



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Graduation Ceremony of the UNOCT Specialized Counter-Terrorism Investigations Training

25 October 2024, Rabat

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

It is a great honor to address you today as we gather to celebrate the graduation of the 2024 cohort of the Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations. This ceremony represents a significant milestone not only in the professional journey of the graduates, but also underscores our collective commitment to addressing the critical challenges posed by terrorism in Africa.

Allow me first to express my sincere appreciation to our partners for their crucial support.

I would like to thank Dr Salim Al Malik, Director-General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) for hosting today's ceremony. This demonstrates our shared commitment to fostering education and collaboration in the fight against terrorism.

I would like also to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting our Programme Office in Rabat and for the strategic partnership we have developed. The unwavering support provided by Morocco and its counter-terrorism agencies has been instrumental in facilitating the design and delivery of our training initiatives to enhance our collective efforts to combat terrorism across Africa.

And I want to reiterate our sincere gratitude to our funding partners: the governments of Australia, Canada, China, France, Italy and Portugal. Your generosity and trust empower us to make a meaningful impact in the fight against the global threat of terrorism.

Last but not least, I want to thank Dr Amine Bensaïd, President of Al Akhawayn University for excellent cooperation in jointly developing and implementing this programme. This Executive Master's is a testament to our joint commitment to academic excellence and sustainable professional development.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Today, we acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the twenty-two law enforcement officers from seven African Member States, namely: Cameroon; the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ethiopia; Guinea; Kenya; Nigeria; and Togo.

Throughout the course, our graduates have engaged in a rigorous training programme designed to equip them with essential skills and knowledge in counter-terrorism investigations. The insights and experiences they have gained, will certainly empower them to make a meaningful impact in their countries and contribute to the safety and security of their communities.

Dear Graduates,

I congratulate you on this important milestone in your professional development. The skills and knowledge you have acquired over the last months will empower you to effectively address the complex challenges of counter-terrorism. The contacts and connections you have established here with your peers and instructors will also play a key role to promote international cooperation in our shared efforts to enhance security and resilience. I encourage you to share this knowledge and good practices with your colleagues in your respective agencies.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you all continued success in your careers and endeavors.

I Thank you.