



Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to open this , which brings together strategic and tactical leaders from cities from all across the world.

Following the success of our three virtual exercises in 2021 and 2022 focused on biological, chemical, and radiological terrorism, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) decided to organize this fourth joint activity.

Let me begin by thanking CTPN for working so closely with UNOCT staff on the past exercises and for ensuring that today's exercise will be equally successful.

Today you will focus on the threat of chemical terrorism – specifically the threat posed by the dispersal of chemicals in an urban environment.

The risk of non-state actors, including terrorists, acquiring chemical weapons is still as much of a concern as it was when the Security Council adopted resolution 1540 in 2004. That is why in 2021 the United Nations General Assembly again urged all Member States to take steps to strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, equipment and technologies related to their manufacture.

The UN's Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, stated last November that “

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He also stressed that "

I want to conclude by thanking all of you for your participation, commitment, and support to counter the threat of CBRN terrorism. UNOCT and its Counter-Terrorism Centre stand ready to assist Member States in building their capacities through effective cooperation and partnerships.

Thank you again and I wish you all a successful event.