



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

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

**Launch of the UN-EU Counter-Terrorism Partnership for Sudan
National Capacity-Building Workshop for the Republic of the Sudan -
Countering the Financing of Terrorism,**

8 February 2021

Excellencies, distinguished guests, and participants,

It is my pleasure and honor to deliver opening remarks for the launch of this important United Nations-European Union Counter-Terrorism Partnership for Sudan.

I would like to thank the Sudanese authorities for their strong commitment to fight terrorism in cooperation with international partners.

Let me express my gratitude to the European Union for its generosity in funding this project, which illustrates once again our close EU-UN partnership.

Two years ago, the people of Sudan started an extraordinary transition. Secretary-General Guterres expressed the firm commitment of the United Nations to support the government and the people of Sudan in this journey.

The project that we are launching today, which was developed at the request of the Sudanese authorities, complements the support already provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

In 2019, Sudan joined our flagship United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, which is currently being implemented in partnership with a number of UN entities and INTERPOL.

Through this initiative we seek to support Sudan's efforts to identify, detect and intercept terrorists and other serious criminals on the move.

We are also supporting Sudan's development of a national action plan to prevent and counter violent extremism.

UNOCT has established a small presence in Khartoum to liaise with Sudanese authorities and jointly design tailored counter-terrorism capacity-building activities, while also coordinating closely with regional organizations, such as the African Union and IGAD.

I am grateful for the excellent cooperation we have developed with Sudan's National Commission for Counter-Terrorism.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Terrorists need resources to perpetrate their heinous crimes. They need money, which they steal, extort or solicit.

They sell stolen antiquities, oil and other natural resources to raise funds.

While cash is still king, they also use banks, non-money services, crowd-funding, and even digital and crypto-currencies as means to fund their activities.

If we can limit terrorists' access to and use of these resources, we can limit their ability to act.

It is absolutely appropriate that our project's first capacity-building workshop focuses on countering the financing of terrorism, a key priority for the international counter-terrorism agenda.

With the adoption of Security Council resolution 2462 in 2019, UNOCT was handed a clear mandate to coordinate the UN's support to Member States' efforts against terrorism financing.

UNOCT's Counter-Terrorism Centre developed our Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism in response to this mandate.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

During this workshop, experts from the Centre will discuss the role of law enforcement authorities in countering terrorist financing, the complexities of the relevant international framework, and other important topics.

Today's workshop is only the first of a series of training activities that we will organize to support Sudan's counter terrorism efforts, in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law.

This event is a first step. I hope that together we will create a practical and ambitious roadmap to move forward.

You can count on my Office to this end, including through our Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

We also stand ready to provide support in areas such as legislative assistance, border security, inter-agency coordination through 'fusion cells', vulnerable targets protection, counter-terrorism strategy development, strategic communications, and upholding human rights while countering terrorism.

My Office is working closely with UNITAMS and UN entities present in Khartoum to provide integrated support to the people and government of Sudan.

Let me conclude by wishing you fruitful exchanges during this workshop and reiterate our commitment to support you in the promising path you have embarked.

I thank you.