



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
at the Side Event on the margins of the 10th ECOSOC Youth Forum**

**“Intergenerational Dialogue on the UN Commitment to Meaningful Youth Engagement
and the Promise of the UN75 Declaration”**

Tuesday, 6 April 2021, 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

Dear Friends,

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this event on the margins of the 10th ECOSOC Youth Forum which takes place at a decisive moment in history.

This is an occasion to highlight the critical role of young women and men in the success of the UN75 Declaration.

But we don't have to wait to the future for young people to have a say and a role in shaping the world.

Young people can have, and are already having, a positive and powerful impact on the world right now.

The future depends on us investing in the children and young women and men of today.

The United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres has made it clear that more of the same is not sufficient. We need transformative change and intergenerational leadership.

The United Nations system, working through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact that I chair, is committed to working with all generations to ensure a future without terrorism.

In 2020, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in my Office — known as UNCCT — launched a Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme, which truly reimagined what meaningful youth engagement means.

This programme has developed an innovative peer-to-peer youth engagement model, which empowers young leaders to create “brave spaces” to engage with their peers at the grassroots of local communities. We are ready to support others to adopt this model.

My Office works closely with youth all over the world, but much more can and should be done.

Dear young participants,

We need your help to deliver the future you want.

We need you to continue your quest for peace, justice, human rights and dignity. And your fight for equal opportunities, education, mutual respect, and inclusive communities.

This is also our fight. Our common agenda to ensure that the world in which your children and grandchildren grow up leaves no one behind.

Let me reiterate what I have said before: it is time to build an alliance with youth. An alliance for today and the future to ensure we deliver on the promise of the UN75 Declaration.

I look forward to an interesting exchange of insights and innovative and bold ideas with all the youth participating today.

Thank you.