



REMARKS
BY

Her Excellency Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations

At

The Launch Event of
The UN Global Network

(Part of the Global Programme to Counter Terrorist Attacks against
Vulnerable Targets)

Online event

15 February 2022

10:00 EST

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to, once again, join USG Vladimir Voronkov and my distinguished colleagues in an event that demonstrates another useful outcome of UNOCT's strategic programs.

As a leading partner of UNOCT, and the main funder of its Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets, the State of Qatar welcomes the launch today of another concrete product of this programme.

The programme, with joint efforts by UNOCT, CTED, UNICRI, UNAOC and INTERPOL, serves a crucial need in view of the clear and present danger to vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and soft targets such as urban centres, tourist venues and religious sites. Those targets are uniquely vulnerable to terrorist attacks and deserve continued efforts to mitigate all sorts of risks.

In this field, international cooperation among a wide range of actors is needed. There is also a special need to cope with the various new threats against vulnerable targets, such as unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

The Global Program is, therefore, beneficial in supporting the efforts of Member States to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from, terrorist attacks against critical targets.

We commend the Global Program for having yielded, in a short period, numerous tangible products—one of which being the Global Network to be launched today, in addition to producing five modules on international good practices on vulnerable targets protection, and providing technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States who request it.

Last year, the program convened a series of three expert group meetings that tackled specific aspects of the subject. I had the privilege of attending their opening sessions, and observing the extensive participation and vast interest in the timely and relevant subjects under discussion.

Now, since international cooperation is necessary in this field, it is crucial to develop synergies and facilitate interaction globally amongst experts and practitioners in different relevant sectors. This is the rationale for the new UN Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks, to be officially launched today.

To allow more effective and enriching interaction, the Global Network will be hosted on the Connect and Learn Platform, which is another tool through which UNOCT brings value and fulfils its mandate in coordinating and supporting international cooperation for counterterrorism.

For its part, the State of Qatar has developed expertise and capabilities in the field of countering terrorist acts against vulnerable targets, and it is ready to contribute to enhancing international cooperation and capacity building. The State of Qatar has, of course, nominated our own focal points to enrol in the new Global Network of Experts, from our competent national agencies—the National Counterterrorism Committee and the General Administration of Industrial Security.

It is by facilitating liaison between national competent authorities of Member States and experts from different sectors that the new Global Network can serve a central role in coordinating global efforts and facilitating exchange of best practices and needs for capacity building.

Again, I would like to express appreciation to UNOCT and its partners for their valuable efforts, and I wish the new Global Network the best of success.

Thank you.