

FINAL



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION COMPACT8 June 2022

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you for the 8th meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

Since its launch, the Compact has demonstrated a fundamental truth.

Countering and defeating terrorism depends on collaboration.

By bringing together UN agencies and Member States with our many partners — **in line with the coordination and coherence mandate of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism** — this forum is designed to better co-ordinate responses and approaches, while sharing experiences and best practices.

While the overall number of deaths from terrorism has declined, the threat remains.

As we will discuss today, the threat to Africa — in particular — is actually increasing.

In fact, Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 48 per cent of deaths attributed to terrorist groups globally last year.

Groups like Al-Qaida, Da'esh and their affiliates are continuing to grow in the Sahel and make inroads into Central and Southern Africa.

They are exploiting power vacuums, longstanding inter-ethnic strife, internal weaknesses and state fragilities.

FINAL

In conflict-affected countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and Somalia, terrorism has intensified cycles of violence, fuelling further instability, undermining peace efforts, and setting back development goals.

And within largely peaceful countries — such as Mozambique and Tanzania — terrorists are now seeking to exploit and manipulate societal grievances and mistrust in governments.

Excellencies,

Despite these challenges, I am convinced that progress is possible.

My visit to Borno State in Nigeria last month strengthened my conviction.

Once a stronghold of Boko Haram, Borno State is now on the road to reconciliation and reintegration.

Horror is turning to hope.

I met people eager to restart their lives — including children who were once associated with Boko Haram, and women who are committed to ending the cycles of violence and discrimination under which they have suffered for so long.

The United Nations family is standing with them — and we will continue our support as they rebuild their lives, and work to renew the social contract between people, communities and government.

Excellencies,

It is also abundantly clear that we cannot effectively address terrorism without tackling the conditions conducive to its spread.

Weak institutions, inequalities, poverty, hunger and injustice all provide fertile ground for terrorist recruitment and violent extremism.

That's why taking an integrated and holistic approach is an essential part of the UN's Counter Terrorism Strategy.

It means investing in health, education, protection, gender equality and justice systems accessible to all.

FINAL

It means creating truly democratic systems and processes, so every person can have a voice in the future of their communities and countries — and trust that their voices will be heard and reflected.

It means placing human rights and rule of law as the foundation of our work. Upholding human rights is critical to tackling some of the world's most complex problems, and must be at the centre of our counter-terror efforts. This is our duty, a legal obligation, and a strategic imperative.

And it means this Compact continuing to support Member States in their counter-terror efforts — from technical assistance and capacity-building, to helping build institutions that are people-centred, and grounded in human rights and the rule of law.

Building the support — and marshalling the resources — to carry out this work is fundamental to the success of both the UN's Strategy and this Compact.

I look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can gather more groups and countries to our cause.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

At every step, we must never forget that terrorism is not only an attack on innocent people.

It represents an all-out assault on our shared values — justice, equality, and the inherent rights and dignity of every person.

Terrorism and violent extremism are a repudiation of all that we work for, year in and year out, at the United Nations.

They are an affront to humanity.

Your discussions today will be critical to moving the counter-terror agenda forward and safeguarding universal values.

Through this Compact, let's continue gathering more ideas and more support for this urgent work.

Thank you. ***