



(Pre-recorded statement)

Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,

Under-Secretary-General

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

**Regional challenges, global priorities: a strategic partnership with
Africa to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism**

9 March 2022, Nairobi, Kenya

Your Excellency, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and
Coordination of National Government of the Republic of Kenya,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to be speaking today alongside our guest of honour, Cabinet Secretary Matiang'i,
in launching the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Programme Office in Nairobi.

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Kenya for its close collaboration with UNOCT and
for hosting our Programme Office, which is another mark of its commitment to multilateral
counter-terrorism cooperation.

The last time the Cabinet Secretary and I were together was during the 2019 African Regional
High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism
Conducive to Terrorism, convened by Secretary-General António Guterres who aptly said that to
“prevent violent extremism in Africa and to fight effectively terrorism in Africa is not only a
matter of interest for the Africans, it's a matter of global security.”

This newly established Programme Office is therefore a key part of a broader initiative to give
new momentum to multilateral cooperation to address the evolving threat of terrorism and
violent extremism in eastern Africa.

Kenya's political commitment – as illustrated by the presence of Cabinet Secretary Matiang'i here today – has been instrumental in UNOCT being able to finally realize the launch of its Nairobi office, despite the obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Africa remains a priority for the Secretary-General and my Office.

The expansion of terrorist groups in many sub-regions of Africa has become increasingly worrisome, especially with Al-Shabaab posing a protracted threat to Somalia and its Eastern African neighbors.

While Member States have the primary responsibility for tackling terrorism and protecting their citizens, it is in everyone's interest to strengthen African-led and African-owned counter-terrorism efforts.

The increase in the frequency and lethality of terrorist attacks across the continent, and specifically in East Africa, shows that much more needs to be done to address terrorist threats and its root causes.

We know that resilient communities are a key to stability.

We can contribute through additional programmatic activities and technical support to prevent and counter violent extremism in communities and with populations most vulnerable to infiltration, by supporting law enforcement teams, by protecting civilian tar

the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, and the European Union as a major supporter of several of our flagship programmes.

I am deeply thankful to the Government of Kenya for its steadfast commitment to supporting UNOCT's work in the region. I would also like to thank Ambassador Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN, for all his support.

Finally, I would also like to thank all Member States, regional bodies, the 43 UN Global Coordination Compact entities, and all the partners that have enabled coordinated and coherent common action in the field of counter-terrorism, for impactful results on the ground.

Let us continue to build these relationships through our new UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi.

I thank you all.