



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,  
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism  
*“Towards a Terrorism-Free Ecosystem”***

**Peaceful Co-existence for the Promotion of Tolerance and Mutual Respect in Combating Terrorism**

**UNHQ, Conference Room 11**

**21 June 2023**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank His Excellency Mohammed Bin Said Bin Khalfan al Mamari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as His Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, for the invitation to address you today.

I am honoured to be joined by my dear colleague, Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

This event focuses on a central component of our united front against terrorism – peaceful co-existence as a basis for the promotion of tolerance and mutual respect in combating terrorism

Tolerance and mutual respect are vital as we confront the troubling resurgence of bigotry, racism, xenophobia, religious and other forms of intolerance conducive to violence in our communities.

By exploring strategies that promote tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence, this side event will identify essential elements that can aid our collective efforts to prevent violent extremism and terrorism.

Oman has played a significant role in promoting peace, harmony and understanding. This includes through organizing two important events in November 2022, namely the 14th Annual Advisory Group Meeting of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, as well as the commemoration of the International Day of Tolerance.

I would also like to commend Oman for its efforts, together with Spain, in co-leading the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2021.

Oman's dedication to the four pillars of the Strategy has not only yielded positive outcomes within its own borders, but has also contributed to regional and global peace.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNOCT is committed to strengthening multilateral cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism. As Secretariat of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, comprising 46 members and observers, we support coordinated and cohesive assistance among these entities to advance the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Member States.

We are also building upon such partnerships to ensure that we deliver on our mandate. For example, our Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism collaborates with the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, as well as the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to deliver capacity-building to combat hate speech and the terrorist exploitation of divisive narratives. We are also engaging with civil society and the private sector. As part of our efforts to counter online hate speech and terrorist narratives, we are working with Facebook and the United Nations Development Programme to train young social media activists to promote messages of tolerance and peace.

By providing a platform for researchers, practitioners and local voices, we can better address the increasing use of hate speech by Da'esh, neo-Nazi, white supremacist, and other hate-spreading groups.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This event offers an important opportunity to deliberate and exchange views on current practices to counter the threat of terrorism. Let us learn from such practices while reaffirming our commitment to peace, tolerance and mutual respect.

Together, we can create a global environment that is resilient to terrorism, upholds human rights and fosters the well-being of all individuals.

Thank you.