



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

High-Level Launch of UNODC's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022-2027)

24 October 2022, New York UNHQ

Dear Executive Director Waly,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for inviting me to the high-level launch event of the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Terrorism remains a highly complex and rapidly evolving threat in the world.

Terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Da'esh, as well as their regional affiliates, continue to represent a significant threat and affect the lives of millions across the globe.

In parts of Africa and in the Middle East, these groups continue to aggravate ongoing conflict dynamics. Moreover, in non-conflict contexts, their violent extremist propaganda often finds fertile ground in societal grievances and exclusionary politics.

Complicating matters further, terrorism is intricately connected to other significant global challenges, including organized crime and illicit economies. And terrorism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, is a matter of increasing transnational concern.

To support Member States in addressing challenges of such complexity and magnitude, the United Nations must leverage synergies and comparative advantages.

I am convinced that the UNODC Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism will be an important instrument in that regard. It helps the United Nations and Member States to further strengthen system-wide coordination and coherence against the scourge of terrorism.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is the largest coordination framework within the UN system -- currently comprising 45 entities -- is the primary institutional tool to ensure coherent and coordinated support to Member States in their implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Within the Compact Coordination Committee the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a key partner of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. UNODC's contribution to the Compact, including as chair and vice-chair of the working groups on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and on Border Management and Law Enforcement, underscores the strength of leveraging the different areas of expertise of our partners.

UNODC's contribution to the development and promulgation of the UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism clearly demonstrates the strong interlinkages and mutual advantages of both entities.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Our offices have complementary mandates and related comparative advantages in countering and preventing terrorism: while UNOCT has institutional strengths in the areas of counter-terrorism policy advice and coordination, UNODC has long-established capacities in crime prevention and criminal justice responses, including in the area of counter-terrorism.

The partnership between our two offices is firmly grounded on a strategic framework agreement and its associated plan of action. These instruments create a firm basis for us to work together, as demonstrated by the 16 Memoranda of Understanding signed between UNOCT and UNODC since 2018 to ensure cooperation in the implementation of projects of mutual interest.

Our collaboration includes 27 active projects in areas such as prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of suspected terrorists; border management and security; the use of new technologies in counter-terrorism investigations; and the management of violent extremist prisoners.

I am confident that this excellent collaboration will continue.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome once again today's launch of the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism as a step forward both in the United Nations efforts to counter terrorism, and in the partnership between UNOCT and UNODC.

Thank you.