

**Opening Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and
UNCCT Executive Director**

18th Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board

29 May 2019, 10:00-12:00

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the Chair, His Excellency Ambassador Al-Mouallimi, for his support and introductory remarks.

I also want to thank the Advisory Board members for attending this first Ambassadorial level meeting in 2019, for your continued support of the work of UNCCT through strategic

And lastly, an overview of the key strategic priorities for UNCCT's work and operations going forward.

Starting with the capacity-building: You have before you the Annual Report for 2018, which was circulated on to your Missions 30 April. This report is a compendium of UNCCT's activities in the last year, presented in a very detailed manner.

One can see that

We are also working to develop programmes on youth and human rights to ensure a strategic, sustained and holistic

We will look forward to the continued guidance of the Chair and Members of the Advisory Board on the future role and composition of the Board in the framework of General Assembly resolution 71/291 adopted in 2017. I think the consultancy which will take place soon will be very helpful in this regard.

This leads me to my third point regarding our ongoing work towards the implementation of the recommendations of the audit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

As you are aware, the OIOS released its detailed audit report in December 2018, which provided 12 important recommendations in areas of strategic planning, organization and performance reporting, resource mobilization, and project management, in order to guide the Centre's efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the management of its capacity-building support.

I was pleased to note that OIOS found no issues of a 'critical' nature.

OIOS has provided a detailed briefing on the results of their audit to the Advisory Board at the expert level

As a key decision in this regard, I have organized the work of the Centre by the four Pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This will also help ensure a balanced implementation of the Global Strategy.

We did present this new org chart to Member States many times and that is why there is no need to make the next presentation today.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude my remarks by highlighting a number of strategic priorities for the future work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

First and foremost, I want to express my strong commitment to ensuring that UNCCT is further developed into a Centre of Excellence, as envisaged in the Vision Statement of the Secretary-General in 2014 on the future role of the Centre.

In defining the Centre of Excellence, the Vision Statement points to a Centre equipped with subject matter expertise on issues that are not covered by other parts of the United Nations and with sufficient capacity to ensure that the Centre is able to meet the demands for capacity-building.

We have made important progress towards realizing this Vision, with an expanded portfolio of capacity-building programmes and activities reaching over 70 Member States. Our common priorities

In this context, a strategic priority for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in 2019 is to step up the implementation of existing programmes and projects that have tangible and sustainable impact. I have set a target to increase the implementation volume by at least 25% compared to 2018.

Another strategic priority is to enhance the visibility of the Centre's capacity-building projects and activities, including through the active use of promotional materials and communication tools.

We will also strengthen the guidelines and processes for carrying out monitoring and evaluation across all programmes and projects to ensure accountability and oversight of programme performance.

And last but not least, we will continue our close collaboration with Global Compact entities through the revitalized Working Groups and implementation of joint projects.

We will also expand our cooperation with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the research community and the private sector.

All of this will need to be reflected as we review and update the 5-Year Programme, as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and I look forward to working with you on this important endeavour in 2019.

As we work towards these strategic priorities, we will continue to rely on the support of donors contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism and other partner countries, including by earmarking funding for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and its programmes and projects. I would therefore like to express my deepest appreciation to all of you and look forward to continuing our close cooperation.

In closing, I would like to praise and thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the continued financial, organizational and intellectual support of UNCCT's activities as a United Nations Centre of Excellence.

Thank you.