



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

**Investigating Innovative Approaches to efficiently Address Terrorists  
Exploitation of Porous Borders in Africa  
Tripoli, Libya, 25 April 2024**

Chairman of the Presidential Council of Libya, Mohamed Al Manfi,  
Minister of Justice, Ms. Halima Rahman,  
Lieutenant General Hussein Al Ayeb, Head of the Libyan Intelligence Service,  
Mr. Kamal Ait Addi, Head of Counter Terrorism, in the General Directorate of Studies and  
Documentation of the Kingdom of Morocco,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address you today from Tripoli, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Libya and the Kingdom of Morocco for organizing this event, which is a continuation of the collaborative spirit fostered at last year's Marrakesh Platform. This meeting draws together Member States and individuals with a shared commitment to peace and security from across the globe.

The theme of today's gathering, "Investigating Innovative Approaches to Efficiently Address Terrorist Exploitation of Porous Borders in Africa," speaks directly to the urgent need for cooperative action.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The spread of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism undermines peace, security, and stability in Africa. Da'esh, Al-Qaida, and their affiliates have exploited instability and conflict to increase their activities and intensify attacks across Africa.

The exploitation of local grievances and use of mis- and dis- information, the proliferation of weapons, transfer of funds, abuse of knowledge, and movement of fighters – including across “porous” borders across the continent - illustrate the transregional nature of the threat.

These evolving dynamics underscore the critical necessity for comprehensive regional cooperation and the fortification of institutional frameworks to effectively confront and mitigate these threats.

In particular, the Sahel region continues to face nexus of increasing terrorist activity and organized crime, underscoring the need for comprehensive approaches, where enhanced collaboration and innovative security solutions are accompanied by measures to address terrorist recruitment, financing and the flow of illegal weapons.

Considering the challenges we face, we must remain committed. And we must work together to meet this common threat.

Today, we are better equipped than ever before, with access to advanced technologies that can significantly enhance our security efforts and operations.

Unmanned aircraft systems, artificial intelligence, and other technological tools offers us the means to overcome the limitations and gaps that have long affected some African countries.

These technologies are not merely aids; they are transformative elements that are already integral to the solutions the United Nations and the Office of Counter-Terrorism are implementing in Africa, through African institutions, ensuring that our approaches are locally informed, globally supported and human rights-complaint.

As part of these efforts, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism has a project in West Africa supporting the deployment of unmanned aircraft systems to enhance border security and management.

We are also supporting African Member States in their efforts to counter terrorist travel. For example, our CT Travel Programme is working closely with 72 Member States including 28 from Africa, to strengthen border security and information sharing.

And last year the Office launched the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism and the office in Dakar along with our partners IOM, UNODC and INTERPOL, to support Member States identify the main challenges and needs in terms of cross-border security and integrated governance in the central Sahel.

While our Fusion Cells Programme over the past six months has supported African security agencies – including representatives from Libya and Morocco – to strengthen their capacities on analysis, ethical decision-making, open-source investigation and information-sharing, including on transnational threats.

During the High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting held in Abuja just a few days ago, participants reiterated the importance of African-led and African-owned approaches to countering terrorism. They emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation and building the capacities of Member States that are affected by terrorism and the importance to stay together in fighting this scourge.

I am particularly proud of the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa, based in Rabat, which offers a new approach to counter-terrorism capacity-building in Africa.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must also be mindful that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone.

Such efforts must be accompanied by meaningful investments in prevention to address the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism, in order to avoid contributing to vicious cycles.

This “new paradigm” for prevention was highlighted in the United Nations Secretary-General’s *A New Agenda for Peace* and will be addressed in the upcoming Summit of the Future to be held in New York, in September this year.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Collectively, we have made considerable advances towards realizing our common commitments under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, we must also recognize the complex security challenges we face require sustainable and predictable resources.

Without the necessary tools and funding, our intentions to foster peace and stability will fall short. This is a critical juncture where strategic investments in counter-terrorism can yield substantial benefits for global peace.

Multilateralism is more needed than ever. Our shared experiences provide a strong foundation for developing effective counter-terrorism strategies.

Together, let us forge a path toward a more secure and prosperous future for Africa, united in our resolve and enriched by our diverse perspectives.

We must work together if we want to stand a chance against terrorism.

I thank you for your attention.