



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Meeting of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee

24 January 2019

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the beginning allow me to welcome the five new members of the Committee (Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, and South Africa). I look forward to working closely with your delegations.

I am grateful to Ambassador Meza-Cuadra for inviting me to brief the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism's (UNOCT) strengthened collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). These briefings are part of our engagement with CTED.

As you would recall, last April, UNOCT and CTED had submitted a joint report to CTC and Security Council (S/2018/435) pursuant to Security Council resolution 2395 (2017). The report was later also presented to the General Assembly for consideration during the sixth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Today, I will report to this Committee on the concrete ways in which we have strengthened our mutual collaboration during the last six months, based on the following five practical steps outlined in the joint CTED-UNOCT report:

- (1) priority regions and areas for collaboration;
- (2) country visits and follow-up;
- (3) joint outreach activities and support to resource mobilization efforts;
- (4) cooperation on the design and development of projects and programmes; and
- (5) sharing of information.

I will also brief you on how we are using CTED analysis in the development and implementation of UNOCT's capacity building projects.

Priority regions and areas for collaboration

The first practical area highlighted in the report is priority regions and topics for collaboration. In this regard, UNOCT consults closely with CTED in many ways. For example, we are working now with CTED and other UN partners on the formal launch of our new joint project on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record in April.

This project will enhance the use of such data to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute the cross-border travel of terrorists in accordance with Security Council resolution 2396. CTED is consulted on the design of this project. We are developing criteria together to select countries based on its analysis and assessments. The countries will be prioritized for the 2019-2020 first.

Countering the financing of terrorism is another key area of collaboration between our two entities. We are working together to prepare a handbook with practical guidance on terrorist designations and freezing of assets that could be used on a sustained basis.

The next concrete engagement is on developing a Border Security and Management Programme, including promoting the Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Identifying Terrorists.

Country visits and follow-up

The second practical step outlined in the joint report is on Country visits and follow-up. Here, we are also making good progress.

As requested by members of this Committee, UNOCT and CTED are jointly developing counter-terrorism programming for Iraq, following the mission there by ASG Coninx and I last year. In spite of delays due to change of Government in Iraq during this period, this engagement has resulted in the approval by Iraq of four projects: (1) youth skills development; (2) weapons of mass destruction; (3) strategic communications; and (4) countering the financing of terrorism. All of them are in the line with the relevant recommendations of CTED.

We are also adjusting our project supporting Member States in Central Asia to implement their Joint Plan of Action to better reflect CTED recommendations. CTED has identified priorities as a result of country-specific and regional assessments and UNOCT is addressing them, in consultation with the relevant governments.

As the Committee is aware, ASG Coninx and I also undertook joint visits to Nigeria and Kenya last July. Our missions were aimed at identifying areas where the UN could provide support to address threats, as well as implement the recommendations of CTED's previous assessment visits. Our priority now is to provide tailored capacity building support to the Governments of Nigeria and Kenya to address gaps and needs which we identified during these visits.

Last October, both ASG Coninx and myself also spoke at a High-Level Side event organized by Kenya and Ethiopia on Cross-Border Peace Initiatives. In the coming months, UNOCT will also be working closely with the Kenyan Government and the African Union to organize a regional conference later this year on preventing and countering violent extremism.

Looking forward, I and ASG Coninsx are planning to travel to Spain next month, jointly with Ambassador Meza-Cuadra where we will discuss a number of important issues of counter-terrorism agenda with a special emphasis on support of victims of terrorism.

UNOCT continues to participate in working level CTED visits, such as to Mali and Saudi Arabia that followed our participation in previous CTED visits to Niger and Burkina Faso.

Joint outreach activities

The third area that the report identifies is joint outreach activities. I am pleased to report that UNOCT and CTED are working well together on this aspect, developing joint communications to engage and inform Member States. Our respective communications teams meet informally every other week.

This collaboration includes jointly promoting our activities on social media platforms or in the media to ensure greater awareness. We are working on modernizing and upgrading our website setting out how UNOCT and CTED work together, which will contribute to a better understanding of our complementary roles and mandates. In addition, I am delighted that ASG Coninsx has joined me at all of UNOCT's quarterly briefings to Member States to take the floor on our respective work and priorities.

Cooperation on the design and development of projects and programmes

Fourth, the joint report highlights the need for cooperation on the design and development of projects and programmes. My Office continues to incorporate CTED recommendations and analysis into the design, development and implementation of UNOCT programmes and projects. The Joint Report notes that the CTED's work should "feed into the standard project life cycle" of UNOCT projects, "where appropriate." As indicated by the Report, the capacity-building work of the UNOCT is always guided by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and by requests from Member States for capacity-building assistance, in addition to CTED's assessments and analysis.

This is an important point, because the principal responsibility for implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all relevant Security Council resolutions rests with Member States. This principle has been reaffirmed in the General Assembly in its all review resolutions of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) – a capacity-building arm and centre of excellence of UNOCT – has recently been audited by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). UNOCT is now working on implementing the audit recommendations. We have initiated a review of the UNCCT 5 year programme of work (2019-2020) to adopt it to CTED recommendation issued since 2016.

Sharing of information

Fifth, the joint report calls for greater sharing of information.

UNOCT and CTED have strengthened the mechanisms in place between our offices to share mission reports, assessments and other analytical products in a timely and secure manner. This

enhanced sharing of information has been of great value in the preparation of my own visits, such as to the Middle East last month.

ASG Coninsx and I continue to meet regularly, usually once a week, and monthly coordination meetings are held between our senior teams to review progress and priorities.

As we did earlier this week, ASG Coninsx and I also regularly meet with you, Ambassador Meza-Cuadra, to strengthen coordination between the UN Secretariat and this Committee. Thank you for hosting both of us many times in your cosy, very Peruvian style residence here in New York for productive decisions.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I hope these practical examples show how UNOCT and CTED have built a productive partnership as part of broader efforts to enhance international counter-terrorism cooperation.

In particular, our efforts have been helped by a clearer and more logical UN counter-terrorism architecture put in place through the launch of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact by the Secretary-General in December last year. CTED has an important role in this new framework to be coordinated by UNOCT, which is a major step forward in enhancing overall coordination and coherence across the UN system.

We will also develop a comprehensive programme of work for the Global Compact for the next two years by the end of March. This will be implemented through revitalized and streamlined “All-of-UN” working groups, several of which are chaired or co-chaired by CTED.

I am deeply committed to further strengthening the practical cooperation between UNOCT and CTED. Hence, I am also constantly looking for new areas of cooperation between our two entities. Let me now set out a few areas where we will start new activities in the next six months.

First, I will shortly launch the first Consolidated Multi-Year Appeal, which clearly reflects recommendations from CTED country assessments. This is a significant step forward in joint planning and fundraising activities.

In 2018, CTED prioritized twenty-one countries in need of technical assistance. All but four of these priority countries will be included in the Appeal.

Second, many important and useful CTED recommendations can and should also be addressed by other technical assistance providers, such as UNODC, IOM, INTERPOL and UNICRI. The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact framework is thus an important mechanism to ensure that UN counter-terrorism capacity-building projects are better aligned with CTED’s assessments and analysis.

Building on this, I look forward to leveraging on the new inter-agency Working Group of the Global Compact on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation. In the framework of the working group, we are developing a matrix of CTED recommendations that will help us identify action to be taken on those recommendations.

I look forward to working closely with ASG Coninsx and other Global Compact Entities over the next months as we prepare the report of the Secretary-General on concrete recommendations and options on ways to assess the impact and progress of implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by UN entities.

Thank you.