



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Launch of the United Nations Compendium of Good Practices and  
Related Guidelines on Establishing  
and Operating a Fusion Centre  
Marrakech, 24 June 2022**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco,  
Distinguished delegates from participant Member States,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to this launch of the Global Fusion Cells Programme's Compendium of Good Practices and Related Guidelines, in our newly-established Rabat Programme Office and Training Centre.

UNOCT launched the three-year, multi-agency Global Fusion Cells Programme in January 2020 with funding from the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) and the governments of Portugal and Qatar. It is being implemented by our Special Projects and Innovations Branch, in cooperation with our partners at the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), United Nations Police (UNPOL), the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CAERT), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

The Programme supports Member State beneficiaries in developing national interagency coordination mechanisms that pool and analyse information to enable informed decision-making, help prevent attacks, ensure proper preparedness, and promote intelligence-led activity. The analytical products produced by such mechanisms can also be used to drive investigations to ensure that best evidence is gathered, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful prosecution.

In recent years, Member State representatives and counter-terrorism officials have expressed concerns that some states, especially fragile and conflict-affected ones, lack

sufficient capability to enable their respective intelligence and law enforcement institutions to prevent and counter terrorism and organized crime. This situation is often exacerbated by a lack of internationally standardized good guidance and professional training curricula.

Over the past two decades, we have learned that terrorism is a long-term problem and that there are no quick fixes. Military counter-terrorism operations may be necessary, but comprehensive measures with a strong focus on intelligence-led law enforcement investigations and interagency coordination are required to identify, prevent, pursue, and prosecute terrorism.

Fusion mechanisms help address the lack of interagency coordination and cooperation. The mechanism requires the development of horizontal, cooperative, inter-ministerial, inter-agency, and fluid counter-terrorism architecture capable of gathering information from all sources.

The Fusion cells programme has worked closely with Member States and their institutions to gain situational awareness and understand their legislative and institutional frameworks, as well as their operational needs before providing support through the delivery of best practices, knowledge products, training and expertise. All this is done to ensure that Member States are better prepared to face the challenges they face.

In July 2020, UNOCT began collecting and analyzing all available international good practice on national fusion centres, before drafting the first iteration of this Compendium.

We then gathered representatives from over 23 Member States, including several from Africa, for two Expert Working Group meetings in late 2020 to share operating procedures, key findings, recommendations, and best practices relating to establishing and operating a fusion centre.

I commend all those experts who participated in developing this Compendium, which promotes agreed-upon terminology and covers how to establish and operate a national Fusion Cell.

I am confident that sharing this compendium with our Member State beneficiaries will lead to enhanced inter-agency coordination and help us all in our joint fight against terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I encourage you all to take full advantage of the Compendium and engage with the Global Fusion Cells Programme to discuss the comprehensive support we can offer the institutions that you represent, for example, the programme's 10-week modular portfolio of training as well as its mentoring support.

I want to conclude by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for its ongoing support, not least for putting at our disposal this excellent training facility and for its continuing commitment and support to counter-terrorism in Africa. I also commend the Kingdom's ongoing and collaborative counter-terrorism efforts in building a future of peace and dignity for all.

Thank you.