



First High-Level Strategic Dialogue between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Launch of the Strategic Dialogue between the Kingdom of Morocco and UNOCT

New York, 26 September – The Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) held their First High-Level Strategic Dialogue today on the margins of the General Assembly High-Level week. The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

This first Dialogue was an opportunity to assess the surge of terrorist activities in Africa and identify ways to work together in supporting Member States on the continent to address the threat.

During the meeting, Minister Bourita commended UNOCT's continuous leadership efforts in the fight against terrorism, notably in Africa. He pointed out the importance of this first High-Level Strategic Dialogue, and that the strong partnership between Morocco and UNOCT is anchored in the Kingdom's engagement toward efficient multilateralism as a key to combatting terrorism in compliance with UN Principles and Resolutions. He also underlined strategic cooperation oriented toward supporting African Member States and highlighted that this commitment is the cornerstone of the Kingdom's Foreign Policy aimed at promoting African issues within the diplomatic initiatives undertaken by Morocco in accordance with the Very High Guidelines by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed UNOCT's gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its multifaceted support, particularly to its Rabat-based Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa. He commended the Kingdom's significant contributions to the fight against terrorism, praising its strong engagement within the multilateral counter-terrorism frameworks. In this vein, the Under-Secretary-General welcomed Morocco's leading role, in its capacity as former Co-Chair of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), in launching the "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact- GCTF Partnership." He also underscored the Kingdom's valuable contributions as Chairman of the Group of Friends of Counter-Terrorism and its role as an active member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and within the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT).

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General agreed that the cooperation between Morocco and UNOCT has gained momentum since the inauguration of the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat in 2021 and acknowledged the breadth and scope of capacity-building support delivered through the UNOCT Rabat Programme Office. In this regard, the Under-Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the generous support of Morocco to the activities of the Rabat Programme Office, including to the UNOCT Global Fusion Cells Programme and the Counter-Terrorism Investigation Programme.

Minister Bourita highlighted that Morocco as the initiator of the African Atlantic States Process (AASP) is committed to broaden their collaboration to other counter-terrorism frameworks, including sub-regional and regional initiatives. In this vein, the parties discussed the organization of the conference on counter-terrorism and maritime security along Africa's Atlantic Coast on 3-4 December 2024.

The two sides welcomed the third High level meeting of Heads of Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies in Africa "Marrakech Platform", that was held on 4 and 5 June 2024, in Fes. They stressed its importance as a mechanism to support multilateral efforts to counter terrorism, promote continental cooperation and facilitate collaborative inter-agency work.

The dialogue explored ways and means for collaboration and coordination between Marrakech Platform for Heads of Counter-terrorism and Security Agencies" and the Abuja High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting "Abuja Process."

Morocco and UNOCT agreed to work together to ensure the success of the next Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance to be held in Rabat on 19-20 November 2024. This will be an opportunity to convene beneficiaries, providers, and donors of technical assistance to assess the performance of activities and exchange priorities to foster the impact of counter-terrorism programming.

Finally, the two sides agreed to institutionalize this High-Level Strategic Dialogue as a regular cooperation mechanism and convene it annually. The 2nd High-level Strategic Dialogue will be held on the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September 2025.

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