



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Closing Remarks by Mr. Raffi Gregorian
Director and Deputy Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism,
Third High-Level Strategic Dialogue Between the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of
Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

9 December 2020, 09:00am-11:00am

Excellency Major General Al-Ansari,
Your Excellency, Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani,
Distinguished representatives from the Government of the State of Qatar,
And dear colleagues from the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities,

Qatar is a valued member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, is also a valued member of the Defeat-ISIS Coalition, is also a major beneficiary of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund. In all of these areas, Qatar is making major contribution. So not just to the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, but in a whole variety of areas.

Again, thank you General Al-Ansari and Ambassador Al-Thani here in New York for all of your support and your contribution as the State of Qatar in countering terrorism.

We have just had a highly productive Third High-Level Strategic Dialogue, which comes on the heels of the successful launch of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights just two days ago.

Let me start by thanking your Excellencies and all the distinguished speakers for your contributions today.

Our discussions today have enabled us to take stock of what we have achieved since our second strategic dialogue last year, and provided us with important insights on how we can further strengthen and expand our bilateral cooperation in the coming year.

Today's dialogue also serves as a testament to the strong partnership between the State of Qatar and the United Nations system in combating terrorism and violent extremism, as well as in promoting regional and international counter-terrorism cooperation, as I mentioned at the outset.

The perspectives and experiences that our key Counter-Terrorism Compact partners have shared today further highlight the importance of strengthened cooperation and coherence in counter-terrorism efforts, while demonstrating the tangible impact that our collective efforts are making on the ground.

Indeed, with the support of the State of Qatar, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact with its eight vibrant interagency working groups has become the backbone of the United Nations' coordination efforts in counter-terrorism.

It is the generous contribution of the State of Qatar that has helped us strengthen UNOCT's organisational capacity and policy efforts, directly benefitting Member States from across the United Nations and a diverse range of counter-terrorism partners, including women, youth and civil society organisations.

As highlighted by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, a key strategic priority for UNOCT in the coming year will be the United Nations High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week in June and its three components: the biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Victims of Terrorism Global Congress and the High-Level Conference for Counter-Terrorism Heads of Agencies.

We look forward to the active engagement of the State of Qatar, including in the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

We also hope we can count on the State of Qatar to support UNOCT's priorities during the negotiations of the General Assembly resolution of the seventh review of the Strategy, including those provisions related to grant authority and those that would help extend the impact of Qatar's extra-budgetary contributions in terms of programming.

Another strategic priority going forward will be to further strengthen the coordination and coherence in the United Nations system's counter-terrorism efforts through the effective implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact framework.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform will continue to play a central role in facilitating collaboration among Compact entities and engagement with Member States.

Looking ahead, we will also prioritize enhancing the results-based delivery of our flagship multi-year programmes, such as countering terrorist travel, preventing and countering violent extremism, and

supporting the victims of terrorism, while increasing our implementation rate and impact on the ground.

Mr. Voronkov asked me to mention the Global Framework on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. This programme which he already outlined is unique in that it organizes 15 UN entities to provide a suite of services to those countries that are repatriating or seeing the return of large numbers of foreign terrorist fighters and their associated family members. Donors include the European Union, the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany and other States are looking at contributions as well. It goes directly to the issue of mitigating risks posed by the return of these individuals in large numbers.

Also, we have mentioned the unmanned aerial system. We have a related programme which is about helping countries develop a threat assessment for aviation related to terrorism including at airports. This is related to the threats that drones can pose to airports. Clearly, that would be something of interest for Qatar given the air hub that you have there in Doha. This is another interesting programme that is linked to threats that matter to you and the region.

We are looking forward to launching our Global Programme on countering terrorist threats against vulnerable targets in January, given the high demand for technical and capacity-building support in this area.

As you prepare to host the FIFA World Cup 2022, we hope to further strengthen our partnership with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, building on the close cooperation with the State of Qatar in the area of the security of sporting events and the use of sports to prevent violent extremism.

This partnership will provide invaluable support to help spread our upcoming global campaign against terrorism through sports that we will launch next year, and which you have heard about earlier.

With the successful launch of the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, it is now our priority to ensure the effective operationalization of the Hub so that the international community can benefit from its innovative programmes and expertise to better address the drivers of radicalization to violent extremism.

Similarly, our strategic engagement with the State of Qatar will continue in the coming year, as we work towards operationalizing the UNOCT Parliamentary Engagement Programme Office in Doha, with the support of the Shura Council.

This programme will be instrumental in promoting parliamentary diplomacy and actions to prevent and counter terrorism through a whole-of-society approach. It is also a foundational work. It has been almost 20 years since the UN Security Council passed resolution 1373 obliging all Member States of the United Nations to criminalize terrorist related activities. This parliamentary effort including model laws, both on the areas of counter-terrorism and in support of those for victims of terrorism, will be extremely important in filling in remaining gaps in the legislative system around the world for combating terrorism.

And as we advance work on these programmes, we will leverage our collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and other counter-terrorism partners in the field.

We look forward to convening the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance later in 2021, as we discussed today, which will contribute to our continuous efforts to assess and improve our performance and delivery.

As we work towards these strategic priorities, we count on your support, as we have been able to do so for the past few years, as a vital counter-terrorism partner and a leading contributor to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, and making it possible for us to fulfil our mandate that the General Assembly gave us.

And we remain committed to strengthening our strategic partnership to help build a world free of terrorism.

With that, I think we can call this High-level Strategic Dialogue to a close. But I will turn the floor back over to Ambassador Voronkov in case there are any last words he wishes to make.