



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Opening statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**7th Meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee
14 December 2021, 9:30am – 11:30am EST**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I welcome you all to the 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee.

This meeting comes at the end of a year defined by great progress in our joint cooperation, against the backdrop of the seventh review of the 15-year old Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the 20th anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) following the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Despite the international community's efforts, terrorism remains a real and significant threat to international peace and security. We are seeing an escalating spread and impact of terrorism in many regions of Africa where the Taliban's victory has served to encourage and inspire terrorist groups.

To support Member States in addressing these challenges, strong and sustained multilateral cooperation, understanding, and analysis is required, which is what this Committee was intended to help promote.

The Secretary-General is looking at the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to play a central role in coordinating our common counter-terrorism efforts. I personally thank you all for actively leading and supporting the Compact agenda and making it the largest coordination mechanism within the UN system.

I am also encouraged and delighted by the increasing participation by, and support of, Member States for the Compact and its Coordination platform.

Our first area of focus today will be a strategic discussion on the impact of the latest developments in Afghanistan on the international counter-terrorism landscape. We will then hear progress updates by entities on thematic priorities, followed by a presentation on our flagship Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. After this we will present for adoption the 'Options paper on enhancing regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact'.

Dear Colleagues,

During our last Coordination Committee meeting held in October, we shared insightful reflections on the regional and international implications of the developments in Afghanistan for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, and considered how to adapt our responses.

Guest speakers and entities highlighted concerns regarding operations led by terrorist and other non-state armed groups in the country, coupled with uncertainties regarding the Taliban's capacity or willingness to prevent Afghanistan from being used as a platform for terrorist or criminal activities.

We agreed on the importance to pursue a comprehensive regional approach, by increasing engagement, assessing the needs and enhancing support for Member States in the Central Asia region and in States affected by terrorism.

Entities called for strengthened inter-agency cooperation to implement measures focusing on border security, detecting and preventing terrorist travel, making an active use of INTERPOL databases, enhancing the exchange of intelligence, preventing weapons flows, supporting investigators and judicial authorities, developing prosecution, repatriation, and reintegration strategies, and strengthening our soft power tools.

Building on these recommendations, today's meeting will further our exchange as we hear your updates on this important issue.

On UNOCT's own engagement, I would like to update that I have met with the Permanent Representatives of the five Central Asian countries, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. I will also meet with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization later today. From these discussions, there appears to be a shared view that there is no major direct threat to Central Asian countries in the short-term, however the medium to long term scenario appears to me more chaotic and filled with

uncertainties, including how fast Al-Qaida and Da'esh's "Khorasan Province" are able to constitute external operations capabilities.

Looking ahead, my Office and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Uzbekistan, will convene a high-level conference in Tashkent in March 2022. This conference will provide an opportunity to engage with Central Asian Member States on their CT/PCVE efforts and capacity needs, especially in view of the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Let me take a moment to share with you that since the last briefing to the Compact, UNOCT is now finalizing its first ever Strategic Plan and Programme Framework (SPPF), which includes a new Programme Framework for UNCCT.

The UNOCT SPPF is strongly informed by the recommendations of the 2020 KPMG evaluation of UNCCT. It details the first vision and mission of the Office, as guided by the UNOCT mandate, and outlines five overarching strategic goals for the Office - articulating the Office's aspirations in the CT/PCVE landscape. It will also be supported by a Results Framework that captures all outcomes for each of the Strategic Goals.

I will now like to say a few words on the other items on our agenda.

Under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Compact, we have worked together on global multi-agency projects that provide a much-required holistic focus on priority counter-terrorism areas. One of these projects is our flagship global initiative – the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which supports 49 beneficiary Member States to collect, analyze, and use passenger data to detect and counter the movement of terrorists and serious criminals across borders. You will hear more about the Programme shortly.

On enhancing regional coordination through the Counter-Terrorism Compact which we had discussed during our last two Coordination Committee meetings, I would like to commend working groups who have already undertaken such initiatives. I am aware of the positive engagement between the Compact team and working groups and key entities on finding actionable and mutually agreed solutions of some difficult questions. As agreed, our Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat has presented an agreed paper on initial options for enhancing our regional coordination, which will be presented for adoption today.

Dear Colleagues,

As the year comes to an end, I am grateful to the working groups' Chairs, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs for their relentless efforts and achievements. I look forward to receiving your annual reports, which will pave the way to prepare the third annual report on the Counter-Terrorism Compact to be presented to the Secretary-General in the first quarter of 2022.

Building on the important priorities outlined during the Second United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the recommendations formulated during our meetings and in your work plans, the Compact secretariat will prepare the 2022-2023 Joint Programme of Work of the Coordination Committee, which will be shared with you at the beginning of next year.

I look forward to working closely with all of you over the next year. Rest assured that I and my Office will remain open and engaged with all of you, Member States, civil society and other partners in building a future without terrorism.

Thank you.