



HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation
to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists

19 October 2022 | 8:00-9:00am (GMT +5) | Kohi Somon, White Room, 8th Corpus, 1/F

Side event

Applying Behavioural Science Techniques to Securing Borders

Concept Note

I. Rationale and background

The International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism, established as a UNOCT Program Office in January 2020 performs three core functions: (1) conduct and advance behavioral research to better understand the factors contributing to violent extremism and terrorism; (2) provide capacity-building assistance to Member States, regional organizations and civil society partners to develop and implement programs, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioral insights to counter terrorism; and (3) promote advocacy, outreach and partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, experiences and lessons learned on behaviorally informed counter-terrorism interventions

This event will be the fourth event in a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives organized by the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism. Given recent advances in knowledge and application, this event intends to re-open the debate on how behavioral detection techniques can be applied to securing borders.

The event will follow two themes; how behavioral recognition techniques can be facilitated through recent advances in technology and how behavioral analysis can be used to facilitate deception detection. Both have been tested in real-life scenarios over the past few decades, with varying rates of success. However, recent advances in research and technology warrant a review of these knowledge sets and methods. The event intends to present the latest knowledge and identify gaps in their applications.

II. Goals and objectives of the Event

The overall objective of this side event is to contribute to the global efforts led by the UN Office to Counter Terrorism by: (1) supporting innovative, results-oriented and impactful capacity-building assistance that meets the needs and priorities of Member States to address evolving terrorist threats, leveraging the Hub's field presence for closer support to beneficiaries seeking technical assistance; (2) promoting the behavioural insights approach to foster resilience to terrorism; (3) building upon the Hub's professional network of experts, academics and practitioners to strengthen technical, strategic and practical partnerships for the effective implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The purpose of this workshop is:

1. To introduce participants to the Behavioral Insights Approach and its usage as an effective complimentary tool for border security
2. To enhance the communication, visibility, and advocacy of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, through the program on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism (outcomes 1 and 2).

Expected Outcomes:

- Develop an accurate understanding of where a BI-centric approach to securing borders could be best applied
- Premised upon that, brainstorm research and pilots for further applications
- Cultivate an interest for experimenting with non-traditional approaches towards securing borders

III. Format, logistics and participants

Organizers: UNOCT International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, Qatar.

Guest Speakers: Ms. Diana Nowek combines academic, psychological, and training knowledge on behavioural analysis with a practical command of emotion recognition technologies and lie detectors based on artificial intelligence. She trained police officers and border guards from many European countries and other regions. In cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), Nowek developed and conducted specialised workshops on predictive profiling. She is also a co-author of courses on the detection of dangerous behaviours and victims at airports and border crossing points and author of the “Manual for Border-related Behaviour Recognition”.

Mr. Philip Baum, the recipient of the 2021 award for Lifetime Achievement and Contribution to Aviation Security, Philip is an ardent proponent of behavioural analysis solutions and common-sense based decision-making in all security arenas. He is the Chair of the Behavioural Analysis series of conferences (next is in Northampton on 8 & 9 June 2022). He served 24 years as editor of Aviation Security International and is the author of ‘Violence in the Skies: a history of aircraft hijacking and bombing’. In June 2018, he was appointed visiting professor of Aviation Security at Coventry University.

Dr. Nazar Akrami, Associate Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden. Nazar Akrami holds a Ph.D. (2005) from Uppsala University. Akrami began his post-doctorate research and teaching career at Uppsala University before moving to the National University of Singapore for a short period. In 2008, he was appointed as a research assistant professor by the Swedish Research Council until 2010. He now holds a senior lecturer position (docent) at Uppsala University. Dr. Akrami’s research falls within the area of personality and social psychology and includes stereotyping and prejudice, personality niche-building processes, personality assessment, and extremism and radicalisation. Dr Akrami works, together with colleagues from the Swedish Defence Research Agency, on projects dealing with extraction of personality characteristics from text, hate speech detection and risk assessment.

Participants/recipients: High-ranking Member States representatives, experts and practitioners, border services, supporting institutions and CSOs working on the subject.

Date and format: 19 October 2022, 08:00-09:00 (Dushanbe time, GMT +5), in-person.

Venue of the event: Kohi Somon, White Room, 8th Corpus, 1/F

Working languages: Russian and English.