



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

Launch of UNOCT's Threat Assessment Models Programme 7 September 2021, New York

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you today as we gather to celebrate the launch of the new United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security.

As we approach the 20-year anniversary of the attacks of September 11, civil aviation remains an attractive target for terrorist groups with the aim of causing substantial loss of life, economic damage and disruption to the connectivity between States.

Indeed, terrorist threats to civil aviation and related critical infrastructure continue to evolve with ever-inventive ways to circumvent security controls.

Faced with this reality, it is of critical importance that Member States collectively face the challenges and keep pace with the ever-evolving threats. That we do everything in our power to ensure that our security infrastructures are acute and agile enough to anticipate and counter these threats.

This is the foundation for UNOCT's Threat Assessment Models Programme: to reinforce the nexus between Counter-Terrorism and Aviation Security. It is our response to the call for action in Security Council resolution 2309 (2016) which aims to address a well-known and persistent challenge: national interagency cooperation between law enforcement and national security communities that traditionally tend to operate in silos.

Developed in close collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, INTERPOL, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the TAM Programme will focus on strengthening cooperation between national Counter-Terrorism and Aviation Security entities to optimize situational awareness of terrorist threats to civil aviation; provide these entities with the tools they need to make

informed security decisions; and facilitate compliance with international obligations encompassed within the ICAO Chicago Convention.

The development of this new programme could not have happened without the generous support of the State of Qatar and the Government of Hungary.

In a few minutes we will hear about the TAM Programme: what we aim to achieve and how it will support Member States. For this discussion we have gathered experts from all the agencies that are contributing to this comprehensive “All-of-UN” capacity-building approach.

Later, you will have the opportunity to hear from representatives of the United States and Botswana, as well as UNOCT's Fusion Cells Programme. The speakers will provide their perspectives on good practices and requirements for efficient and effective inter-agency coordination and exchange of information.

But before we get to that, I would like to note that this week will see several important events to mark the commemoration of 9/11. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our audience to participate in ICAO's Aviation Security Symposium which begins tomorrow and will provide a forum for discussions on aviation security.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are thrilled to launch our programme and begin this journey of enhancing connectivity between Counter Terrorism and Aviation Security.

We will begin with implementation in Africa. And who better to introduce our new programme than my dear colleagues and Excellencies from the African Union, who are instrumental in fostering the exchange of good practices across the continent, and the Government of Botswana, with whom we have had the honour of initiating TAM programme activities earlier this summer.

My words of gratitude for all who have joined us today for this important event – I trust that we can count on your continued support and cooperation in our collective efforts to address and counter terrorist threats.

I invite you to stay tuned for the important discussions as we formally launch our Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security.

Thank you.