

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

**19th Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board
20 January 2020, 10:00-12:00**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the distinguished Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and my good friend Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, for his continued strong support and able leadership of the Advisory Board.

I also want to thank His Excellency the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Muhammad-Bande, for honouring us with his presence and for his informative statement. His Excellency has always been a good friend of UNCCT and I am grateful for his continued support.

I am also pleased to introduce my new Deputy, Dr. Raffi Gregorian, who am sure many of you already know. Dr. Gregorian joins the Office following a distinguished career at the US State Department where, for the past several years, he was a strong supporter of UNCCT. Among Dr. Gregorian's main responsibilities is to assist the Secretary-General of UNCCT in his role as the Executive Director of the Office.

We are also finalizing the report of the Secretary General on the threat posed by ISIL, in which UNCCT programmes and projects on the repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of suspected foreign terrorist fighters and their dependents; information exchange on FTFs; and countering the financing of terrorism, will feature prominently.

I look forward to the continued good cooperation with His Excellency, the President of the General Assembly, as well as the two co-facilitators, Egypt and Spain, in the coming months.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Chairman of the Advisory Board has asked us to improve the visibility of UNCCT. The video we have just seen is one of the steps we have taken in this regard. As part of launching the new Office website we have significantly expanded UNCCT's online content, making it more dynamic and engaging, and giving project teams the opportunity to showcase their work, highlighting their successes and impact.

We frequently use the UNCCT hashtag on our Twitter profile and last year UNCCT tweets generated more than 250,000 impressions.

In your folder you will see some of the brochures we have produced on UNCCT programmes and projects.

We will continue to expand our visibility efforts in 2020, including by providing more information on the website about our activities. We will also organize an exhibition to showcase UNCCT's work during this summer's Counter-Terrorism Week and I have asked UNCCT to take the lead in organizing the first ever Victims of Terrorism Congress, which will take place on 30 June in New York, as part of this year's Counter-Terrorism Week. UNCCT will also co-organize a Regional High-Level Conference on countering terrorist financing, scheduled to take place in Riya Tf1 0 0 1 394.15 14619(10s 0 GeBDC q0.00000912 0 612 792 reW

to your agreement, UNCCT will also circulate a document for Board members' review with a summary of the past 18 meetings.

Of course, visibility needs to be grounded on concrete achievements and tangible impacts. I am therefore pleased to

You may recall that

Maintaining the consensus on the Global Strategy is essential. My Office stands ready to continue to support Member States in their fight against terrorism.

I will now ask the distinguished Director of UNCCT, Dr. Khan, to provide a more detailed briefing on the work of the Centre in 2019.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.