



Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Third High-Level Meeting of the Marrakech Platform

The Evolving Field of Intelligence Analysis in the Context of Counter-Terrorism
Fez, Morocco, 4 June 2024

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to this third edition of the United Nations Handbook on Counter-Terrorism and Security Agencies.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its continued support to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and for hosting the High-Level Meeting of the Marrakech Platform in the beautiful city of Fez.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, and to Mr. Mohamed Yassine Mansouri, Director General of the General Directorate for Studies and Documentation for their warm hospitality and the United Nations Programme Office and Training Center for Counter-Terrorism in Africa, based in Rabat.

Allow me to start with a few observations on the current terrorism landscape in Africa. Despite the significant efforts made by counter-terrorism and security agencies, African Member States are paying a heavy toll.

Qaddafi and their regional affiliates continue to exploit political instability and socioeconomic grievances as well as intensify attacks in parts of Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most impacted by terrorism, notably the

on the continent continues to deteriorate and the increasingly complex nature of this threat requires multilateral and multi-agency cooperation.

Today, increasing geopolitical tensions are having an impact on the continent. It is our collective responsibility to stand with and support African Member States in their efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

The United Nations will continue to work closely with African Member States and regional organizations. Last week, in commemoration of Africa Day, Secretary General Guterres called on the international community to quote, "U H Q H Z O R H V W D Q S G U Z E V @ V D O O W K H" request to lead the continent "and our world" "L Q W R D S H D F H I X O D R G S O R V S H U F"

We also look forward to Member States deliberations at the United Nations Summit of the Future in September. We hope the longstanding consensus among Member States against terrorism will contribute to strengthening multilateral cooperation in the future being negotiated.

This meeting of the Marrakech Platform provides a unique forum for African counter-terrorism and intelligence agencies to discuss current threats including new and emerging technologies and effective responses.

The meeting continues to expand with new Member States and additional requests to join, which confirms its added value, and the commitment of Member States present today to strengthen regional and international cooperation.

Excellencies,

Africa remains a priority for the United Nations Office of Counterterrorism. Last month, the Government of Nigeria organized with the support of my Office, a High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting, in Abuja.

On this occasion, participants reiterated the importance of African-le Tw 5665(ti)-2.667.5 (ip)his

Also, the work of the agencies you lead will be vital in this regard. The sharing of experiences and expertise is critical for the success of our common endeavors in the counterterrorism space, and we will discuss today counter-radicalization approaches through the lens of intelligence agencies

Excellencies,

In his New Agenda for Peace, Secretary-General Guterres highlighted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a double-edged sword. It can be used to support civilian, military and dual-use operations, but it can also be used to threaten the lives of innocent people.

However, this powerful technology can be misused and create life-threatening risks. Terrorist groups have been early adopters of emerging technologies: they already utilize social media, online gaming platforms, and other digital tools for radicalization, recruitment and coordination.

But Artificial Intelligence also provides powerful new opportunities for counterterrorism at both operational and strategic levels.

It allows your services to effectively process and analyze massive amounts of data, detect patterns of suspicious activities and inform strategic decisions more rapidly and accurately.

However, achieving this still requires a serious investment in capacity building, and close collaboration between public authorities, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

In this regard, I would like to recall the adoption on 21 March by the General Assembly of a Resolution on "Seizing the Opportunities Offered by Safe, Secure and Reliable Artificial Intelligence Systems for Sustainable Development". This landmark resolution emphasizes the need to respect human rights in the design, development and use of AI systems. It also calls for the development of international instruments to address the challenges posed by AI.

Excellencies,

We are committed to supporting your agencies in fulfilling your critical functions, particularly those related to analyzing data and using new technology.

I therefore look forward to hearing your views and feedback to ensure that my Office continues to provide valuable and tailored capacity building support.

Thank you.