



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Closing Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

Second High-Level Meeting of the Marrakesh Platform

Tangier, 3 June 2023

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,

Allow me once again to thank our dear colleagues and friends from the Kingdom of Morocco, and especially His Excellency Director General Mohammed Yassine Mansouri, for the enormous and sincere hospitality and leadership in coordinating such an exceptional high-level, multiagency event.

I also would like to thank all the speakers and participants for a highly fruitful exchange during the past two days.

At a time when terrorism in Africa is at an all-time high, the Marrakesh Platform provides a crucial opportunity every year to bring together the heads of counter-terrorism security agencies in Africa to discuss how we can best coordinate and collaborate to confront the immense threat of terrorism.

Most importantly, the Platform allows us to align our counter-terrorism approaches, build relationships closer and better understand how we can support one another.

Our vision is that the Platform should continue to stay as a unique mechanism that brings concerned regional stakeholders, Member States, the United Nations and other international organizations, to make tangible and practical calls for action through strategic dialogue and with an operational mindset.

We are also convinced that with this Platform we have an outstanding space not just for sharing information and good practices, but also for identifying and refining your technical assistance and capacity-building needs of your national institutions.

The Platform also allows the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to raise awareness of the work we are doing and ready to do to support you. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the excellent efforts being made by our Global Fusion Cells and Counter-Terrorism Investigations programmes in partnership with the Rabat Training Centre of the United Nations of Counter-Terrorism.

Terrorism sees no borders and therefore requires a multiagency, multinational solution that transcends the boundaries of Member States. A successful interagency coordination and cooperation in the region can shed light on crucial information that can prevent terrorist attacks and make everyone safer.

During the four thematic sessions, our Office touched on the innovative capacity building efforts, which combine new approaches and a practitioners' focus, to increase the expertise delivered by a growing number of partners such as the General Directorate for Studies and Documentation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

It was very meaningful and interesting for us to listen first-hand to the feedback of Member States that have become beneficiaries of our Fusion Cells Programme.

We are very pleased by the recognition that strengthening fusion cells mechanisms at the national and regional level is essential to facilitate operations to prevent and disrupt terrorist attacks.

Our global programme will extend its support to a number of countries present here today as well as to your national inter-agency cooperation structures, who will have better tools for regional cooperation and intelligence exchange.

We also had the privilege to hear in-depth analysis from our keynote speakers combined with the experience from each participating Member State that took the floor.

I would like to highlight what have been so well noted by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Yassine Mansouri, that the Marrakesh Platform provide the perfect setting to discuss the various counter terrorism and security related issues. He expressed concern about the persistent global terrorist threats in Africa, including the proliferation of terrorist groups and their strengthened operational capacities. He also reaffirmed the importance of multilateral and regional cooperation to counter the evolving threat of terrorism, as seen today in the Marrakesh Platform.

There was a general consensus that the Marrakech Platform is a significant forum for discussion to better identify and analyze the terrorist threats and trends in Africa.

I would like to conclude by expressing our desire to work with the Kingdom of Morocco to continue building the Marrakesh Platform as a long-term privileged space of exchange and cooperation among the African Member States' Intelligence community.

Thank you.