



Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and
Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the United Nations Counter-Terrorism
Centre (UNCCT) and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)
1 October 2021

Your Excellency Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and chair of UNCCT Advisory Board,

Your Excellency Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Banyan, President of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS),

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour to welcome you to the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Naif Arab University for Security Studies and the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). I recall with gratitude my September 2019 visit to the NAUSS campus in Riyadh, which you so generously hosted. That visit made clear that our respective teams should unify efforts in our global and regional work to confront and counter terrorism.

I was impressed with the technical expertise and state-of-the-art facilities that are housed within the NAUSS campus. I am therefore confident that this MoU will serve as a foundation for a mutually rewarding exchange of skills, knowledge and capacities that will ultimately benefit Member States from around the world on a variety of counter-terrorism topics.

I would like to commend His Excellency Ambassador Al-Mouallimi for facilitating the process of this important MoU, which is bringing together the expertise and experience of UNCCT and NAUSS, as leading centres of excellence. Saudi Arabia has been a key partner for UNOCT and UNCCT and I thank the Kingdom for its vision, leadership and generous support to United Nations' counter-terrorism programmes.

With the global scourge of terrorism continuing to affect our world, we are fully aware of the positive impact of collaboration and cooperation towards strengthening the global front against terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

Creating new national, regional and international partnerships and building global capacities in counter-terrorism is a key focus of my office, and is an important aspect of the direct support to Member States on implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



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The actual cooperation between our entities started even prior to signing this MoU. Our respective teams have been working closely on a number of counter terrorism related topics, such as Border Security Management, Countering the Financing of terrorism, Cyber Security and New Technologies and other counter-terrorism issues. We have already jointly organized two workshops on Border Security Management and Countering the Financing of Terrorism in the last couple of months, and we have four more activities planned to be implemented later this year. This is a strong indicator of the great opportunities this MoU will present for both entities.

Excellencies,

The enhanced partnership with NAUSS that this MoU makes possible is an important step forward in achieving our goal of maximizing our capacity-building efforts in the Arab region and beyond. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we expand our engagement with NAUSS through the signing of this MoU and enhance the existing cooperation, with our joint goal of preventing and combatting terrorism and preventing violent extremism. I am glad to see the continuous progress in developing the Plan of Action for the implementation of the MoU, which will steer our cooperation in numerous counter-terrorism fields. I thank Saudi Arabia again for its leadership and vision, and I am also grateful to NAUSS for extending our partnership. Thank you.