**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

Ninth Meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee

**25 January 2023
10 a.m. – 12.50 p.m. EST
Conference Room 8
(UNHQ-hybrid)**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ninth meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

I am especially grateful to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for joining us today and for his leadership in making the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact the largest coordination framework in the United Nations, bringing together 45 UN and non-UN entities.

I am also delighted to welcome our speakers for the Global Outlook session, including the co-facilitators of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; Ambassador Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Ambassador Robert Keith Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations..

Dear Colleagues,

Today's high-level strategic discussion will center on how to best advance "data action" and achieve better results in countering terrorism, in line with the Secretary-General's Data Strategy.

Let me begin with a few observations on the current global terrorist threat.

Despite continuing leadership losses by Al-Qaida and Da'esh, terrorism is more prevalent and geographically widespread, affecting the lives of millions, especially in developing countries.

After declining for several years, terrorist attacks have increased.

Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates continue to exploit instability, fragility and conflict to advance their agendas, including in Africa, where they control parts of several countries.

The situation in the camps and detention facilities in Iraq and north-east Syria, where persons with suspected links to Da'esh and other designated terrorist groups are held, remains appalling, presenting acute human rights, humanitarian and security challenges that require urgent decisive action.

We have also witnessed a rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of "xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief".

To address this issue, the Secretary-General, at the request of the General Assembly, issued a report last August that notes its transnational aspects and calls for more research to plug serious data gaps, as well as encourages Member States to work together to address this threat.

And while emerging technologies offer new tools to counter terrorism, there are significant concerns and risks associated with their misuse as terrorists and violent extremists increasingly explore new technological frontiers.

We must therefore develop more effective, data-centric and evidence-based responses to these challenges.

Allow me to briefly outline some of the ways in which the terrorist threat has evolved.

First, more diverse sets of actors and motivations now pose significant security concerns. This has given birth to new types of alliances and resulted in acute polarization, xenophobia and intolerance in some societies.

Second, terrorist and violent extremist groups have proven adept at exploiting cyber-space, online gaming platforms, the dark web, and the proliferation of encryption and anonymizing technology.

These technologies have helped terrorists to interact and disseminate their messages globally, foment strife and division, and spur vulnerable individuals or groups to commit acts of terrorism.

And the third relates to the weaponry that is increasingly accessible to terrorists.

They have proven their creativeness time and again and used tools and technologies for harm.

One clear example is Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Improvements in the range and payload of these systems have allowed Da'esh to use consumer drones to drop explosives on security forces, to surveil targets, and to film propaganda through airborne video capabilities.

Even more worrisome is that some of these systems can be used to deliver chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, as we have already seen Da'esh do with chemical weapons.

Dear Colleagues,

Now more than ever, evidence-based and data-centric approaches are paramount to confront the terrorist threat with an effective response.

Such responses are also a precondition for devising and implementing effective, sustainable and human rights-compliant efforts aimed at preventing and countering this threat.

In this context, it is essential that our engagement is based on transparency, accountability and respect for human rights, including the right to privacy.

UNOCT, in partnership with interested Compact entities, can explore options to manage and use data for counter-terrorism capacity-building purposes. The Global Compact Platform has become a user-friendly tool to manage counter-terrorism related information, including system-wide response to counter-terrorism challenges.

In this regard, the Global United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme continues to provide comprehensive and tailored support to Member States, as many as 60 Member States participating in the Programme now.

Our Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism has partnered with the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology to develop the *goFinTel* software to support Financial Intelligence Units to counter the financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering. We are working closely on this topic also with our colleagues from UNODC.

And, for the first time last year, our programme offices in Madrid, Rabat and Doha leveraged their respective expertise to jointly develop an innovative project aimed at enhancing the protection of major event venues and other vulnerable targets by strengthening law enforcement capabilities through applied behavioural science.

Dear Colleagues,

Member States and other partners are turning to the United Nations for assistance in dealing with a diverse range of terrorism-related challenges, from countering terrorist

fundraising and online misinformation campaigns targeting young people, to addressing the potential impact of climate change on communities vulnerable to violent extremist recruitment.

Since its launch by the Secretary-General five years ago, the Compact has expanded its membership, and strengthened its capacity-building model to be more results-driven, integrating priority recommendations and technical assistance needs identified by working very closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which is our regular practice.

We have also embraced virtual tools and extended our programme delivery in the field, to ensure that we are more versatile, cost-effective, and closer to our beneficiaries.

The eighth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June this year will provide the Global Compact with a road map to advance the implementation of the Strategy over the next two years.

As you are aware, in October, we will co-organize with the Government of Nigeria a High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Summit on the theme "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism in Africa". This meeting will take place in Abuja.

We plan on exploring a wide range of new capacity-building programmatic activities and will count on your usual support to ensure a successful delivery.

I look forward to continuing working with you and your teams with determination and in full solidarity to meet the challenges ahead of us — for greater coordination, coherence, transparency and above all effectiveness of our collective efforts.

Thank you for your attention, and my best wishes to each of you for the New Year.