



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Opening remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
(pre-recorded video)**

**Expert Meeting for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
OIL AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT**

Kuwait City, 1 July 2025

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address you today at this important and timely event.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Gulf Cooperation Council Emergency Management Center for its continued partnership. And to the Government of the State of Kuwait and the Kuwait Oil Company for hosting this event.

I would also like to thank the Russian Federation for its support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats Against Vulnerable Targets.

We gather here at a time when global security challenges are becoming increasingly complex. Nowhere is this more evident than in the energy sector.

Terrorist groups - both Da'esh and Al-Qaida - understand the consequences of disrupting energy systems -consequences that go far beyond power outages.

A single successful attack can compromise health systems, paralyze transportation, disrupt water supply, and threaten food security. The effects are swift, wide-reaching, and destabilizing.

The response, the international community has stepped up its efforts, including through United Nations Security Council resolution 2341, which underscores the imperative of protecting critical infrastructure.

This landmark resolution calls on Member States to criminalize attacks aimed at disabling essential services, as well as the planning, financing, and support activities that enable such threats.

Building on this foundation, the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reaffirmed the collective will to protect vulnerable targets. General Assembly resolution 77/298 explicitly condemns terrorist acts against energy facilities and urges deeper cooperation between governments, international bodies, and the private sector. It also mandates the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and its partners within the United Nations Global Compact to provide technical and operational support to Member States.

In line with this mandate, UNOCT launched the Technical Guide on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure Against Terrorist Attacks, developed with the support of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan. This guide is the product of extensive research, global consultations, and insights of the United Nations Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection and the United Nations Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The guide translates good practices, case studies, and practical tools into a cohesive and actionable framework. It is designed not just to inform, but also to empower those tasked with safeguarding our energy lifelines.

Protecting critical energy infrastructure is a global challenge. It demands strategic alignment, information sharing, and coordination at local, regional, and international levels.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

As we look ahead, our priority must remain clear. We must strengthen our collective defenses against terrorist threats targeting the oil and gas sector.

This requires not only technical solutions but also enhanced coordination across borders, greater information-sharing, and sustained commitment from both public and private sectors.

Your engagement in this meeting is a critical step towards building a more secure and resilient global energy landscape.

I Thank you for your attention.