



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

### **Head of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office concludes visit to Doha**

**Doha, State of Qatar, 13 December 2023** – Today, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), successfully concluded a four-day visit to the State of Qatar, during which he participated in the Doha Forum and held fruitful bilateral meetings with senior representatives from the Government of the State of Qatar.

Mr. Voronkov participated in the Doha Forum session titled "*Breaking Barriers with Behavioral Science: A New Approach to Building Resilient Communities and Promoting Social Inclusion.*" He was joined by Majid Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and official Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Rosalind Nyawira, Director of Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre; Dr. Khalid Koser, founding Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF); Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); and Dr. Iris Luarasi, President of the Counseling Line for Women and Girls.

Mr. Voronkov presented the work of the UNOCT International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter-Terrorism and stressed that “the United Nations is deeply committed to a transformative agenda – one that is articulated in the Secretary-General’s New Agenda for Peace and embodied in the vision for a UN 2.0. This renewed vision recognizes the critical role of behavioral insights in addressing complex global challenges.”

During his high-level bilateral meetings, the Under-Secretary-General thanked the State of Qatar for its critical support to the work of UNOCT and the strong partnership between the United Nations and the State of Qatar. The discussions encompassed several areas of mutual priority, including the programmer work of UNOCT in Doha in the areas of Behavioral Insights to Counter-Terrorism and Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, as well as programmes with a focus on Africa and the Marrakesh platform, which is the annual high-level meeting of heads of counter-terrorism and security agencies in Africa, co-organized by UNOCT and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr. Voronkov also exchanged views with his counterparts on other Qatar-funded programmes and initiatives focusing on various priority areas under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions, including civil aviation security, protection of vulnerable targets, national inter-agency coordination mechanisms or “fusion cells”, support for the victims of terrorism, countering terrorist travel, and enhancing the security of major sporting events.

The Under-Secretary-General prominently discussed the organization of high-level events in Doha and the preparation of a five-year plan with a calendar of such events for the next strategic dialogue with the State of Qatar. Mr. Voronkov thanked the State of Qatar for being the first Member State to financially support the organization of the 2024 African Counter-Terrorism Summit with a contribution of \$50,000.

Overall, the visit contributed to strengthening UNOCT's strategic partnership with the State of Qatar in promoting collaboration, fostering dialogue, and strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

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