



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

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12 March 2018

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Ambassador Nusseibeh for your very rich in substance speech.

Welcome and thank you all for joining us today for this important discussion at the start of the Commission on the Status of Women.

I particular thank the women leaders on this panel and also UN Women for being such a strong and dedicated partner since the new Office of Counter-Terrorism has been established.

Excellencies,

Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism remains a serious threat to many countries, leaving long-term scars on survivors and their families and destabilizing entire communities.

In many cases, women are the main victims of terrorist violence. We also know that women and their families may face stigma and other negative impacts as a result of their connection to relatives who may be associated with terrorism. Moreover, women can be involved in terrorist activities.

Terrorist groups continue to capitalize on gender dynamics to advance their objectives. They have used sexual violence as a tactic, subjugated women and girls, and severely limited their rights, as seen in Nigeria, Syria, Afghanistan and other countries.

Women are key actors in our fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Many of them are doing vital work on the ground. Their participation is critical to enabling sustainable peace. But often, women are not sufficiently involved in counter-terrorism efforts. It is in the interest of all to change this situation, first of all, in the field.

Excellencies,

The United Nations Office of Counter-

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