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Briefing by
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On the occasion of the
Quarterly Briefing to Member States of the
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

on the upcoming
“High-Level Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference scheduled for 7-8 November in
Budapest”.

23 October 2019, ECOSOC Chamber,
10:00 - 12:00

Dear Under-Secretary-General Voronkov,

Your Excellencies,

Honorable Permanent Representatives, Dear Colleagues,

Let me first of all thank H.E. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) for organizing this meeting today and for giving me the opportunity to brief you about the Regional Conference under the theme “**Prevention of Radicalization to Terrorism: Regional Policy Responses and Risk Mitigation**”, which will be jointly convened by the Government of Hungary and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Budapest, Hungary, on 7-8 November 2019.

Hungary would like to play an active role in the common work of Member States to further strengthen cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. In our view it is essential to have a common understanding among nations regarding the key elements which are also high on the CT agenda. We have to take all possible measures to tackle and eliminate all forms of terrorism.

Hungary believes that the United Nations is the best place to play a leading role in the coordination of international counter-terrorism cooperation, to assess and monitor international priorities, set international strategies and policies and play an important role in capacity building.

All acts of terrorism, including attacks on religious sites are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We are shocked

to see the growing number of terrorist attacks in Europe in the last few years, therefore our country has taken several steps to reduce the security threats posed by terrorism.

By hosting the Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference in Budapest our commitment is to build on the results achieved in the previous regional counter-terrorism conferences as well as to bring in the perspective and the lessons learnt in the Central Eastern European region, especially the security and stability implications of the regional Euro-Atlantic integration efforts in the Western Balkans, that will be a crosscutting topic, throughout the whole event.

We are grateful that USG Voronkov will also personally address the conference. I am pleased to inform you that H.E. Mr. Gilles de Kerchove the Counter-terrorism Coordinator of the EU, H.E. Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and H.E. Mr. Sándor Pintér, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior will be among the keynote speakers as well.

As for the participants, around 130 experts have been invited. They represent UN members states, international and regional organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations and NGOs.

We truly hope that through this diverse participation and rich agenda we will be able to have a comprehensive understanding of the issues raised during the event and the Budapest conference will be a milestone event in the process of the aforementioned joint high-level regional conferences.

Let me give you some details about the program:

Session I. will address terrorist narratives through preventive strategies, raising questions like gaps in monitoring and understanding terrorist narratives and radicalization processes, countering the misuse of modern information and communication technologies, relationship between terrorist narratives and hate speech, and good practices for engaging local communities and non-governmental actors.

Session II. will deal with the assessment and mitigation of risks posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters, - including the identification of suspected FTFs, bringing them to justice, monitoring them in detention and after release. The session will also discuss gender- and age-sensitive reintegration programs, the situation of children associated to European FTFs and engagement of local authorities and communities.

Session III. will cover the topic of engaging youth in preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism and will try to find answers for the following key issues: good practices to prevent youth from being radicalized and recruited; good practices to reach out to and engage marginalized youth and young women as positive agents in safeguarding their peers and communities; sports as means in the prevention of violent extremism.

We believe our experience in the region is worth sharing and it can provide a meaningful contribution to the series of regional conferences previously organized in Nairobi, Kenya, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and in Minsk, Belarus. These conferences play an important role in taking stock of what we have achieved and understanding how we can prepare for future challenges. Once again it is a great honor for Hungary to host this prestigious and important event in association with UNOCT.

Thank you for your kind attention.