



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**High-level hybrid event to launch the updated  
United Nations Compendium of Good Practices on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure  
against Terrorist Attacks**

**5 June 2023, 16:00 p.m. – 17:45 p.m. (Madrid time)**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to welcome you to this high-level event to launch a new edition of the UNOCT-CTED-INTERPOL Compendium of good practices on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks.

It is a great pleasure to do so in person from our new Programme Office in Madrid, which we will formally inaugurate tomorrow, together with the representatives of Spain and to have so many of you also be able to join us online.

I am honoured to be in the company of His Excellency Abdulla bin Ibrahim Abdulrahman Sultan Al Hamar, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Spain, and Mr. José Luis Pérez Pajuelo Director of the Spanish National Centre on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

I am also grateful to my colleagues, Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Mr. Gregory Hinds, Director for Counter-Terrorism of the International Criminal Police Organization, who are joining us online today.

A special thanks to Spain for hosting us, and to the State of Qatar for all the enduring support extended to UNOCT, including to the Global Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets implemented by UNOCT, CTED, the United Nations Alliance of Civilization, and the United Nations Interregional Criminal Justice Research Institute.

Since its start in 2021, the Programme has reached two thousand and two hundred participants through 37 activities; delivered tailored technical assistance and capacity-building to five

beneficiary Member States; and created a Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection, made up of 200 representatives from close to 70 Member States, as well as international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Just last September, we presented five new guides focusing on safeguarding public places or “soft targets,” including religious and tourist sites, urban centers, public events, and the cross-cutting threat posed by unmanned aircraft systems.

And today, I am proud to launch the expanded and updated edition of the Compendium on Critical Infrastructure Protection produced by UNOCT, CTED and INTERPOL in the framework of the Global Coordination Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The updated Compendium now includes developments that have taken place on critical infrastructure protection since its first edition in 2018.

It provides a set of international good practices, tools, and case studies to support the efforts of Member States in this area.

In recent years terrorists have demonstrated a particular interest in attacking essential sectors such as transportation, energy, and agriculture, because they know that by incapacitating or destroying them, they would undermine national security, the economy, and public health or safety.

To give a recent example, earlier this year United States authorities arrested neo-Nazis who planned to target the power grid in Maryland.

Additionally, growing interconnectedness and interdependence of essential industries and facilities increase their vulnerabilities to large-scale attacks with massive cascading effects.

This new security reality requires States to review the existing strategies and invest in collaborative approaches and interagency cooperation at all levels from central and local government to private owners and operators of critical facilities.

Today’s launch event is therefore especially important in light of the 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week that we will convene in New York in just two weeks.

Fluid coordination and collaboration among all agencies at the strategic, operational, and institutional levels is key to strengthening critical infrastructure resilience.

Only by working together across multiple levels we can successfully address a terrorist challenge to sectors whose assets, systems, and networks are essential for the maintenance of vital societal functions.

Both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council have been clear in this regard. UNOCT remains committed to support Member States in their efforts to implement relevant provisions on vulnerable targets protection included in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017), 2396 (2017) and 2617 (2021); and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Madrid Guiding Principles and its 2018 Addendum.

Dear Colleagues,

I commend all the Member States, organizations, and experts from across the world who contributed to developing the new edition of this Compendium and invite you to continue sharing your good practices with us. This is a living document.

I encourage all partners to take full advantage of this tool and explore the technical assistance we offer to improve preparedness, mitigation, and recovery measures for such attacks against critical infrastructure.

Let me conclude by thanking you all, here in Madrid and online, for your ongoing support and continued commitment to our common counter-terrorism efforts.

Thank you.