



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

**Side Event - Programming for the Future: Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism in the
Digital Decade**

24 June 2021, 8 – 9.30 a.m. (EST)

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all and to discuss our efforts to promote innovative solutions to counter-terrorism.

I would like to thank my good friends Major General Abdul Aziz Abdullah al-Ansari, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, at the Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar and Her Excellency Ambassador Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York for co-hosting this event.

I also thank our distinguished speakers for joining us today to share their expertise.

I am deeply grateful for our partnership with the State of Qatar and for its support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism uses cutting-edge and evidence-based techniques to identify how humans think, decide and act in the context of terrorism.

It then uses that knowledge to develop human rights-compliant interventions, lead the collaborative production of research, and provide practical solutions through behavioural tools to address drivers.

UN entities, Member States, regional organizations and civil society will be able to leverage the Hub's work on diverse topics such as education, strategic messaging, rehabilitation and reintegration, youth engagement, promoting gender equality, fostering social inclusion, and building community resilience.

The potential application of behavioural insights is broader than prevention, and also extends to other parts of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, such as countering terrorist financing, border security, counter-terrorism investigations, and protection of vulnerable targets.

In addition, the UNOCT Behavioural Insights programme will also help anticipate and seek to address evolving and future threats.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The hard work to develop a global behavioural insights research agenda to counter-terrorism has begun.

Today, we will discuss the evolution of counter-terrorism programming, how a behavioural lens can be applied, and what this will look like in this digital decade.

I look forward to this promising journey, which will be undertaken as “One UN” in close collaboration with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact partners, in particular, United Nations Development Programme, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

I thank you and wish you a productive discussion.