



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Mr. Voronkov concludes visit to Doha**

**Doha, Qatar, 16 December** – Mr. Voronkov, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) concluded a three-day visit to Doha, Qatar. He participated in the 2019 Doha Forum organized under the overarching theme of “Reimagining Global Governance in a Multipolar World”. He also held consultations with high-level officials of the State of Qatar and invited Member States and signed a contribution agreement with the Government of Qatar establishing a UNOCT programme office in Doha, as an international hub that will focus on behavioural insights to counter terrorism.

Mr. Voronkov gave key note speeches at the Doha Forum plenary session on “The UN at 75: A Time for Renewal and Innovation”, and at the Roundtable on “Preventing Extremism and Building Resilient Societies in Fragile States,” where he shared insights on factors that contribute to building resilient societies and underscored key contributions of UNOCT in this regard. At Georgetown University in Doha, the Under-Secretary-General participated in a Roundtable entitled “UN at the Crossroads: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities.”

On the margins of the Forum, Mr. Voronkov held consultations with high-level Qatari officials, including H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.H. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Masnad, the Amir’s Advisor on National Security; H.E. Hassan Al-Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy; and Dr. Ahmad M. Hasnah, President of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), among others.

UNOCT and the State of Qatar also held a Strategic Dialogue on Countering Terrorism, co-chaired by Mr. Voronkov and Major General Abdul Aziz Al-Ansari, Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Interior. Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of Qatar for its generous contribution to UNOCT highlighting that Qatar was the second largest donor to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund. He shared an overview of UNOCT programmatic activities supported by the State of Qatar including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the flagship UN Counter-Terrorist Travel programme, as well as projects on victims of terrorism, youth, sports and protection of critical infrastructure.

On the last day of the Doha Forum, a number of UN entities signed agreements with the State of Qatar. Mr. Voronkov signed an agreement establishing a UNOCT programme office in Doha, as an international hub that will study the behavioural roots of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and promote evidence-based and behaviourally inspired global counter-terrorism

policies and programmes. The work of the Doha-based Office will further leverage the expertise of local and regional counter-terrorism actors and enhance programming cooperation and coordination with UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities operating in the field for more impactful delivery. The Government of the State of Qatar will contribute \$5 million over an initial period of three years for the Hub and its activities.

On the sidelines of the Doha Forum, Mr. Voronkov also held high-level bilateral consultations with H.E. Ali Khayre, Prime Minister of Somalia; H. E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Foreign Minister of Slovakia; and Dr. Khalid Koser, Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), among others.

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