



**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

**Diplomatic Club
3 March 2018, Cairo**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct honour and pleasure to address this distinguished audience of political leaders, senior government officials, diplomats and experts.

I am very pleased to be here in Egypt, a land of ancient wonders and proud people whose creativity and achievements have contributed so much to human mankind.

I would like to thank the Government of Egypt for the warm hospitality that has been extended to me, and thank all of you for being here this evening to engage with me.

Excellencies,

I have come to Egypt to discuss one of the world's today the scourge of terrorism.

The threat is of course not new, and Egypt has, unfortunately, a long and proven experience on the frontline of international efforts to combat terrorism.

From the outset I would like to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the Egyptian people who are showing determination and resilience. I extend my heartfelt compassion and solidarity with the victims of terrorism in Egypt.

I come with a simple message. Nothing can ever justify terrorism. Terrorism is an affront to human dignity. The fight against terrorism should therefore bring us all together.

The fight against terrorism in Egypt, in Belgium, in Russia, in Indonesia, in Trinidad and Tobago or anywhere should matter to everyone. No country can claim

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immunity, either from the threat itself and its potential proliferation or from the devastating social, economic, cultural and humanitarian consequences of terrorism today.

Excellencies,

ISIL has suffered a series of devastating military setbacks in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and the southern Philippines.

Yet, it is not the time for complacency. ISIL RR7.5 0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*ñBTF3 12 Tf1 0 0 1 3

We must confront terrorism on the emotional and ideological level to win hearts and minds, especially of the youth. This has become an essential component of our fight – perhaps even the most decisive battlefield if we want to not only win the fight, but win the peace.

Excellencies,

The United Nations Secretary-General has made preventing and countering terrorism one of his top priorities. He has emphasized two key themes in his vision of the fight against terrorism, within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law: first – promoting international cooperation and second – prevention in the spirit of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

To help translate this vision into practice, the Secretary-General's first reform initiative was to create the Office of Counter-Terrorism to provide strategic leadership to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Building on this, the Secretary-General signed two weeks ago the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, to further strengthen the coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism work of thirty-six United Nations entities, plus INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

Our focus now is to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation by ensuring a new spirit of partnership to address the deficit in cooperation at the global, regional and national levels.

There is an urgent need to address the deficit in cooperation at the global, regional and national levels.

the High-Level Conference will be held back to back during the last week of June the

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Prior to the review of the Strategy, the Secretary General will issue a report sharing his assessment of the work achieved by the United Nations and recommendations to strengthen the response of the international community.

I hope that the review will not only maintain but reinforce international consensus against terrorism and set a clear direction for all our common efforts over the next two years.

To fight terrorism is a direct responsibility of a sovereign State. While acknowledging this primary national role, at the United Nations we are committed to increase our support to Member States, at their request, in scope, effectiveness and impact. We are ready to up our efforts.

Let me highlight, by the way, an example of this commitment: the UN-wide Foreign Terrorist Fighters Capacity-Building Implementation Plan, which includes 50 projects, from 13 different entities, addressing the whole life cycle of the phenomenon, from prevention up to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration.

We are also strengthening our partnerships with regional organizations, which are key allies in the fight against terrorism, including the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Excellencies,

Everyone in this room knows that the fight against ISIL and its affiliates is far from over. We must remain committed and united in countering this scourge.

As the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, I have offered to all Member States my deep personal commitment to this objective.

I started my new job just over 6 months ago and I am grateful for the consistent and strong support extended by Egypt to my Office and to me personally. I am very much encouraged by my consultations here in Cairo and I look forward to strengthening this partnership in concrete areas.

Thank you.