Opening Remarks by Mr Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General
The United Nations Office of Counter-

colleagues at the Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for excellent partnership in our joint
endeavour.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome the senior participating officials from Malaysia,
the Maldives, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. Thank you also to the Kingdom of
Thailand for hosting this event.

I also extend a warm welcome to the United Nations agencies present here today, UNDP, UN
Women, UNESCO, UNODC, and representatives from the Resident Coordinators’ Offices in
Thailand and Bangladesh.

Finally, to our incredible young leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, East Timor, India,
Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives: we thank you for your dedication to this
project over the last six months. We look forward to continuing to work with you on future
opportunities as part of our Youth Network on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.
Dear Colleagues,

We are living in unprecedented times. Despite the challenges we are facing, there has never
been a time more conducive to affect change. Our individual actions reverberate in ways that
we cannot always predict, particularly through increasing digitalisation.

It is in this way that each one of us has the power to create wa76612 792 2(you)] TJn(n)-4(g)56(t)-4yindJ
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decisionmakers, regional and global institutions and other stakeholders together with young
people to find opportunities for joint action.

Dear Colleagues,

The Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme was launched in 2020 with a vision to
empower young people to contribute to the United Nation’s efforts to prevent and counter
violent extremism and terrorism. Since then, our programme has reached over 800 youth from
over 60 countries with its Peer-to-Peer Model. This has been achieved through workshops,
training, webinars, coaching and mentoring sessions, and interactions between youth and
policymakers.

Through this programme, we aim to engage young leaders from across the globe to realise the
objectives of the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the Youth 2030 Strategy, and
the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

We are very proud to call these young leaders our partners. Today we will hear from South
Asian and Southeast Asian young leaders who will share with us their recommendations on how
best to include youth in the development and implementation of PCVE policy frameworks.