



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Video message by Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

On the occasion of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism

12 February 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, as we stand together to commemorate International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, we do so in the midst of a world gripped by uncertainty and challenges affecting every corner of the world.

Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is a rapidly evolving threat. It has grown geographically more diffuse, and ideologically more diverse than it was 20 years ago. It poses an affront to the very essence of humanity.

This phenomenon spares no one. No age, no culture, no religion, no nationality, no region is immune.

Despite years of counter-terrorism efforts, violent extremists continue to exploit instability and conflict to undermine trust and foment division, destroying the social fabric of communities, and challenging the UN's values of peace, justice, and human dignity.

And the online world provides a global platform to spread violent ideologies even further and faster.

Addressing this complex challenge goes to the heart of the United Nations. And it compels us all to act in a way that solves – rather than multiplies – the problem.

In line with the Secretary-General's 2016 Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, we must focus on implementing comprehensive approaches encompassing not only essential security measures, but more importantly than ever, systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to join terrorist groups.

Preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism requires enhanced international cooperation that offers coordinated, inclusive, transparent as well as human rights-based and gender-responsive policies and programming.

This Day is an opportunity to highlight the essential and ongoing commitment from Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant global partners—including civil society, religious leaders, the private sector, academia and the media—to unite in our common efforts against violent extremism.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, is committed to working with all stakeholders to deliver programmatic activities that yield tangible impact on the ground.

I urge Member States to continue to support this vital work.

Together, we can build a global movement to work towards a world able to prevent violent extremism, in which the promise of a future without terrorism shines for all.

Thank you.