



**Introductory Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

**Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and UNCCT Executive Director**

**Virtual Launch of “Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer’s Guide”**

**25 October 2021**

**10 AM to 11:30 AM EDT (Webex)**

Dear High Commissioner Bachelet,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with you today to launch the “Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer’s Guide.” I would like to thank UNOCT’s partner OHCHR as well as Switzerland, the Kingdom of Morocco, Mexico, Argentina, and Denmark for co-sponsoring this event, as well as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its support in producing the publication – and to thank all of you who are joining us online today.

Secretary-General Guterres has asserted that, “when we protect human rights, we are tackling the root causes of terrorism.” In line with this, multiple Security Council and General Assembly resolutions have repeatedly affirmed that any counter-terrorism measures must comply with international law, in particular human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law. Member States have agreed that effective counterterrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but rather complementary and mutually reinforcing.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus, emphasizes the importance of compliance with international human rights, as well as international refugee and humanitarian law, when undertaking any counter-terrorism measures. In fact, Pillar IV of the Strategy specifically reaffirms that the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law is essential to all components of the Strategy. General Assembly resolution A/RES/75/291 adopted following the Seventh Review of the Strategy last summer, includes increased attention to human rights and the rule of law.

The Trainer's Guide that we introduce today is reflective of the General Assembly's call for greater consideration of human rights while countering terrorism. Designed to be both practical and impactful, the Trainer's Guide outlines how to prepare, organize, and deliver a three-day training course to support Member States in adopting a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to border governance, including in the context of counter-terrorism. It complements other resources that focus on the very important topic of preventing terrorist movements across borders, such as:

- The UN Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use Sharing of Biometrics in Counter Terrorism;
- The UNOCT Handbook on Human Rights and Screening in Border Security and Management
- Pocketbook on Human Rights and Screening in Border Security and Management;
- Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counter-terrorism

The development of the Trainer's Guide was informed by border officials from various regions as well as inputs from practitioners and the experts. It employs an interactive training methodology based on a practical approach, which focuses on the importance of human rights in the work of border officials when dealing with migrants at international borders.

This capacity building tool provides practical guidance for border officials to carry out their critical functions in a human rights-based and gender-responsive manner. It will enable and empower Member States to ensure human rights in assistance, interception, rescue, screening, interviews, and other essential processes.

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

Today's launch demonstrates UNOCT's and OCHCR's robust and continued cooperation as well as our shared objectives. Thank you all for dedicating your time to learning about this important publication. We look forward to your support and interest in working together to further expand the impact and reach of the capacity building tool. I thank you again for your participation.