



**Remarks by UN Under-Secretary-General  
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**

**2019 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference  
*Bratislava, 25-26 March 2019***

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First, I would like to warmly congratulate the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship and State Secretary Lukáš Parížek for convening this successful conference.

I am always impressed by the regional leadership of the OSCE with its unique membership and partnerships for cooperation, and its comprehensive approach to security, including in combating terrorism.

Opportunities such as this conference are essential to sustain the momentum in our collective effort to respond to the evolving and multifaceted threat from terrorism and terrorist radicalization.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Indeed, we cannot afford complacency. Terrorism remains a serious global threat and challenge.

Following its territorial collapse, ISIL is transforming into a covert network that remains a threat as a global organization with centralized leadership.

Its toxic propaganda continues to grow and spread online, moving between platforms and embedding in the Dark Web.

The return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members is presenting Member States with a range of complex legal and social issues to break the cycle of violence.

I am particularly concerned about the fate of children associated with FTFs, including European FTFs, who are stranded in Syria and Iraq, with their mothers or orphaned. It's important that the States of origin of these minors find a human rights-based solution, respectful of the rule of law and the international legal framework.

And the threat of terrorism is not limited to ISIL, Al-Qaeda, al-Shabaab or Boko Haram.

Terrorist tactics appeal to individuals driven by intolerance

Victims of terrorism can be extremely powerful messengers. When we highlight their voices, uphold their rights and provide them with support and justice, we are also rejecting the dehumanizing and divisive narratives of terrorists.

