



**Remarks by Mr. Raffi Gregorian,  
Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director,  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism,  
Twenty-First GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting  
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Cairo, Egypt**

**Session 6-II: Partnerships – the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact**

Dear Co-Chairs,  
dear Colleagues, dear friends,

I am so happy to be at this milestone CoCo meeting where the torch is passed from Morocco to Egypt. I would like to thank Nadia Costantini, Ismail Chekkori and Mohamed Fouad for the kind invitation.

I would like to once more commend Ismail and Morocco for their effective leadership as Co-Chair of the GCTF and wish Egypt every success in its new role as GCTF Co-Chair.

I am honored to lead the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Compact Delegation and pleased to be joined by David Scharia from CTED, Elena Rigacci from UNODC, and Justin Hustwitt from the 1267 Committee Monitoring Team.

Let me begin with a brief overview of the ever-evolving threat terrorism poses to international peace and security as it spreads, shape-shifts, and adapts to new conditions, including through new and emerging technologies such as cyberspace, cryptocurrencies and unmanned aerial systems or drones.

Although overall terrorist deaths declined somewhat last year, the lethality and number of attacks have gone up in parts of Africa. The expansion of Al-Qaida, Da'esh and their affiliates in West Africa and the Sahel region, as well as in Central, East and Southern Africa, poses a threat both to the continent and beyond.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, which is once again a terrorist safe haven, is alarming and is further exacerbated by the active presence of the so-called Da'esh Khorasan Province branch.

The situation in camps and detention facilities in Iraq and north-east Syria, where both fighters as well their family members and other persons with suspected links to Da'esh and other designated terrorist groups are held, presents an acute human rights and humanitarian challenge that requires urgent, decisive action.

Terrorist attacks on the basis of “xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief” are an increasing threat on a global level.

The convergence of terrorism with other global threats, particularly in countries facing armed conflict, where the vast majority of deaths caused by terrorism occur, as well as transnational organized crime, is also of concern.

Unfortunately, heavy-handed, disproportionate, indiscriminate and even wanton abuses by some security forces during CT operations can alienate populations and generate support for the terrorists.

To effectively counter these challenges, there is an urgent need to strengthen human-rights based and gender-responsive approaches to counter-terrorism that go beyond military-focused responses and ensure accountability on the basis of the rule of law.

As part of these efforts, we need to support Member States with battlefield and digital evidence, and with the repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorism offenders and their family members.

Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have urged Member States to combine such efforts with prevention strategies that integrate inclusive and whole-of-society approaches to counter-terrorism, including supporting the role of women, youth, religious leaders and civil society in P/CVE efforts.

We believe that collaboration with the GCTF is crucial for such coordinated responses to terrorism. In that regard, at the Ninth GCTF – Counter-Terrorism Compact Partnership Consultation held on 21 March, we highlighted four key priority areas going forward: (i) prioritizing civilian led CT and P/CVE efforts in Africa and addressing root causes through a human rights and community centered approach; (ii) complementing CT and P/CVE efforts, to foster synergies and avoid duplications, especially in the context of Africa; (iii) addressing the negative impact of CT measures on civil society organizations and civic space when assessing counter-terrorism measures; and (iv) continuing the implementation of our Joint Options Paper on Strengthening Cooperation between our respective Working Groups .

Dear Co-Chairs, dear colleagues, and friends,

Let me now share some highlights on our joint cooperation:

The partnership between Canada and UNOCT on the Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism is making good progress, with two virtual consultations already held this year.

When the Platform becomes fully operational later this year, it will further the development of good practices, generating new knowledge, and fostering communities of practice with gender and human rights at the forefront of activities.

I would like to thank the GCTF Administrative Unit for co-organizing the consultations, which provided valuable suggestions on the foundational course on gender for national counter-terrorism centers, which UNOCT's Gender Unit will develop this year.

At the end of February, UNOCT, in close cooperation with the GCTF Administrative Unit, also organized a briefing to GCTF Member States on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, the Antalya Memorandum and Possible Avenues of Cooperation.

This Briefing outlined several opportunities for future cooperation, such as expert briefings, a knowledge tool on national threats, and the development of a joint project on public-private partnerships.

We have held follow-up discussions with interested GCTF members on a variety of issues. This includes: certain aspects of the Antalya memorandum, such as the importance of public-private cooperation on vulnerable targets protection; the need to strengthen collaboration between the local, state, and national levels; and regulatory frameworks.

We look forward to hearing back from GCTF members on how they would like to cooperate with us in this important joint priority area to support the operationalization of the Antalya Memorandum.

It is also encouraging to see that our Joint Options paper is being implemented in various ways, drawing on the expertise of the GCTF-inspired Institutions across Working Groups and Initiative activities, and supporting the promotion and practical use of GCTF and Counter-Terrorism Compact resources.

The participation of the EU and GCTF-inspired institutions, with whom we have, or are currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding, in various Compact Working Groups is a very welcome development in this regard.

On upcoming joint activities, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation, in collaboration with the European Union, is developing a Compendium of Good Practices for Evaluating Results in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism to provide hands-on good practices in measuring and evaluating the results of CT/PCVE initiatives through workshops involving Member States, civil society organizations, the EU, GCTF-inspired institutions as well as UN Compact entities.

The overall objective is to support effective measurement of CT and PCVE results thereby informing evidence-based programming and implementation. Its results will be presented at a side event at the margins of the Third UN Counter-Terrorism Week that is being organized by UNOCT in New York from 19 to 23 June.

During the upcoming UN CT Week, the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation will also present the "United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa".

As we prepare for the CT Summit for Africa we are organizing with Nigeria, this Appeal will seek to actualize UN system action for a more visible, transparent, and effective multilateral contribution to the implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Africa.

10 high-impact joint initiatives will be selected to demonstrate the value of joined-up multilateral action.

This new Appeal provides an excellent opportunity to further strengthen our partnership.

It is very encouraging that the Compact continues to attract new members and will soon welcome the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its 46<sup>th</sup> member later this month, with whom we will convene a joint event on “Enhancing global cooperation on countering the financing of terrorism.”

After the joining of the Financial Action Task Force in April last year, the IMF’s membership will strengthen the Compact’s growing expertise and capacity regarding anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, from which GCTF Member States should benefit.

Dear Co-Chairs, dear Colleagues, dear friends,

As you are all aware, the ongoing 8th biennial review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, represents a decisive moment for Member States to: (i) renew their commitment to counter-terrorism; (ii) calibrate the assessment of an evolving terrorist landscape; and (iii) identify further areas for attention.

Maintaining the General Assembly’s long-standing consensus behind the Strategy is critical. The General Assembly is expected to adopt a resolution when it commences its debate on 22 June, at the end of the Third UN CT Week.

CT Week will start on 19 June with the Third High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, under the overarching theme “Addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation”.

The Conference will provide a platform for Member States and international partners to exchange experiences and good practices, as well as explore further cooperation on key counter-terrorism priorities under the four pillars of the Strategy.

This Conference, which concludes on 20 June, will also serve as an important check-in for the preparation of the New Agenda for Peace, proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on *Our Common Agenda*, and for the aforementioned Africa Counter-Terrorism Summit, which will help to mobilize international support for African countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism.

We look forward to your in- person participation in this important event.

As you all know, I have personally followed very closely the growing partnership between GCTF and the UN since 2015. I am sure that under the co-chairmanship of the EU and Egypt that we will be able further reinforce our collective effort to fight terrorism.

Thank you for your attention.