



Remarks by

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Thank you Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Excellencies, it is my pleasure to be here today along with my colleagues **to brief you about our upcoming regional conference to be held in Abu Dhabi at the end of this year**. But first, I would like to express the UAE's sincere appreciation to you, Mr. Voronkov, and to your excellent team. We commend your tireless efforts to enhance the capabilities of Member States in preventing extremism and countering terrorism – priority files for our country. The UAE supports your work, and we are honored to host a regional conference in partnership with UNOCT.

I would also like to congratulate Belarus, Kenya, Mongolia, and Tajikistan for organizing successful regional conferences, and we wish Hungary success for its upcoming event in November.

The regional conference the UAE will host is scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi on 18-19 December. The theme of the conference is “Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism.”

We have chosen this theme because combating threats to international peace and security and preventing conflict cannot be done effectively without the input of youth and the promotion of tolerance. The conference will provide an opportunity for participants to share their experience and best practices, promote cooperation, and encourage partnerships. The event will contribute to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council

resolutions, including resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace, and security, while also taking into account the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

The conference will have the following four key objectives:

First, promoting cooperation and partnerships between governments, local communities, youth, and religious actors to strengthen their resilience to terrorist narratives by promoting our messages of peace and tolerance.

Second, strengthening cooperation between Member States in the region, with a particular focus on ways the United Nations can support countries to empower youth and promote tolerance as part of their broader prevention and countering violent extremism (PCVE) efforts.

Third, encouraging the development and implementation of youth-centric national and regional PCVE plans of action, including prioritizing and empowering youth, and supporting youth-led PCVE initiatives.

Finally, highlighting the role of community, religious, and non-traditional actors in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, tolerance, and peaceful co-existence, and examining how this can be reflected in the development and implementation of national and regional PCVE plans of action.

Although the conference will focus on the Arab region, we are working to ensure a globally diverse set of speakers, participants, and perspectives. Additionally, we have designed the program to provide practical tools for participants to develop their knowledge and expertise. For example, the first day will include high-level panel discussions and interactive sessions, and the second day will incorporate several training workshops, a youth circle, and other segments that will be held at expert-level. We are pleased that Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, along with the UAE's National Youth Authority, and the UAE's Ministry of Tolerance will take part in coordinating the program.

We encourage Member States to send delegations that include a head of the delegation, an expert, and a youth delegate, whilst mainstreaming the importance of women's participation across the board.

We look forward to welcoming government officials, youth representatives, community and religious actors, and representatives of NGOs, UN entities, and regional and international organizations. More details will be sent to Member States in due course.

In conclusion, we look forward to convening a successful conference and to sharing its outcomes with you during the next High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in 2020. The UAE will continue to support regional and global efforts that aim to eliminate the evolving transnational threats of extremism and terrorism that we find ourselves facing at this critical time.

Thank you.