



Second United Nations  
**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE  
ON COUNTER-TERRORISM**

**28-30 JUNE 2021**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK**

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,  
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

**Second United Nations High-Level Conference of  
Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States**

**Opening Session  
28 June 2021, 9.00 a.m.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Second United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for convening this conference.

We are also honoured by the participation of global leaders, government ministers and other senior officials.

I am pleased to see that hundreds of representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations, and United Nations entities have joined us today online.

The pandemic did not allow us to hold an in-person meeting last year. However, the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week organized by my Office in July 2020 helped us to take stock of the pandemic's impact and to sustain the momentum of our joint counter-terrorism efforts.

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**2021 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK**

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The Second Counter-Terrorism Week, which includes today's Conference and 34 thematic side events, serves as a dynamic opportunity for counter-terrorism policymakers, senior practitioners, and civil society partners to develop a common understanding of the evolving terrorism threat, discuss practical solutions, and promote collaboration.

These events will help us to reinvigorate an inclusive multilateral response to the global scourge of terrorism.

I cannot stress enough the importance of partnerships, as well as a balanced approach, based on four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. These precepts, which are crucial for our counter-terrorism efforts to succeed, have been a feature of Member States' negotiations on the resolution regarding the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In this regard, I would like to warmly congratulate the Permanent Representatives of Oman and Spain as facilitators of the review of the Strategy, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, on the Strategy's fifteenth anniversary and the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 of 2001 following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Terrorists are enemies of civilization. They seek to destroy not just lives, but ways of life. They are threatened by the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Countering terrorism is truly an agenda that both unites us and saves lives.

While the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is still young, we have made a real difference in international counter-terrorism efforts over the past four years.

Under the leadership of Secretary-General Guterres, we established the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which now brings together 43 entities, to deliver 'all-of-UN' support to Member States.

We have promoted dialogue and cooperation, including through the organization of seven regional high-level counter-terrorism conferences and numerous outreach events engaging diverse stakeholders, including most recently a virtual dialogue with civil society and human rights partners.

We have established programme offices in Budapest, Doha and Rabat, and are working to establish the next in Nairobi and Madrid to serve as platforms from which to deliver impactful capacity-building support closer to beneficiaries and reduce costs.

We have strengthened our capacity-building assistance through the implementation of 15 global flagship programmes on priority counter-terrorism issues, in addition to tailored projects that respond to specific recipient needs.

In 2020 alone, more than 10,000 people from 175 Member States participated in our capacity-building activities.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our donors, whose contributions fund 97 per cent of our budget, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, and to all our partners, for their support to our policy, coordination and capacity-building work.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is clear that COVID-19 will have a lasting impact in all sorts of ways. We need urgently to look ahead on how to adjust our counter-terrorism efforts to respond to new realities and emerging threats.

Digitally-enabled technologies are transforming our societies and economies, with profound effects on how various sectors function. This transition has accelerated during the pandemic and presents both opportunities and risks, including for counter-terrorism.

But the impact of technology is what we make of it: we have the means and we have the responsibility to work together to ensure safe and effective use of technology and prevent its use for terrorist purposes.

I look forward to hearing your experiences and suggestions.

Thank you.

And now it is my great honour to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to Mr. António Guterres, for his keynote address.

Mr. Secretary-General, the floor is yours.