



**Opening Remarks for Mr. Raffi Gregorian,  
Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director,  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

**Second 2022 Quarterly Briefing to Member States  
14 July 2022, 10:00– 12:30**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this second Quarterly Briefing to Member States for this year.

I am honored to be joined today by His Excellency Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations; His Excellency Ambassador Agustin Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations; and Mr. Jassim Al-Maawda, Charge d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations.

I am also pleased to welcome Ms. Elisa de Anda Madrazo, who is the Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force, which is the newest member of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, as well as senior United Nations officials and colleagues who are with us today.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

During Under-Secretary-General Voronkov’s Annual Briefing to Member States in February, we highlighted six urgent priorities to advance the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in line with the outcomes of the General Assembly’s seventh review resolution adopted at the end of Counter-Terrorism Week and oriented within the broader vision outlined by the Secretary-General in his report on “Our Common Agenda.”

Let me therefore give you an overview of our progress to achieve those objectives and leave it to my colleagues to provide greater detail on UNOCT’s recent and planned activities later in the agenda.

First, the Secretary-General’s Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact has continued to foster closer coordination and coherence across the United Nations system and expanded its membership with two new organizations: the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh, or UNITAD, and the Financial Action Task Force, or FATF - which I mentioned a moment ago. This brings its membership to 45 and adds an important layer of expertise to strengthen our collective

efforts. Ms. De Anda Madrazo, the Vice President of FATF, will brief you on the Task Force's activities related to the Global Compact.

A number of recent developments have strengthened our engagement with Member States, regional organizations, and other key counter-terrorism partners.

At the beginning of March, we welcomed the adoption by the Arab Interior Ministers Council of the League of Arab States of a new counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab region, developed with the support of UNOCT's Counter-Terrorism Centre and funding from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We have since been working with the Council and our Counter-Terrorism Compact partners to support the implementation of this Strategy.

Working jointly with the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNOCT organized the "High-Level International Conference on Regional Cooperation among Central Asian States," in Tashkent from 3 to 4 March. The Conference adopted the Tashkent Declaration and endorsed the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, which UNOCT and UNRCCA are now helping regional states put into motion. Ambassador Bakhtiyor Ibragimov will share more details about the Tashkent Conference in a moment.

In a similar vein, during the "First Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance," convened jointly with the State of Qatar in Doha from 28-29 March, we received important feedback and recommendations from our recipients, partners, and donors to further strengthen and improve our counter-terrorism support to Member States.

We are deeply grateful that the State of Qatar will continue to support and host this highly productive Forum. Charge d'Affaires Mr. Jassim Al-Maawda will share more details about this unique event.

In May, the "High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society Engagement, and Counter-Terrorism," jointly organized with the Kingdom of Spain in Malaga, led to a robust and practical exchange among Member States, international organizations, civil society actors, and human rights defenders aimed at formulating human rights and rule of law-compliant responses to terrorism. Ambassador Agustine Santos Maraver will brief you on the Malaga conference.

Meanwhile, UNOCT also hosted the "Fourth European Union-UN Leaders' Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism," in April here in New York, during which we agreed to take concrete steps to strengthen our existing partnership against the evolving terrorist threat, including terrorism based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion and belief.

The “EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility,” launched with the financial support of the European Union and expected to reach full operational capability this autumn, will help us move at the speed of relevance to provide rapid support to Member States facing an emerging situation.

Finally, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov briefed Member States of the African Group and of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on 17 March and 16 June respectively, as part of our efforts to explore opportunities for strengthening capacity- building, technical support, and coordination of requesting Member States’ efforts against terrorism.

For the second half of the year, our joint planning with the Permanent Mission of Tajikistan for a regional conference in Dushanbe in October is on-going. We have already sent you a save the date and invitations for the conference will be forthcoming.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Our field presences in various parts of the world have enabled us to strengthen our delivery of tailored and effective technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States, in close coordination with United Nations entities on the ground, regional bodies, and other technical assistance providers.

In March and June, respectively, we formally launched our Programme Offices in Nairobi, and in Madrid.

With initial funding from China through the United Nations Peace and Development Fund, our Office in Nairobi will help to strengthen information-sharing and coordination of efforts against terrorism in East Africa, while the Madrid Office will focus on the protection of vulnerable targets, sports and security, and support to victims of terrorism.

Together with our Programme Office in Rabat, the critical support provided through these field presences is part of our broader initiative to enhance multilateral cooperation against the increasing terrorism threat in Africa.

In line with the General Assembly’s seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General’s Call to Action on Human Rights, UNOCT has also made meaningful progress towards mainstreaming human rights and gender across all our counter-terrorism activities, engaging more closely with relevant civil society actors and human rights defenders, and enhancing advocacy to support victims of terrorism.

During the Global Youth Town Hall, organized by our BI Hub in Doha in March, UNOCT connected with a remarkable group of young people from around the world as part of our efforts to deepen our understanding of the personal, contextual, and structural factors driving violent extremism.

Our new Human Rights and Gender Section, established in January this year, continues to promote human rights compliant and gender-responsive counter-terrorism measures that are anchored in human rights and the rule of law. My colleague, Ms. Veronica Wright, who heads the Section, will also brief you today.

Finally, in May, we launched the Victims of Terrorism “Memories” Campaign as part of a series of events aimed at strengthening the international community’s commitment to the rights and needs of victims.

In the last few months, my Office has been working to finalize preparations for the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. As many of you will recall, the Congress was originally planned to be held in 2020 but was postponed repeatedly because of COVID to ensure that victims could attend in person. The Congress is now set for 8-9 September here in New York. Despite a significant gap in funding due to the increased costs of travel, conference rooms, interpretation, and other requirements, we plan to go forward.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our request for your financial support for this event which will be a vital forum for demonstrating and strengthening solidarity with victims of terrorism, raise awareness about their experiences and highlight the scope of challenges confronting them worldwide.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We have found that our Compact Coordination Platform, which we launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, remains highly beneficial as we resume in-person activities and travel.

Thanks to the generous contribution of the State of Qatar, the Compact Coordination Platform continues to support efficient and inclusive coordination, planning, and collaboration, as well as information-sharing, among its 934 focal points from 133 Member States, 10 regional organizations and 45 Compact entities.

Similarly, through the generous support of the Republic of Korea, our “Connect and Learn Platform” has proven to be an innovative, inclusive, and advanced learning tool for a global community of counter-terrorism practitioners.

Later this year, UNOCT, in partnership with Canada, will launch a new “Gender and Identity Factors Platform,” within the Connect and Learn Platform, to facilitate regular exchanges among UN entities, civil society organizations, practitioners, researchers, and Member States.

In a similar vein, the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal continues to provide access to practical resources and information on and for victims of terrorism, connecting 129 governmental and inter-governmental bodies, and civil society actors.

With the United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute, or UNICRI, we recently convened an expert group to identify good practices in using artificial intelligence to pool, map and analyze the social networks of terrorist groups and individuals.

Finally, UNOCT is supporting Member States on countering the terrorist use of advanced and evolving technologies through our new CT Tech Initiative, thanks to the generous support of the European Union and in partnership with INTERPOL.

Over the next two years, we will assist more than 30 Member States in strengthening their law enforcement operational capacity to counter terrorists' exploitation of advanced technologies and to use these technologies for counter-terrorism purposes.

Thank you for listening to my opening remarks.