



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

**UN Security Council Debate on Afghanistan  
26 June 2018**

Thank you, Mr. President!

Distinguished Members of the Security Council,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the Russian Presidency of the Security Council and members of the Security Council for this opportunity to speak about the challenges that Afghanistan faces when it comes to preventing and countering terrorism.

Last month when I was briefing the Security Council on the outcomes of my mission to Iraq together with ASG Michele Coninx, I started with expressing our solidarity with the victims of multiple terrorist attacks in many regions of the world, including in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, the deadly violence continues across Afghanistan. According to UNAMA, there were 5,675 security incidents between 15 February and 15 May. The use of improvised explosive devices caused 1,018 civilian casualties (311 persons killed and 707 injured), comprising 45 percent of all civilian casualties. The recent examples are two heinous terrorist attacks that took place in Nangarhar, on 16 and 17 June, which resulted in at least 43 people killed and 45 injured, and a suicide bombing in Kabul on 11 June, which claimed lives of 17 people and injured at least 40. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Government of Afghanistan.

Such attacks target government officials, Afghan police and security forces, but also civilian targets causing deaths of innocent people and instilling fear throughout the country.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has made countering terrorism and prevention of violent extremism the highest priorities in his agenda. In just two days from now he will be hosting in New York a first ever High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

We hope this Conference will provide an opportunity for frank and candid discussions among counter-terrorism practitioners and will give a boost to international counter-terrorism cooperation.

The international community has a solid foundation on which to build. The international legal framework, including counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which Member States are currently reviewing for the sixth time, all provide this foundation.

But having this framework is not enough. stronger focus on implementation is needed. Afghanistan genuinely needs and continues to request legal technical assistance and capacity building projects to strengthen its national criminal justice framework to combat terrorism.

I am grateful for the information provided in this regard by Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, acting on behalf of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, conducted a visit to Afghanistan in early 2017 to o qpkqt "Chi j cpkucpø"ko r ngo gpcv kq"qh"Ugewtk{ "Eqwpekltguqrwkp"3595."3846"cpf "439: = and identify its related technical assistance needs.

In October 2017 the Counter-Terrorism Committee approved the mission report, which identifies 24 priority areas where Afghanistan would benefit from receiving technical assistance, including with regard to legal matters, international cooperation, countering the financing of terrorism, law enforcement and border security, and countering radicalization and incitement to commit terrorist acts.



Allow me to express my strong support for all the Afghan victims and survivors of terrorism and praise the resilience of the