



**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

**Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, on the occasion  
of the Launch of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria and Iraq Third  
Country National Returnees**

**29 September 2021**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Launch of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria and Iraq Third Country National Returnees and its Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

I would like to thank the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for joining UNICEF and UNOCT in convening this event, marking an important milestone in the UN's response to one of the most urgent challenges faced by the international community today.

Let me also thank the other 13 UN partners who comprise the Global Framework and who provide unique and vital contributions to our “all-of-UN” support to Member States.

Seven years since Da'esh seized Mosul and two and a half years since the fall of Baghouz, the time has come to resolve the aftermath of this dark chapter.

Da'esh instituted a brutal and violent regime in Syria and Iraq under which millions of civilians were forced to live. Many local communities were torn apart and left alone to grapple

with the despair that the group and its nearly 40,000 foreign terrorist fighters from some 100 countries inflicted upon them.

With the territorial defeat of Da'esh, thousands of suspected foreign terrorist fighters were detained. Tens of thousands of associated family members were put into displacement camps that were never intended to hold such large numbers.

Since then and to this day, those stranded in camps and held in detention facilities have endured living conditions going from bad to worse, facing escalating violence, all in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many in the camps are deprived of their basic needs and are subject to violations of their human rights. The current situation enables impunity for perpetrators, and denies justice to victims of terrorism.

In addition to the serious humanitarian and human rights concerns, inaction threatens to bring about the very outcomes we intend to prevent:

Firstly, the radicalization and recruitment of a new generation of terrorists;

Secondly, a risk of uncontrolled return by terrorists to their countries of origin or relocation to third countries; and

Thirdly, the strengthening of terrorist groups in the region and around the globe.

Excellencies,

The people of Iraq and Syria should not be left to shoulder the burden of this global challenge, for which we bear collective responsibility. The international community must

commit to promoting accountability by bringing to justice those who have engaged in terrorist acts. And it must take responsibility for protecting the rights of the many victims who remain stranded in the region.

The Global Framework offers us a way forward that is human rights-centered, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive.

Not only does the Global Framework support Member States to protect and address the needs of returnees but it also builds the capacity of Member States to respond to security concerns and to promote accountability. This includes support to develop comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies as outlined in Security Council resolutions 2178 of 2014 and 2396 of 2017.

Now that we have the Global Framework, it is more important than ever to energize it through contributions to its dedicated Multi-Partner Trust Fund. This will enable urgent joint action to address this protracted humanitarian and security challenge.

Through the Global Framework, and in partnership with UNICEF and all relevant UN entities, UNOCT remains committed to supporting requesting Member States that bring their nationals back. We will do so in a manner that ensures security and accountability, reduces the risk of recidivism and terrorist recruitment and movement, while protecting the human rights of all.

I thank you.