



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
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**Reinforcing the global nuclear security
architecture: Universalization of the
International Convention for the Suppression
of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**

03 August 2022

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Secretariat

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this high-level side event on reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture by universalizing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and encouraging its implementation by States Parties.

In this event, the United Nations and other international organizations will discuss their efforts in countering nuclear terrorism while States Parties will be able to highlight how their adherence and implementation measures contribute to nuclear security and the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Since 2019, in an all-of-UN approach, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have partnered to implement the project on Promoting

Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

This project is a testament to the commitment of the European Union, co-sponsor of today's event, to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism and promote nuclear security. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the European Union as both our donor and partner in this endeavor, and specifically to Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, the European Union Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, for co-chairing today's event.

Several United Nations entities and international organizations with which we have been working are joining our efforts today, either in person or through a video statement: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Criminal Police Organization. Last but not the least, I am grateful to those Member State representatives who agreed to share their experience of the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention by consensus in 2005. It entered into force in 2007 and currently has 119 Parties. As a legally binding instrument, the Convention obliges State Parties to extradite or prosecute alleged offenders and calls for cooperation among State Parties in preventing terrorist attacks by sharing information and assisting each other with criminal investigations and extradition.

In its conclusions and recommendations in the final document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference had encouraged all State Parties to ratify the Convention as soon as possible. The subsequent Preparatory Committee

meetings for the 2020 Review Conference reiterated their concerns regarding the threat of terrorism and the importance of ratifying and implementing the Convention.

Today's meeting seeks to promote these common efforts and approaches towards reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture and the universalization and implementation of the Convention.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The risk of terrorists gaining access to nuclear and radiological materials poses a significant threat to humanity and international peace and security.

In 2014, it was reported that Da'esh had seized 40 kilos of low enriched uranium from scientific institutions at the Mosul University in Iraq. This demonstrates that the prospect of such materials falling into the hands of non-state actors, including terrorists, is all-too-real.

In June 2022, Tajikistan reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency that during a special operation, 133 pieces of nuclear material] weighing 607 grams were seized from several of its citizens, who had planned to sell the materials either within the country or to buyers in Afghanistan.

To address such threats, universal adherence to this key legal instrument remains an essential goal. It facilitates international cooperation, including the exchange of information on nuclear security threats, prosecution and extradition of suspects.

It is my hope that you will find today's event informative and useful and that it will reinforce Member States' interest to consider ratification of this important Convention.

Both UNOCT's United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime remain ready to support the Member

States within the framework of the ICSANT project. Through effective cooperation and partnerships, we hope to provide a collective response to the global challenge of nuclear terrorism.

Thank you very much.