



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism concludes consultations with the French Government and pays tribute to the victims of terrorism

Paris, 27 April 2018– Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), concluded a five-day visit to Paris, France.

Mr. Voronkov met with senior French Government Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Intelligence Coordination, the Ministry of Justice and other senior officials. He was accompanied by Ms. Michele Coninx, Executive Director of the Counter Terrorism Executive Director. USG Voronkov briefed on the activities of the UN Office for Counter-Terrorism and explored additional areas of cooperation. Discussions focused on the cooperation in the field of financing for terrorism and the follow-up to the Paris Declaration on countering the financing of terrorism, on activities in the field of the prevention of violent extremism, on aviation security, border management, cyber security, deradicalization, the situation in prisons, as well as on the situation in Mali and the need to support the implementation of the Mali Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Strategy and on the situation in the Sahel region.

Mr. Voronkov was also briefed on France’s efforts to counter terrorism and to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.

Mr. Voronkov also met with the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Victims of Terrorism who described the framework used in France to support victims of terrorism (VoT) during crisis situations as well as with representatives of different victims’ associations who emphasized the need for adequate support to build resilience and prevent marginalization as well as the challenges that survivors face when terrorist attacks are committed abroad. The associations also underscored the importance of justice to allow proper recovery.

At a wreath laying ceremony at Les Invalides, the Under-Secretary-General paid tribute to the victims of the terrorist attacks in France and around the world. “Terrorism has a ripple effect that destroys individuals, families and communities,” he said. “Solidarity with victims is key to building stronger, more vibrant and inclusive societies, resilient to terrorism and violent extremism.”

Mr. Voronkov stressed that promoting the rights of victims of terrorism is a core area of work for UNOCT and that it is essential to hear first-hand from victims how the United Nations and Member States can support them. “The French system of assistance to VoT could be a good model to other Member States, as many countries are not yet as advanced as France in this area,” noted Mr. Voronkov.

For more information, visit www.un.org/counterterrorism or contact Ms. Gerard, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, New York, gerardl@un.org