

Welcoming Remarks

Official Launch of UNOCT Global Network of Experts on the
Protection of Vulnerable Targets against Terrorist Attacks
(10:00am, Feb. 15, 2022, Virtual Meeting)

USG Volonkov, Ambassador Al-Thani

Dear Colleagues and Participants,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to sincerely offer our congratulations on the official launch of the UNOCT Global Network of Experts on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets Against Terrorist Attacks.

The fight against terrorism has seen significant success in the past two decades. Hundreds of terrorist attacks were foiled and terrorist leaders were neutralized. However, terrorism is set to evolve further as a result of the impact of transformative technologies. This means that counter-terrorism is a long-term process requiring comprehensive strategies and united actions among all stakeholders.

My government remains concerned about the impact of the pandemic on terrorist radicalization and recruitment online, especially among young people who are vulnerable to disinformation. We also worry about possible terrorist attacks on vulnerable “soft” targets such as shopping malls, tourist venues, places of worship, and sporting events; which may occur when lockdowns ease across the world.

Protecting such vulnerable targets which are easily accessible by terrorists is very difficult. But, threats to these vulnerable targets could be significantly and effectively reduced by sharing information, elevating capacity-building, and raising the coordinated and united actions among all stakeholders including the private sector.

In this regard, I believe that the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform will play a crucial role in sharing information and strengthening our capacities against terrorist attacks on vulnerable targets. Online learning modules can help capacity-building projects reach remote communities across the globe and will be even more powerful during the pandemic where physical contact is limited.

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

The Republic of Korea attaches the highest importance to innovation and the utilization of new, cutting-edge technology such as this

platform. My government is very proud to be the primary donor country to this platform. We expect the platform will make a big success and I wish you all the best.

Thank you. /END/