



The crimes and destructive tactics of Boko Haram fuel conflict, widely undermine the human rights of affected communities and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities of the most at-risk populations.

Too many women and girls across the region continue to suffer at the hands of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and other violations of their rights. Boko Haram has continued its attempts to deny women and girls access to education, independence and financial autonomy, which are all fundamental building blocks for the social, political and economic development of all communities.

Over the past year, COVID-19 has only heightened the threat of terrorism in the region. Boko Haram is exploiting the pandemic to amplify misinformation, weaken social cohesion, disrupt stabilization efforts and thwart socioeconomic and human development opportunities.

Colleagues,

To

To support Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to meet persistent challenges posed by international and regional obligations UNOCT/UNCCT, UNODC and CTED are implementing a joint programme to support the development and implementation of SPRR strategies for Boko Haram-associated persons.

One of the project's objectives is to assist Lake Chad Basin countries to translate gender considerations in SPRR strategies into practice, in compliance with international requirements and regional frameworks.

To this end, UNOCT/UNCCT, UNODC, CTED and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, organized a regional expert consultation on the gender dimensions of SPRR approaches for persons associated with Boko Haram in March 2021. The workshop convened government officials and other relevant stakeholders from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria as well as international experts. Together workshop participants elaborated a set of recommendations to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the implementation of the regional SPRR Strategy, which will be available to support stakeholders in the coming weeks.

The workshop highlighted that association with Boko Haram often manifests into a combination of roles, including as victims, supporters, facilitators, and perpetrators. Hence, any approach to SPRR must recognize nuances in regard to the degree of agency, culpability and criminal responsibility of individuals, which must be determined on a case-by-case basis and upholding fair trial and due process standards.

In addition to these efforts on the ground UNOCT/UNCCT, CTED and UNODC are currently working to develop a Compendium on the PRR practices of Member States, which will collect and document challenges, lessons learned, best practices and policy recommendations. It will be produced through eight consultations at regional and sub-regional, levels, including with the Lake Chad Basin. I trust that the Compendium will be a key source of support to stakeholders developing and implementing PRR (d)-4(in)T0 0 0 rg]T3(aram)-3(0912 0 n)-4(g )hess

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude let me assure you that UNOCT will remain a committed and reliable partner to the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin region and we look forward to continuing our work to unite against the scourge of terrorism in these countries.

Only as trusted partners can we work together to restore justice and hold those to account who have caused undue suffering for too long.

Thank you.