

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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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

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 cooperation, and a knowledge tool on the protection of vulnerable targets.

We have held follow-up discussions with interested GCTF members on a variety of issues. This includes:

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