



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

***An Interactive Event on the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as  
and when Conducive to Terrorism***

**13 February 2024**

**Trusteeship Council, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Iraq for organizing this important event and for the invitation to address you.

Yesterday marked the second commemoration of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, established by the General Assembly in December 2022. Resolution 77/243 underscores the unwavering global commitment to combat the threats of terrorism and violent extremism.

Today, we stand together to address the challenge of violent extremism. A challenge that knows no borders or simple definitions. A challenge that spares no one: no age, no culture, no religion, no nationality, no region is immune.

The importance of our collective efforts in addressing this threat cannot be overstated. Today's event is an opportunity to highlight the essential and continued commitment from Member States, the United Nations system, and all stakeholders to unite in our common efforts against violent extremism.

Recognizing that violent extremism does not emerge in isolation, it is crucial to confront the grievances, injustices and conditions that lead individuals to radicalize and to join violent extremist groups.

In his policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a prevention paradigm that confronts all forms of violence and fosters peace through mediation, social cohesion, and a steadfast dedication to human rights.

In this context, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides a global framework for enhancing counter-terrorism initiatives, highlighting the primary responsibility of Member States and the importance of international cooperation.

In line with the Secretary-General's 2016 Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism continues to advocate for a comprehensive approach that transcends traditional security measures and emphasizes the importance of systematic preventive actions that address the underlying conditions and drivers of conflict and violent extremism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past fifteen years, the United Nations has refined its approach to prevent and counter violent extremism with its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopting a whole-of-UN and whole-of-society approach that underscores the value of diverse partnerships and perspectives in tackling the complexities of violent extremism.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism plays a central role in these efforts, including by serving as the Secretariat of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, a collaborative framework that brings together 46 UN and non-UN entities, and connects with over 1,050 focal points from 137 Member States and 14 regional and international organizations.

By chairing *the inter-agency Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)*, we are committed to combining our expertise and resources across the United Nations System to enhance global efforts against terrorism and violent extremism.

At the programmatic level, UNOCT is committed to delivering capacity-building support and assistance that yield tangible impact.

Our Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism has contributed to enhancing community resilience with evidence-based strategies, engaging over 3,000 beneficiaries through training, mentorship, and practical tools to counter extremist content online.

Our efforts include peer-to-peer youth empowerment, and comprehensive support in crisis communication across East Africa and South-East Asia.

In addition, our 'Global Sports Programme' leverages the power of Sports and its values as a Tool to strengthen cohesion and build resilience against Violent Extremism.

Our Behavioural Insights Hub in Doha leads innovative and evidence-based approaches to apply behavioural science to enhance PCVE strategies and global collaboration.

Today's event is a key opportunity to reaffirm our unity and resolve to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on Violent Extremism.

In adopting resolution 77/243, the General Assembly called on the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to facilitate the observance of this International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when conducive to Terrorism.

You can count on our continued commitment to raise awareness and enhance international cooperation in this regard.

Thank you.