



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Side Event on the Implementation of the Global Aviation Security Plan in the light of UNSCR 2309 (2016): Room UNHQ-CR-B

New York, 28 June 2018, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

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

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address this distinguished audience.

At the outset, I would like to thank the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as the Governments of France, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, for organizing this important side-event and for inviting me to participate.

Events have taught us that terrorist groups continue to view civil aviation as an attractive target. Planes being blown out of the sky terrorize people. This threat demands an urgent and concerted multilateral response. It is therefore incumbent upon the international community to ensure we are all working together to prevent all terrorist risks to aviation security.

In October 2016, a historic event occurred at the United Nations Security Council. A landmark resolution on Aviation Security was unanimously passed by the Council. This resolution called on all Member States to improve and protect aviation security worldwide. Its adoption further underscored the important role of ICAO in supporting Member States to implement international aviation security standards.

One of the primary objectives of establishing the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was to strengthen the delivery of counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States. In this context, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which is placed within

UNOCT, has sought to enhance its cooperation with ICAO and other partners within the UN-system, leveraging their expertise to strengthen our engagement with Member States at the global, regional and national level, as called for in resolution 2309.

For example, ICAO was a key implementing partner in the Centre's advance passenger information project, which was completed in December 2017. This project was instrumental in raising awareness among Member States most affected by the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) phenomenon on the use of advance passenger information data in stemming the flow of FTFs, and further supported them to develop national implementation plans.

Given the important role of ICAO to the capacity-building work of UNOCT, we are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with ICAO that will streamline and strengthen the good cooperation between our two Organizations in the fields of aviation security, border security and management, advance passenger information and passenger name record.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of the United Kingdom for its generous support to the Centre's aviation security project in Nigeria, which has had a positive impact on counter-terrorism efforts in the country. We are now seeking to expand this programme both in Nigeria and in other regions of Africa.

Sixth Biennial Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, originally adopted in 2006, provides a consensus-based framework for Member States to further expand multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

The Sixth Biennial Review of the Strategy has been particularly timely. It has provided a unique opportunity to discuss how to make the UN-system more capable in responding to terrorist threats to civil aviation. UNOCT will continue its efforts to support all Member States to implement the Strategy to address the emerging new threats and evolving trends in aviation security.

In conclusion, I would like to underline the need to step up international cooperation to prevent terrorist attacks against civil aviation. Only by working together, while focusing on facilitating practical multilateral cooperation and assisting those Member States most affected by terrorism, will the international community be successful.

I thank you for your attention.