UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

(Pre-recorded statement)

Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Workshop on Mobilizing South-South Cooperation in Support of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Eastern and Southern Africa

10 March 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Government of the Republic of Kenya for its support in the organization of this workshop on "Mobilizing South-South Cooperation in Support of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Eastern and Southern Africa".

I am also grateful to the Governments of the People´s Republic of China and of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their financial support to the project in the framework of which this workshop is organized. The project is funded through the Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund.

It is quite fitting that a workshop promoting South-South cooperation is the first activity supported by the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi that was launched yesterday.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism has severely affected many countries, especially those in the Global South, many of which live with a constant threat of terrorism. Such adversity has led them to develop innovative solutions to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

UNOCT's work in South-South Cooperation was reinforced by the Expert Meeting on Promoting South-South Cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism organized by our United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in New York in November 2019.

The meeting brought together experts from 16 countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as representatives from United Nations agencies and regional organizations. Participants explored ways to enhance collaboration in CT/PCVE through South-South Cooperation, and identified existing south-south initiatives at the national and regional levels that could be scaled up.

The cooperation and partnerships engendered among these countries, with the support of the United Nations, enabled them to achieve results which otherwise would not have been attainable. Experiences which have been tested, validated, adapted and/or scaled up in comparable contexts have proved to be of great value to regions and countries with comparable circumstances.

I am pleased that, as part of its commitment to foster South-South partnership and learning, UNOCT has drafted the *Handbook of Global South initiatives to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism* that we launch today. I would like to convey my appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of this groundbreaking publication.

This handbook documents major initiatives undertaken in various frameworks throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle

East. It illustrates the significant potential and leadership the Global South can offer in the field of CT/PVE, and aims to promote peer to peer learning through the sharing of national experiences.

It shows that Member States have become very proactive, deploying preemptive strategies to disrupt and dismantle terrorist cells before they gain traction, while also addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as those that make people—especially youth—resilient to recruitment by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

During the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (known as BAPA+40), Member States reaffirmed their views of South-South Cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the Global South that contributes to their national security, collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed goals. These views were captured in the BAPA+40 outcome document, which remains valid today.

Member State representatives present at the conference agreed that combating violent extremism and terrorism was one of the key areas in which South-South Cooperation could have an enhanced impact.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The statements delivered by world leaders during the opening of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly held last September confirmed that countering terrorism remains one of the most important priorities of their national security policies.

Terrorism is a persistent and evolving threat. Addressing the different dimensions of this threat continues to pose significant challenges to many countries and regions around the world.

We are seeing an escalating spread and impact of terrorism in Eastern and Southern Africa where attacks carried out by Al-Qaida and Da'esh affiliates have far reaching implications for peace and security.

It is my hope that South-South and Triangular Cooperation will continue to help us improve our counter-terrorism capabilities and efforts at national, regional and global levels.

I am pleased that my Office is implementing activities using this modality of international cooperation through its Programme Offices, especially in Rabat and now in Nairobi, and through its global programs such as the Global Capacity Building Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism that organized a training for Iraqi officials with trainers from Egypt a few weeks ago in Cairo.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by thanking everyone for joining us today and for your continued engagement and support; and I thank the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for its partnership with my Office.

I wish you productive discussions and look forward to our continued and fruitful collaboration.

Thank you for your attention.