



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Opening Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism

**CT Week Side Event:
Launch of the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa
22 June 2023, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us this morning to launch the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa.

With the Joint Appeal we are opening a new chapter in the way the United Nations system is working together – not just in terms of raising critical funding – but how we collaborate in addressing complex and emerging threats jointly.

To grasp the significance of the Joint Appeal, you only need to look at today's distinguished opening panel.

The Joint Appeal supports a new generation of UN-led strategic joint initiatives across borders, partners and thematic siloes for a more visible, transparent, and effective multilateral contribution to the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Africa.

The magnitude, complexity, and dynamics of today's threats to peace and security across the continent require multi-faceted and integrated responses that cannot be resolved by any one actor alone.

Dear colleagues,

This is, in fact, already the third time we are presenting a consolidated appeal to you.

Two consecutive joint multi-year appeals for counter-terrorism have brought UN entities closer together for coordinated fund raising, joint outreach to partners and beneficiaries, and enhanced programmatic collaboration.

The initiatives under the last Multi-Year Appeal reported over \$15 million in contributions from a broad alliance of 18 funding partners, who I am deeply grateful for: Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In addition, UNOCT allocated \$23.6 million to 15 initiatives under the Multi-Year Appeal funded from contributions by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

By many measures, the Multi-Year Appeal was a success. And it put in place the strong partnership foundations, without which we would not be here today.

To prepare for the Joint Appeal, we consulted 12 participating entities, the 18 funding partners and, importantly, the 52 project managers who implemented its initiatives on the ground across the globe.

Allow me to highlight just five key attributes that set the Joint Appeal apart:

First, a clear geographic focus on Africa, where our concerted, innovative action is most urgently needed.

Second, exclusive support for joint initiatives that demonstrate the value of the multilateral system working together.

Third, rigorous focus on results and impact for strategic and transformative change.

A shortlist of 10 initiatives have been screened by the monitoring and evaluation experts of the inter-agency working group, who will continue to follow and guide the projects on their results focus. It is very important to have core initiatives to attract more attention and move forward effectively.

Fourth, the initiatives are fully aligned with national priorities and respond to technical assistance needs identified by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate.

Last, all initiatives strive to promote exemplary human-rights-based and gender-responsive approaches and will maintain this focus throughout delivery.

Dear colleagues,

The Joint Appeal is the collaborative endeavor of 16 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

Will this address all of Africa's funding needs to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism? Not at all.

Does the Joint Appeal comprise everything the United Nations system is jointly delivering across the continent? No it does not.

Rather, with the Joint Appeal we are pursuing a more modest objective, but which, at the same time, is also more ambitious.

We have selected ten initiatives to demonstrate new ways of working and to show you what's possible when we bring together the best that the United Nations system has to offer, often in fresh and innovative ways.

We invite you to join us on this journey today.

Thank You.