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Speech of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques at the second meeting of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Riyadh, 3 June 2012

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Mr. Chair, members of the Advisory Board,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, at the outset of the second meeting of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

I should like to begin by thanking Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his efforts towards the establishment of the Centre, and by thanking all of you for coming to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to take part in this meeting of the Advisory Board of the Centre, which conducts its work in Jiddah. I am sure that your wisdom, experience and cooperation will no doubt help to make this meeting a success.

Mr. Chair,

It goes without saying that terrorism is one of the most significant challenges facing the world at present. Counter-terrorism is no longer a local matter, to be kept within the borders of a given State; it has become an objective of the international community as a whole.

On many occasions, at numerous international gatherings, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stressed that it condemns and rejects terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the perpetrator. It has declared that it is fully prepared to join international counter-terrorism efforts and to contribute effectively to the collective international endeavour, under the auspices of the United Nations, to define, tackle and eradicate terrorism. That stance reflects a firm and constant policy against international terrorism and its perpetrators. We value such actions. The Kingdom has undertaken many efforts and domestic, regional and international measures in order effectively to confront and eliminate terrorism, which is one of the most important threats to international peace and security.

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In order to face up to the challenge, the international community must put in place comprehensive and complementary strategies with the necessary support. Counter-terrorism is a shared international responsibility. It requires the utmost level of coordination and cooperation among members of the international community. In 2006, the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by General Assembly resolution 60/288 underscored the fact that States must promote cooperation and coordination in order to combat terrorism. The establishment of an international counter-terrorism centre under the auspices of the United Nations is precisely such an initiative. It was endorsed at the Counter-Terrorism International Conference held in Riyadh in 2005, supported by numerous resolutions of regional and international organizations, and referred to in the United Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as part of efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. This helped the initiative to become a reality. An agreement establishing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre was signed in New York on 19 September 2011.

Because the Kingdom is convinced of the importance of cooperating with and contributing to international efforts to combat terrorism, it has provided financial support for the establishment of the Centre in the amount of \$10 million over three years.

Mr. Chair,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the establishment of the Centre is the culmination of the international community's endeavour to combat terrorism, which requires a collective effort leading ultimately to a response to terrorism that should take the following factors into account:

- The Centre does not replace the international counter-terrorism agencies and framework, which play a practical role in counter-terrorism efforts. Instead, it will act as a basis and a support in order to coordinate such efforts, and to ensure the effectiveness of measures to prevent and combat terrorism.
- The Centre has an important role to play in information exchange; training programmes; capacity-building; supporting Member States; coordinating the formulation and exchange of legislation and adequate measures; and developing the counter-terrorism Directory of Best Practices. It should cooperate to raise awareness among teachers, journalists and the general public of the danger of terrorism and the need to avoid propagating ideas that incite terrorism.
- The Centre is a fundamental support for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and underscores its prominence.

- It will assist in the exchange of methods to tackle the causes of terrorism, and create momentum for dialogue and consensus among participants. In so doing, it can support the development of national and regional counter-terrorism strategies.

We hope that, as the most significant United Nations counter-terrorism agency, the Centre will contribute to the realization of the purposes and objectives for which it was established. It should strengthen the role of the United Nations in defining terrorism and its causes and tackling them resolutely in order to consolidate international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we look forward to the outcomes of the second meeting of the Advisory Board, outcomes that will actively support coordination, cooperation and the coalescing of efforts to confront and eliminate terrorism.

At the same time, we hope that our collective approach at the Centre will be earnest and credible in order to bolster the Centre's profile and make it an active part of international efforts to combat and contain this dangerous phenomenon.

May the peace and mercy of God and his blessings be upon you.

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