



**Closing Remarks for
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UNOCT**

**Soft Launch of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter
Terrorism, established as a United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
(UNOCT) Programme Office in the State of Qatar**

7 December 2020 – 10:25AM

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I would like to thank all our distinguished speakers for their contributions.

Our discussions today have confirmed the relevance and importance of the upcoming work of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism.

Understanding the behavioural roots of vulnerability to the path to terrorism and violent extremism is not a simple exercise.

But through a behavioural lens, we can better understand how people think, reach judgments, make decisions, and take action. We will be able to understand how behavioural change happens.

Today we heard about the many ways in which behavioural science can help prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Whether it is by having a better understanding of the ideological, psychological and social factors contributing to radicalization.

Or by using ‘nudge theory’ to drive individuals’ positive behavioural changes and strengthen community resilience.

Or by improving analysis and decision-making in complex and fast-moving counter-terrorism investigations.

We know that there is no single socio-demographic profile or pathway that leads an individual to become involved in terrorism.

Each case is different.

Susceptibility to radicalization depends on complex interactions between different risk factors, which can include involvement in criminality, family influence, failure to integrate, alienation, or a sense of grievance or injustice.

We thus need to use all available tools to understand what works, what doesn't, and why.

By adopting a behavioural science approach, we can draw knowledge from diverse disciplines including sociology, psychology, criminology, economics, cognitive science, political science and communications studies.

This multidisciplinary approach will provide insights that enable the identification of risk and resilience factors, and the development of empirically validated interventions to prevent and counter violent extremism.

Today's event has shown us how we can leverage behavioural insights to tackle multidimensional social challenges such as exclusion, social fragmentation and violent extremism.

It has shed light on how behavioural insights can help assess the impact of interventions, allowing us to develop best practices to prevent and counter terrorism.

And it has confirmed the importance of behavioural insights to inform evidence-based counter-terrorism policy and programming that can deliver positive change for more resilient individuals and societies.

I look forward to working closely with you over the coming months as we implement the programme of work of the International Hub.

The hard work to develop and implement a global behavioural insights agenda to counter terrorism starts now. We will work in collaboration with Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and other counter-terrorism partners—especially our Global Compact partners who shared their views today—in this long, innovative and very promising journey.

And we will continue to strengthen our enduring and vital partnership with the Government of the State of Qatar.

This concludes today's high-level launch event.

Thank you for joining us and please stay safe and well.