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Closing Remarks

Multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation: the growing United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact -- Global Counterterrorism Forum partnership

30 June 2021, 8:00-9:30 am

I am so grateful to all the speakers for their contributions which help further strengthen the links between the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. On a personal note, I am so happy to have been able to reconnect with the many friends I have made through the GCTF over the past six years

I will not attempt to make an exhaustive summary but let me highlight several key points.

First, close engagement and collaboration between the United Nations and the GCTF and its inspired institutions allow for sharing of mutual knowledge and expertise in response to evolving counter-terrorism threats.

I have seen from my perspective as a former co-chair of the GCTF, as an official of a Security Council member, and now as a UN staff member the way GCTF initiatives can serve both as an apolitical sounding board for discussing emerging issues, as well as an incubator for doctrine that evolves into UN guidelines that then get incorporated into products such as CTED's Madrid Guiding Principles and technical manuals, or even shape and inform Security Council resolutions, such as what happened in 2014 with The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on the Foreign Terrorist Fighter phenomenon and how it fed into UNSCR 2178.

Our current joint initiatives represent a qualitative leap in our partnership that goes beyond the UN being a beneficiary or inheritor of the GCTF's work into one of active collaboration.

In my view, the only way to increase direct and regular interaction would be through closer cooperation between our respective Working Groups. This could be especially useful for identifying new thematic areas on which to collaborate.

Second, we heard that sharing more effectively UN bodies' knowledge base and GCTF's experience would strengthen our research, policy, and advocacy capabilities on matters of mutual interest, such as emerging challenges and cross-cutting issues.

In particular, our efforts should focus on comprehensive and integrated implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Third, we heard good examples of successful GCTF partnering with UN entities to facilitate capacity-building coordination in the field.

Strengthening our partnership to coordinate capacity-building assistance and joint design of technical assistance projects could serve as a force multiplier.

Dear colleagues,

A strong partnership between governments, intergovernmental institutions, the United Nations, and civil society is essential for the way forward and to help 'build back better' after the pandemic.

I would like to thank all the panelists and speakers for their valuable contributions.

I once again thank you all for your participation.

On this note, I would like to now adjourn the meeting and look forward to seeing you all in person very soon.

Thank you.