



**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**OSCE Permanent Council Meeting
Vienna, 4 October 2018**

Excellencies,

I am grateful for the invitation from Ambassador Alessandro Azzoni, Chairperson of this Council, to address you today.

I am delighted to be back in Vienna where I served as Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations until last year. I also fondly remember my time as Deputy Permanent Representative to the OSCE from 2005-2008.

The United Nations and the OSCE share many priorities, including our commitment to counter and prevent terrorism with policies and methods that promote multilateralism and do not compromise our respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, has made it a priority to mainstream countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism into the core work of the organization, both at Headquarters and in the field.

Excellencies,

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was born a year ago. A lot of efforts have been undertaken to get the baby to walk. We were crawling for a few months but are now steady on our feet and walking purposefully.

One of our top priorities is to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation.

The transnational nature of terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram means we need multilateral cooperation more than ever before to address this challenge. There is no other option but multilateralism to defeat terrorism.

We need to build new partnerships at global, regional and national levels.

We need to strengthen the resilience and cohesion of our societies, joining families, communities and the state together with a common purpose - to withstand terrorist ideologies and challenge those who espouse them.

In particular, the issue of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) continues to be a serious concern. In 2014, the Security Council adopted its first resolution 2178 on the FTF issue, which focused on preventing FTF travel to conflict zones. The situation has evolved. We now face the growing challenge of FTFs who relocate or who return to their countries of origin, nationality or to third countries. Security Council resolution 2396 addresses these challenges in a comprehensive manner.

We need to work together to address the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters in a human rights compliant way. The OSCE Conference on this topic in Rome in May was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and good practices. I count on the OSCE to continue leading the way on this issue.

As the tactics used by terrorists evolve, we must also tackle new and emerging aspects of

But I want us to do more. This is why this morning, I and OSCE Secretary-General Greminger signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation between UNOCT and the OSCE Secretariat.

I believe we can focus on practical impacts in a few key areas where we can utilize our

technologies and weapons. My Office has a strong track record on these issues, including working in the Central Africa region as well as in Kenya and Cameroon, as well as now developing projects in Iraq and Jordan. We are also working to expand partnerships in the field of countering terrorism involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) weapons, so as to better support Member States in building national capacities to address these threats.

Sixth, enhancing information-sharing was a key theme from the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which the UN Secretary-General convened in New York at the end of June. In line with the outcomes of the Conference, my Office is now consulting Member States on establishing a Network of Counter-Terrorism Coordinators to share information, expertise and best practices.

Finally, I hope we can work together to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for multilateral counter-terrorism efforts.

Excellencies,

The United Nations and the OSCE are natural partners in our common efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.