



# **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

**Leaders Dialogue: Strategic Responses to Terrorist and Violent Extremist Narratives**

**New York, 23 September 2019**

**Your Majesty,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I would like to thank His Majesty King Abdullah II, President Macron, Prime Minister Ardern and Secretary-General Guterres for bringing us together today for this important event.**

**This dialogue is a defining moment for the United Nations and the international community.**

**Leaders from around the world have once again unequivocally rejected terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all its forms, shades and manifestations.**

**Many of you noted that each pathway to radicalisation is unique, but more than half of the battle is won or lost before the threshold of radicalisation is crossed.**

**Without neglecting the role of person-to-person contacts in the process of radicalisation, today's discussion also demonstrated that much of the struggle for the hearts and minds of potential violent extremists occurs in the hidden corners of cyberspace, underlining the importance of social media in our endeavours.**

**However, the most important message of today's dialogue is that the threat of violent extremism is so high that it cannot be effectively addressed without major strategic international initiatives driven by a vision of common humanity, political ownership and respect for human rights and the rule of law.**

**I have been encouraged by the progress that has been made since the adoption of the Christchurch Call just over four months ago.**

**New supporters have come on board, providing additional momentum and strengthening partnerships between governments, society and tech companies.**

**I welcome the announcement that the Global Internet Forum for Counter-Terrorism will be restructured into a standalone non-governmental organization with its own Advisory Board and enhanced capabilities. We, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, are ready to work closely with the Forum.**

**The increased emphasis on transparency and multi-stakeholder engagement, particularly of tech companies and civil society organizations, is particularly important.**

**The Aqaba Process, under the leadership His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, has also been instrumental in strengthening and deepening understanding and collaboration.**

**Building on these efforts, I invite you to make full use of the United Nations framework to tackle the digital dimension of the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism to peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.**

**There is still much more that can and needs to be done. But our discussions today have been important in setting us on the right path.**

**Thank you.**