

Today, we commemorate International Women's Day under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress".

Current global challenges, including the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating poverty and climate disasters continue to disproportionately affect women and girls.

Prolonged conflicts, poor governance, and human rights violations contribute to conditions conducive to violent extremism which have devastating effects for women and girls and can intensify pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination.

It is therefore crucial to center women in counter-terrorism efforts, as well as other peace and security processes. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is committed to investing in women and their full, equal, and meaningful participation in counter-

In line with our Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism remains committed to mainstreaming gender across our policies and programmes, from design to implementation and evaluation as we have established Gender Responsive Counter-Terrorism as one of our strategic goals.

We are proud that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism meets or exceeds 88% of the indicators under the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

These indicators measure, monitor, and drive progress towards gender equality and recognizes the importance of financial allocations in this endeavour.

Investing in women also means amplifying women's voices. In line with the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, UNOCT strives to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in events organized by the Office. For example, during the Third United Nations Counter Terrorism Week held in June 2023, and comprised of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly and 40 side events, 40% of participants were women.

Though women have historically been excluded from counter-terrorism efforts and other security spaces, our Global Programme teams promote women's engagement across all capacity-

