



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Video Statement of**

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**International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material:**

**The Way Forward for Prevention and Detection**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**International Organizations: Roles and Initiatives in**

**Prevention and Detection**

**Vienna, 3-7 December 2018**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing this important Conference. I would also like to convey my warm greetings to the audience, the chair of the session, Ambassador Maria Assunta Accilli, and to my fellow panelists. Allow me to commend the work carried out by your respective organizations, to enhance the security of radioactive material.

As many of you know, the United Nations is increasing its efforts to support Member States at the global, regional and national levels to prevent and counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. My Office, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, is committed to help Member States to build and strengthen their capacities to prevent, detect and respond to this serious threat.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues

The possibility of non-state actors, including terrorists, acquiring lethal technologies and weapons is a challenge for international peace and security. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has placed prevention at the very core of his peace and security agenda. Nowhere is “prevention” more important than keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the reach of terrorist groups.

In the last review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to “prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery”. It also encouraged cooperation among and between Member States as well as with relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities.”

The United Nations Security Council has also made similar pronouncements. Resolution 2325 calls on all Member States to strengthen their national anti-proliferation regimes.

In February 2018, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact was signed by the Secretary-General and the heads of 38 UN Agencies, funds and programmes plus INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. The Compact will help my Office to increase coordination and coherence across the United Nations system in the field of counter-terrorism and to provide more efficient support to Member States.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact will contribute to increase the impact of the work undertaken by the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Terrorist Attacks. This Working Group includes 16 UN entities and international organizations such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Working Group is currently implementing a project to improve the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination mechanisms in response to potential CBRN terrorist attacks.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues

This June, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened the first-ever High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States to strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism partnerships. More than 1,000 participants from 150 Member States, 31 international and regional organizations, 51 civil society organizations and 25 UN entities attended the Conference.

They discussed practical and operational counter-terrorism issues and specifically underlined the need for Member States to share critical information in order to detect, identify, disrupt and prosecute terrorists in compliance with international human rights standards.

In addition, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the capacity-building arm of my Office, is expanding its programme on

weapons of mass destruction to new areas including border and export control; the prevention of the misuse of science and technology; incident response and crisis management, as well as the protection of materials, facilities, critical infrastructure and sensitive information. We are grateful to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its strong financial support of the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

In April 2018, my Office participated in the IAEA Information Exchange Meeting held here in Vienna and briefed Member States on this new programme. Moreover, in June 2018, we joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, co-chaired by the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

In September 2018, Office of counter-terrorism also became a part of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee Assistance Mechanism. We are currently working with UNODC and the European Union to prepare a project on the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the commitment of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism to assisting Member States to prevent potential terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to promote inter-agency collaboration to guarantee that such a tragedy never takes place.

We hope that meetings such as this one will provide a collective response to this global challenge.

I wish you fruitful discussions

Thank you.