



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Opening Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

Briefing to Member States by UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities

18 December 2018, 10 a.m.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for attending this final briefing of the year by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to Member States. We will use this occasion to present an overview of our work during the year, highlighting the important developments and achievements.

I would like to thank Mr. Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ms. Michele Coninx, the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Mr. Alexander Avanesov, Head of the UNDP Global Programme on PVE, and Ms. Aurora Saiz Melero from the Office of the Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations, for also joining me on this occasion.

Allow me to start by remembering the thousands of victims of terrorism around the world and express my solidarity with those countries that have suffered terrorist attacks.

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The end of the year is always a good opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and look forward to what more needs to be done. Since the establishment of UNOCT last year, my Office has worked hard to fulfil our mandates, based on our five key functions of (1) leadership on counter-terrorism mandate, (2) strengthening coordination and coherence, (3) capacity building assistance, (4) visibility and resource mobilisation and (5) due priority is given to counter-terrorism in the UN system. I would like to outline the progress UNOCT has made in these areas and the next steps that we plan to take.

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1. Enhancing Coordination and Coherence

Firstly, my Office is tasked with enhancing coordination and coherence across the UN system to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As many of you would recall, the establishment of my Office was the very

first of the Secretary-General's various UN reform initiatives, in response to the request from Member States to strengthen and improve the UN system's work on counter-terrorism.

I am pleased to report that the launch of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact earlier this month was a major step forward in this regard. I would like to take some time to brief you on this important development in some detail.

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This new Global Compact Coordination Task Force framework has replaced the previous Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It updates and revitalizes our coordination framework to ensure a more coherent "one-UN" approach. It is focused on ensuring Impact through Coordination, based on a detailed Methodology and key Principles.

The first Principals-level meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Global Compact took place on 6 December in the presence of the Secretary-General.

So far, the Heads of 36 UN entities working on counter-terrorism, plus INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, have become members of the Global Compact.

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The Coordination Committee will oversee the implementation of the Global Compact and will meet every quarter under my chairmanship in my capacity as Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

Once a year, the Committee will have a Principals-level meeting under the leadership of the Secretary-General to take stock and discuss strategic priorities.

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At our first meeting on 6 December, we discussed how to strengthen the coordination between Global Compact entities while respecting existing mandates. In particular, we discussed:

- Improving how UN entities share information and consult each other to avoid duplication.
- Strengthening our joint programming and other capacity-building activities, with a stronger focus on monitoring and evaluation.
- And enhancing how we communicate and engage with Member States, especially on resource mobilization.

The Secretary-General's clear steer to Global Compact entities at the meeting was to focus on delivery and impact. In line with this, let me briefly highlight a few of the key outcomes of our first meeting.

We have agreed to develop a comprehensive programme of work for the next two years by 31 March 2019. This will be implemented through revitalized and streamlined “All-of-UN” working groups for result-oriented collaboration on thematic priorities.

We have also agreed to establish a new inter-agency working group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation. This working group will aim to develop a stronger monitoring and evaluation framework for the entire Global Compact, so we can better measure the outcomes and impact of our work, including in terms of projects on the ground.

The Compact aims to strengthen the UN system from within. To complement this overall framework, my Office has also taken steps to promote specialized cooperation and collaboration with various parts of the UN Secretariat. We have created a new way of working with CTED in response to Security Council resolution 2395 and have strengthened our partnerships with UNDP, UNODC and DPKO. In 2019, we will build on this to make even more concrete progress.

Moreover, UNOCT has also successfully fulfilled its reporting requirements mandated by the General Assembly, most importantly for the biennial reviews of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, this year, UNOCT was requested by the President of the General Assembly to assume the role of Secretariat to this review process. My Office is also responsible for reporting on the General Assembly resolutions on Victims of Terrorism and on a World Against Violence and Violent Extremism. It also coordinates the Secretary-General’s report every six months on the evolving threat posed by ISIL as per Security Council resolution 2368 (2017).

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2. Providing Leadership on GA Counter-Terrorism Mandates

The second function of my Office is to provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system. Under the leadership of the Secretary-General and in close consultation with Member States, we have undertaken major initiatives to leverage the unique role and convening power of the United Nations.

We successfully supported the 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy this June. We then held the first-ever High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, with the support of everyone in this room. The Conference brought together, for the first time, security, intelligence, military and law enforcement officials, diplomats and policy-makers, civil society and international and regional organizations to discuss practical and operational counter-terrorism issues. It thus fulfilled the Secretary-General’s key objective of strengthening multilateral counterterrorism cooperation, breaking down silos and building new partnerships.

My Office will continue its work to take forward the three key commitments made during the Conference. First, we are working with a number of Member States and regional organizations to plan a series of regional conferences on key thematic issues in the run-up to the next High-level Conference in 2020.

Second, following from our original proposal to create a Network of Counter-Terrorism Coordinators, we will now be working on developing a UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Portal instead of the network. Based on Member States' feedback, including the preference of some to take a less ambitious approach, we are re-designing this portal to serve as a coordination and coherence platform among Member States and UN entities, and to allow for practical information sharing and connectivity. We will soon be sharing a Terms of Reference for this with Member States.

Third, we are consulting widely on how we can strengthen our engagement with civil society across the scope of my Office's work. Given the considerable interest from Member States on this issue, I would like to take this opportunity to update you in greater detail.

Since the High-level Conference, we have met or engaged with over 200 global, regional and local civil society leaders from all over the world, including during my field visits to Fallujah, Timbuktu, Washington, Geneva and Vienna.

On the basis of these preliminary discussions, and ideas received from Member States, we will develop an engagement strategy that will explore good practices from other Global Compact entities, including CTED, UN Women and OHCHR, as well as from Member States.

I am pleased to confirm that we have received some catalytic seed funding from the Governments of Switzerland and Spain to develop this engagement strategy, to be prepared in early 2019.

This strategy will form the basis for further consultations with Member States. It will also review existing networks and make recommendations on how UNOCT can help to strengthen these networks, rather than duplicate or replace them.

We need to ensure a more systematic and regular approach to consultations with civil society organizations, allowing my Office and other Global Compact entities to benefit from their unique expertise and best practices. Moreover, as mentioned by the Secretary-General at the High-level Conference, these efforts will help ensure that the views of civil society are reflected in our policies and programmes.

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UNOCT is also heeding the call from the General Assembly to develop and sustain close partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations. We have developed and are strengthening cooperation frameworks with a growing number of them, including so far with the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

We will now leverage the Global Compact framework to bring the UN system together in implementing these partnership agreements. I believe that UNOCT is uniquely positioned to bridge and coordinate both sides - the internal, on the UN side; while also being outward-facing

towards our regional and sub-regional partners.

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3. Strengthen Delivery of Capacity-Building Assistance

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Office's third function is to strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States. Over this year, we have been redoubling our efforts to better support Member States in concrete, tangible and action-oriented ways.

As always, I wish to thank all the Member States that are providing funding for this important work, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Working closely with partners across the UN system, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) as a capacity-building arm of UNOCT, is currently implementing 38 projects at the global, regional and national levels to support the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

These include 20 projects at global level, 11 projects at regional level, and 7 projects at national level. Of these 38 projects, 10 projects support Pillar I, 12 projects support Pillar II, 7 projects support Pillar III, and 9 projects support Pillar IV. As of 7 December, we have spent almost \$15.4 million and have achieved a 62% project implementation rate.

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In particular, in the spirit of the new Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, we are developing a number of joint projects in collaboration with other UN entities.

An important example of our multi-year programming is our new flagship global project aimed at enhancing the capacity of Member States to use Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data to prevent terrorist travel.

Together with CTED, UNODC, OICT, and ICAO, we launched the API/PNR project on 1 October. Just yesterday, there was a productive expert group meeting to discuss conflict of law issues and human rights concerns pertaining to the use of API and PNR data.

I am confident that this new project will significantly enhance the capabilities of Member States and the broader international community to curb the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2396.

The sustainability and impact of this project over the long term will require joint resource mobilisation. This is why I am grateful to the Netherlands for transferring this technology and their generous financial support. We take this commitment as an expression of confidence in

UNOCT. I encourage all Member States to also consider providing financial support to this important initiative.

Another priority for the UN system is the issue of Foreign Terrorist Fighters. Last week, the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee held an important meeting on this very issue. To support member states in addressing this challenge, the UN's Capacity Building Implementation Plan for Countering the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters includes 40 capacity-building projects from 12 UN entities.

Overall, in 2018, UNOCT has continued to focus on larger and more impactful projects and programmes, including in priority areas such as border security and management, countering the financing of terrorism, youth engagement, skills development and employment facilitation, preventing and responding to terrorism related to weapons of mass destruction, foreign terrorist fighters, and supporting victims of terrorism.

In July, UNCCT launched a global multi-year Victims of Terrorism Support Programme that provides a comprehensive framework to support the rights and needs of victims of terrorism.

A first success of this programme was the organisation of a month-long multimedia exhibition of interviews with victims to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

In 2018, we have also worked hard to engage and empower youth to build their resilience to terrorist recruitment and propaganda. Next year, we intend to further strengthen our work on youth issues.

This year, in Bangladesh, UNCCT trained more than 200 principals and teachers from technical and vocational institutes on preventing violent extremism, institute management, liaison with employers, and entrepreneurship. In view of the positive feedback from the field and growing interest from Member States, the Centre is working to expand this initiative to Indonesia, Iraq, and the Maldives.

Countering terrorist financing is another area where we have contributed significantly to building national capacities.

More than 100 officials from financial bodies, private sector, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies in Tunisia, Mongolia, and Mauritius benefited from training on the implementation of targeted financial sanctions.

UNOCT has also continued efforts on the important issue of human rights. We are working on human rights training for border officials and have held regional workshops in Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, the G5 Sahel and Northern Africa. We are also addressing issues related to children accompanying foreign terrorist fighters, working closely with other UN entities such as OHCHR and the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict.

My Office has also supported the implementation of counter-terrorism strategies in East Africa, Southern Africa, and Central Asia.

Together with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, UNCCT continues to support the comprehensive implementation of the Joint Plan of Action through regional workshops and coordination meetings.

Together with CTED, we engaged extensively with Central Asian countries concerning implementation plans on regional priorities for 2019.

UNCCT Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative in Mali supported the development of a National Policy on Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism and its Action Plan for 2018-2020, as well as the Policy's launch in July in Bamako.

In the coming year, UNOCT will focus on stepping up the implementation of existing capacity-building programmes and projects. Moreover, as I had mentioned earlier, the new and revitalized Global Compact framework for the UN system will help the entire UN "deliver" more effectively to Member States on the ground. Effective implementation of the Compact is thus at the heart of UNOCT's capacity-building mandate.

I am also committed to taking forward the recommendations of the UNCCT Advisory Board to ensure that we are implementing world-class capacity-building projects in a fully accountable and transparent way.

We will continue our useful discussions with the Members of the Board on the future role and composition of the Advisory Board, the Centre's future thematic priorities, resource mobilisation and utilisation, and the monitoring and evaluation of the Centre's programmes and projects.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Al-Mouallimi for his strong leadership and commitment to the work of UNCCT as the Chair of the Advisory Board.

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4. Improve Visibility, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

Many of you have often raised the importance of delivering the fourth element of our mandate, which is "to improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts". I have heard you loud and clear and I have made this a priority since I became Under-Secretary-General.

Through the course of the past year, my office has produced a Communication & Visibility Strategy, issued numerous press releases, media interviews and video messages, produced many publications and launched a twitter account. We have also organised 6 events in 2018 with the Secretary-General to raise visibility of UN efforts on counter-terrorism and PVE

In 2019, our communications efforts will focus on more strategic and coordinated engagement on communications. This includes ensuring the recognition of all donors to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, redesigning the UNOCT website and ensuring even greater transparency and communications with you as Member States and within the UN system, and the general public.

Going forward, we need predictable, sustainable and diverse funding to continue my Office's work.

As you may be aware, my Office has only 8 regular budget posts, one of which is my own, even though what we do is core to the work of the UN. This is a fraction of the Regular Budget resources available to similar UN departments. My Office will study closely how we can address this issue of our limited Regular Budget resources and I hope we can count on your support.

UNOCT thus depends heavily on extrabudgetary contributions. I have been engaging actively with many delegations on this issue of resources, particularly during my visits to different capitals and regions.

I wish to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all Member States that have provided funding for our important work. I am grateful for the new contributions that we have received into the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund this year from Belgium, Japan, the Russian Federation, UK, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, while the European Union and the Republic of Korea will also contribute before the year's end.

In addition, just this weekend, I have signed a new Contribution Agreement with Qatar to strengthen UNOCT, support implementation of the Global Compact and UNOCT capacity projects on API/PNR, and PVE and victims of terrorism. The State of Qatar will contribute US\$ 15 million to UNOCT per year for a period of five years, amounting to a total contribution of US\$75 million.

My Office is also fortunate to have been supported by several Member States through the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme. We currently have 5 JPOs from Sweden, Germany, Kazakhstan, France and Denmark working in UNOCT and I am grateful for this contribution.

Looking forward to 2019, we will launch UNOCT's first Consolidated Multi-Year donor appeal next month, in close consultation with other Global Compact entities. This donor appeal is unique in that we are aiming for an "All of UN" approach to resource mobilization. For the first time, we are presenting projects from various UN entities collectively to Member States.

I hope that you will give careful consideration to supporting the appeal to enable us to do more to assist Member States affected by terrorism and vulnerable to violent extremism.

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5. Prioritize CT and ensure that PVE is rooted in the Strategy

The fifth function of my Office is to ensure that due priority is given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system and its important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

As Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, I am a member of both the Secretary-General's Executive Committee and Senior Management Group. This provides me with important platforms to elevate counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism, as priorities in the work of the Organization, both here at HQ and in the UN's work in the field.

UNOCT has also consistently worked to raise the profile of cross-cutting terrorism issues within the United Nations. For example, we co-hosted an event with UN-Women during the Commission on the Status of Women in March on the importance of advancing women's leadership and participation in counter-terrorism. We also organized a high-level event with the presence of the Secretary-General and his Envoy on Youth in April on the need to invest in youth to tackle terrorism.

Throughout the year, I have made sure to meet and establish relationships with a number of UN Special Representatives and Resident Coordinators to apprise them of the mandate of UNOCT and encourage them to partner with us, within their respective mandate, in supporting Member States to prevent and counter-terrorism.

My Office also strives to anchor the UN system's work on PVE firmly in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, by serving as Secretariat to the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on PVE and chairing the UN interagency working group on PVE.

This year, I launched a global programme in partnership with UNDP to assist Member States in developing and implementing regional and national PCVE plans of actions. We published a Reference Guide for Member States on the subject matter. We recently conducted our first "all-of-UN" scoping missions to Sudan and Kyrgyzstan, at the invitation of the respective governments to identify capacity needs and areas of potential support. I believe my colleague from UNDP, Mr. Avanesov, will also brief you on the work of our joint programme.

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6. Way Forward

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am aware of the high expectations that Member States rightly have for the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

As we look towards the next year, we have built a solid foundation to deliver concrete results. I now intend to transform the achievements we have made this year –the 6th review, the High-Level Conference, recent GA and Security Council mandates, strengthened external engagements and partnerships, and most importantly the launch of the Global Compact -- into real action.

The GA resolution on the 6th review stressed the need to ensure that UNOCT is well-organized to achieve its objectives of transparency, accountability and effectiveness. In line with this, I am now carefully considering steps to make my Office even more effective and responsive to the growing needs of Member States. In particular, I am looking into ways of ensuring that our work and programmes become more structured, efficient and results-oriented.

Effective implementation of the Global Compact arrangement through an “All of UN” approach is another important objective for the next year. The Global Counter-Terrorism Compact arrangement should respond to Member States requests for assistance in the light of the Global Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

After my briefing, my colleague, Ms. Sevil Alirzayeva, Chief of the Office of USG, will explain further details of our Office’s financial performance and organization.

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 Member States.

Let me now hand over to Ms. Alirzayeva. We will then hear from our colleagues in UNODC, CTED, UNDP and INTERPOL, before opening the floor for questions and comments.

Thank you.