



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

## **Tenth Meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee**

**24 January 2024  
10 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. EST  
Conference Room 6 (UNHQ-hybrid)**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the tenth meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee

Allow me to start by thanking United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, for joining us today and for his leadership, which has been instrumental in making this Compact the largest coordination framework in the United Nations.

I am delighted to welcome Her Excellency Ambassador Aliya Ahmed Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, and reiterate our gratitude for the State of Qatar's generous support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact.

I would like to welcome Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States; His Excellency Ambassador Martin Kimani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya; His Excellency Ambassador Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations; and Mr. Idriss Mounir Lallali, Director of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism of the African Union.

Additionally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member of the Compact, the International Monetary Fund, which joined the Compact last year as its 46<sup>th</sup> member.

Dear Colleagues,

Today's strategic discussion will focus on addressing the increasing terrorist threat in parts of Africa, and the need to align our counter-terrorism efforts with the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

The subsequent session will focus on concrete recommendations on coordinating counter-terrorism efforts in Africa.

The Compact Secretariat will then present for adoption the Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026.

Dear colleagues,

Let me now share a few observations on the terrorist threat in Africa and the importance of strengthening international cooperation.

Despite more than a decade of multifaceted counter-terrorism efforts, Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates continue to exploit instability and conflict to expand and intensify attacks in parts of Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most affected by terrorism. Terrorist groups operating in the Sahel are expanding towards coastal States along the Gulf of Guinea. The increasing terrorist presence in East and Central Africa, including the Great Lakes region, is another source of concern.

These developments jeopardize human rights and the rule of law, hinder sustainable development, and exacerbate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Dear Colleagues,

The transnational nature of terrorism requires stronger international cooperation and innovative partnerships, especially with regional organizations.

My Office and the UN Counter-Terrorism Compact have strengthened collaboration with the African Union, with dedicated focal points and coordination mechanism.

We are also enhancing our cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, and the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Together with Member States and international partners, our focus on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals formerly associated with terrorist groups has proven effective in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Somalia.

Through our Programme Offices in Rabat and Nairobi, we continue to provide specialized training benefiting over 40 African Member States.

Dear Colleagues,

Stemming the increasing terrorist threat across the continent demands a more robust response that draws on the best knowledge, which is well coordinated and adequately funded.

This is why we have launched the “UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa” as a collaborative endeavor of 16 Compact entities in support of ten strategic multi-partner initiatives, which respond to national priorities and technical assistance needs identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate.

I invite you to visit the website –[www.jointappeal.org](http://www.jointappeal.org) – to learn more about this initiative.

Dear Colleagues,

I want to draw your attention to Secretary-General Guterres’ transformative vision of the UN 2.0 “Quintet of Change,” emphasizing the importance of behavioral science, innovation, data, and interdisciplinary approaches in tackling global security challenges.

Following that vision and with the support of the State of Qatar, as Chair of the Compact Coordination Committee, I would like to propose the launch of a new Working Group of the Compact dedicated to the use of Behavioral Sciences to prevent radicalization and violent extremism. This Working Group will work closely with the UNOCT BI Hub in Doha.

The Compact Secretariat will consult with all Compact entities regarding the Working Group’s Terms of Reference, including its objectives, scope of work and composition.

Dear Colleagues,

This Compact provides us with a framework for effective collaboration to support Member States counter-terrorism efforts and is a testament to our shared commitment to a world free from terrorism.

I look forward to continuing working with you to support African and other Member States affected by the scourge of terrorism.

In conclusion, the General Assembly's mandate, outlined in operative paragraph 96 of the eighth review resolution of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, presents a unique opportunity to assess the impact of our CT and PCVE efforts. We appeal to Member States to allocate appropriate resources to conduct a full-fledged and independent evaluation, yielding robust findings on results achieved, good practices, and lessons learned.

Additionally, we urge Compact entities to actively collaborate with the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the Compact in the development of a unified results framework and the evaluative exercise. This collaborative endeavor is crucial for a meaningful measurement and assessment of our collective impact in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Thank you for your attention.