



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**  
**UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

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

**Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism**  
**Plenary Meeting**

Delivered by Mr. Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup  
Chief, Countering-Terrorism Section  
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)  
Buenos Aires, 5-7 June 2019

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, I would like to thank the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), and its two Co-Chairs, for inviting the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to the Plenary meeting. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina for hosting this important event.

The possibility of terrorists acquiring lethal technologies and weapons, including those of mass destruction, is a serious threat to international peace and security. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, has placed prevention at the very core of his peace and security agenda, and in few areas is “prevention” more important than in keeping CBRN weapons out of the reach of terrorist groups.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was established in June 2017 as the first reform initiative of the Secretary-General, to provide leadership on counter-terrorism across the UN system.

As chair of Secretary-General’s Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, our office is ensuring coordination and coherence across 38 United Nations entities, Interpol and the World Customs Organization, and strengthening capacity-building support for the Member States on counter-terrorism.

Through its UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the UN Trust Fund on Counter-Terrorism, generously funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other donors, our Office is providing capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States, including in the areas of prevention and response to CBRN terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the last review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to “prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD and their means of delivery [...] and [encouraged] cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities.”

The UN Security Council has also made similar pronouncements, including through resolution 2325, which calls on all Member States to strengthen their national anti-proliferation regimes.

Taking this into consideration, and in line with its engagement in the Global Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats & Critical Infrastructure Protection, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism developed a Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN terrorism, which aims to enhance capacities of the Member States, International Organizations and UN entities to prevent terrorist organizations from accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials and to ensure that they can more effectively respond to a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials.

The Office is now expanding its WMD/CBRN programme to the areas of border and export control; protection of materials, facilities, critical infrastructure and sensitive information; prevention of the misuse of science and technology; incident response and crisis management. Our cooperation with GICNT is an important element of this work.

Under this Programme, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Union, recently launched and is implementing a joint project on Promoting universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). The ICSANT project has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the European Union.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

We are delighted that we have been able to support the organization of the GICNT regional workshop to Combat Nuclear Terrorism ‘Valiant Eagle’ in Abuja, Nigeria, in April. We are also proud that with the generous financial contribution of the Government of Finland, UNCCT of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism was able to contribute to the organization of the Plenary meeting of GICNT. Our plans are also to co-organize with the co-chairs and the Government of Morocco the Nuclear Detection exercise on Green and Blue borders in December 2019.

To conclude, I would like to highlight that the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism remains committed to assisting Member States to prevent WMD attacks by terrorists and promoting inter-agency collaboration to guarantee that such a calamity never takes place. We will continue to work with the Member States and GICNT to ensure that prevention, preparedness and response capabilities are firmly in place.

Through this type of active cooperation and partnership, we hope to provide a collective response to this global challenge.

Thank you very much.