



Statement by Mr. Raffi Gregorian
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United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Briefing to Member States

29 October 2020

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It gives Member States access to a library of 340 reference documents, a joint calendar, a contact directory of counter-terrorism focal points, the annual report to the Secretary-General and a bi-monthly newsletter on the implementation of the Global Compact.

I encourage Member States who have not yet done so to join the Platform; we stand ready to support you in this process.

Meanwhile, the Global Compact has continued to grow - the UN Institute for Disarmament Research joined as our 43rd member earlier this year.

We also held the fifth meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee in August.

We were delighted to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Djani, Permanent Representative of Indonesia and Chair of the Security Council's 1267 Sanctions Committee; and the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Her Excellency Ambassador Raz, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Ambassador Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain - to brief us.

The Committee discussed thematic priorities and operational adjustments needed for continued support to Member States during and after the pandemic.

It was a productive meeting that set a clear strategic direction for the Compact's work over the coming months.

August saw Under-Secretary-General Voronkov brief the Security Council on the eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL to international peace and security.

He also briefed the Council in August on the report of the Secretary

But 97 Member States referred to tackling terrorism and violent extremism in the statements of their heads of states and governments.

This is slightly lower than last year, but demonstrates that countering terrorism remains one of the top priorities of Member States, even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

Member States emphasized the continuing threat posed by ISIL, Al-Qaida and their affiliates.

They also expressed serious concerns about the increase in xenophobia, hate speech and mis- and dis- information, which have been stoked by the COVID-19 'infodemic', as the UN Secretary-General

One was with the Director-General of the International Air Transport Association, which will contribute to our work on countering terrorist travel, aviation security, and border security and management.

The second, with the Executive Secretary of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, will assist our work on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, and training for law enforcement officials.

We now have Memoranda of Understanding with all three institutions inspired by the Global Counterterrorism Forum – Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Hedayah Centre of Excellence for the Prevention of Violent Extremism and the IJ.

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These two new offices are part of our plan to increase our presence in the field to more effectively deliver our mandate.

You may recall we talked about this in December last year.

Looking ahead, our attention is now firmly focused on the seventh review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We have requested inputs from Member States to update the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Strategy, which we published in February this year. Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to provide us your submissions as soon as possible, as we are set to begin drafting the update to the report in the near future.

As we did last year, we are particularly keen to ensure that civil society organizations are fully engaged in the review process.

So we have invited them to respond to a survey by 6 November in order to fully reflect their views in the updated Secretary-General's report.

We look forward to supporting the President of the General Assembly, whichever co-facilitators he appoints, and all Member States to ensure a strong outcome and mandate for UNOCT for the next two years.

As we heard during Virtual CT Week, terrorists across the ideological spectrum are seeking to exploit the social and economic hardships caused by COVID-19. We expect this topic to be reflected in the debate next year.

Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups that use violence are stirring up divisions online and offline in the wake of the virus and global equality protests following the killing of George Floyd.

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It will include the Second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the inaugural Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

2021 will be a year of milestones: the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Security Council resolution 1373 and the establishment of its Counter-Terrorism Committee.

It is also the 15th anniversary of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the 10th anniversary of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre.

It will be an opportunity to strengthen our unity and solidarity to fight terrorism as we seek to build back better after the pandemic.

I would like to sincerely thank all our generous donors, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, for their tremendous support and flexibility in these difficult times.

We are always looking to learn lessons and improve the way we work.

That is why we asked KPMG to undertake an independent evaluation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, at the suggestion of the Advisory Board Chair.

KPMG's evaluation confirmed that the General Assembly's decision to create UNOCT has helped lift up UNCCT's profile and performance. The report makes recommendations on how to improve performance and deliver real, measurable impact to beneficiary states by building on the management processes UNOCT instituted over the past 18 months. We will extend a culture of results and excellence across all our capacity

We are now developing an Action Plan to implement many of these recommendations and we will share further information with you in due course.

Thank you.