



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Tenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting

New York, 25 September 2019

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco and His Excellency Mr. Stef Blok, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for inviting the United Nations to participate in this meeting.

The United Nations has been privileged to work closely with Morocco and the Netherlands, and we are also looking forward to working closely with Canada, the incoming GCTF co-Chair.

Since I addressed this meeting last year, when I noted that my Office was very young, I am delighted to be able to say that UNOCT has developed quickly and is now running at full speed in line with its mandate.

I would like to mention a number of points in this regard:

First, our coordination role.

With thanks to colleagues alongside me from CTED, UNODC, UNAOC and INTERPOL and also many others, we have launched the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which brings together forty-two UN and non-UN entities to ensure greater coordination and coherence in support of Member States counter-terrorism efforts.

The Coordination Committee of the Global Compact has agreed on a Joint Programme of Work for 2019-2020 on counter-terrorism and PCVE, and a new streamlined interagency structure with eight working groups, which are aligned with thematic priorities across all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Second, on our capacity-building activities main attention has been given to global programming. And as of now we are implementing 12 global programmes.

With the generous technological and financial support of the Dutch Government, UNOCT launched in May a major multi-year, multi-agency Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. We appreciate the additional donor support we have received so far, as nearly 70 Member States have expressed interest in benefiting from the programme in order to help them comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2396.

Our next priority is providing support to victims of terrorism. We are very grateful to the countries which initiated the creation of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism here in New York, first of all, Afghanistan and Spain.

We are also expanding our activities in areas such as countering the financing of terrorism, protection of vulnerable targets, strategic communications and cybersecurity, mitigating the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, addressing the use of new and emerging technologies, enhancing border security and management, empowering and engaging youth, preventing violent extremism, addressing the CBRN threat and, above all, building respect for human rights, gender equality and the rule of law.

Third, my Office continues to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and new partnerships through a series of regional, high-level and multi-stakeholder conferences, organized together with Member States and with the participation of civil society organizations.

These conferences will feed into the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations next summer, when the Secretary-General will convene the first-ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and the Second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, back-to-back with the 7th biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Over the past year, the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum have improved the way we share information, coordinate capacity-building activities, engage regional organizations and collaborate in the development of guidance and good practices. For example, our Countering Terrorist Travel Programme has been intimately involved in and benefitted from the GCTF Terrorist Travel Initiative and the resulting New York Memorandum that it produced.

The GCTF has worked closely with CTED, UNODC and my Office on a broad range of thematic areas, including trend analysis, counter-unmanned aircraft systems, PCVE, legal and criminal justice, and capacity-building efforts in the West and East African contexts.

With respect to GCTF inspired institutions, my Office concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in May, and we will do the same with Hedayah later this year.

I look forward to identifying further concrete areas for cooperation at the Fourth UN-GCTF Coordination Meeting tomorrow, which will bring together the Co-Chairs of the working groups of both organizations.

For example, following yesterday's side event, I hope that we can work together to support Member States in addressing the challenges posed by the repatriation and rehabilitation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

I am also keen to develop further joint initiatives to support the victims and survivors of terrorism, strengthen border security, and protect soft targets and critical infrastructure.

I look forward to working with all of you over the coming year.

Thank you.