

**Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**BRIEFING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1373 (2001)**

28 September, 2017

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking you for organizing today's important meeting, which marks the sixteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373. Allow me to start by remembering the tens of thousands of victims of terrorism around the world.

It is an honor to brief the Security Council for the first time as Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism—or OCT. I thank all 15 members of the Council for their strong support to the creation of the OCT, the very first reform initiative of Secretary-General Guterres.

As he said last week in the General Assembly, “...*National and multilateral counter-terrorism efforts have indeed disrupted networks, reclaimed territory, prevented attacks and saved lives, ... we need to intensify this work. Stronger international cooperation remains crucial against terrorism.*” I am strongly committed to this Secretary-General's vision and look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the able leadership shown by Ambassador Aboulatta of Egypt of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. I look forward to working closely with the Committee and with its Executive Directorate, CTED, to build a strong partnership between all General Assembly and Security Council mandated bodies to promote the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Mr. President,

The new Office of Counter-Terrorism established by the Secretary-General, which I head, intends to make a qualitative difference in our support to Member States by bringing leadership, mobilizing resources, and developing, together with UN entities at Headquarters and the field, a coherent and well-coordinated “One UN” framework to counter-terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Support and assistance for the Member States are the key words in this regard.

In order to meet this goal, I intend to work closely with all Member States of the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and all other relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations. Listening and acting on *your* priorities will be *my* priority.

That is why I had more than 50 high-level meetings with Member States and international and regional organizations last week. I also listened carefully to the statements delivered in the General Assembly, in which counter-terrorism was clearly one of the highest priorities for the majority of Member States.

From these consultations and statements we have already identified six key areas, fully aligned with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and this Council's priorities, namely:

- Strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation;
- Preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the context of pillar one of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
- Addressing the terrorist use of the Internet;
- Enhancing inter-cultural dialogue;
- Addressing the foreign terrorist fighters' threat; and
- Increasing the exchange of information and good counter-terrorism practices.

I will continue listening, in order to build, together with you and all relevant UN entities, an effective, future oriented and balanced counter-terrorism programme to support Member States.

Mr. President,

Since 2001, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate have resolutely contributed to supporting Member States in the implementation of resolution 1373. Leveraging their respective comparative advantages, the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has already contributed significantly to this effort. Now it is high time to bring together our collective efforts.

I therefore welcome the growing emphasis that the Security Council is putting in its resolutions and presidential statements to ensure that United Nations entities work closely together in addressing the terrorist threat. This must be followed by concrete actions and initiatives, respectful of mandates and done in the spirit of collaboration from the very start.

Allow me to give you four examples of what OCT's two constituent parts—the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), of which CTED is a core member, and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre—are already doing :

First, our 12 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Inter-Agency Working Groups represent a good example of “counter-terrorism coordination in action”. This means exchange of information; identification of threats and challenges; and development of “All-of-UN” projects.

Our new Office of Counter-Terrorism intends to further mainstream the “All of UN” approach to our counter-terrorism efforts across the UN system both at Headquarters and the field. This

strengthening of coordination and coherence will be the highest priority of the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Second, through our CTITF Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group we have developed, as mandated by the Security Council, an “All of UN” CTITF Foreign Terrorist Fighters Capacity Building Implementation Plan that now includes over 50 projects from 13 UN entities addressing the entire life-cycle of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon.

Leveraging CTED’s comparative advantages, capabilities and knowledge of Member States’ needs and priorities, these projects have been thematically and geographically ranked by their criticality, to ensure impact on the ground and efficient use of donor resources.

Third, as requested by the Council, OCT’s United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is implementing the “All of UN” Integrated Assistance for Counter-Terrorism initiative in the G5 Sahel, as well as in Nigeria and Mali. In mapping the priorities and needs of these countries, close coordination and input from CTED has been critical.

Fourth, Security Council resolution 2242 calls for greater participation and leadership of women in developing strategies to prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, a substantial component of Pillar I of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As called for by the resolution, the CTITF is integrating gender as an “All of UN” cross-cutting issue in its work, and created a dedicated CTITF Inter-Agency Working Group on Gender, chaired by UN Women.

Mr. President,

We must recognize that there are four important spheres of UN activity that need to be aligned if we are to effectively develop a coherent and well-coordinated “All of UN” framework for our future counter-terrorism efforts, namely:

- The Security Council and its subsidiary bodies with their international peace and security mandate;
- The General Assembly, which brings together our common efforts through the consensus-based Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, its review resolutions and international counter-terrorism legal instruments;
- The Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat, which now includes the Office of Counter-Terrorism; and
- The 38 UN agencies, funds and programmes that directly or indirectly contribute to our common counter-terrorism and PVE efforts in support of the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

These four spheres of UN activity will need to be more closely aligned together if we are to build, as the Secretary-General stated in the General Assembly last week, “*a new International Counter-Terrorism Partnership.*”

For their part, Member States will also have to mobilize the necessary political will and resources to backstop this effort, especially through the full implementation of all relevant UN resolutions and counter-terrorism conventions.

Our new Office of Counter-Terrorism stands ready to be strongly engaged in this effort, and I look forward to hearing your views on how we can move forward together in pursuit of this goal.

I commit to do my utmost in this regard and thank all Security Council members for your support.

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