

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre**

**25 October 2023**

Your Excellency Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Wasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and Chairman of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre Advisory Board,

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

Allow me to recognize the critical role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the founding donor of the UN Counterterrorism Centre and to express my sincere thanks to the Chair and all members of the Advisory Board for their participation. I would also like to thank you for your substantive and financial engagement with the Centre and its activities over the past several years.

We are honored today to welcome the distinguished representatives of Kenya, Uganda, Iraq, and Ghana who will provide, together with Advisory Board Member Spain, some comments on the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the impact it has had on mitigating and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

[CONTEXT]

Since our last Advisory Board meeting in January 2023, the threat posed by Al-Qaida, Da'esh, and their affiliates has remained high in and around conflict zones.

Conflicts across parts of Africa remain concerning, with the continued expansion of terrorist groups across the Sahel and Central Africa.

Successful counter-terrorism operations in some countries and regions have clearly limited terrorists' capabilities and affected their operations.

However, we have seen that relying only on security measures ultimately boomerangs. This is especially true if security-focused responses are not part of broader political strategies, anchored on international human rights law and accompanied by comprehensive, all-of-society preventive efforts.

We have worked hard over the past few years to make sure that UNCCT programming in support of Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism reflect both a balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as calls by the General Assembly for whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses to terrorism.

Mr. Mauro Miedico, the new Director of the Centre, will brief you in greater detail on our specific programmes and their impact later in the agenda.

[DEVELOPMENTS SINCE JANUARY 2023]

I would now like to highlight key developments that will help guide the efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre in 2024 and beyond.

We stand ready to work closely with Advisory Board Members and entities in the United Nations peace and security pillar to explore how the Secretary-General's recommended actions could feature in the Pact of the Future, which is expected to be adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future.

[AFRICAN CT SUMMIT]

UNCCT is focusing on Africa as we prepare for the African Counter-Terrorism Summit, to be co-organized with the Government of Nigeria, in partnership with the African Union, on 23-24 April 2024 in Abuja. It will be convened by the President of Nigeria and Secretary-General Guterres.

The objectives of the Summit will be to review the nature and severity of the threat of terrorism in Africa and agree on concrete priorities, measures and institutional approaches to address this scourge.

It will also seek to enhance multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and reshape the international community's collective response to terrorism in Africa.

In preparation of the Summit, we organized with Nigeria, a ministerial-level meeting on the margins of the High-Level Week of the General Assembly on 21

recently launched "Memories" exhibition amplifies victims' voices through a compelling visual narrative about the life-changing impact of terrorism on members of the public.

In addition, our new Legacy Project features 12 victims and survivors of terrorism worldwide in an interactive documentary gallery on Instagram.

[SUSTAINABILITY]

Turning to survivors of terrorism worldwide in

