

- The week-long [Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week](#)

These topics include bio and cyber terrorism, high-risk threats and trends, addressing the plight of victims of terrorism, flagship UN counter-terrorism programmes, human rights and counter-terrorism, countering the financing of terrorism, youth-led initiatives to build resilient societies, and the role of civil society and the media in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The Week will also include the launch of a virtual exhibition (UNCCT Expo) showcasing the work of the [United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre](#) – a global capacity-building Centre of Excellence serving the Member States and the international community.

The \_\_\_\_\_, stressed in his opening statement that 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. He highlighted recent successes of the United Nations in contributing to the efforts of many Member States and international actors to effectively address the threat of terrorism and reiterated the United Nations' commitment to continue to do so in the context of COVID-19.

Mr. Voronkov noted that UNOCT and the other [42 United Nations entities and partners](#) participating in the [Global Counter-Terrorism Compact](#) are implementing more than 300 counter-terrorism capacity-building projects around the world, benefitting 72 countries through a global and comprehensive approach.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU Commission Vice President; Mr. Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations; Mr. Kais Kabtani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee; Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild Drummond, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Commemoration of the United Nations' 75th Anniversary; Ms. sa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women; and Mr. John Frank, Vice-president for UN Affairs of Microsoft. (Quotes from their statements below)

The exchange of views and ideas in the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week will feed into next year's High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week to take place during the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, which will include the seventh biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Second Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of the Member States, and the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

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"Fighting a pandemic and fighting terrorism have much in common. Both require policies that promote prevention, protection, and resilience—and, to succeed, collective effort."

"With global attention focused on pandemic-related challenges, terrorist groups are seeking to capitalize on the situation by undermining State authority and launching new attacks."

"Moving forward, the international community must work together to develop responses to counter-terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism that are based on a comprehensive and integrated whole-of-society approach, place human rights and gender responsiveness at the forefront, and promote equality, human dignity, and pluralism."

"Assistance must further address prevention of radicalization to violence in prison settings, which are acutely vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 and which represent a potential breeding ground for terrorists."

Where we cut corners and violate human rights or operate outside the rule of law, there is a risk of exacerbating distrust and subsequent extremist activity rather than curtailing it.

"..as in all emergencies there are challenges and opportunities. For example, the Covid19 response is an opportunity to reset counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism interventions by recognizing and valuing the role women play at the local level during crisis and emergencies and improving inclusivity of women in emergency plans decision making processes".

"As we think about the opportunities and challenges of building back better, I want to encourage us all to think about how we can get the best from multilateral cooperation, and how we can find new ways to engage all parts of societies with multi-stakeholder initiatives. While it's important for governments to talk with other governments, and businesses to talk with other businesses, and civil society groups to talk with other civil society groups, we can all be more productive and effective if we cooperate together."

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