

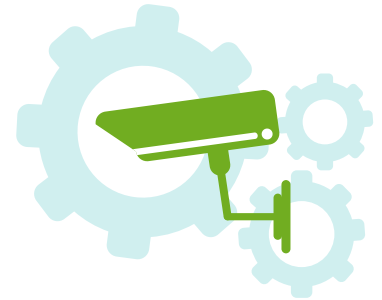
7TH BIENNIAL
REVIEW OF THE
GLOBAL COUNTER-
TERRORISM STRATEGY

Trends & Data

Human Rights & Counter-Terrorism

Background

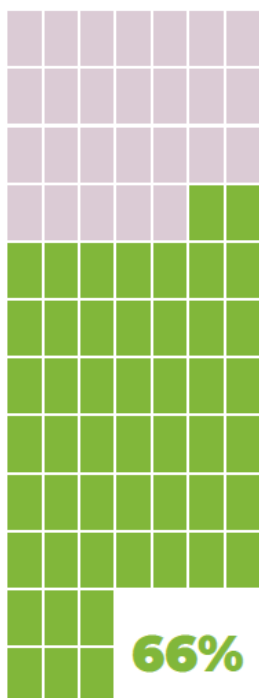
As the 7th Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) ([A/RES/72/284](#)) approaches, there remains a pressing need to redouble efforts and reaffirm commitments to the full promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms across all efforts to counter-terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. To support these efforts, the Special Rapporteur has prepared the following relevant trends and data analysis to support the engagement of Member States, the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and civil society.



Important Trends & Data

1. Civil Society: **Legal restrictions on civil society undermine long-term counter-terrorism and prevention strategies** within a country. Between 2001 and 2018, 140 countries adopted counter-terrorism legislation. In those countries, 58 per cent of cases against rights defenders were charged under security legislation.

2. Human Rights: Evidence demonstrates that conflict is one of strongest predictors of the impact of terrorism, so too are deficiencies in human right protections, socio-economic factors related to disenfranchisement, and deficient rule of law and equality. For more information see the [Global Counter-Terrorism Index](#) (2020) & [UNDP: Journeys to Extremism](#) (2017).



Percentage of communications sent by the Mandate that have dealt with the use of counter-terrorism measures against civil society.

3. Women Rights Defenders: In 26 conflict-affected countries, the **United Nations has verified 102 killings of women** human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists from 2015 to 2019, a likely undercount. For more information see [UN Women, Facts & Figures](#)



Percentage of global population living in areas where civic space is open.

4. COVID-19 & Emergency Powers: Many countries are using security and counter-terrorism to regulate the health pandemic. At least 104 countries have emergency declarations, with 54 of these measures affecting freedom of expression, 136 affecting freedom of assembly, and 56 measures affecting the right to privacy. For more information see the [COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker](#).

5. Human Rights Projects, Pillar IV & Mainstreaming: In 2019, projects under **Pillar IV comprised 14% (7 of 51) of all projects** under the Global Compact. In 2020, **Pillar IV projects now comprise 25.5% (12 of 47)** of projects. While this data indicates the number of projects conducted by Compact entities, concrete indicators for scale, scope and impact of human rights mainstreaming will be necessary.