



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

Statement by Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov at the Interactive Webinar on the margins of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled “*An Intergenerational Discussion: The Future They Want*”

Tuesday, 29 September 2020

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, dear Friends,
I am grateful to my dear friend and colleague, Mr. Miguel Moratinos, the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, for having invited me to participate in this interactive event.

We all heard over the past days the United Nations Secretary-General urging us to put young people at the heart of our collective efforts to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, to build back better, to rethink and re-energize global governance.

So, I am delighted to be a part of this intergenerational discussion with future leaders and decision-makers from around the world.

Young people can have, and are having a positive and powerful impact on the world right here right now -- not just in the future.

Still, the future we need, the future they want, depends on us investing in the children and young women and men of today.

The spread of COVID-19 has faced families, communities and entire nations with great uncertainty, disruption and fear.

Terrorists are trying to take advantage of tragedy and despair to intensify their operations, challenge States’ authority and invigorate their propaganda efforts to prey on captive audiences: millions of people confined to their homes, millions of youth out of schools and out of jobs.

While we are not yet able to fully assess the long-term socio-economic and political impact of this unprecedented human crisis caused by the pandemic, it has a real potential to fuel conditions conducive to terrorism.

It is therefore critical that we remain vigilant, mobilized and united against this scourge of terrorism.

Dear Colleagues,

The United Nations system, working through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact that I chair, and that has the Alliance of Civilizations as one of the most prominent members, is committed to working with all generations to ensure a future without terrorism.

Earlier this year, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in my Office launched a Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme.

This programme has developed a semi-virtual youth peer-to-peer approach, which empowers young leaders to create brave spaces and engage with their peers at the grassroots of local communities.

In July, we organized the first ever United Nations Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, which featured a dedicated session on the role of young men and women in efforts to address the conditions conducive to terrorism.

We also organized a few days ago a High-Level Event on Sport and the Prevention of Violent Extremism, which explored how sport can teach values such as fairness, equality, discipline, inclusion, persistence and respect to help prevent radicalization.

My Office is working hand in hand with youth but much more can and should be done.

Dear young panelists and participants,

We need your help to deliver the future you want.

We need you to continue your quest for peace, justice and human dignity.

To fight for equal opportunities, mutual respect, and inclusive communities.

And to ensure that the world in which your children and grandchildren grow up leaves no one behind.

Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations for organizing this event and for their efforts to bridge the divides and promote harmony among nations.

I look forward to an interesting exchange of insights and innovative and bold ideas with all the youth participating today.

I thank you.