



**Secretary-General's Symposium on
International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation
19 September 2011**

Chairman's Summary

The United Nations Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held on 19 September 2011 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, was organized by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office, with support from CTITF entities. It was attended by over 500 participants, representing all United Nations Member States, international and regional organizations and several members of civil society and international electronic and print media.¹

The objective of the Symposium was to advance international cooperation in combating terrorism, as called for under the two review resolutions on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.²

The following are key elements from the proceedings of the Symposium:

All Member States, heads of international and regional organizations and representatives of United Nations organs expressed full support for the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for its full, integrated and timely implementation. Participants also welcomed the progress made so far in this effort. Participants noted that the Strategy, which was adopted through consensus by all Member States in the General Assembly in 2006, was the appropriate comprehensive, integrated and preventative framework for an effective and collective response to the threat of terrorism. All participants emphasized that the scourge of terrorism should not be associated with any religion, ethnicity or nationality.

Participants highlighted the growing need to build a culture of dialogue and understanding at all levels and amongst all groups as a critical method to preventing terrorism and countering its appeal for potential recruits. In this regard, participants discussed the important role being played by a range of institutions in the development of ideas and programmes. The role of the print and electronic media, faith leaders and civil society organizations was also highlighted. Such partners are needed in order to protect the youth, members of majority and minority communities and their leaders and other vulnerable communities from being exploited by terrorists.

Participants also noted the efforts made by many States and organizations in promoting deradicalization and counter-radicalization programmes, as well as other ways

¹ For a list of Eminent Speakers and chairpersons, please refer to Annex I.

² A/RES/62/272 (especially paragraph 10) and A/RES/64/297 (especially paragraph 11)

to counter the appeal of terrorism. The use of mass media for the development and propagation of counter-narratives as a response to the fallacious rhetoric of terrorists was also highlighted and encouraged.

Participants underlined the important role of law enforcement agencies in combating terrorism in key areas, including in capturing terrorist suspects and investigating their crimes, analyzing their methodologies and typologies and protecting critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets. The linkages between organized criminal activities and terrorism were also highlighted. Some participants paid particular attention to the need for dedicated counter-terrorism units in national counter-terrorism frameworks. Participants also discussed the challenges faced in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy due to capacity constraints, institutional shortfalls and gaps in domestic inter-agency coordination and called for greater technical assistance support in this regard.

Capacity-building, including on addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, was stressed by participants as a pivotal element in advancing the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Practical responses to address law enforcement and criminal justice policy and capacity shortfalls and to counter terrorist propaganda are needed. In this regard, the important roles of CTITF entities, as well as of those with specialized functions, such as in aviation, customs, border protection, small arms trafficking and social and institutional development, were highlighted.

Many participants welcome the creation of the United Nations Center on Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) in the CTITF Office and its role in the United Nations counter-terrorism and technical assistance delivery activities. Some participants also highlighted the usefulness of other complementary mechanisms, such as the upcoming Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, in supporting the United Nations' objectives on counter-terrorism.

Participants noted that the value of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy rests in its multidimensional and comprehensive approach to combating terrorism, and therefore its implementation needs to happen in an integrated manner. In this regard, the Integrated Assistance on Countering Terrorism initiative of the CTITF was highlighted as a valuable approach to enabling the United Nations system to deliver technical assistance to interested Member States in an integrated and coordinated manner, as well as ensuring that all four pillars of the Strategy are given due attention in Member States' capacity-building efforts.

In the interest of promoting integrated implementation, participants noted the need to develop national and regional counter-terrorism strategies based on the framework provided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Synergies between the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and regional and national strategies must be encouraged. It was noted that national counter-terrorism strategies allow for systemic and sustained high-level and broad-based engagement on the threat of terrorism. In addition,

national strategies also contribute towards prioritizing relevant pillars and elements of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in accordance with the specific type of terrorist threat perceived by a country or region.

Participants recognized the value that regional and sub-regional institutions and mechanisms bring to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly through cohesive regional approaches that enable more targeted prioritization and faster delivery of assistance. Participants also discussed ways to expand engagements between regional organizations, frameworks and mechanisms and international partners on a number of counter-terrorism issues. Finally, greater contact between regional counter-terrorism capacity-development centers was also encouraged.

The use of the Internet by terrorists was also raised by participants as an area of concern, and the discussions encouraged the United Nations system to continue to work in this important area through building on achievements already made.

Participants repeatedly underlined the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law in all counter-terrorism activities. Participants said that human rights protection should not be framed as an obstacle to effective counter terrorism. Rather, upholding human rights obligations and the rule of law are essential elements of any sustainable counter-terrorism strategy. Participants called for greater international and institutional cooperation to ensure that human rights are not violated in the fight against terrorism.

Participants highlighted the Secretary-General's Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism held in 2008 and welcomed the United Nations' overall efforts to ensure that the rights of victims of terrorism are upheld and that victims are supported and given a voice in the struggle against terrorism.

The important role of civil society in promoting the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the ground was discussed, especially given the advantages civil society organizations carry at the local level. Participants also drew attention to the potential of public-private partnerships in the development and exchange of best practices, resource distribution and awareness-raising.

During the dedicated media round table event, participants highlighted the important role played by the media in global counter-terrorism efforts. Most notably, participants noted that the media provides an effective avenue to give a voice to victims of terrorism – a voice that is too often not heard. The media can also support efforts to counter the dangerous narratives of terrorist groups.

Participants reaffirmed the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's (CTITF) efforts to promote and coordinate international cooperation and capacity-building. With 31 participating United Nations entities and relevant international organizations, the CTITF provides an important platform for inter-agency coordination, integrated policy development and collaboration. It also serves as a

forum to develop innovative approaches and feedback mechanisms to support Member States and other relevant partners to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the national and regional levels. The new CTITF website was welcomed as an additional means to disseminate information on the activities and outputs of the Task Force.

Participants called for continued efforts towards completing on-going negotiations on a comprehensive convention on terrorism at the United Nations.

Participants noted the significant achievements made by the United Nations system, particularly through coordinated and coherent activities undertaken through the CTITF framework. It was stressed that a majority of activities undertaken by the CTITF and its constituent entities on counter-terrorism matters rely on future material support of Member States. The continuing partnerships with an ever-broadening group of contributors to the CTITF activities were encouraged in order to realize initiatives in the future.

Participants welcomed the opportunity presented by the United Nations Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation to further dialogue on a range of methods and topics to increase multilateral action against terrorism. The Secretary-General, for the purposes of preparing his next report on the *United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Activities of the United Nations System in Implementing the Strategy* to be published in April 2012, will seek to draw on the discussions held at the Symposium.

Annex I

Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

19 September 2011
Programme of the Event

0915 – 0945	<i>Registration of participants</i>
1000 – 1030	<p>Opening Session: International counter-terrorism cooperation over the last decade and the role of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keynote Address: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Indonesia• Eminent Speaker: H.R.H. Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Trinidad Jiménez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Eric Holder, Jr., Attorney-General, United States of America
1035 – 1145	<p>Session II: Promoting dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism (Maximum five-minute interventions by eminent speakers and three-minute interventions from the floor)</p> <p>Session Chairman: Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Roza Otunbaeva, President of Kyrgyzstan• Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Mohamed Kamel Ali Amr, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Egypt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan • Eminent Speaker: H.E. The Rt. Hon. Ms. Theresa May, MP Home Secretary, United Kingdom
1145 – 1300	<p>Session III: Strengthening law enforcement and capacity-building efforts (Maximum five-minute interventions by eminent speakers and three-minute interventions from the floor)</p> <p>Session Chairman: Mr. Michael Smith, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Alain Juppé, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, France • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Franco Frattini, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Olugbenga Ashiru, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nigeria • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Turkey • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Gennadiy M. Gatilov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation
1300 – 1500	Lunch Break
1500 – 1615	<p>Session IV: Role of regional organizations in counter-terrorism cooperation (Maximum five-minute interventions by eminent speakers and three-minute interventions from the floor)</p> <p>Session Chairman: Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Taïeb Fassi-Fihri, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, Organization of American States • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Francesco Madeira, African Union Special Representative on Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Director of CAERT

<p>1615 – 1730</p>	<p>Session V: Promoting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism (Maximum five-minute interventions by eminent speakers and three-minute interventions from the floor)</p> <p>Session Chairperson: Ms. Navanethem Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Phandu T. C. Skelemani, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Botswana • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Norway
<p>1730 - 1800</p>	<p>Closing Session: The way forward</p> <p>Session Chairman: Mr. Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ms. Catherine Ashton, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Mr. Héctor Marcos Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina • Eminent Speaker: H.E. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council • Chairman’s Summary to be presented by Mr. Robert Orr