Statement of the Under-Secretary General UNOCT
Mr. Vladimir Voronkov for
2021 International Women's Day

8 March 2021

Topic: *Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world*

Aligned with the topic for CSW: *Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls* ,

which this year is dedicated to women in leadership. G human rights are values that are not only right up front in the UN Charter, they are also part of the DNA of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, which works to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

I would like to start by acknowledging that COVID 19 has disproportionately burdened women and set back decades of advancements in gender equality and seen an increase in gender-based violence. I am particularly concerned that women victims of terrorism have seen their ability to access justice, legal, financial, and psychosocial support restricted even further than it was before the pandemic. To address these issues, my Office, working closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, is developing for Member States model legislative provisions that emphasize the specific rights and needs of women victims of terrorism in national legislation, and the inclusion of women in decision-making processes at all levels within these processes.

In these troubling times, women are also central to the fight against the pandemic. They stand at the front lines of the crisis as effective national leaders, health care workers, caregivers, innovators, and community organizers. Time and time again, we witness women stepping up and showing resilience, leadership, and strength. This ision9 82 reW*nE/F4 12 Tf1 0 0 1 61 61 61 61 69h09.80

mainstreaming, meaningful participation within all levels of PCVE/CT initiatives. We are committed to furthering gender equality and the empowerment of women in all our functions, be it in our