



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary General for Counter-Terrorism

Graduation Ceremony of the UNOCT Specialized Counter-Terrorism Investigations Training

Friday, 24 November 2023

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear colleagues,

I am honoured to address you today as we celebrate the remarkable achievement of our graduates from the Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the 18 participants who have successfully completed this intensive programme.

I would like to thank Professor Amine Bensaid, and our partners at Al Akhawayn (al-ah-kwan) University for hosting this event in Ifrane (e-fran).

I would also like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, whose support has been instrumental in the development and implementation of this training programme. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior Affairs have generously provided us with exceptional facilities for the Programme Office in Rabat and invaluable expertise for the delivery of core course subjects.

Let me express my words of gratitude to our donors: the Government of the People's Republic of China through the United Nations Peace and Development Fund, as well as the Governments of Australia, Italy and Portugal, whose support has been indispensable for the successful implementation of this training programme.

This partnership is a key milestone to deliver standardized professional training for counter-terrorism practitioners.

I would also like to acknowledge the commitment of my Office, particularly the dedicated team in the Rabat Programme Office and Global Counter Terrorism Investigations Programme, who worked to make the second iteration of this training course possible.

The collaborative effort that brought this training to fruition underscores the unwavering commitment of UNOCT to support Member States in their efforts to counter terrorism and uphold international peace and security.

I am glad to mention that participants from Benin, Ghana, Libya, Mozambique, and Togo participated in the programme. As the terrorist threat expands in parts of Africa, this diversity emphasizes the significance of regional cooperation in addressing the scourge of terrorism. By coming together to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices, you have not only enhanced your capacities but also contributed to strengthening the collective response to terrorism.

Also, as you return to your respective countries, you carry a wealth of knowledge and tools that will, without doubt, play a crucial role in your nation's counter-terrorism efforts.

I encourage you to continue learning and growing in your roles as counter-terrorism investigators. Stay engaged with your peers from this programme and colleagues from around the world, keep up with the latest developments in counter-terrorism, and never stop seeking ways to enhance your skills.

I also invite you to stay in contact with UNOCT and the experts you met during this programme. Your professional growth is essential to the well-being of your communities, your nations, and the global community as a whole.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate my sincere congratulations to all the graduates. You are now part of a network of professionals dedicated to ensuring a safer and more secure world.

I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors, and I thank you.