



# Launch of the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi

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## PRESS RELEASE

### UN OFFICE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM LAUNCHES PROGRAMME OFFICE IN NAIROBI

**Nairobi, 9 March 2022** - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) opened a new Programme Office in Nairobi, Kenya today to support countries in East Africa and the broader region in their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The launch event was held in coordination with the Government of Kenya at the United Nations Office of Nairobi (UNON), and gathered government representatives from Kenya and countries in the region, the diplomatic community, as well as global, regional and national partners.

**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**, highlighted in a video message that the newly established Programme Office is a key part of a broader initiative to give new momentum to multilateral cooperation to address the evolving threat of terrorism and violent extremism in eastern Africa. He underscored that "the Programme Office in Nairobi will make an important contribution to countering terrorism in Eastern Africa and beyond, by sharing critical information, good practices and lessons learned in a more proactive way between countries to build trust, knowledge and institutional capacities."

**H.E. Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government, Government of Kenya** welcomed "the opening of the UNOCT Programme Office and reiterated the commitment support the regional and global efforts to combat the terrorist threat".

**Dr. Simon Nyambura, Director of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Center of Excellence on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism** welcomed the added capacity that the UNOCT Program Office will bring to the region. "We look forward to cooperating closely with our partners to strengthen peace and stability for our region. We all have a role to play towards a peaceful and secure region and must all step up and work



together to fight against terrorism and violent extremism. This is our common goal and I assure you of IGAD's commitment towards a peaceful and secure Eastern Africa region," he added

The new Programme Office will enable UNOCT to provide support to Member States and other stakeholders in East Africa and the Horn of Africa as they work to deliver on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). The GCTS provides a unique and comprehensive framework to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism.

In addition to the Programme Office in Nairobi, UNOCT maintains a field presence in 12 other locations across the globe to work closely with beneficiaries and partners on the ground and provide more targeted and cost-effective support to the respective regions.

The first workshop supported by the Office will focus on mobilizing South-South Cooperation in support of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Eastern and Southern Africa, especially through the sharing of expertise and lessons learned.

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For more information:

Ms. Laurence Gerard ([gerardl@un.org](mailto:gerardl@un.org)), Public Information Officer, UNOCT

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