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2021 United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week: Side Event

Multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation: the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact – Global Counterterrorism Forum partnership

GCTF cooperation with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Compact

GCTF Co-Chair Canada -Talking Points

- To begin, I would like to thank Under-Secretary General **Voronkov** for his remarks, and Deputy USG, our good friend **Raffi Gregorian**, as well as our colleagues at the Counter-Terrorism Compact for being a part of this important event today.
- On behalf of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the GCTF, I would also like to extend a **warm welcome to all of our virtual participants** today.
- The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy illustrates the **international community's commitment to fighting terrorism**, and to **working closely with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities**. The **GCTF shares these objectives**.
- For those of you who may be less familiar with the work of the GCTF, the **Forum has 30 members from around the world** and is committed to strengthening **civilian-led international counterterrorism cooperation**.
- The GCTF is dedicated to a **comprehensive and sustained response** to this threat, while **ensuring compliance with our obligations under international law, in particular**, international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions.
- The **central role of the United Nations** in global efforts to counter terrorism **has underpinned the GCTF's approach since its launch in 2011**, and was **reaffirmed in the 2018 Joint UN-GCTF Ministerial Statement**.
- Within that context, the implementation of the United Nations' Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant Security Council resolutions, and the UN CT framework more broadly, **will remain at the core** of the GCTF's work as it enters its **second decade**.
- GCTF Members highly value the **Forum's strong and mutually reinforcing partnership** and place **great importance on fostering synergies**, and **streamlining efforts** to counter evolving terrorist threats - efficiently and effectively.



- The GCTF's work draws upon GCTF members and non-member states alike, the GCTF **Inspired Institutions**, **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact members and observers**, regional and sub-regional **organizations**, **academic experts**, and **civil society representatives**.
- The **valuable contributions from UN CT Compact entities**, along with the **Forum's inclusive approach to participation in its work**, help ensure that the GCTF ***stays ahead of the curve***.
- Since early last year, we have all had to confront new challenges due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. For the GCTF, those challenges are reflected in the Forum's **transition** from convener of **in-person events** to shifting virtually all of our work **online**.
- and throughout this pandemic period, the **GCTF's UN partners have continued to contribute extensively** to the Forum's activities in their **new online formats**.
- While we are **not yet at point where we can resume working across a table** again, it is truly a **pleasure** on this occasion at least **to be able to see each other onscreen**, to reflect for a moment on our **past collaboration**, and to **explore** where the GCTF – Counter-Terrorism Compact partnership can be further **strengthened**.
- As Co-Chairs of the Forum, **Canada and Morocco have worked to support collaboration and cooperation** *with non-member partners* across the breadth of the GCTF's activities.
- And **despite the many challenges of the last year**, we have observed that **shifting to the virtual sphere has contributed to *more* engagement**, as well as **new *forms* of engagement** with partners across the board, including, of course, with our UN partners.
- We have also **seen our partnership** with the Counter-Terrorism Compact ***grow***, including through **regular biannual coordination meetings**.
- These meetings have **strengthened cooperation on a practical** and structural basis, and helped to **identify shared priorities**.
- Our partnership is **also supported by the regular exchanges** between the **GCTF Administrative Unit** and the **CT Compact Secretariat**, sharing, for example, essential **working tools** such as Working Group Contact Lists and Work Plans.
- Perhaps the **most notable example of progress** in GCTF collaboration with the CT Compact entities and the **organic nature of the partnership** is that UN Office of Counter-Terrorism itself is co-leading three GCTF initiatives.
- These are:
 - an initiative on ***Ensuring Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures While Safeguarding Civic Space Initiative*** with Morocco and the Netherlands,



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- a **Watchlisting initiative** with the United States, which you will hear more about later in this side event, and
 - the development of a ***Gender and Identities Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism*** with Canada.
- These three initiatives **reflect the scope of some of the GCTF's practical cooperation** with the UN CT Compact and its entities. Once again, we are **grateful for this partnership**, and GCTF members very much look forward to reinforcing this important relationship.
 - Before I pass the floor to my dear co-chair Ismail Chekkori, I also want to note that we are very happy to have the whole GCTF 'family' online today for this discussion by virtue of the participation of the GCTF Inspired Institutions, GCERF, *Hedayah*, and the IIJ. The GCTF Inspired Institutions are **fundamental to the GCTF's successful partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Compact**, including through their implementation of GCTF outputs. We will hear more from them and about them shortly.
 - With that, I would like to thank you all! And over to you, cher Ismail.