



2021 Counter-Terrorism Week  
**SIDE EVENT**



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Innovative Ways for Counter-Terrorism Training and Capacity-Building: Opening of the New UNOCT Training Office in Rabat**

**Rabat, 24 June 2021** – H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), participated in the opening ceremony of the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa.

The Rabat Office will serve as a training hub to build counter-terrorism capacities and cooperation in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel, where terrorist groups threaten the security, lives, and livelihoods of people across the Sahel region, including UN peacekeepers. It will help enhance counter-terrorism knowledge, skills and tools of law enforcement and border security officers and promote regional counter-terrorism cooperation and information sharing.

Minister Bourita welcomed the establishment of the UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat for counter-terrorism and training in Africa and commended the leadership of Mr. Voronkov and his continued support to African countries in their efforts to fight terrorism and violent extremism. Minister Bourita noted that the alarming evolution of terrorism in Africa requires national ownership and enhanced capacities, systematic coordination among Africans and substantial support from the international community. He underlined that the ambition of the Rabat Programme Office for Counter Terrorism and Training in Africa is to unite our efforts in order to deal with the complex and evolving terrorist threats and provide a significant contribution to support African States in their fight against terrorism.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov expressed appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its staunch support of the work of UNOCT, and to Foreign Minister Bourita for his personal commitment to the United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts.

Mr. Voronkov said, "The Programme Office will not only bring us closer to our beneficiaries but will also enable us to leverage the expertise and insights of Morocco and other Member States and organizations in the region that have significant experience in fighting terrorism."

Mr. Carlos Monteiro Reis, the Head of the Rabat Programme Office, expressed gratitude to the Government of Morocco for providing premises for the Office. He noted that the Rabat Office has started developing tailored counter-terrorism policing and border security management training programmes,



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adding that the Office will work closely with other UN entities, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), UN Police and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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