



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter- Terrorism

Fourth High-Level Strategic Dialogue between the State of Qatar & the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Sunday, 27 March 2022 - Doha, State of Qatar

(As delivered)

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,

Good afternoon.

I am delighted to be back in Doha, and I thank you for the generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation during our stay here.

The many events that we are holding together over the course of the next few days on a broad range of areas are a clear reflection of our strong strategic partnership.

I am extremely grateful to the State of Qatar for supporting the work of my Office and providing this important opportunity to discuss our strategic collaboration on the occasion of our fourth strategic dialogue since March 2019.

I will begin by giving you an overview of our key achievements last year, as many of them were only made possible by the generous support of the State of Qatar.

I will also share our strategic priorities for 2022 and I look forward to discussing these further.

Last year, the Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact grew into one of the largest and most comprehensive coordination frameworks at the United Nations.

It brought together 43 UN- and non-UN entities collaborating across the Organization's three pillars of work, namely Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Development, to deliver as "one United Nations."

Against the backdrop of several significant developments last year, including in Afghanistan and its regional implications, the Counter-Terrorism

Compact proved a critical framework to share early warning analysis, provide strategic direction, and coordinate our responses.

Moreover, the eight working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact jointly delivered reference tools and guidance materials addressing some of the most complex counter-terrorism challenges, strengthened United Nations engagement with key counter-terrorism stakeholders, and implemented a joint resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation approach.

We identified mechanisms and tools to further improve our programming assessment, as well as monitoring and evaluation, which we will implement with our partners.

Next month, the Counter-Terrorism Compact will welcome as new members the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), bringing the total number of participating entities to 45.

My Office also expanded its partnerships with critical counter-terrorism stakeholders beyond the United Nations system, including through the work of our Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism that has become fully operationalized since it was launched in December 2020, here in Doha.

Furthermore, we expanded and fully operationalized several of our field presences in different parts of the world.

We continued to deliver essential capacity-building assistance through our global programmes and projects to support Member States to address multi-faceted counter-terrorism challenges.

Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

As we will hear later during this meeting, Member States strengthened their efforts in several key counter-terrorism areas.

At the same time, Member States continue to face persistent and significant gaps and challenges in those efforts.

Moreover, the increasingly complex and evolving terrorist threat requires Member States to continuously adapt and strengthen their approaches.

During the High-Level General Debate of the 76th Session of the General Assembly in September, some 110 Member States pointed to terrorism as one of the most urgent, global challenges facing the international community.

During the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations in June, Member States reiterated their resolve to succeed against this global scourge.

My Office will continue to work with our partners to redouble our support to Member States and other counter-terrorism actors to ensure they succeed in this fight in the year ahead.

This year we will focus on five main areas:

First, we are enhancing regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and consolidating the operationalization of 14 individual liaison and programme offices in the field to deliver more coherent, impactful, and cost-effective capacity-building on the ground. It is also important to be closer to our beneficiaries to support them to make use of the most effective tools to counter-terrorism.

Second, we are bolstering our engagement with Member States and other counter-terrorism stakeholders, including by holding five regional high-level conferences while taking the necessary health and safety precautions.

Third, we are supporting policymakers and practitioners in taking a preventive approach to counter-terrorism by leveraging behavioural sciences and innovation for cutting-edge policy and programming.

We are working with our partners to support Member States to invest in education, sports and other tools to prevent radicalization to terrorism and address the conditions conducive to terrorism.

Fourth, we are increasing our support to Member States and United Nations entities to mainstream human rights and gender, and advocate for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism across all counter-terrorism activities.

Fifth, we are working to increase our regular budget funding to enable better planning and sustainability, as well as deliver expeditious and effective responses to new and evolving counter-terrorism challenges.

As we work towards these goals, we will continue to rely on the State of Qatar as an indispensable partner of UNOCT and a leading contributor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.