



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

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

**24 June 2021, 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its strong support of the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and to His Excellency, Foreign Minister Bourita, for his personal commitment to the United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts.

Allow me to commend the important role Morocco plays as co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and as a key partner of the United Nations.

I am delighted to join today's opening ceremony for the establishment of the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa.

This event is a next step towards the operationalization of the new Programme Office, following our joint signing of the Host Country Agreement and Contribution Agreement in October last year, all of which has been done despite the pandemic.

I am pleased that UNOCT will now be joining a family of 24 United Nations entities already present in Rabat.

I am grateful to Morocco for its generous financial contribution and for providing office space, which will enable our staff to carry out its programmatic activities and deliver training in an optimal learning environment.

Since its establishment in 2017, my Office has launched several flagship programmes and projects to provide technical assistance to Member States around the world, upon their request, in preventing and countering terrorism.

We are now extending our programme delivery to the field, which brings us closer to our beneficiaries and helps ensure greater coordination with the UN system at country level by engaging with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

This will also contribute to more sustainable impact, deepened understanding and engagement with national counterparts, and to the cost-effectiveness of our capacity-building efforts.

The Rabat Office will serve as a much-needed training hub to advance our counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel, where terrorist groups threaten the security, lives and livelihoods of people, including UN peacekeepers.

It will also help enhance counter-terrorism knowledge, skills and tools of law enforcement and border security officers, and promote regional counter-terrorism cooperation and information sharing.

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.

I thank you once again, Minister Bourita, for your leadership and support to the establishment of this new Programme Office.

I look forward to further strengthening our excellent cooperation and partnership.

Thank you.