



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Heads of African Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies discuss the Evolving Field of Intelligence Analysis in the Context of Counter-Terrorism**

**Fez, Morocco - 4-5 June 2024** – The High-Level event of Heads of African Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies in Africa, known as the Marrakech Platform, started in Fez, today to discuss the evolving field of intelligence analysis in the context of counter-terrorism.

Launched in June 2022, the Marrakech Platform is designed to promote regional cooperation and capacity-building in counter-terrorism in Africa. It provides a unique forum for African counter-terrorism and intelligence agencies to discuss current threats including new and emerging technologies; and to coordinate effective responses to the diverse challenges posed by terrorism on the continent.

The opening ceremony of the third edition of this annual meeting was co-chaired by the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Vladimir Voronkov; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita; and the Director General of the General Directorate for Studies and Documentation, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Yassin Mansouri.

Mr. Voronkov, extended his gratitude to the Royal Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and co-organizing this strategic event, as well as for its strong support to UNOCT. He noted that the Marrakech Platform continues to expand with new Member States and additional requests to join, which confirms its added value, and the commitment of all the participating Member States to strengthen regional and international cooperation.

The third edition of the Marrakech Platform gathered representatives from 54 African Member States and international partners, as well as four regional organizations, namely Accra Initiative, Africa Focus Group of the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund – GCERF and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

This two-day event focused on Intelligence Analysis in the context of Counter-Terrorism and discussed key topics such as the threat landscape in Africa as well as its challenges and opportunities for inter-agency cooperation, counter radicalization from an intelligence perspective.

Mr. Voronkov highlighted that while Artificial Intelligence can be misused by terrorist groups, it also offers powerful new opportunities for counter-terrorism at both operational and strategic levels. “However, achieving this still requires a serious investment in capacity building, and close collaboration between public authorities, the private sector, academia,

and civil society,” he added stressing the need to respect human rights in the design, development, deployment, and use of Artificial Intelligence.

The Marrakech Platform is co-organized by the Kingdom of Morocco and UNOCT through its Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa in Rabat. The Programme Office supports African Member States in their efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism and plays a key role in delivering counter-terrorism technical assistance in the region.

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