

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
Naif Arab University for Security Sciences,**

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Last year, we held a high-level meeting of the Advisory Board in Riyadh with the UN Secretary-

results-oriented approach of UNCCT and have repeatedly stressed this in General Assembly resolution and when I travel and meet the beneficiaries.

We are currently reviewing our accomplishments and developing a vision for the future work of UNCCT.

Under the able guidance of the UNCCT Advisory Board, we will continue to utilize the generous contributions from Saudi Arabia to further enhance our efforts to transform the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre into a *Centre of Excellence* that will be the go-to international counter-terrorism centre with the necessary experts to conduct research, provide training, and connect other centres of excellence around the world, such as your university and ETIDAL.

In my visits to Saudi Arabia I have always been impressed by the significant expertise and good practices you have developed in various institutions. As Executive Director of UNCCT I want to do more to leverage this expertise, and provide a platform to share it with the broader international community.

Facilitating South-South cooperation is one of our key endeavours at UNCCT. NAUSS has useful experience to share in this regard in light of your pan-Arabic mission. I would like to explore if we could strengthen our collaboration in this critical area.

Experts say: “To defeat a network, you need a network.” So to defeat terrorist networks, we will require a counter-terrorism network. With this idea in mind, we are currently identifying strategic partners to collaborate.

Given the outstanding work that you are doing at NAUSS, I want to explore how we leverage and share your experience and expertise through UNCCT.

You come from positions in your national authorities where you are addressing the threat of terrorism on a daily basis. I therefore look forward to our discussion today on how we can ensure that UNCCT continues to respond to your needs. What do you see as the role of the United Nations in countering terrorism and where do you see the global needs that UNCCT can respond to?

I want to make sure that when you graduate and return to your position you can look to UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence you can engage with. We need to unite to counter terrorism, to