



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

**Responding to New and Evolving Challenges in the Next Decade: Lessons from Rehabilitation
and Reintegration in Somalia**

**24 June 2021
8:00AM – 9:30AM**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this discussion on lessons learned from rehabilitation and reintegration efforts in Somalia.

I would like to thank the State of Qatar, Somalia and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund for jointly convening this important event and enabling this timely conversation.

The General Assembly and the Security Council have called on Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with terrorist groups.

To help Member States develop such strategies, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has developed a Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration—or PRR.

This Global Programme supports the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States by providing guidance, coordination and capacity building on PRR. One contribution of the programme will be a Compendium of Member State PRR practices and policy recommendations developed in partnership with UNODC and CTED.

Under the Global PRR Programme, UNOCT and partners are also implementing capacity building projects on: violent extremist prisoners; child returnees; probation and parole; and screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. All of these activities are done in full respect for human rights and through a gender and age sensitive approach.

Programme activities are currently being implemented in Cameroon, Chad, Iraq, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda and Uzbekistan. And we expect to be able to support many more countries going forward, upon their request.

A key lesson we have drawn from these projects is that civil society plays a central role in rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) has already recognized this, calling on Member States, as appropriate, to implement PRR strategies in consultation with local communities, mental health and education practitioners and other relevant civil society organizations and actors.

Civil society actors are well familiar with the grievances, hopes, challenges and structural inequalities of local communities. They often have more local access, trust and knowledge than governments do to help their communities confront the evolving challenges posed by returns, marginalization, recruitment and radicalization to violence.

I encourage Member States to engage civil society organizations proactively in rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. This includes ensuring that civil society organizations are adequately resourced and empowered. The work of GCERF is invaluable in this regard, especially in how it works with governments and local actors to identify hot spots and empower community-relevant solutions. I am proud of the partnership we have developed.

Let me conclude by reiterating the full and firm commitment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and its Global Programme on PRR in particular, to support your efforts.

Thank you.