



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism co-launches a project on Preventing Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment with UNESCO

Paris, 24 April 2018 – Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) the Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, was at the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris today to launch, together with UNESCO Director General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, a joint UNESCO-UNOCT project on “Preventing Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia”.

The project aims at supporting young women and men to become responsible citizens, resilient to any form of abuse or manipulation, including violent extremism, and to mobilize critical thinking to counter terrorist radicalization and recruitment. It also brings together youth organizations and other civil society organizations to address hate-related issues that are detrimental to their societies and communities. The project is supported by the Government of Canada.

At the event, the Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vladimir Voronkov met with young people from different parts of the world. He commended the innovative work undertaken by youth-led peace and security networks, and stressed the importance of taking into account young people’s ideas to improve our world. Ms Azoulay added that the United Nations is working “with youth and for youth” to achieve this goal.

Highlighting that the United Nations has placed youth high on its agenda, Mr. Voronkov welcomed the fruitful collaboration with UNESCO and emphasized “the importance of working at the local level with young people to identify the best ways to prevent violent extremism and win youth’s hearts and minds.”

Mr. Voronkov also invited UNESCO and youth representatives to organize a follow-up event on the margins of the High Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened by the Secretary-General on 28-29 June in New York.

Taking advantage of Mr. Voronkov’s visit to UNESCO Headquarters, Ms. Azoulay signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which will further seal the collaboration with UNOCT. This agreement between the Secretary-General and 36 UN entities plus the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization is the largest coordination framework at the United Nations. It aims to ensure that the United Nations system can have a better impact and provide stronger and more efficient counter-terrorism capacity-building support to Member States in implementing the United Nations Global-counter-Terrorism Strategy, with UNOCT playing a leading coordination role.

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