



Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism concludes a visit to the United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi, 13 September 2018 – Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, the Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) concluded today a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which he conducted at the invitation of the Government.

During this high-level visit, Mr. Voronkov met with senior Ministers of the UAE Government, including H.H. Sheik Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.H. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance; and H.E. Shamma AlMazroui, Minister of Youth. He also held consultations with the President of the Federal National Council, H.E. Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, and with the Head of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, H.E. Salem AlZaabi.

The Under-Secretary-General thanked the Government of the UAE for supporting the work of his Office at the political and programmatic levels, and exchanged views on UAE-funded capacity building projects for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He expressed his willingness to explore new areas of collaboration such as youth empowerment, education to prevent violent extremism, aviation security and addressing incitement to terrorism.

Throughout the visit, Mr. Voronkov commended the efforts undertaken by the UAE to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism through the promotion of tolerance as a key component of human rights, inclusion and pluralism. He encouraged the UAE authorities to share their experience with other countries and offered the support of the UNOCT as a platform for Member States' exchange of good practices. The Under-Secretary-General underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism that encompasses prevention and building resilience to violent extremism conducive to terrorism, as emphasized both by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Visiting the Sawab Center, a joint UAE-US digital communications hub to combat violent extremist ideologies online, Mr. Voronkov learned more about campaigns that promote positive alternative messaging to counter terrorist propaganda. Mr. Voronkov also met with H.E. Maqsood Kruse, Executive Director of Hedayah, a civil society organization that is an International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism. They discussed areas of cooperation to support requesting Member States in their efforts to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and the increasing role of civil society in international counter-terrorism and PVE efforts.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States.

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