



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Security Council Open Arria Formula Meeting on “Enhancing synergies between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations to address the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime”

9 April 2018, 10 a.m., UNHQ, Conference Room 1

Good morning distinguished Colleagues!
Welcome all of you.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Ambassador Meza-Cuedra and the other co-sponsors of this meeting – France, Kuwait and Cote d’Ivoire, for the opportunity to provide brief remarks on ways how to enhance synergies between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations to address the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Approved by consensus two years ago the General Assembly’s fifth review resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy “encourage[d] Member States and international and regional organizations to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address, in the design and implementation of global, regional and national counter-terrorism strategies, the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime.”

Mr. President,

It is time for a new era of information-sharing. To play our part, the Secretary-General will convene a High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States on 28 and 29 June at the UN Headquarters in New York.

We have invited over 30 regional and sub-regional organizations to participate in the conference and we hope that their attendance will also help to enhance the cooperation between the UN system and these organizations on countering terrorism.

A wide range of side events will be organized by Member States, UN entities, international organizations and civil society organizations throughout this week, which will help to share best practice and lessons learned in tackling terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Mr. President,

Since taking the office, my objective has been to further engage with regional and sub-regional organizations. We are currently negotiating Memoranda of Understanding to formalize our partnerships with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Arab Interior Ministers Council, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the African Union Commission, which will help to strengthen our cooperation.

I am confident that these new partnerships will pave the way for new and innovative steps in which the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations can address the nexus between terrorism and organized crime.

Internally, a key element of the UN's response to the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be enhanced coordination of our activities at the national, regional and global levels.

The Secretary-General has already begun this work by signing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact last February, which brings together the heads of the 36 United Nations entities plus Interpol and the World Customs Organization to strengthen coordination and coherence to facilitate Member States efforts to counter-terrorism.

The Compact will support better implementation of the UN's counter-terrorism work in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through joint, complementary and mutually reinforcing projects. The Compact also envisages increasing the impact of the UN's counter-terrorism efforts through the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and common resource mobilization. Very important in this regard is cooperation between UNOCT and CTED, mentioned before by ED Ms. Coninx. It will promote evidence-based programming and common action in close collaboration with Member States and UN entities in the field.

I look forward to our ongoing discussion on this important matter.

Thank you!