

## Eleventh Meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee New York, 5 February 2025

### *The Pact for the Future and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact: Strengthening Policy Interventions and Building Member State Capacities to Prevent and Counter Terrorism*

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Remarks by **H.E. Mr. Stefan Pretterhofer**, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Head of Delegation)

Let me extend Austria’s appreciation for being invited to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee Meeting; especially for being given the opportunity to speak at such a distinguished panel.

Our common goal is easily summed up in Action 23 of the Pact for the Future: pursuing a future free from terrorism. While this may be difficult to fully achieve, it is an important goal that deserves our strong focus. Terrorism is like cancer. It may sometimes grow undetected but its impact can be devastating. It poses a grave threat to the internal stability of States, the rule of law and our fundamental freedoms. No State, no society is immune. We need to stand together in our fight against terrorism. We are convinced that hate and terror cannot defeat our free and open society. This was also stressed in last week’s UNSC Open Debate on counter-terrorism.

Austria firmly believes that the UN should play a central role in multilateral efforts to combat terrorism. That’s why we commend the work undertaken by the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact in achieving a common UN approach. Bringing together 46 entities, including OCT and the Vienna-based UNODC, helps sharing expertise and aligning our collective efforts. As the fight against terrorism needs a holistic and collaborative approach between the UN, member states and regional organizations, Austria made a contribution to that end last week – by organizing a dialogue together with UNOCT and DPPA on understanding terrorism as a strategic risk and driver of conflict. There was overall agreement that counter-terrorism measures and peacebuilding efforts can complement each other. That’s why a comprehensive strategy is even more important. We will share the outcomes of the dialogue in a timely manner.

The Pact also aims to promote a collective approach to addressing the root causes of terrorism by building resilient societies and fostering cooperation. Prevention can be achieved by addressing underlying factors such as socio-economic grievances and social exclusion. In this regard, we should exchange best practices in implementing whole-of-society approaches. We can learn from each other. How to effectively include civil society and the private sector to develop a comprehensive approach to terrorism. How to fight poverty and inequality.

This brings me to another crucial aspect: capacity-building. Helping other states to improve their governance and security frameworks to prevent and counter terrorism must be a top priority. This includes strengthening legal frameworks to align with international conventions and standards on counter-terrorism. Assisting countries in developing appropriate anti-money laundering legislation helps preventing terrorist financing through illicit networks. Cross-

border efforts facilitate tracking and shutting down of illicit funds. In this respect, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch is a good example of the valuable contribution it provides to the UN member family. Overall, we believe that technical resources must be strengthened to counter the misuse of new technologies.

At the same time, we must make sure that our efforts are always respectful of international law. Counter-terrorism measures must not undermine fundamental rights and freedoms, including due process. Security forces and judicial systems must be adequately equipped and trained to meet these requirements. We need to guarantee certain standards such as right to a fair trial and to prevent violations of human rights through – for example – arbitrary detention. All efforts at combatting terrorism will turn out ineffective and unsustainable in the long-term if fundamental principles of the rule of law are infringed.

In conclusion, we think that the Pact for the Future provides us with the proper guidance in our common objective of overcoming terrorism. We need to invest in prevention, cooperate through information sharing – both on terrorist fighters and best practices of fighting against them – and scale up capacity-building efforts both at national and international level.

Thank you.