

**Opening Statement of Mr. Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism**

High-

Michèle Coninsx, where we discussed the remarkable progress of your Government in developing a comprehensive policy framework to counter and prevent violent extremism.

We had the opportunity to visit your well established National Counter-Terrorism Center in Nairobi, and to see, in Kwale County, the improvement of the security situation in the coastal areas. There were numerous tourists, and this is an indication that the situation is stabilizing. We also learnt about successful programmes involving local communities and the local government in promoting tolerance, supporting deradicalization and promoting women and youth empowerment, which have been supported by the UN and in particular by UNDP.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Government of Ethiopia for the recent signing of the historic peace agreement with the Government of Eritrea. The celebrations witnessed at the reopening of the crossing points on your shared border remind us that communities living on each side of the border have more in common than that which divides them.

Finally, I would also like to commend IGAD for its efforts in supporting peace efforts in the region. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is pleased to have started a cooperation with IGAD in the area of strategic communications in the framework of its support to the

My Office has now launched a global PVE programme in a strategic partnership with UNDP to assist requesting Member States in developing and implementing national and regional plans of action suited to their needs and context, as recommended by the General Assembly.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**