Mr Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

None of us, especially after the most recent events, especially in Yemen, needs to be reminded about the dangers that terrorism presents to human life, welfare and global stability. Unfortunately, during the past years, the threat has only become more dangerous and more lethal from Yemen to Iraq and from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

Unfortunately, we should also keep in mind that terrorism is a threat to global peace and security and which destabilizes or consumes Member States. In the meantime, it is also increasingly apparent that no action against terrorism would be sufficient unless all major determinants of international, regional and national policy-making are attuned to the threat posed and committed to dealing with all aspects that affect the fight against terrorism.

Massive national actions, often through the use of force, have been conducted. Security Council’s resolutions have been critical in ensuring that terrorists and their supporters are not given the space to hide or conduct their murderous activities anywhere in the world.

However, we would be remiss if we failed to recognize that the threat of terrorism and the efforts to combat that threat affect more areas, more specifically in the Security sector. In this regard, let me praise the efforts of ICAO which was the first specialized global agency to deal with those issues with the International Aviation Conventions.

In this regard, we should be all very impressed by the work done by ICAO to provide the international community with norms and technical solutions for the Aviation Security and Safety, these actions being composed of continuous efforts such as the revision of legal norms as it was the case in Beijing in September of new options for the efficiency of controls do people and goods carried by air including the solutions on MRTDs and related actions as proposed in the Symposium of today. On the behalf the Secretary General of the United Nations, let me congratulate you, Mr Secretary General as well as you organization for all those efforts.

Indeed, we all know that terrorism today has links to many more issues than just explosives or border control, and counter-terrorism should be broader than military action or security force initiatives. Yes we know that other elements, such as conflict prevention, political negotiations, criminal justice procedures, education, inter-cultural dialogue, institutional development, poverty alleviation and protection of human rights
are equally important aspects that the international community cannot afford to lose sight of in the fight against terrorism.

However without concrete actions on security issues, we will not be in the position to tackle terrorism with efficiency.

Indeed, terrorism is a global threat has to be met with global solutions. It is with that global consensus in mind that in 2006 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy – a document that for the first time encompassed a comprehensive, holistic and preventative approach to counter terrorism that had the universal approval of all Member States.

The thrust of the Strategy can be summarized as follows:

One, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whoever committed.

Two, the United Nations and its international partners must garner the invaluable treasure of national and regional efforts, accessibility to populations and universally-embraced principles in a coordinated manner to counter terrorism from a variety of angles. In this context, I would particularly like to emphasize the role of the specialized organizations such as ICAO and their political commitment and expertise.

And three, countering terrorism cannot and must not give us an excuse to trample upon our common and cherished values of protecting human rights, human dignity and international humanitarian law.

Indeed, international peace and security at the global level cannot be achieved without respecting those aspects of the Strategy.

Last year, the General Assembly re-affirmed its belief in the need to implement the Global Strategy through the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) within the United Nations. CTITF has been mandated by the General Assembly to coordinate system-wide activities which help Member States implement the Strategy.

Please allow me to shortly explain, the role of the Task Force of which the main responsibility is to support the efforts of its entities vis a vis member states in a coordinated and coherent manner from the United Nations system and Specialized Organizations point of view. It should be noted, in this regard, that ICAO has been one of its prominent and active member from the very beginning. Let me thank you Mr Secretary General for the efforts of your organization in this regard as well as all you colleagues who have been so supportive in that endeavour.

It is quite clear that the need for coordinating our activities is ever more necessary today. CTITF is currently an amalgam of 30 United Nations entities and international
organizations, each of them playing an indispensable role within its own mandate on ensuring that States and societies are protected from terrorism. The composition of the Task Force clearly reflects the four pillars of the Strategy. From entities that deal exclusively with development work, such as UNDP and OCHA, to those with specific mandates on counter-terrorism work, such as CTED, UNODC and the 1267 Monitoring Team, to those that work in specialized fields such as ICAO. CTITF houses a broad spectrum of organizations that bring together their respective expertise, resources and field penetration capacities to contribute productively to the global fight against international terrorism. At the same time, all of us should understand that each of these entities is responsible for the implementation of its own mandate, which is much broader than counter-terrorism activities alone.

In short, since we have created the Task Force, together, we have: worked to bring all entities into closer coordination, deepened our work on key counter-terrorism issues, developed tools and publications on various topics; and expanded our outreach to Member States.

A lot still needs to be done. We are still making progress on the support for integrated implementation of the Strategy in its key partner countries through effective technological tools that ease information-sharing and delivery of assistance. We have, for instance, developed an information sharing system, called I-ACT (Integrated Assistance in Countering Terrorism), that facilitates information sharing among our 30 entities.

In addition to the I-ACT initiative, the CTITF has identified several thematic areas where it feels it can contribute most effectively through engagement with its member entities in providing policy guidance and a set of good practices to Member States on effectively combating terrorism.

These include:

- Border control and border management
- Preventing and resolving conflicts
- Supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism
- Preventing and responding to WMD attacks
- Tackling the financing of terrorism
- Countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes
- Strengthening the protection of vulnerable targets
- Protecting human rights while countering terrorism.
- Countering the appeal of terrorism.

As is evident from this list, our thematic focus, just like our member entities, fall in a broad range of counter-terrorism activities, from softer issues such as conflict prevention to hard security matters such as Border Control Management.

The Working Group on Border Management related to Counter Terrorism is a grouping of 20 entities among the 30 of the Task Force. The variety of the entities which
are part of the Working Group is quite interesting under the leadership of 3 specific organizations:

- Counter-Terrorism Committee-Executive Directorate (CTED) – Lead
- World Customs Organization (WCO) – Lead
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) – Lead
- Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee
- Expert Staff of the 1540 Committee
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research (UNICRI)
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA)
- United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)

Some Entities are part of the group as observers:

- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSSA)

The main objective of the group is to provide support and assistance to Member States in their efforts to implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the threat of terrorism in the context of cross-border activities, by combining the contributions of specialized international organizations and United Nations entities with border management and control mandates or relevance.

The mandate of the Border WG is drawn from the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its pillars 2 and 3 which refer to Prevention of Terrorism and Capacity Building:

The entities of the Border WG will coordinate their efforts to:

- Identify relevant stakeholders involved in border management and the application of controls,
- Identify and compile their individual key contributions to border control,
- Increase sharing of relevant information regarding border management and control themes which address the threat of terrorism,
- Raise awareness that border control agencies play an essential role in countering terrorism,
- Identify and compile existing international standards, legislation, strategies, guidelines, procedures, recommended practices and other applicable instruments for border management and control, and disseminate them to States for distribution to their relevant authorities.
Identify current and developing technologies to be utilized in support of border control measures. Engage with a range of experts covering a variety of sectors/communities, to include the development of new ideas for effective implementation of international standards and operational best practices. Ensure that due account is taken of human rights issues and concerns that may arise in the context of border management and control, and will assist member States in ensuring that all border management and control measures fully comply with international law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, as mandated by the Strategy”.

**Border management and control themes**
The Border WG will deal with the following themes of border management and control that are relevant to addressing the threat of terrorism:

- Compliance of ‘goods’ crossing international borders with international conventions, legislation, prohibitions and restrictions
- Mobility and processing of people, including refugees and asylum seekers
- Integrity of identity and travel documents and their issuance process
- Movement of cash and other bearer negotiable instruments
- Cargo reporting and security
- Security of facilities
- Security of modes of transport
- Early warning and alert systems
- Open border controls and cross-border communities
- Movement of weapons (small arms, explosives and ammunition/conventional/WMD) across borders
- Prevention, detection, response, investigation and prosecution of border-related offences
- Technologies in support of border control
- Role of private sector
- Cooperation, coordination and information exchange at national, regional and international levels
- Anti-corruption programmes and best practices

Bearing in mind the focused objective of its work, the aim of the Border WG is to:

1. Compile reference material and make it available to States
2. Distribute available reports to States (as appropriate), including:
   - New and emerging trends and patterns in border management and control
   - Relevant assessments and studies available from participating entities or other sources as appropriate
3. Contribute to missions to areas where specific border management and control needs are identified and assistance is requested
4. Present to States good practices of border management systems in the context of regional meetings or other events
5. Produce and disseminate promotional material and strategies for raising awareness of the outputs of the Border WG, the relevance of border management
and control to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to the work of the CTITF

Indeed, the Border WG will conduct its activities by engaging in regular communication within the wider context of CTITF to ensure coordination and prevent duplication within / between other CTITF Working Groups.

Obviously, the ICAO leading role on MRTDs biometrics and security standards which is proved by the impressive programme of the Symposium of today is essential in the work of the activities of the Working Group. What I really hope is that the engagement of ICAO in this area of work will also be truly beneficial to the work of ICAO itself.

Mr Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen,

As the Chairperson of the Task Force, let me assure you that I am fully committed to assist ICAO in this endeavour and that the Task Force Working Group on Border Management will be fully informed about your key activities on MRTDs, Biometrics and Security Standards. The presence of Mr Hassan Baage, Senior Counter-Terrorism Officer of the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate and chairman of the Working Group on Border Management is a prove of how much we , at the CTITF, we value the work of this remarkable ICAO programme in this field.

Before concluding, I would like to say few words on supporting the victims of terrorism. Yes, among us here today, we need also to keep in mind that terrorism has a face, the face of the victims of terrorism. It is critical to establish fair mechanisms in order to help in restitution, compensating and assisting victims of terrorism. Members of this distinguished audience should remember the Symposium on the Victims of Terrorism held in September 2008 at the General Assembly. The Symposium marked the first time when victims of terrorism were given a face, a voice, an international audience and a platform to share their heart-wrenching stories with people around the world. Here, our common objective under the guidance of the Secretary General who attaches a great importance to that issue is of ensuring that victims of terrorism are given the attention they deserve. There is, indeed a direct link between your activities and this ultimate goal of protecting victims of terrorism. More the travels will be save less victims of terrorism will be affected by this horrible phenomenon.

Let's keep this reality in mind during the Symposium deliberations while we will have also to comply with the principles of the United Nations Charters and our cherish human rights principles.

It is essential for our joint commitment to our timeless ideals and to our belief in humanity, since otherwise, we will have lost our battle against the terrorists.

Thank you.