



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Opening remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT),
delivered by Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism
Centre (UNCCT)**

***Launch Event of the Good Practices in Border Security and Management in the context
of Counter-Terrorism: The Republic of Korea Model***

30 June 2022, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the launch event of “the Good Practices in the area of Border Security and Management in the context of Counter-Terrorism: The Republic of Korea Model”.

I have the honour and pleasure to open the event together with His Excellency, Ambassador Bae Jong-In, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

I would like to start by expressing our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its generous contribution to the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, amounting to US \$1.53 million cumulatively. Through this strong support, the Republic of Korea is now among the top donors to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the 13 ministries and institutions of the Government of the Republic of Korea that contributed substantively to the successful publication of the Compendium and that have joined us today virtually. And I would like to name each of them.

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Korea National Counter-Terrorism Center
3. National Intelligence Service
4. Ministry of National Defense
5. Ministry of Justice – Korea Immigration Service
6. Ministry of Land and Transportation

7. Korea's Customs Service
8. Korean Coast Guard
9. National Police Agency
10. Ministry of Ocean and Fishery
11. Incheon Airport Corporation
12. Korean Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS)
13. Korean Migration Research and Training Centre (MRTC)

I would like to also acknowledge and thank other renowned international experts at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Stimson Center, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) who have provided valuable contributions to this project.

It is an honour and a privilege to deliver opening remarks at the launch of this important Compendium to the delegates from the various Member States of the United Nations that are assembled here in person and virtually, including so many of our close and vital counter-terrorism partners.

The Compendium is the result of close and meaningful cooperation between the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, government officials and experts of the Republic of Korea, and the international community. It highlights the good practices the Republic of Korea has applied to enhance its counter-terrorism capabilities and border security and management effectiveness.

While every country faces its unique challenges and operates in different circumstances, we hope the Republic of Korea's experiences can help inform others of multiple options to help enhance both their security and responsiveness to critical and ever-evolving transnational challenges.

Terrorism and infectious diseases are both examples of how one country's policies can have transnational and far-reaching effects. The Republic of Korea's approach to both can serve as a guide for other countries when developing new or revised policies to increase capacity in these areas. Working together to prevent and respond to these challenges can contribute to a more secure world.

These good practices build on the 2016 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) manual for governments entitled "Good Practices in the area of Border Security and Management in the context of Counter-Terrorism and Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters".

In the new Good Practices manual, we have used the Republic of Korea as an example of a country that has developed a strong and effective counter-terrorism culture - especially in terms of border security and management - despite having a low perceived threat of terrorism.

Furthermore, this Compendium demonstrates the Republic of Korea's notable ability to quickly adapt its border security and management procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain an open border while preventing major influxes of foreigner-driven infections.

In this context, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre has worked closely with 13 Government ministries and institutions related to counter-terrorism, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and held two scoping missions to Seoul in April and October last year, respectively.

As mentioned previously, we also partnered with international experts from the International Organization for Migration, the World Customs Organization, and the Stimson Center to implement this joint project, demonstrating our commitment to an "all-of-United Nations" approach to combating terrorism.

Excellencies,

Distinguished representatives,

Allow me to share two key observations from the Compendium to help guide today's launch event and panel discussions.

First, we have identified that the key success factor for the Government of the Republic of Korea's counter-terrorism and border security measures was the country's focus on prevention and preparation. While many countries establish or strengthen their counter-terrorism efforts in response to a major incident, the Republic of Korea has smartly invested in preparation and prevention.

Early Government-level counter-terrorism efforts largely began in the lead-up to hosting the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics. Other global events, such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001 and the 2004 kidnapping and execution of a Korean national in Iraq, underscored the need to adapt to an evolving security environment and to adopt a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism.

Second, the Compendium clearly illustrates that 'coordination and whole-of-government approach' is another success factor for the Republic of Korea's counter-terrorism and border strategy.

We observed that the Republic of Korea implemented an integrated approach to counter-terrorism and border security efforts including by:

- i) first, building a comprehensive legal framework for counter-terrorism efforts,
- ii) second, establishing a centralized counter-terrorism coordination body, and
- iii) third, developing an infrastructure to facilitate inter-agency and multi-level communication and cooperation.

We believe that these factors have enabled the Government's ability to minimize and confront both traditional and non-traditional threats.

Excellencies,
Distinguished representatives,

Globally, terrorists continue to exploit and manipulate societal grievances and mistrust in institutions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The threat has also evolved, presenting new and complex challenges to Member States. We earnestly hope that this Compendium will provide insightful guidance and enhance understanding on how Governments can enhance their counter-terrorism capabilities and border security management effectiveness in the context of a global pandemic.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to respond to requesting Member States' needs to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with relevant United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, through tailored technical assistance and capacity-building support.

I am certain that, through this launch event, we will benefit from the valuable insights that will be shared by the Group of International Experts in Session I and during discussions in Session II on the way forward.

In this regard, I would like to note that these two sessions will also provide a platform for an interactive discussion on counter-terrorism and border security needs and priorities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I look forward to hearing from the international experts who contributed to this Compendium on the takeaways from this publication, and hope that today's event will further strengthen our capability in the field of border security and counter-terrorism.

I thank you for your attention.