



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

## **UNOCT and the Kingdom of Morocco conclude Agreement on the establishment of a UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in Africa**

**New York, 6 October 2020** – H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, held a virtual ceremony on the occasion of the signing of a Host Country Agreement and Contribution Agreement between UNOCT and the Kingdom of Morocco regarding the establishment of a UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in Africa.

Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco welcomed the establishment in Rabat of the UNOCT programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa, which illustrates the "symbiotic, efficient and engaged cooperation between Morocco, the UNOCT and the United Nations as a whole". Mr Nasser Bourita underlined that the establishment of this office draws from the High Orientations of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, which bring together the Moroccan expertise and experience in preventing and countering terrorism and the Moroccan multilateral vocation to the service of peace, security and stability in Africa. Mr. Bourita also assured Mr. Voronkov of Morocco's readiness to support UNOCT's efforts.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed appreciation to the Government of Morocco for its staunch support to UNOCT and its close and continuous engagement with the Office for the establishment of the training hub, which is yet another strong mark of Morocco's commitment to regional and international counter-terrorism cooperation. Mr. Voronkov emphasized "the importance of the Programme Office in Morocco, as a state-of-the-art training hub for the development and delivery of tailored counter-terrorism policing and border security management training programmes through an 'all-of-UN' approach".

The training hub will develop and deliver specialized counter-terrorism and law enforcement training programmes to requesting Member States in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, with initial focus on the Sahel. The training hub will develop national counter-terrorism curricula in line with human rights; provide knowledge, skills and tools to practitioners through training; develop and promote good practices; and facilitate cooperation among African counter-terrorism, law enforcement and border security officials.

Today's signing ceremony is the culmination of joint efforts to advance counter-terrorism cooperation following Under-Secretary-General Voronkov's visit to Rabat on 15-16 January 2020. UNOCT's Office will benefit from Morocco's track record in combating terrorism through international cooperation and information sharing. It will leverage the expertise of local, national and regional counter-terrorism actors and enhance programming cooperation and coordination with the [United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact](#) entities operating in the field for impactful and coordinated delivery. The Government of Morocco will provide support to the regional Programme Office and its activities.

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