



**Pre-recorded video message by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

**International Youth Day 2022
“Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”**

12 August 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Young people are agents of change. They help to create a better world for all of us, using their drive, boundless imagination, creativity and talents to fight for just and peaceful societies. They are connecting with each other both online and in-person to create global movements of solidarity and change.

This is also the United Nations’ fight. The future of young people depends on our investment in them, ensuring they have meaningful opportunities to play a role in addressing critical issues.

Countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism is one of these important issues. Youth engagement and youth empowerment are absolutely vital in this regard.

The United Nations system, through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, is committed to working with all generations to ensure a future without terrorism.

UNOCT’s own youth-focused initiatives address the need to harness the creative potential of young people to contribute to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and the UN 2030 Youth Strategy; and importantly for our office, to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the UN Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

In 2020, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre launched its Global Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme, a peer-to-peer model that aims to empower young leaders to create safe spaces to engage with their peers on issues of violent extremism and bridge the gap between young people and decision-makers.

To date, we have implemented this Programme with 58 participants from 11 countries and have had successful outcomes in reaching more than 700 young people. Our young leaders

developed new prevention ideas on improving school curriculums, digital resilience and on counter narratives.

This year, UNOCT is co-chair of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. Such an instrument enables exchange of good practices on youth empowerment for prevention of violent extremism at a regional level.

Connecting young people to senior decision-makers is crucial for tackling radicalization and extremism. Collaborating with youth for youth-led solutions on this track will help to strengthen community resilience and social cohesion.

It also presents valuable opportunities to learn from each other.

My message today is clear: it is not enough to listen to young people, we need to work together as one. We cannot succeed in common efforts to defeat the scourge of terrorism without an approach that includes young people at its centre.

It is time to build an alliance with youth across the globe in prevention of violent extremism. An alliance for today will help us build the future of tomorrow that we all aspire to – a future without terrorism.

Thank you.