



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

**Security Council meeting on "Threats to international peace and security from terrorist  
acts: Foreign Terrorist Fighters"  
28 November 2017, 3.00 p.m.**

Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on this very complex and evolving issue.

It is great to have the possibility to take part in the discussion together with my colleague and friend CTED Executive Director Madame Coninx.

Allow me to start by remembering the tens of thousands of victims of terrorism around the world, and particularly express my solidarity with the Governments and peoples of Egypt, Mali and Nigeria, who have most recently suffered atrocious terrorist attacks.

My thoughts and prayers are also with our MINUSMA colleagues, who are bravely defending the United Nations principles and values at the cost of their lives.

Mr. President,

The threat stemming from foreign terrorist fighters affects all Member States, even those far away from conflict zones.

Recent reports suggest that at one stage over 40,000 foreign terrorist fighters from more than 110 countries may have travelled to join terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

They have prolonged and complicated the conflicts in both countries; they have increased the brutality of the fighting and the frequency of human rights violations, including against women and girls.



Now the plan addresses the full life-cycle of foreign terrorist fighters, including a number of projects related to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration to support Member States in their efforts to address returnees.

In order to get several projects under the plan started, the Office of Counter-Terrorism provided a total of 9 per cent of the funding for the Implementation Plan through catalytic seed funding.

However, together with contributions from Member States, and this is very important, the Implementation Plan is still only 41 per cent funded. Though the list of projects is very long and includes 50 projects.

This means that many critical and urgent projects have not yet been implemented.

There is much more that the United Nations can and wants to do to build the capacities of Member States to counter the threats from foreign terrorist fighters.

Mr. President,



That is why the Secretary-General will convene the first-ever United Nations Summit of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies in June next year.

This will be an excellent opportunity to enhance cooperation, exchange information and to develop new and innovative ways to tackle terrorism and address the threat of foreign terrorist fighters.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism stands ready to further support Member States to protect its citizens against this threat.

Thank you, Mr. President.