

**NINTH MINISTERIAL PLENARY OF THE
GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM FORUM (GCTF)**

New York, 26 September 2018

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, United Nations

**Good morning,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to express my appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, Minister Bourita and Minister Blok, for inviting the United Nations to participate in the GCTF's Ninth Ministerial Plenary.

I would like to convey the warm greetings of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, who considers counter-terrorism as one of the top priorities for the United Nations.

The Secretary-General is also committed to ensuring that the United Nations strengthens its partnerships with the GCTF. For this reason, we welcome the Joint UN-GCTF Ministerial Statement that will be released later today.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism was born a year ago. A lot of efforts were undertaken to get the baby to walk. Today, I can say that we feel solid ground under our feet. Our work is known both in the UN system and beyond. I would like to mention few examples in this regard.

We organized, on the initiative of UN Secretary-General Guterres, and with strong support of Member States, the first-ever High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in New York in June this year.

Over 1,000 participants from 150 Member States, 51 civil society organizations, 31 international and regional organizations and 25 United Nations entities came together at this Conference to discuss practical and operational counter-terrorism issues.

In line with the outcomes of the High-Level Conference, we are encouraging Member States to convene a series of regional conferences on relevant topics.

In follow-up to the Conference, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism is consulting on establishing a Network of national Counter-Terrorism Coordinators to share information, expertise and best practices. In this regard, we look forward to working with GCTF to benefit from its International Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism Clearinghouse Mechanism experience.

Many of you mentioned the importance of hearing from civil society on terrorism related issues. To support our efforts to more systematically engage and consult civil society at all levels, we are considering establishing a new unit in the Office of Counter-Terrorism to ensure the views of civil society are fully reflected in counter-terrorism policies and programmes. We look forward to your advice and support, including financial mobilization.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism promulgates the important issue of victims of terrorism and has implemented several programmes to ensure their voices are heard. The Office has convened international events on victims' rights, recorded testimonies of victims and survivors, and works to build their capacity to become their own best advocates. It is an important part of our human rights agenda.

I know that improving coordination and coherence between UN entities was a priority for Member States when they established the UNOCT. I am pleased to inform you that in February, Secretary-General Guterres signed the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which will strengthen our efforts to effectively coordinate the UN's counter-terrorism work. The first inaugural meeting of the Compact's entities will take place in November. It would be the demonstration of One-UN approach.

Additionally, in response to a Security Council mandate, the UNOCT and CTED published a joint report in April, which includes practical improvements on how to exchange information, consult each other and undertake joint activities. Further to this effort, joint missions that Ms. Coninsx, Executive Director of CTED and I have undertaken to Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, and Central Asia are a model for our future collaboration.

Excellencies,

I am pleased that UNOCT and the GCTF are increasingly working together, including through the delivery of capacity-building projects.

The Border Security Initiative is a good example of how we can multiply our impact by working together.

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I hope to get support from the GCTF with regards to the new global project initiated by the Netherlands and UNOCT on Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records (API/PNR), to significantly improve aviation security and stop the flow of FTFs. I am grateful to the Dutch colleagues for their confidence in UN system.

Excellencies,

I would also like to mention excellent cooperation of my Office with GCTF-inspired institution – The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Hedaya, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law.

We at the United Nations, look forward to continuing to work together with GCTF to strengthen further international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Thank you.