

Second meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre Advisory Board

Joint Summary by HRH Prince Saud AlFaisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia & H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (Jeddah: 13th of Rajab 1433 - 3rd of June 2012)

The Second Advisory Board meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) was convened today, the 13th of Rajab 1433 of Hijrah, 3rd of June 2012, in the city of Jeddah, KSA, and was chaired by HRH Prince Saud AlFaisal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, and attended by the United Nations Secretary General, H.E. Ban Ki-moon and the members of the Advisory Board.

The attendees expressed their appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, and his statement that commenced the proceedings of the meeting.

They also acknowledge his efforts in establishing the UNCCT under the umbrella of the United Nations, that was conceived in 2005 as part of the Riyadh Counter-Terrorism International Conference. That idea became a reality with the signing of the agreement on 19th of September 2011 in New York, that established the Centre. This also signals the commitment the Kingdom took on the national, and international levels in the field of Counter-Terrorism, and also the \$10 million contribution to fund the Centre for the first three years, a matter that stems from the Kingdom's faith in the importance of international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism.

Based on the inputs received from the Advisory Board members during and after their first meeting in New York on the 2nd of April 2012, the Secretary-General announced the following initial strategic priorities for the Centre: development of national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, support for integrated capacity building assistance, countering the financing of terrorism, promoting dialogue and understanding between communities, protecting human rights while countering terrorism and the need to promote and protect rights of victims of terrorism.

The Advisory Board highlighted the danger posed by the phenomenon of terrorism, and that it is one of the most significant challenges the international community faces. They also stressed that terrorism is a scourge that knows neither borders nor faith, and that threatens peace and security of the international community as a whole.

It was underscored that the threat of terrorism should be countered through comprehensive national and regional strategies, keeping in mind Member States' national and regional priorities and international obligations. These strategies could be developed in conformity with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through consensus in September 2006.

The Advisory Board members discussed several issues, including enhancing international cooperation, building in-depth knowledge of the Strategy amongst key stakeholders, sharing of counter-terrorism best practices, exchanging expertise and developing effective training programmes. The members reiterated the need to respect human rights and the rule of law while counter terrorism. It was also stated that the UNCCT can play an important role in the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In conclusion, the participants expressed their gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the meeting.