



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism  
Launch of the “UNOCT Connect & Learn Platform”**

**1 October 2021**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to the launch of the UNOCT “Connect & Learn” platform.

This global platform is built to be innovative and inclusive. It will serve as an advanced learning tool for a global community of practitioners working on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive for terrorism.

As we all know, despite progress in the fight against terrorism over the past 20 years, the threat still spread and evolved to become more complex and volatile. This situation has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused massive economic losses and unprecedented unemployment rates; the pandemic has isolated people, created a fertile ground for disinformation and terrorist recruitment as people have spent more time online.

Against this backdrop, the unfolding global security concerns present new counter-terrorism challenges, for which international cooperation is now more crucial than ever. We must join our forces at local, national, regional and international levels and use creative means to redouble our efforts for stronger and more resilient societies. Therefore, it is essential for the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to expand delivery for capacity-building by using innovative and unconventional means, to reach as many beneficiaries as possible. We are doing so through our new “Connect & Learn” Platform.

The Platform will yield two outcomes. First, through eLearning it will strengthen and reinforce in-person counter-terrorism capacity-building by providing stakeholders with access

to learning modules, tools, and training courses. These modules are globally accessible and include both instructor-led and self-paced courses. They will serve as multipliers for expanding the outreach of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism while complementing its in-person programmatic activities.

Second, the novel approach of the “Connect & Learn” platform lies in its “Communities of Practice” forum that will allow approved users to connect and share knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned. Discussion groups, activity streams and collaborative work will be facilitated through the forum, as well as the sharing of access to resource libraries. This will further encourage the exchange of information and build strong partnerships to produce innovative responses to the challenges at hand.

These features will allow experts and stakeholders, including counter-terrorism experts from Member States, the private sector, civil society, and academia from around the world to use the Platform to connect and collaborate in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism remains committed to expanding innovative course offerings and increasing content accessibility through the Platform. Contributions to the Platform will fund the creation of new workshops, interactive courses, and additional features offered through extensions and plug-ins. It will also enable the Platform to accommodate more advanced counter-terrorism trainings, develop course translations to further widen their reach.

Excellencies,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Republic of Korea for its support and dedication to the creation and launch of UNOCT’s Connect & Learn Platform. My words of gratitude to Ambassador Cho for his personal engagement in implementation of the idea of the Platform. Thank you very much ambassador.

I would also like to offer sincere thanks to all our donors, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the European Union, the United States of America, The Netherlands and Japan. The combined contributions of our donors allow the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to continue its crucial work in our joint fight against terrorism.

To conclude, I am extremely grateful to the UNOCT team which made today's launching event happened. We have started a new page in the development of our office. Sincere congratulations.

Thank you for your attention.