

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

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international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support

27 August 2019

The report was prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate CTED and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, in close collaboration with my Office, with contributions from other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

I am grateful to Mr. Fitton-Brown and Ms. Coninx for their valuable contribution to this report. It is a comprehensive analytical document on the threat that ISIL continues to pose today at the global and regional levels.

This report outlines how, despite its territorial defeat in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2019, ISIL continues to aspire to global relevance. It capitalizes on its affiliates and inspired attacks and has an estimated residual wealth of up to three hundred million dollars at its disposal.

Acute concerns also remain about the challenges posed by foreign terrorist fighters, returnees and relocators. Between twenty-four thousand and thirty thousand of which have survived from the initial estimate of forty thousand. Member States also have to contend with the

The report highlights relevant activities of United Nations entities over the past six months to support Member States.

bringing to an end the dystopia of the so-Syria and Iraq.

Yet, the fall of Baghuz was not a fatal blow. ISIL continues to evolve into a covert network, with attacks increasing in areas controlled by the Government of Syrian Arab Republic.

This follows the same pattern we have seen in Iraq since 2017, where ISIL insurgency activity reportedly designed to prevent normalization and reconstruction efforts continues.

Looking at Africa, there has been a striking increase in ISIL and Al-Qaida-linked

There are as many as seventy thousand people in Al-Hawl camp in Syria alone, including women and children with potential links to United Nations listed terrorist groups.

The Secretary-General recognizes in his report that Member States face significant, multifaceted challenges related to the repatriation of their nationals, including women and children, from territories previously controlled by ISIL.

At the same time, the report recalls that Member States have the primary responsibility for their own nationals, and that policies and actions that lead to state-less-ness should be avoided.

Let me just highlight key new initiatives of my Office which are mentioned in the report.

First, on law enforcement and border security we launched in May our Countering Terrorist Travel Programme a multi-year, multi-million, multi-agency programme with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of Information and Communications Technology, and the International Civil Aviation Organization. Today, Interpol has joined the Programme, and I think it is a very promising development.

Last, I would like to thank all Member States which have been partnering with my Office to organize high-level regional conferences sustaining the momentum for international cooperation and laying the ground for the Second UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States to be held next year.

We have already completed three such conferences in partnership with Member States: In April with the Government of Tajikistan; in June with the Government of Mongolia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and in July with the Government of the Republic of Kenya, which was our biggest regional conference yet. With close to one thousand five hundred