Press release

Launch of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees

New York, 29 September 2021 The Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), jointly launched the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees during a side event on the margins of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Today, thousands of suspected foreign terrorist fighters are held in detention facilities, while at least 42,000 foreign women and children remain in overcrowded camps and detention centers in northeast Syria. The protracted humanitarian situation in these camps and detention facilities is unsustainable from both a humanitarian and a security perspective. In response, the United Nations has come together to support Member States willing to repatriate their nationals from Iraq and Syria by developing a Global Framework for UN Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees (Global Framework).

UN Secretary-General António Guterres <u>highlighted</u> in his recorded opening statement that "The United Nations has developed a Global Framework that provides integrated 'all-of-UN' technical and financial support that addresses the humanitarian and protection needs of returnees from Iraq and Syria while also responding to accountability and security concerns." Secretary-General Guterres added: "This Framework offers human rights-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive solutions."

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

All support is grounded in national legal frameworks and fully compliant with international law, including international human rights, international humanitarian, and international refugee law Designed in 2020, the Global Framework is already being used to support implementation in Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

To enable rapid, coherent and coordinated delivery across both the development/recovery and the security/accountability objectives, the Global Framework is supported by a dedicated pooled fund mechanism administered by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Funding through the MPTF is channeled through two distinct funding streams –in line with the Global Framework's objectives. One stream is allocated to supporting protection, humanitarian and recovery activities that prioritize children and caregiver-focused interventions, while the other is allocated to supporting accountability and security interventions for returning adults.

Contributions are accepted from Member States, regional bodies, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, foundations, and individuals

For more information:

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