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Fourth High-Level Strategic Dialogue between the State of Qatar & UNOCT



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OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM



PRESS RELEASE

UNOCT and the State of Qatar Hold Fourth High-Level Strategic Dialogue

Doha, State of Qatar, 27 March 2022 – The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Government of the State of Qatar held their fourth High-Level Strategic Dialogue today. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, co-chaired the dialogue with Major General Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Ansari, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Ministry of Interior, the State of Qatar. H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed S. Al-Thani, the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Ali bin Khalfan Al Mansouri, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State of Qatar also participated in the meeting.

The Strategic Dialogue reviewed the progress in counter-terrorism cooperation between UNOCT and the State of Qatar since the last Strategic Dialogue held on 9 December 2020. It also assessed UNOCT-led programmes, projects and activities funded by the State of Qatar, which is the second leading donor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. The two sides also discussed strategic priorities for the coming year for effective United Nations counter-terrorism support to Member States. The two sides reaffirmed their strong partnership and discussed opportunities for further collaboration.

Major General Al-Ansari welcomed UNOCT's recent achievements with the support of the State of Qatar, highlighting the Office's policy leadership, coordination and coherence and information sharing roles to ensure that counter-terrorism remains high on the global agenda. In addition, he welcomed the recent efforts of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to respond to emerging global developments and encouraged its expansion, including enhanced coordination with United Nations field presences and regional organizations. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov thanked the State of Qatar for its vital support and collaboration with UNOCT. He also highlighted UNOCT's increased support to Member States and United Nations entities to mainstream human rights and gender, as well as advocacy for the rights and needs of victims of terrorism across all counter-terrorism activities.

Both sides expressed their commitment to continued cooperation in the implementation of tailored, global programmes to support requesting Member States and other counter-terrorism stakeholders for:

- Strengthening support for UN counter-terrorism processes, including the reviews of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN counter-terrorism reports,
- Strengthening coordination and coherence of Member States' counter-terrorism efforts at the international level with the support of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact,
- Detecting and countering terrorist travel,
- Integrating threat assessment into aviation security risk management frameworks,
- Securing major sporting events, and promoting sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism,
- Protecting vulnerable targets, critical infrastructure, and soft targets,
- Preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism, including through innovative use of behavioral insights,
- Supporting the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism,
- Supporting victims of terrorism, and
- Establishing national interagency coordination mechanisms, or "fusion cells."

The two sides also highlighted UNOCT's expanded partnerships beyond the United Nations system, including through the work of UNOCT's Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, as well as the International Hub on Behavioral Insights to Counter Terrorism, both hosted in Doha with the support of the State of Qatar, and the Office's establishment and full operationalization of several of its field presences.

Members of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact also discussed the broader cooperation between the State of Qatar and the United Nations system to deliver "all-of-UN" support to Member States and other beneficiaries. Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown from the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, the Taliban, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities., and Mr. Ahmed Seif El-Dawla from the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate contributed to identifying priorities to support Member States and other beneficiaries to address their most urgent needs and challenges considering the evolving terrorist threat.

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