

Opening remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

High-Level Event of Heads of Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies on Enhancing Capacity-Building and Training for West African Member States

Marrakesh, 23 June 2022

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this event dedicated to enhancing capacity building and training for West African countries.

Allow me to start by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its strong support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

I am honoured to be joined on the podium by His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed Yassin Mansouri, Director General of the General Directorate for Studies and Documentation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

I am also very pleased to be joined in this meeting by Mr. Annadif Saleh, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel; by General Mohamed Ely Znagui, Head of Defence and Security Department in G5 Sahel; and by His Excellency Mr. U ~~U~~ 1611(c)-o)r.

is established to serve as a much-needed training hub to advance our counter-terrorism capacity-building efforts in Africa, particularly in West Africa and the Sahel.

I am very proud to say that less than a year since its opening, the Rabat Office has already conducted several important capacity-building activities on its premises. Most recently, the Office delivered a three-week-long foundational module, as the first part of a more than 10-week Specialized Counter-Terrorism Investigations training programme. This training benefited twenty-four participants coming from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

The Office will train the same group of participants on Intermediate and Advanced Modules by the end of the year and will develop mentorship programmes at country level, to ensure sustainability and standardization. This will support national law enforcement academies to own and deliver the curriculum on a permanent basis.

Moreover, UNOCT recently launched the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility that will operate out of Rabat with global reach to provide demand-