colombo Security Conclave**

*19 April and 3-4 August 2022*

NCTC officials participated in meetings of the Colombo Security Conclave hosted in collaboration with the President's Office. The first meeting was in April 2022 and the Director of NCTC participated in the conference for "Experience Sharing on Terrorism Related Cases."

In his remarks, Director of NCTC highlighted the threats emanating terrorism and violent extremism and the work done in the Maldives to maintain peace and security. He also called for greater regional cooperation and the need for global action to address terrorism in all of its forms.

NCTC's Head of Awareness and Programs participated in the conference held in August on

"Organized Crime: Regional Trends and Challenges."

The meetings were held as follow-on sessions after the fifth NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave organised by the National Security Advisor's Office of the President's Office and the Ministry of Defence held back in March.

The Colombo Security Conclave was founded as a trilateral security framework between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives with four pillars of security cooperation, covering marine safety and security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security.

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## **NCTC Meets with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion & Protection of HR & Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism**

*16 May 2022*



NCTC met with Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism.

DG of NCTC Brigadier General (Rtd) Zakariyya Mansoor and rest of NCTC officials welcomed the Special Rapporteur to the Maldives and gave an overview of the work done by NCTC in P/CVE. Officials also discussed challenges and the work done in P/CVE in the Maldives and foreseeable security environment.

Officials also discussed the importance of human rights and deliberated on areas of assistance received from the UN organizations.

# **Bilateral Engagements with Allied Nations and International Organizations**



**The Commonwealth**

*4-6 May 2022*

Head of Research & Publications of NCTC participated in the “Wilton Park Dialogue: 2022 Meeting of Commonwealth Cadre of CVE Experts” held in the UK. This annual meeting provides a critical space where members of the Cadre, key practitioners and the wider Commonwealth community can share experiences, research and best practices to develop a greater understanding of the current challenges in CVE across the Commonwealth and share in depth knowledge on their particular area of expertise in relation to CVE.



*1 June 2022*

NCTC officials met with Mr. Julien Noret, Deputy Homeland Security Service Attaché established in the French Embassy in New Delhi. During the meeting, officials discussed the security environment in the Maldives and the work done by NCTC in P/CVE and areas of future collaboration.



*6 July 2022*

Defence Adviser of the United Kingdom to the Maldives Colonel Paul Clayton met with Director General of NCTC Brigadier General (Ret) Zakariyya Mansoor and officials of NCTC. During the meeting, both parties discussed ongoing work in P/CVE in the Maldives.



*18 July 2022*

NCTC briefed participants of “Mission Orientation Program” of India’s Foreign Service. The brief included an overview of the P/CVE work done in the Maldives and answered questions from the audience.



# Bilateral Engagements with Allied Nations and International Organizations



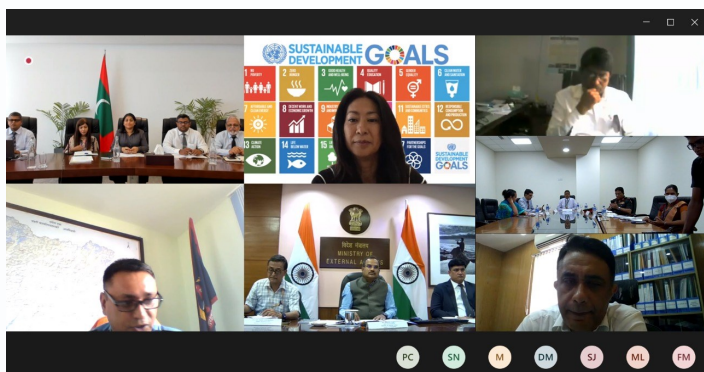
31 July 2022

The Delegates of MNDF to the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition in Riyadh organized a ceremony celebrating the Independence Day Anniversary of the Maldives. The Secretary-General of IMCTC, member states' Delegates and IMCTC personnel participated in the ceremony.



1 August 2022

NCTC officials met with a delegation from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to discuss areas of collaboration between both agencies. USAID has been playing a vital role in promoting resilience among youth through evidence-based programs.



17 August 2022

NCTC co-hosted the first advisory board meeting of SAN-PVE, the South Asian Network on Preventing Violent Extremism in association with UNODC. The virtual meeting was held to discuss comments by member states on the draft SOP and deliberate on sources of funding from various countries to run the network. SAN PVE website: <https://sanpve.org/>.



23-25 August 2022

NCTC officials participated in "Montana National Guard and Maldives Youth Challenge" interactions organized by the Embassy of the United States to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and the MNDF. During the event, NCTC officials shared information about youth and violent extremism movement and discussed challenges faced in P/CVE in the Maldives. The program is part of the Montana National Guard State Partnership Program.

# **Bilateral Engagements with Allied Nations and International Organizations**



*7-18 August 2022*

U.S.-Maldives Joint Exercises Tempest Wind 2022 was held successfully with participation of stakeholder agencies. The exercise was conducted as an interagency exercise with the assistance of U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific to strengthen interoperability and synergy within national stakeholders.

## **NCTC Discusses Areas of Collaboration with State-Owned Enterprises in Implementing the NAP on P/CVE**

*July and August 2022*



During the meetings, officials discussed areas of cooperation and collaboration to strengthen the safety and security of critical infrastructure of the Maldives, in addition to assistance that can be provided in the implementation of the NAP on P/CVE.

NCTC held a series of meetings with State-Owned Enterprises to discuss areas of assistance and collaboration in implementing the NAP on P/CVE.

Meetings were held with Island Aviation Services, Maldives Transport and Contracting Company, Maldives Airports Company Limited, and Regional Airports Company Limited.



The private sector is a vital stakeholder in realizing the goals and objectives outlined in the NAP on P/CVE. Likewise, State-Owned Enterprises is an important partner in building resilience against all kinds of threats facing critical infrastructure.



## Capacity Building Programs



19-22 May 2022: NCTC conducted a session for participants of Youth Leaders Forum conducted in Sh. Milandhoo by Ministry of Home Affairs. 120 youth from Shaviyani Atoll participated in the 3-day event.



19 May 2022: NCTC conducted a session teachers of Milandhoo School on the role of educators for a peaceful and resilient society. The session covered the basics of P/CVE and what teachers could do at the school level to build resilience in students.



28 May 2022: NCTC conducted a session for Immigration Officers. This was the second program in this series to build resilience against violent extremism and terrorism and strengthening border security. In addition to session, on terrorism and violent extremism, sessions on psychosocial well-being and self care was also conducted.



## Capacity Building Programs



31 May 2022: DG of NCTC attended the opening ceremony and participated in the panel discussion at ICAN Forum 22 held by International Civil Society Action Network in association with Addu Women's Association. CSOs from across the globe attended the event to discuss the role of women in peace-building.



4 June 2022: NCTC partnered with Yayasan Empatiku of Indonesia and K. Guraidhoo Council to conduct a workshop on "Community Based Early Warning Systems: Building Women and CSO Resiliency and Peace". Members of K. Guraidhoo Council and Women Develop Committees of K. Guraidhoo, K. Gulhi, and K. Maafushi attended the workshop in addition to staff of government institutions in K. Guraidhoo.



**GLOBAL  
CENTER**   
ON COOPERATIVE SECURITY

31 July 2022: An official of NCTC attended the training program titled "Enhancing Community Engagement and Public Communication: Strong Cities Network Post-Incident Response" organized by the Maldives Police Service in collaboration with Global Center on Cooperative Security.



## Capacity Building Programs



21 August 2022: NCTC officials conducted sessions on various aspects of terrorism, including building resilience in the aviation industry against threats in addition to a session on psychosocial well-being.

## “Hafthaares” Programs Conducted in Vaavu Atoll, Raa Atoll, and Haa Dhaal Atoll

May, June, and August 2022



Some participants from Raa Atoll (photo: @MoYSCE)

Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment in collaboration with NCTC conducted a series of “Hafthaares” programs in Vaavu, Raa, and Haa Dhaal Atolls. The program in Vaavu Atoll was held in V.Felidhoo in May, while the program in Raa Atoll was conducted in R.Ungoofaaruu in June and the program in Haa Dhaal Atoll was conducted in HDh.Hanimaadhoo in August.

The programs included sessions for students,

teachers, caretakers, parents, youth, local leaders, and CSOs in each respective region. The objective of these sessions is to foster community cohesion, friendliness, and build a harmonious society, as well as to address societal issues and raise awareness among citizens and youths and improve psychosocial wellbeing of the community.

In addition to the awareness sessions, refreshments with entertainment events were hosted by the island community.

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NCTC also partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives Police Service, Islamic University of Maldives, and Maldives Red Crescent to conduct the sessions for their respective sectors.

Furthermore, for the first time, sessions were also conducted for staff of Aviation Security Command and the Regional Airports.



In addition to V. Felidhoo, R. Ungoofaaru, and HDh. Hanimaadhoo, Hafthaa Res team conducted outreach programs in some of the nearby islands targeting local leaders, educators, parents, and youth. A total of 226 participated in the Hafthaa Res program conducted in Vaavu Atoll while a total of 640 people participated in the programs conducted in Raa Atoll. Finally, a total of 1150 people participated in the programs conducted in Haa Dhaal Atoll.

Establishing social cohesion through these community engagement events and outreach programs is vital for spreading awareness, empowering communities, and developing and building and maintaining a well-informed, cohesive, and resilient society.





# Activities of the MNDF Contingent at IMCTC in Saudi Arabia



The MNDF delegation attended a presentation organized at IMCTC headquarters in Riyadh on "Cybersecurity Governance" delivered by Cyber Security Group (CSG) expert, Eng. Mohammed Al-Mat'hami on 1 August 2022. He underscored the importance of CSG, execution of its processes & regulatory frameworks that need to be put into effect to ensure information security.



The Maldivian delegation participated in an event titled "Resilience in the Face of Terrorism/Extremism Via Emotional Intelligence" on 10 August 2022. The session was conducted by Lebanese media expert, Tarek Abou Zeinab. The session explored social media outlets' influence on emotional intelligence and their role in creating stereotypical images for viewers.



The MNDF delegates attended an event on "Psychological and Social Characteristics of a Terrorist" held on 14 August 2022. The presentation was delivered by Dr. Yahyah Khatatbeh, professor of psychology at IMSIU. He covered the psychological, social personality traits and types of a terrorist.

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2022 ھجری، جمادی الثانی، ۱۴۴۴

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National Counter  
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