



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Closing remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary- General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance 29 March 2022

His Excellency, Major General Abdulaziz Al-Ansari,
Her Excellency, Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani,
Distinguished representatives,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Al-Thani for her insightful and comprehensive remarks and for her strong support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting the first Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance and the world class support in convening this event together with my Office.

And my special thanks to all our session chairs and speakers for their thoughtful interventions, as well as to the distinguished representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society partners joining virtually for sharing their valuable insights and assessments during the interactive segments of the programme.

We embarked on this joint initiative with a simple question in mind.

How can we assess the impact of and further strengthen our policy, coordination, and technical and capacity-building assistance in preventing and countering terrorism to ensure that we deliver on our mandate in an effective and efficient manner?

The answer was simple: we need to hear directly from our beneficiaries, providers and donors of assistance.

Through six thematic sessions over the course of a day and a half, we saw rich, engaging and constructive discussions covering the following areas:

- The strategic priorities and operational modalities that inform programming in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism;
- The opportunities and challenges in the design and delivery of counter-terrorism assistance, including the effectiveness of cooperation instruments, monitoring and evaluation tools, and resource mobilization efforts;
- The efficacy of the policy, coordination and programmatic work carried out with the financial support of the State of Qatar, with a deep dive into our global programmes on vulnerable targets, countering terrorist travel, aviation security, fusion cells, sports, parliamentary engagement, and victims of terrorism;
- The perspectives of beneficiary Member States, regional organizations, and civil society partners on enhancing the impact of our counter-terrorism assistance;
- And field-based implementation, including through the integration of behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement in counter-terrorism programming.

I have followed the discussions with great interest and taken note of the issues and suggestions raised.

In the coming days, my Office will produce an outcome report that will provide a summary of discussions and present key guiding principles, good practices, and recommendations for consideration in the development and implementation of technical and capacity-building assistance to prevent and counter terrorism.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to highlight some initial observations and conclusions that emerged from the Beneficiaries Forum.

First, in terms of strategic alignment of multilateral efforts, the seventh review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus in June last year, thanks to the co-facilitators and Member States, provides a strong, comprehensive and forward-looking mandate to address the complex and evolving terrorism threats.

UNOCT was able to support the review process of the Strategy as its Secretariat, thanks to funding from the State of Qatar.

A main take away from the Strategy review and our Forum is that we need to continue to develop a shared understanding of emerging threats in the global terrorist landscape, set priorities, and share information about threat assessments and respective policies, programmes and initiatives.

Through stronger multilateral cooperation, we can ensure that our counter-terrorism responses are coherent, targeted and complementary.

My Office will continue to support the Secretary-General's vision for an inclusive and networked multilateralism in counter-terrorism through the organization of the biennial counter-terrorism week at the United Nations, high-level international and regional conferences on key counter-terrorism areas, and regular briefings and reporting to Member States.

Second, several speakers shared key counter-terrorism priorities, highlighting the need for concerted action against transnational organized crime, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, cyber-attacks, terrorist financing, online radicalization and recruitment, and terrorist exploitation of new technologies, including drones.

We were reminded of the importance of addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, especially in view of the challenges compounded by the global pandemic.

I am pleased that our global programmes, some of which were presented during this Forum, address these priorities.

We will continue our comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism that enhances operational law enforcement capacities, while supporting prevention efforts to mitigate risk areas in which terrorists thrive and recruit.

In doing so, a human rights-compliant, rule of law-based, gender and age sensitive approach will be at the core of our programming.

Third, from our round table discussions and our dedicated session on beneficiary perspectives, I am pleased to hear first-hand that our assistance is responsive to the needs of recipients and delivering concrete results on the ground.

And that the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact has successfully institutionalized coordinated and coherent 'all-of-United Nations' delivery of assistance that leverages comparative advantages through the Compact working groups, while respecting existing mandates.

We need to continue our support for the Compact Coordination framework while further strengthening our assistance delivery tools.

Our implementation will continue to be grounded in results-based programme management, while we strengthen our systems to track programmatic performance and financial management and gather evidence to report on the results achieved.

Partnership with civil society actors is paramount for broadening our understanding of issues, developing solutions that work, and expanding the reach of our services.

My Office will continue the civil society dialogue series launched last year. I also encourage all our partners to benefit from the innovative UNOCT Connect & Learn digital platform, which provides e-learning and facilitates networking among experts and practitioners.

Fourth, we need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts and ensure we have sufficient and sustained resources to perform our counter-terrorism mandate.

Through the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization and Monitoring and Evaluation, the Compact entities launched the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism during the Second Counter-Terrorism Week in June last year, which coordinates request for funding of 52 projects from 12 entities amounting to \$179 million.

I ask our donor community to support the multi-year appeal to ensure that priority needs of Member States are supported in the most effective and efficient manner.

And lastly, we need to continue our efforts to deliver tailored capacity-building assistance that is closer to beneficiaries in a cost-effective manner to sustain impact through the United Nations' programme offices in the field.

And I take this opportunity to thank the State of Qatar for hosting our programme offices on behavioural insights and parliamentary engagement, and for its support to our field-based programmes.

My special words of gratitude to our Qatari friends and to you Ambassador Al-Thani for your consistent support of UNOCT activities and Qatar's generous financial contributions. I am very grateful for the next pledge of USD 45 million for 2024-2026.

Dear colleagues,

As we conclude today the first Beneficiaries Forum, the key take away is that we are stronger when we work in a consultative and collaborative manner.

My sincere gratitude to both Qatari and UNOCT teams who put a lot of effort and contributed to making this event – the Beneficiaries Forum – a success. Thank you, dear colleagues. You are great!

Until our next Beneficiaries Forum, let's continue to work together to help build a future without terrorism.

I thank you.