

**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,  
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and  
Strengthening Efforts**

International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna, 12 February 2020

**High-Level Panel Session 3: International Legally and Non-legally Binding  
Instruments for Nuclear Security**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for organizing this important Conference.

It is very timely to jointly take account of our efforts to sustain and strengthen nuclear security. The high-level representation of Member States at the ministerial segment of this Conference clearly shows that nuclear security continues to be one of their top priorities.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), which I lead, is increasing its efforts to support Member States at the global, regional and national levels to prevent and counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism. We are committed to helping Member States build and strengthen their capacities to prevent, detect and respond to this serious threat.

Any probability of terrorists gaining access to nuclear and radiological materials is a serious threat to international peace and security.

Given the devastating physical and psychological impact of radiological and nuclear weapons, their potential use by terrorists is of serious concern and merits our utmost attention. The development of robust legal frameworks is crucial to ensure that adequate prevention, preparedness and response

The IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database lists 3497 incidents involving illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities involving nuclear and radioactive materials reported between 1993 and 2018. This is worrying.

At the same time, in recent years the dark web has increasingly become an important illegal marketplace, one which ISIL and other non-State actors have exploited, including for fundraising purposes. The dark web has also been used to buy and sell radioactive materials.

on key priorities for Member States across the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In the field of preventing and responding to nuclear and radiological terrorism, the Working Group of Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure coordinates the