



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

**Opening Ceremony of the Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI)**

**Foundational Module**

**Rabat, 22 April 2024**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honour that I address you today for the opening ceremony of the Foundational Module of the 2024 cycle of the Specialized Training on Counter-Terrorism Investigations (STOCTI).

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco, for hosting our Programme Office in Rabat and for its continuous and exceptional support for the development of this programme.

Allow me to also thank the distinguished representatives of our international partners, the Governments of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, and Portugal for their steadfast support and generous contributions.

This flagship programme was developed by our UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa and our Global Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programmes, with our partner, the Al-Akawayn University in Ifrane. This joint effort is a testament to our shared commitment to excellence and skills development in the fight against terrorism.

Building on the obvious achievements of the 2022 and 2023 training cycles, it is my pleasure to launch this third iteration of our STOCTI training with an impressive number of participants, from different parts of Africa, including Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, and Togo.

You are here today and your participation in this unique training programme is the result of concerted international efforts to address the challenge of terrorism.

You are here today because your government has selected you to become an agent of positive change in the fight against terrorism. And other countries trusted us in this programme.

In the forthcoming weeks, you will be immersed in a rigorous curriculum that will provide you with specialized knowledge and a set of competencies which are crucial to effectively prevent, counter, and investigate acts of terrorism.

Through a series of modules, lessons, and practical exercises, you will not only refine your individual capabilities but also strengthen our collective effort to safeguard our communities and uphold the values of peace and security.

The accreditation of this training by the Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane and the Executive Masters diploma that will be awarded to those who successfully complete the programme, underlines the quality of the instruction you will receive. It also constitutes a major opportunity for your professional development, and contribution to your nation's counter-terrorism efforts.

I encourage you to embrace every day as an opportunity for advancement and progress in your respective countries' fight against an enemy that too often strikes our communities.

I also encourage you to actively engage with your peers, the experts, practitioners, and instructors that will share their knowledge. Our STOCTI programme is an opportunity to build working relations with other African and international colleagues and strengthen our collective response to terrorism.

In conclusion, I wish each of you an enriching and successful experience during this training program.

Thank you.