



Press release: Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism concludes visit to the Netherlands

The Hague, 11 July 2018 – Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), concluded a three-day visit to the Netherlands at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mr. Voronkov met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Stef Blok, the Minister of Justice and Security, H.E. Ferdinand Grapperhaus, and other relevant government officials to discuss collaboration between the Netherlands and the United Nations in light of the Sixth Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the outcomes of the first UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism, which took place back-to-back from 26 to 29 June 2018 in New York. Mr. Voronkov also met with civil society organizations, including the Human Security Collective (HSC), the International Centre on Counter-Terrorism (ICCT), the Asser Institute and the Radicalisation Awareness Network and visited Rotterdam to discuss local-level approaches to preventing terrorism.

Mr. Voronkov discussed with both Minister the next steps in a joint initiative by UNOCT and the government of the Netherlands, to assist Member States in establishing Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records systems to prevent terrorists from travelling. The initiative will be implemented in an All-of-UN approach by UNOCT, together with Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Department of Management's Office of Information Communication Technology (OICT). In his meetings, Mr. Voronkov highlighted common priorities, which include Foreign Terrorist Fighters and returnees, preventing violent extremism and the important role of civil society to strengthen the resilience of communities to terrorism.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is currently a non-permanent Member of the Security Council and has funded capacity-building support projects of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) within UNOCT. The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs is co-funding a technical assistance project of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre in UNOCT and UNODC on managing violent extremist offenders and preventing radicalization in prison, as well as a UNODC program on airport security.

While in The Hague, the Under-Secretary-General also met with the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, the Executive Director of Europol, Ms. Catherine De Bolle, and the President of Eurojust, Mr. Ladislav Hamran, to strengthen collaboration and explore new avenues of cooperation.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States.

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