Joint press release

Mr. Voronkov concludes a visit to Israel

Jerusalem, 12 June 2019 - Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) concluded today a two-day visit to Israel at the invitation of the Government. As a result, both parties agreed to explore ways to enhance capacity-building cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism.

During the visit, hosted by the Deputy Director General of Strategic Affairs Department of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Voronkov met with senior government representatives and participated in a roundtable discussion with the Israel Money Laundering and Terror Financing Prohibition Authority, the Israel Security Agency and the Ministry of Justice. They discussed the evolving terrorist threat worldwide and the role of the United Nations in strengthening international collaboration to address this scourge in collaboration with the private sector and civil society organizations.

Mr. Voronkov and Mr. Gilad Erdan, Minister of Public Security, Strategic Affairs and Information, exchanged views on the evolving terrorist threat and the role of the United Nations in strengthening international cooperation to address it. Additionally, they discussed the Israeli experience and noted the challenges of incitement, radicalization and the spread of terrorist propaganda, including on-line. Both agreed to continue the dialogue between Israel and UNOCT.

Meeting with Ms. Esther Hayut, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel, Mr. Voronkov noted the work of the Court in combating terrorism while upholding human rights and the rule of law and stressed the important role of courts in this regard. Mr. Voronkov briefed on key aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions. They also exchanged views on good practices related to international criminal justice cooperation.

Mr. Voronkov, in a roundtable with victims of terrorism, first responders and caregivers, emphasized the importance of building community resilience, advocating for victims’ rights and meeting their needs and noted Israeli inter-agency collaboration, innovation and expertise in this field. “The voices of victims are powerful tools in our strategies to prevent violent extremism and building resilient societies,” Mr. Voronkov said as he explained the new Victims of Terrorism Support Programme.

Mr. Voronkov also visited Ben Gurion International Airport, the IDC Herzliya and met with other senior Israeli officials during the visit.

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