



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Eleventh GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting 7 October 2021

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the GCTF Co-Chairs, Morocco and Canada, for having invited the United Nations to participate in this meeting.

I extend to you the warm greetings of Secretary-General António Guterres.

2021 is a year of both milestones and reflection in the fight against terrorism for both the United Nations and the GCTF:

We mark 20 years since the Security Council adopted resolution 1373 and established the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the wake of the 9/11 attacks;

We mark 15 years since the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly;

And ten years since the establishment of the GCTF.

The 2nd Counter-Terrorism Week that we held at the United Nations in June provided the opportunity to take stock and look ahead on how to improve our efforts and make decisive progress in our collective fight against this scourge. You are doing the same today with the endorsement of the GCTF's *Strategic Vision for the Next Decade*.

The 2nd Counter-Terrorism Week concluded with the General Assembly's consensus adoption of perhaps its most substantive review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to date. Through their resolution, Member States sent a strong signal of commitment to a comprehensive and multilateral response - which the United Nations and the GCTF will together translate into action.

Our partnership is critical to facing the evolving terrorist threat, marked by the spread of Al-Qaida and Da'esh in parts of Africa; the unpredictability of the situation in Afghanistan; the rise in terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance; and the impact of transformative technologies.

I would like to salute the Forum's members for their constructive approach during the review, which resulted in a strong roadmap for the way forward.

The United Nations system is grateful for the confidence you expressed in our work and we look forward to continuing working with Member States to consolidate and deepen these gains.

Excellencies,

Four years since its creation, my Office is running at full speed to deliver on its multifaceted mandate, in collaboration with not only our partners from CTED, UNODC and the Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da'esh) Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team that join me today—but also with the other 39 entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact with whom we facilitate information-sharing and coordinate support to Member States.

We have strengthened our capacity-building model, integrating priority recommendations and technical assistance needs identified by the Counter-Terrorism Committee as well as CTED's analysis; we have embraced virtual tools and extended our programme delivery from New York to the field, upon the request from Member States to be more versatile, cost-effective, and operate closer to beneficiaries.

With the generous financial support of your governments, we are running a range of multi-agency capacity-building initiatives in priority areas identified by Member States.

Just last month, we launched a Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security as well as the Global Framework for UN Support on Syria and Iraq Third Country National Returnees – both addressing priorities which were newly highlighted in the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Overall, UNOCT and our partners are together implementing 17 global programmes on countering terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in support of 170 countries

Excellencies,

Since your last meeting in 2019, the United Nations and the GCTF have improved the way in which we share information and collaborate in capacity-building activities.

Our joint initiatives are concrete examples of this qualitative leap.

First, the Netherlands, Morocco, and UNOCT have jointly coordinated the implementation of the GCTF initiative on the impact of counter-terrorism financing measures on humanitarian and civic space.

The good practices document produced will support the implementation and visibility of Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) and of relevant guidance set forth by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This initiative demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that all measures to counter terrorism comply with international human rights and humanitarian law.

We envision closer cooperation with the Netherlands and Morocco, as well as with other Member States, on the implementation of the good practices document endorsed today.

Second, the United States and the Counter-Terrorism Compact working group on Border Management and Law Enforcement while countering terrorism, chaired by CTED, have coordinated the development of the Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit, which helps to provide practical guidance to implement the *New York Memorandum on Good Practices for Interdicting Terrorist Travel*.

The watchlisting toolkit is an important contribution to our international cooperation in the watchlisting process, as encouraged by UN Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), 2396 (2017) and in line with the 2018 Addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Excellencies,

I am encouraged that the *Strategic Vision for the Next Decade* you are considering today includes strong references to the collaboration between the GCTF and the United Nations – and I would like to thank Canada and Morocco for having sought our input during its development.

I look forward to developing our partnership further to leverage the comparative advantages of the GCTF and the United Nations.

The GCTF as a practitioner-oriented gathering of Member States, providers of bilateral assistance, donors and beneficiaries.

And the United Nations as custodian of norms, universal convener and provider of integrated and targeted capacity-building.

I am especially keen to enhance the field-orientation and resource-mobilization dimension of our collaboration, which is why I would like to draw your attention to the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism.

The Appeal is an interactive online tool to coordinate fundraising for 52 both ongoing and new counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism projects across 12 United

Nations entities of the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Some GCTF members have already provided initial funding to projects included in the Appeal, for which we are very grateful.

Others have undertaken joint fundraising with United Nations entities, which reflect the close alignment of the GCTF with United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Excellencies,

As the GCTF embarks on a new decade of efforts the United Nations system will continue to stay your close partner. you can count on the United Nations system as your close partner. Happy birthday GCTF.

I thank you for your attention