



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**25 March 2024**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Wasil, Chair of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre Advisory Board,

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their pivotal role as the founding donor of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to you, Members of the Advisory Board, for your invaluable contributions and unwavering support, both in terms of substantive contributions and financial engagement with the Centre and its activities.

We are honored today to welcome the distinguished representatives of Kazakhstan, Kenya and the Philippines, who will provide some comments on the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the impact it has had on mitigating and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in their countries.

Despite ongoing efforts, we cannot ignore the harsh reality that terrorism remains a threat to international peace and security. The threat is real. Only few days ago terrorists undertook heinous and deadly attack in Krasnogorsk nearby Moscow, Russian Federation, killing 144 and injured 182 victims including children, women, and men. This horrible act of terror was strongly condemned by UN Security Council Member States. The Secretary General conveyed deep condolences to the bereaved families and the people and the Government of the Russian Federation.

Since our last Advisory Board meeting in October, both Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates have retained the capability to orchestrate horrific attacks, particularly in conflict zones, notably in West Africa and the Sahel region.

Some countries and regions have achieved success through counter-terrorism operations, effectively limiting the capabilities of terrorists and disrupting their activities.

In recent years, we have dedicated significant efforts to ensure that UNCCT's initiatives support Member States in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and aligned with its eight review.

I have also issued an internal guidance in UNOCT to ensure that available analysis and recommendations from the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate are incorporated in our capacity-building work.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Africa continues to be our priority. As highlighted in the latest report of the Secretary-General on Da'esh, the Sahel region has become the epicenter for terrorist activities. This is why we are supporting the Government of Nigeria with the organization of a High-Level African Counter-Terrorism meeting, which will be held in Abuja, on 22-23 April.

The objective of the meeting is to enhance multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and reshape the international community's collective response to terrorism on the continent while promoting African-led and African-owned solutions.

We appreciate the commitments made by some funding partners and anticipate additional support to make this meeting and the priority capacity-building activities sought by African Member States a reality.

UNCCT, through its adaptable global programmes, will play a pivotal role in ensuring relevant support to meet the needs of African Member States.

I would like to highlight two other major conferences that will take place this year. In October, my Office in cooperation with Trinidad and Tobago and CARICOM is co-hosting a high-level regional conference on "Enhancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Building Resilient Societies" in Port-of-Spain.

The objectives of this Conference include building resilience through enhanced cooperation, information sharing, and capacity building to address the security threat landscape in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen dear colleagues

We are also collaborating with Tajikistan and Kuwait to organize the third iteration of the Dushanbe Process High-Level Conference.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coordination remains a key function of the Office. The tenth Coordination Committee meeting of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Compact was convened by Secretary General António Guterres, on 24-25 January.

The meeting focused on the “Strategic Coordination of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives in Africa.”

UNCCT has remained steadfast in implementing the Office-wide framework for human rights mainstreaming alongside due diligence tools and processes. We are implementing UNOCT’s Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan across all of our programmes.

I am also proud of the significant progress made by UNCCT in promoting the rights and supporting the victims of terrorism.

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme has unveiled the ‘Memories’ exhibition in several cities in Spain, including Madrid, Pamplona, Valladolid and Vitoria.

We also look forward to the second conference in support of Victims of Terrorism planned in Vitoria, Spain, in October of this year.

Throughout the first quarter of 2024, the Global programme on the Preventing and Countering of Violent Extremism conducive to terrorism marked notable achievements with the launching of the capstone activity of UNOCT’s Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Nigeria and Somalia.

Turning to finances, the Centre continues to rely exclusively on extrabudgetary contributions for its staff and programmatic activities. As you are aware, UNCCT continues to face financial challenges with regard to escalating demands from Member States for the Centre’s technical assistance.

This year, the General Assembly converted two additional UNCCT posts, based in Central Asia, to Regular Budget posts, raising the number of UNCCT staff funded by the Regular Budget to three. This positive development may set a precedent for future conversions of core posts in UNCCT to the Regular Budget, especially in priority regions like West and East Africa, South-East Asia, and the Middle East.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who supported and advocated for more predictable, sustained, and regular funding to enable UNOCT’s work.

I am also honored to recognize the 37 strategic partners that have contributed to UNCCT programming with important financial and in-kind contributions. UNCCT and the Resource Mobilization team in my Office have continued intense engagement with partners to mobilize

resources and diversify funding with a view to greater sustainability of funding for UNCCT's programmes.

In 2023, these efforts have resulted in about USD 12 million USD being mobilized for UNCCT from 15 funding partners. We are leveraging every avenue to diversify our donor base and secure sustainable funding streams.

As this marks the last meeting in the current Advisory Board term, I wish to renew my profound gratitude to all of you for your steadfast support, including both substantive contributions and financial engagement with the Centre. Your determined dedication has been invaluable for our shared endeavors.

The Secretary-General will soon communicate with you on the new term of the Advisory Board. We look forward to further enhancing our engagement with the new Board.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Given the evolving threat of terrorism, it is critical that UNCCT continues to deliver technical assistance to Member States.

As the Centre's Executive Director, I will continue to move our operations closer to beneficiaries with more activities delivered through our field locations.

The support of this Board is paramount to UNCCT's success in implementing its capacity-building programmes.

I look forward to working closely with all of you.

Thank You.