



VIRTUAL COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

6-10 JULY 2020

Media Advisory

WHAT:

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will hold a Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week from 6 to 10 July 2020, under the overarching theme of “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering-Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment”.

Through strategic and expert-level online discussions, the participants will exchange views on what the new circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic mean for the counter-terrorism landscape. This event provides an opportunity for a collective reflection among the Member States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, on the implications of the COVID-19 crisis on Member States’ counter-terrorism priorities and the United Nations’ work to support them tackling this scourge.

The Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week is composed of a total of ten webinars and interactive discussions focusing on: bio and cyber terrorism, high-risk threats and trends, addressing the plight of victims of terrorism, flagship UN counter-terrorism programmes, human rights and counter-terrorism, countering the financing of terrorism, youth-led initiatives to build resilient societies, and the role of civil society and media in preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism and countering terrorism.

The Opening Webinar, the UNCCT Expo and the Closing Discussion will be open to media and streamed on UN WebTV. The rest are by invitation only.

Public events - WHO & WHEN:

On Monday 6 July at 10 AM – Opening session - The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres will participate in the high-level opening session entitled “Post COVID-19 World: Contours and Pivot Points and Benefits of Multilateral Collaboration.” In addition to the Secretary-general, the opening webinar will include:

- **H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell**, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP);
- **Mr. Richard Haass**, President of the Council on Foreign Relations;
- **H.E. Mr. Kais Kabtani**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
- **Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly**, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
- **Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild Drummond**, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations’ 75th Anniversary; and
- **Ms. Āsa Regnér**, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and Ms. Sarah Franck, Junior Professional Officer of UNOCT, will moderate the webinar.

On Tuesday 7 July at 11:30 am – Launch of the UNCCT Expo - Mr. Vladimir Voronkov Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and H.E. Mr. Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board will launch the virtual UNCCT Expo, showcasing the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre as a Centre of Excellence supporting Member States' capacities to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

On Thursday 9 July at 12:30 am – Spokesperson's Noon Briefing, the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov will be the guest of the noon briefing of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General. He will brief the press on the progress of the first Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and preliminary outcomes.

On Friday 10 July at 11:30 am, the closing session will discuss "Member States' counter-terrorism priorities in the post COVID-19 environment and synergies and complementarities between the COVID-19 and the counter-terrorism agenda", with the participation of:

- **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
- **H.E. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron**, President, Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **H.E. Thomas Greminger**, Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- **H.E. Mr. Smail Chergui**, Commissioner for Peace and Security, African Union
- **H.E. Mr. Dang Dinh Quy**, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations (ASEAN Chair)
- **Ms. Alison August Treppel**, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, Organization of American States
- **Mr. Gilles de Kerchove**, European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN
- **H.E. Mr. Zhang Jun**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

WHERE:

The public events will be webcast live on : <https://webtv.un.org> and @UN_OCT Twitter account (#VirtualCTWeek).

BACKGROUND:

Just as we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and reflect on the "world we want and the United Nations we need," the COVID-19 pandemic is presenting the international community with possibly the worst crisis since the Second World War. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called this a "human crisis" that has attacked societies at the core, killing people and upending lives.

In these unprecedented and unpredictable times, we are yet to fully grasp the implications of the COVID-19 crisis for national, regional and international efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. Amid the suffering and disruption generated by the virus, terrorists have sought to exploit the pandemic to validate their narratives, foster hate and division, inspire and recruit followers, and launch new attacks. The pandemic and its fallout are exacerbating socio-economic and political challenges recognized by the General Assembly as conducive to the spread of terrorism. It has exposed vulnerabilities to new and emerging forms and manifestations of terrorism, such as bio and cyber terrorism.

The Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, which will be held from 6 to 10 July 2020, under the overarching theme of "Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering-Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment", will aim to address these and other related issues through webinars and interactive discussions with UN Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, among other stakeholders.