



 UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

International Hub on
**Behavioural Insights
to Counter Terrorism**



Remarks

By

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassem Al Thani

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

**In the Opening and Inauguration of the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter
Terrorism, in the State of Qatar**

Doha

7 December 2020

Your Excellency Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism,

Your Excellency Mr. Achim Steiner, Director of the United Nations Development Program,

Your Excellency Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Your Excellency Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,

Your Excellency Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Audience,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you to this opening ceremony of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in Doha, which is considered to be the first International Hub of its kind in the region and in the world, came to fruition through an Agreement signed between the State of Qatar and UNOCT on 15 December 2019, on the sidelines of the 2019 Doha Forum, in presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I also would like to express our appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, for his valuable efforts and fruitful collaboration with both the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar and the National Counter Terrorism Committee at the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar. This collaboration was critical for making this Hub a reality and for it to become operational and which will help in addressing the scourge of terrorism and extremism, which the world has long paid a high price for.

I would like to commend the tireless efforts of Her Excellency Ambassador Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar in New York, to fulfil the guidance and policies of the State of Qatar under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to strengthening the relationship with the United Nations further and to achieve the common goals sought by the international community.

We have hoped that you would be with us today in Doha, which we are proud that it is an international platform for diversity and where numerous offices of the United Nations and international organizations are hosted, in the service of achieving the common interest of Member States and the United Nations system.

Hosting the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism reflects Qatar's strong cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies to achieve its noble purposes. This was reiterated by His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar before the current session of the General Assembly. Undoubtedly, launching the Hub in Doha today is a very clear message that the State of Qatar is delivering on its promises, and that it is continuing to consolidate its partnership with the United Nations, enhance the capacity of the UN's relevant agencies to perform their tasks continuing to actively contribute to international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, which is an deep-rooted commitment by the State of Qatar to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, which the international community is marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its charter.

Realizing the important role of this Hub in combating terrorism, the State of Qatar provided a financial contribution of US \$5 million to be used for the establishment of this Hub and the implementation of its programme of work over a period of three years.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Audience,

The State of Qatar's keenness to host the International Hub on Behavioral Insights stems from its unequivocal policy based on the values, culture, and teachings of the real Islam, which reject terrorism in shape or form and regardless of its causes or motives and its belief that combating this abhorrent phenomenon cannot be achieved individually but requires a holistic and comprehensive approach, combining national, regional and international efforts, to address the root causes of terrorism and confront violent extremist ideologies, which incite violence and hate and chaos and instability around the globe.

Accordingly, the establishment of the International Hub on Behavioral Insights is anchored in educational, scientific and realistic justification. As such, the Doha Center will focus on children and youth because they are the fuel targeted by extremist groups to achieve their goals, which requires that this basic and important segment of society be assigned priority in all national and international plans and programs, if we want to build societies immune to radical and extremist ideas.

I would like to note that the State of Qatar has assigned special priority to combatting violent extremism and worked at the level of the United Nations and at the national level to protect children and young people from radicalization. It led the efforts to convene in 2016 a General Assembly High-level Thematic Conversation on Children and Youth affected by Violent Extremism. It will spare no effort to continue its regional and international partnerships and exert all efforts to achieve this goal.

In this context, we in the State of Qatar are greatly encouraged by the important role played by the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism. This is why we will not hesitate to support the UNOCT to enable it to fulfil its mandate, and we are proud to have become one of UNOCT's largest donors.

In conclusion, I hope that this Hub will achieve its desired goals.

I thank you.