



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Welcoming remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
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**Consultation Round Table Meeting: An Integrated Approach to
Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Violent Extremist Prisoners.**

19 October 2021

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
Dear participants,

It is a pleasure to address you today at the opening of this roundtable meeting on the important— but very challenging— topic of rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners.

First, I would like to warmly thank Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, Commissioner General of the Uganda Prisons Service, for co-hosting this timely discussion.

I also would like to thank the representatives of the European Union and the Netherlands for their generous contribution to the project on “Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons,” which is implemented not only in Uganda, but also in Kazakhstan and Tunisia.

I am very proud of the partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which demonstrates the true value of an ‘All-of-UN approach’ to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

The number of violent extremist prisoners is rising across the globe as Member States strengthen their criminal justice responses.

This presents Member States with complex questions:

How to manage these inmates as they serve their sentence?

How to ensure they do not pose a threat once they are released?

And how to prevent prisons from becoming hotspots for further terrorist radicalization?

Prison officials work on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism and extremism. However, as underlined in Security Council Resolution 2396, prison officials should not be expected to undertake the important tasks of rehabilitation and reintegration alone.

Preventing and countering violent extremism requires an 'all-of-society' approach. The prison service, communities, civil society organizations, media, academia and local leaders must come together and cooperate for these efforts to be successful.

This is why I am especially pleased that this event brings together government agencies, civil society and academia to share best practices and agree on a plan of action for an integrated approach for rehabilitation and reintegration in prisons.

I hope that these discussions will help the Uganda Prisons Service and key stakeholders gathered here today to identify existing frameworks, emerging practices and models in Uganda for both prison and community-based initiatives for the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners.

This project not only has value for Uganda, but also for other countries that face similar challenges. Others will learn and benefit from the work you are doing in Uganda.

I wish the project and all of you great success and fruitful work in the coming days.

Thank you.