

**Opening statement by Mr Mauro Miedico on behalf of Mr Jehangir Khan,
Director of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.**

**21st Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board
27 October 2020, 11:00-13:00**

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Before updating you on the UNCCT performance in the second and third quarters, I would like to first brief you on the background, process, and outcomes of the evaluation of UNCCT 5-Year Programme, which was conducted by KPMG between January and September 2020.

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In 2019, the Centre welcomed the proposal of Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, to conduct an evaluation of the Centre. As you know, the current 5-Year Programme is coming to an end this year and UNCCT needed a fresh outlook on its performance before a new Strategic Programme Framework is formulated and approved. This decision was also endorsed by the Secretary-General last year.

The overall objective of the evaluation was to produce a strategic, forward-looking report that would assess progress made towards attainment of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme in a balanced manner. It is envisioned that the report will guide the future orientation of our capacity-building work, including how to strengthen and promote UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence.

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As with everything else this year, the evaluation process was impacted by COVID-19. In April, it became clear that KPMG would not be able to conduct physical face-to-face interviews and visit beneficiaries on the ground, as initially envisioned. Instead, the evaluation team conducted online interviews and in-depth study of 23 projects from 3 countries – Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan, as well as one region – Central Asia. Approximately 110 stakeholders were interviewed, including 18 Advisory Board Members. Interviews and in-depth studies were complemented by an electronic survey of the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.

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One of the main findings of the evaluation was that UNCCT has benefited from the creation of UNOCT and the elevated political, diplomatic, and administrative clout it has established. Moreover, UNOCT has also enabled UNCCT's deeper integration into the United Nations' counter-terrorism architecture.

It was noted, however, that strategic and programme governance, monitoring and evaluation, as well as information management, are key areas for continued improvement.

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Despite the evaluation's conclusion that UNCCT has not yet achieved 'excellence', the findings indicate that the overall performance trend, in accordance to OECD/UNEG evaluation criteria for effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and coherence is positive and satisfactory.

Finally, KPMG found that the sustainability of the 5-Year Programme could not be determined due to the lack of evidence on the outputs and outcomes achieved. In this regard, it is important to note that KPMG stressed that the lack of evidence does not necessarily mean that there was an absence of results, as anecdotal information from programme and project managers showed. So, while there is room for improvement, the feedback from members of the Advisory

UNCCT continues to prioritize the well-being of its staff, ensuring delivery of UNCCT project and programmes, and engaging with Member States and implementing partners. We also make sure that our work is visible to our partners and beneficiaries around the world.

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The global pandemic has not changed *what* we do but changed *the way* we do our work. To ensure the Centre's business continuity, we had to adapt to the travel restrictions by developing our online capacity building delivery, so that UNCCT continues successfully implement its mandate as per the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

We had to learn and adapt fast, and after a drop in capacity building activities organized by the Centre in the second quarter, UNCCT saw a significant increase in the number of activities in the third quarter of this year.

As noted by Mr Voronkov, the Centre has delivered 28 outreach events, 21 workshops, 17 expert meetings, and one virtual scoping mission. Through workshops, organized by the Centre, we engaged 1,560 beneficiaries from 172 countries.

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At the end of the third quarter, UNCCT utilization rate against the released budget of USD 29 million was USD 13.3 million or 46% of the total budget. The current utilization rate is 4% lower compared to 2019 third quarter results, which is in itself a very good result, considering the pandemic situation

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UNCCT continues to focus on ensuring diversified, predictable and sustainable funding, as recommended by the Advisory Board Members, and we have made significant progress in this regard.

For example, in the second quarter, UNCCT received US\$200,000 contribution from Australia. The funding will go towards UNCCT support of the ASEAN Bali workplan priorities. In the third quarters, UNCCT received a contribution of €80,000 from Spain to support UNCCT's Victims of Terrorism Programme and Civil Society Engagement.

In addition, UNOCT is in advanced negotiations with Germany to support part of the UNCCT Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity; as well as with the US and the EU in relation0003004900550

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to be the main contributor, providing 74% of cumulative contributions and pledges to UNCCT since the inception of the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, with 30 donors making up the remaining 26%.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Australia, Spain, Germany, the US, the EU and all other donors for their contributions and continuous support of the Centre.

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UNCCT's Pillar 3, continues to advance national level CT and PVE strategies, take strategies into UN-supported action and implement activities.

For example, the Central Asia Team has facilitated support from the EU flagship STRIVE Asia Programme for Tajikistan, which has begun working with experts, in coordination with OSCE, on how to integrate National Action Plans for PVE. Additionally, Turkmenistan has taken the next step and moved forward, with UNOCT support, on an action plan for its national CT strategy that was approved by the President last year.

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Finally, under Pillar 4, we made a significant progress on the international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism. On 21 August, UNCCT in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism organised the third commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which took place online this year. Over 282 people attended the online event, including 135 representatives from 81 Member States, eight representatives from three regional organizations and 139 representatives from civil society organizations, victims' associations and UN entities. The event was broadcast live on UN WebTV, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and received more than 9,500 views and 130 million social media impressions.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by showing you a short clip of a film produced under UNCCT Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme, which highlights the Central Asian experience and the UN support available to other Member States that have repatriated or are committed to repatriating their nationals from camps in northeastern Syria and Iraq. The full video, entitled "Returning home, rebuilding lives" was shown at a side event on the margins of the high-level segment of the 75th UN General Assembly.

On behalf of UNCCT, I would like to thank all Advisory Board members for your strong ongoing support to the Centre and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Video

Thank you, Mr Chairman.