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UN Counter-Terrorism Compact Retreat

“Strengthening partnerships between regional organizations and the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to support the coordination of policy interventions and capacity-building efforts”

25 June 2025
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. EST
UNHQ

**Thematic Session I: Understanding Capacity-Building Challenges at the
regional level: West Africa, East Africa, Gulf Cooperation region and Central
Asia**

Excellencies, Colleagues,

It’s a pleasure to deliver this short intervention on behalf of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

Both the focus of today’s discussion *“Strengthening partnerships between regional organizations and the UN Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to support the coordination of policy interventions and capacity-building efforts”* and this particular session *“Understanding Capacity-Building Challenges at the regional level”* are very pertinent for UNICRI – and us all.

As we look to the future of counter-terrorism within the UN system, it is essential to recognize the broader shifts shaping our operational landscape. The ongoing liquidity crisis and shifting donor priorities highlight the need to sharpen our focus

– ensuring that the efforts we design and implement are demonstrably impactful, locally grounded, and strategically aligned.

In this context, action-oriented research, such as that conducted by UNICRI, is no longer a luxury – it is a necessity. Evidence-based approaches that prioritize robust data, knowledge development, and implementable insights are the most powerful tools we have to ensure our efforts are meaningful, effective, and sustainable.

Our work at UNICRI shows that embedding research within programming not only enhances impact, but also builds trust, informs better policy, and ultimately attracts support. Whether it's assessing violent extremism and online harms, navigating the responsible use of AI in counter-terrorism, or modelling security plans for major events, we see time and again the value of actionable evidence.

The Compact has a unique role to play in elevating this approach — by fostering greater coordination around knowledge development, supporting Member States in identifying what works, and ensuring that our collective action is guided by insight, not assumption.

Thank you.