



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism [pre-recorded]**

**Side Event: Securing of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks: Promoting Sustainable Security
and Legacies**

29 June 2021, 1.30 p.m. (NY time)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to side event on “Securing of Vulnerable Targets from Terrorist Attacks: Promoting Sustainable Security and Legacies”.

We are here because historically, terrorist groups have attempted, and continue to attempt, attacks against sporting events.

The tragic story of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, the 2009 terrorist attack against the Sri Lankan cricket team, and the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013, as well as many other attacks against other sporting events, are stark reminders of this awful reality.

Sporting events are not solely targeted because they are attended by large groups of people, but also because they represent what terrorists aim to destroy in our societies and across the world: human dignity, peaceful coexistence and high ideals.

As many of us have experienced first-hand, sport is an extraordinary generator of positive values with unifying power, which can transcend civilizational and cultural barriers. Sport pushes people to work harder, reach higher, and be better global citizens.

Therefore, the protection of sports venues and major sporting events is a priority for the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, or UNOCT.

Strengthening inter-agency coordination, developing public-private partnerships, and building capacities for law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders are critical preventive measures in this regard.

UNOCT is proud to present the ‘United Nations Global Guide on the Security of Major Sporting Events: Promoting Sustainable Security and Legacies’, as the first of a series of UNOCT thematic guidance documents aimed to promote good practices related to the protection of vulnerable targets.

This Guide has been developed as part of UNOCT's Global Sports Programme, in partnership with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the International Centre for Sport Security, and in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The guide provides policymakers and relevant security stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of good practices to inform the security considerations in the planning, preparation, organization and management of major sporting events.

This publication greatly benefited from the contributions of a wide variety of Member States, international organizations, regional organizations, sports associations, the private sector, and academia.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the generous financial contributions of the State of Qatar, the People's Republic of China through the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, and the Republic of Korea, which have made this publication and the entire work carried out by the Global Sports Programme possible.

The Global Sports Programme is also preparing a policy level guide on the use of sports values to prevent violent extremism that will be presented during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I encourage all of you to utilize this new resource in the planning of security arrangements for upcoming major sporting events.

Let me conclude by thanking everyone for their valuable contributions to today's side event. I wish you a productive discussion, and look forward to the outcomes of the meeting.

Thank you.