

**Opening remarks
Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov
Launch of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week
6 July 2020, 10 AM**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to open this Virtual Counter Terrorism Week as part of the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations.

I am deeply grateful that we are joined on this occasion by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

It was his initiative to reform the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture that led to the creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism three years ago.

Has it been a success story? I would not like to presume how the General Assembly will assess UNOCT when it reviews the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its 75th session.

However, let me make some observations as UNOCT begins its fourth year:

First, although the number of terrorist attacks and fatalities has been declining since the peak reached during the rise of ISIL, terrorism remains a major threat to international peace and security, and some groups are extending their reach into new areas.

Second, over the past three years the Security Council has adopted a number of Chapter VII resolutions establishing a comprehensive set of measures that Member States can use to prevent and counter terrorism.

Third, UNOCT and the other 42 UN entities and partners participating in the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact established by the Secretary-General in 2018, now have more mechanisms to support Member States implement the Global Counter-



Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions. Our programmatic





To counter terrorist travel, financing and access to weapons;

reintegration strategies, sensitive to age and gender, in full compliance with international law;

To prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

To promote and protect human rights as the bedrock of counter-terrorism efforts;

And to support the rights and address the needs of victims of terrorism.
