



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

Opening Remarks by Mr. Mauro Miedico, UNOCT/UNCCT Director

Global Compact Working Group on PCVE: Special Event in Commemoration of the “International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism”

12 February 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 am (EST)

Virtual (MS Teams)

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to you all, and especially to our colleagues and guest speakers who are joining us from around the world.

I am very pleased as the Chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) together with the Vice-Chairs and representatives from the UN Alliance of Civilizations Ms. Nihal Saad, UNESCO Ms. Cecilia Barbieri, and UNDP Ms. Helena Sterwe, to intervene at today’s special event to commemorate the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism.

Dear Nihal, Cecilia, Helena thank you for your longstanding commitment and constant active engagement with the Working Group on PCVE. Our Working Group’s agenda is critical in supporting the Secretary-General’s High-Level Action Group on Preventing Violent Extremism.

As we all know, violent extremism conducive to terrorism poses a serious threat that undermines UN efforts to maintain peace and security, foster sustainable development, promote respect for human rights and deliver humanitarian aid.

It is an affront to humanity that knows no borders – affecting people of all ages, cultures, religions, and nationalities.

The International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/243, is an opportunity to highlight the essential

commitment of Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders—including civil society, religious leaders, youth, the private sector, academia and the media to prevention efforts and renew our commitments to join forces in addressing the challenge of violent extremism.

The Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on PCVE provides an excellent framework to promote coordination and coherence in our common efforts to support Member States to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism across the United Nations system.

It plays an essential role in providing strategic level coherence to the United Nations work on preventing and countering violent extremism, as well as in amplifying the impact of evidence-based counter terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism programming across the system. We place a strong focus on informing this strategic coherence with lessons directly from the field, which is why today's session will focus on the realworld impact of our programming from the perspective of beneficiaries.

Preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism requires Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approaches. As reaffirmed in the 8th review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it requires enhanced international cooperation at all levels that offers coordinated, but also inclusive, transparent, human rights-based and gender-responsive policies and programming.

In line with the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, holistic and multifaceted approaches are needed to confront the fundamental causes of violent extremism. Therefore, working closely with local institutions and communities, including civil society, academia, and putting youth at the center of PVE engagement and alternative strategies, is critical.

Over the past fifteen years, UNOCT has expanded its engagement with Member States and intensified its efforts in providing capacity-building assistance to beneficiaries to enhance their knowledge and skills in preventing violent extremism. We invest in the prevention of terrorism in a range of diverse contexts around the world.

Through the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the Global Sports Programme, the Global Victims of Terrorism Programme, the Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and the Behavioural Insights Hub in Doha, the Office has worked closely with local communities and PCVE stakeholders at all levels, identifying and protecting the most at-risk populations, increasing our understanding of the underlying causes that may trigger violent extremism and addressing them through evidence-based programmes that are gender and age-sensitive and respectful of human rights and the rule of law.

As an example, the UNOCT Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism has supported more than 3000 beneficiaries in 60 Member States globally since 2020. We work with government officials, young people, journalists, religious leaders, and the private sector to build key PCVE skills and practice in countering terrorist narratives, youth-driven policy design, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support, measuring impact and in 'frontier' areas of prevention such as gaming, climate, and Artificial Intelligence.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Today's event offers a unique forum, uniting the UN system, Member States, and global partners to share experiences on how prevention policies and programme support can assist in addressing violent extremist threats, to raise awareness about violent extremism, and to enhance international cooperation in this regard. Most critically, we will have the opportunity to hear the voices of the 'end users' of UN system PCVE programming. We will hear the stories of the real impact on real people and real communities, working together to act to proactively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

I firmly believe that the collaboration fostered during this event, amplifying the coherence of the Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on PCVE, and the observance of the International Day will certainly contribute to increasing our collective reflection on how we can be more effective in preventing violent extremism.

Thank you.