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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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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

Remarks by **Mr. Guy Ryder**, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations (EOSG)

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

I am pleased to represent the Secretary-General at this important meeting.

Terrorism is an affront to humanity.

It represents human rights denied.

Communities destroyed.

Innocents targeted.

Each attack leaves scars – both seen and unseen – that never fully heal.

As this poison seeps across communities, borders, and regions, no one is immune.

We must come together to put an end to it.

The Pact for the Future, adopted by Member States at the United Nations last September, gives fresh momentum to the global fight against terrorism.

The Pact - along with the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations – holds a vital promise: to build a world free of terrorism, online and offline.

Your meeting today rightly focuses on what we must do to bring the bold vision of the Pact to life.

First, we must redouble efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Terrorism and violent extremism thrive in chaos.

They feed off poverty, inequality, exclusion and hatred.

Building inclusive, resilient societies is the most effective tool to stop terrorism in its tracks.

Investing in sustainable development, fostering strong institutions and governance structures to rebuild trust and resilient social fabric, strengthening the rule of law and promoting peace and respect for human rights for all – together, these actions can prevent terrorism from taking hold.

Second, our responses to terrorism must evolve to meet new threats.

Emerging technologies in digital and physical spaces are being unleashed in the service of hate, fear and violence at a terrifying scale.

In the digital space, messages of radicalization and platforms for recruitment are spreading faster than ever before. AI is being used to amplify these messages and promoting mis- and dis-information at scale.

In the physical world, unmanned Aircraft Systems are combining with artificial intelligence, and 3D printing to reshape the security landscape.

Terrorism is evolving, any reluctance to do the same will be a recipe for failure.

We must commit to implementing the recommendations in the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, and that includes engaging with social media platforms to tackle hate speech, disinformation and other online abuses that can offer a breeding ground for radicalization.

Third, international law, and particularly human rights, must be at the core of counter-terrorism efforts.

The Pact makes it clear: human rights are non-negotiable.

Terrorism is a direct assault on human rights.

Fighting it with the same tactics only fuels the cycle of hate and violence.

Too often counter-terrorism measures are used as an excuse to commit human rights violations – masquerading as the cure while prolonging the illness.

This is a one-way ticket to further instability and insecurity.

We must never lose sight of our shared commitment to uphold and protect fundamental human rights.

Fourth, and finally, coordination is essential.

The Pact calls for enhanced coordination of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

We already have a solid foundation - the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

The Compact is our greatest tool to unite our efforts, support nations, and equip them with the tools and expertise to protect their citizens.

It's time to build on this foundation with decisive action.

This means forging stronger ties with Member States, civil society, and partners.

It means providing technical assistance, capacity-building, and funding where it's most needed.

It means strengthening cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations.

And it means gathering data to understand global terrorism trends.

Excellencies, colleagues,

The Pact for the Future is both a promise and a challenge.

A promise to all, including the victims and survivors of terrorism, that we will never stop fighting these heinous acts.

And a challenge to not just focus on today, but to act now to shape the world free of terrorism we want tomorrow.

I look forward to working with the Compact to fulfill this vital mission and build safer, more resilient societies for all.

Thank you.