



**Opening Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre**

UNCCT Virtual Roundtable with Counter-Terrorism and PCVE entities

**Virtual Roundtable Launch
9:00-11:00am; 8 December 2020**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the first UNCCT Roundtable for entities working on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism issues. Today's event kicks off a series of discussions over the next three days.

All of those represented at the Roundtable are recognized as top experts within their fields. We all share the same goal: preventing and countering the global scourge of terrorism. We are honoured to have so many distinguished speakers and participants registered for the Roundtable.

I want to particularly thank His Excellency Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board, for his strong support to UNCCT and our efforts to bring together all of you for a discussion. Its outcomes will help us to further develop UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence that supports Member States and you in the fight against terrorism.

I also want to thank my colleagues and good friends, Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Ms. Michèle Coninx, Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, and Mr. Edmund Fitton-Brown for joining us today.

I welcome sincerely our colleagues from civil society organizations, which continue to work hard in these difficult times of the pandemic. The primary aim of this Roundtable is to develop a dynamic and result-oriented network between counter-terrorism and PCVE centers of excellence.

This should be a network where we can leverage our common intellectual, technical, and financial resources with a view to achieving greater impact in jointly identified priority areas of collaboration.

Since its establishment almost 10 years ago, UNCCT has worked with many of you present today. We are grateful for this cooperation which has allowed us to have a deeper impact in our work. I hope we can use this Roundtable to lay the foundation to deepen such partnerships, not just between UNCCT and your respective entities, but also among all of you. UNCCT stands ready to support these efforts.

Deadly global threats such as terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic require us to act together and in coordination, with a renewed sense of unity and solidarity. As Secretary-General António Guterres noted when marking the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations in September: “Today, we have a surplus of multilateral challenges and a deficit of multilateral solutions.”

Member States and civil society continue to look at all of us for support in developing national, regional and global counter-terrorism capabilities, especially for countries most affected and in need of assistance. They look at us to find the multilateral solutions that are needed.

For its part, the United Nations is currently implementing more than 300 counter-terrorism capacity-building projects around the world, including 45 implemented by the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre. UNCCT is coming to the end of its 5-Year Programme. Over the years we have engaged with more than 172 beneficiary countries through over 100 programmes and projects addressing the four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In 2020, we have trained close to 3000 individuals.

As a centre of excellence with world class expertise in key areas such as victims’ of terrorism support, strategic communications, border security and management, countering the financing of terrorism, counter-terrorism and PCVE strategy development, cybersecurity, prevention of CBRN/WMD terrorism, our work is focused on supporting Member States in the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was approved by consensus by the General Assembly.

Further, relevant Security Council resolutions set out obligations for Member States in the fight against terrorism that are also universally accepted. With the benefit of CTED assessments, we have an excellent understanding of what technical assistance Member States may need to comply with their obligations.

All these decisions and recommendations serve as shared touchstones that should allow us to measure if we are successful in supporting Member States to make progress in their implementation.

Excellencies,

I hope that this week's Roundtable discussions will lead to outcomes that help address the strategic and practical challenges of countering terrorism in the current global environment. I also hope to hear from you about lessons learned in the multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation.

What has worked and what has not? What can we do to develop more joint projects and programmes ensuring a more sustained impact? How do we best measure this impact?

We are entering a year that will be filled with landmark events: 20 years since the 9/11 attacks and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373; 15 years since the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; and 10 years since the establishment of UNCCT through a generous contribution from Saudi Arabia. It is also a year that will see the next review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the second Counter-Terrorism Week, and the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

For UNCCT, 2021 is also a year where we will adopt a new Strategic Programme Framework to guide our work in the coming years as we continue developing as a Centre of Excellence. Delivering through partnerships will be a core element of this Programme and we look forward to working with you in this regard.

This Roundtable reflects our commitment to promote and strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. We count on your support.

I wish you productive discussions, and I look forward to welcoming you again to our next Roundtable—hopefully in person once conditions allow it.

Thank you.