



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance
Session I: “Strategic Priorities for Programming to Prevent and Counter
Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism”**

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Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

According to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States have the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy and for countering terrorism.

But despite comprehensive efforts of Member States, United Nations entities, international, regional and civil society organizations, terrorism continues to pose new and emerging threats to international peace and security.

Today’s threats include new challenges in cyber space, including its use by terrorists to communicate, recruit, plan, raise funds and even train. But also as an attack vector.

Digital platforms such as social media, online video games and their adjacent applications have become hotbeds of terrorist propaganda and recruitment.

Terrorists have also gained access to increasingly complex technologies such as unmanned aerial systems and 3D printing.

Terrorist access to small arms and light weapons continues to pose risks, particularly in conflict zones like Afghanistan, where government weapon stocks came up for grabs during the Taliban takeover. And we must remain constantly alert to efforts by terrorists to obtain weapons of mass destruction.

Terrorists continue to find new ways to finance their activities, including through cryptocurrencies and digital assets, mobile payments systems, and even crowd-funding.

And we have seen how COVID-19 has exacerbated grievances and polarization that terrorists manipulate to attract new members to their ranks.

The result is alarming: Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their regional affiliates have intensified their activities and expanded their geographical presence, while terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief, continues to grow.

All this poses a significant threat to international peace and security and risks slowing or reversing hard-won gains.

It is therefore crucial to identify and articulate strategic priorities for programming and to ensure our operational activities and outputs align with those priorities.

Human rights and gender considerations are central in this regard: the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures is significantly improved when human rights are respected, protected, promoted and when our actions are gender responsive.

That is why this session is timely— serving as an opportunity to review our performance and identify the areas that need strengthening.

We need to invest in policy coherence at all levels, cooperation with and between regional and sub-regional organizations, and collaboration with civil society and private sector actors.

This will provide a basis for subsequent discussions during this forum and help to improve and calibrate our cooperation and support.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The international community has made important gains to counter terrorism, and it is crucial to sustain this progress while remaining vigilant and monitoring the evolving threat.

The United Nations system, through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, continues to support Member States in their implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We need to make the Compact platform available to all partners to strengthen policy coherence and streamline collaboration around our counter-terrorism efforts.

Inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism serves as a solid foundation for international counter-terrorism efforts – and the United Nations system is committed to assisting requesting Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

Because together, we can build a future without terrorism.

I look forward to your thoughts and a discussion that sets the stage for coherent policy, coordination and programmatic priorities as well as innovative solutions.

Thank you.