



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

United Nations Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets

First Steering Committee Meeting at the Principal Level

5 December 2023

Dear colleagues,

I should start by thanking you, once again, for our partnership. It is only thanks to our collaborative efforts that we have reached so much.

To date, the Programme has achieved concrete results.

- Launched six new guides of good practices on critical infrastructure and soft target protection;
- Developed a Training Curriculum on Vulnerable Targets Protection, especially designed as a tool for those who become trainers on this subject in their own country;
- Undertook 70 activities engaging over 2600 individuals from around the world, in particular from its five main beneficiary Member States (Indonesia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Togo, and Tunisia); and
- Created a Global Network of Experts on Vulnerable Targets Protection with almost 200 members from 70 Member States, as well as international and regional organizations, civil society representatives, academia, and the private sector.

We were able to do all this with a budget of less than three million dollars, and with three UNOCT staff fully dedicated to the Programme, as well as staff from CTED, UNICRI and UNAOC.

Additionally, in two years, the Programme has expanded its pool of donors from one to five, now encompassing: France, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, Spain, and the United States. The trust given by these funding partners demonstrates both the good performance of our efforts to date and the growth potential of this Programme.

Regarding our plans for 2024, we intend to continue implementing across the four pillars of the Programme.

Under the development of knowledge tools, we will produce a new technical guide on the protection of energy infrastructure. We will also launch, jointly with the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events and the use of Sport Values to Prevent Violent Extremism, an e-learning course, and further develop the modules that are part of our Training Curriculum.

We will provide technical assistance and capacity-building to new beneficiaries. Mauritania has requested our support, and we are in advanced talks with Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Kyrgyzstan. We will also continue our assistance to Indonesia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Togo, and Tunisia.

Moreover, we are trying to mobilize resources to add in-person activities to our current online activities under the Global Network of Experts.

We are working with the Alliance of Civilizations on mobilizing resources for a project on the protection of religious sites; and with UNICRI on a project on tourism security, with a component on the protection of cultural property.

Finally, we will also seek to develop new partnerships and expand existing ones. For example, with the African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism of the African Union, we will launch a sub-group to our Network for African experts on vulnerable target protection. We will also continue our partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to support Central Asian Member States.

Dear Colleagues,

2024 will be an important year, as the mandate of the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets will need to be reviewed by our Programme Review Board for renewal decision in December. Therefore, in the second half of the year, we would need to review all programme documentation, evaluate results, and present a reinvigorated proposal to the Board.

In view of this, today's meeting is even more timely, as the outcomes and conclusions of discussions will form a basis for the programme's strategic planning for 2024.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you.