

United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and NAUSS to increase collaboration on Counter-Terrorism Capacity-Building

New York, 1 October 2021 - Today the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in a number of key areas related to counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of the UNCCT, and Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Banyan, President of NAUSS.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates the commitment of UNCCT and NAUSS to join forces to support the efforts of the international community to build national, regional and international capacities to address the scourges of terrorism and violent extremism through meaningful and result-oriented actions. The MoU is another achievement in the context of UNCCT's endeavor to foster international cooperation between and among centres of excellence working on counter-terrorism.

Vladimir Voronkov said that the enhanced partnership with NAUSS that this MoU makes possible is an important step forward in achieving our goal of maximizing our capacity-building efforts in the Arab region and beyond. "Creating new national, regional and international partnerships and building global capacities in counter-terrorism is a key focus of my office, and is an important aspect of the direct support to Member States on implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy," he added.

This Memorandum of Understanding will lead to the development of joint projects supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the initial stage, planned activities will include capacity-building workshops in the fields of Border Security and Management, Cybersecurity and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, among other Counter-terrorism related activities.

Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Banyan said "At NAUSS, we are looking forward to the signing of this MOU as it will solidify our partnership with the UNCCT and will allow us to further our shared goals. We will be able to offer more joint services to our stakeholders, particularly in capacity building, joint research, and supporting policy making in the field of counter-terrorism. As a regional organization and the Scientific arm of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its great support to our organization and for this partnership with the UNCCT".

The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations **H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi** was also in attendance in his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Board of UNCCT. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been a constant supporter of international and regional cooperation in countering terrorism and has taken a leadership role in this field. This is reflected in both its support of creating Naif University, a Pan-Arab institution that is based in Riyadh since 1978, and the creation of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre in 2011, which Saudi Arabia played a major role in establishing it," he stated.