

Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation would like to join the other delegates in extending our congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing this meeting.

The Republic of Korea remains deeply concerned that the scourge of terrorism continues to undermine international peace and security. As reiterated in the recent Secretary-General's report, Da'esh and Al-Qaida persist and are adapting across the world despite concerted global counter-terrorism efforts.

The cases in the aforementioned report demonstrate how terrorism exploits instability and division among States, underscoring the importance of maintaining a united front against terrorism no matter the circumstances. Reiterating our firm position that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations cannot, and should not, be tolerated or justified, I would like to highlight the following points.

First, the international community should harness the rapid evolution of new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, to help counter terrorism.

While terrorist groups are increasingly exploiting AI for propaganda and recruitment, AI also offers powerful tools to enhance our collective response to terrorism. Indeed, by responsibly leveraging AI-driven analytics, we can improve threat detection, disrupt terrorist narratives, and bolster information integrity.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea is pleased to provide updates regarding its “AI and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)” project, designed in collaboration with UNOCT, to Member States.

In order to review organizational readiness and challenges in the forthcoming adoption of AI for PCVE globally, the project surveyed 125 individuals in 46 countries—and found that only 24% of PCVE policy makers and practitioners are currently using AI in their work.

Through the development of a Global Practice Guide on AI and PCVE,

which will be presented at a high-level event later this year, the project will aim to fill this critical gap and serve as a timely and valuable resource for those seeking to incorporate responsible, rights-based AI tools into their PCVE policies and programming activities.

Second, a comprehensive and holistic approach is essential to effectively combat violent extremism and eliminate international terrorism. And our approaches should also be underpinned with a shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

To uphold these principles in practice, a multi-layered system of oversight in national counter-terrorism frameworks is considered good practice. Yet, we note that these efforts can be inequitable and more challenging for some Member States, given their limited resources and expertise.

As a small effort to address this capacity gap and advance global best practices, the Republic of Korea has collaborated with the CTED on the launch of a new expert forum on intelligence oversight.

The project aims to ensure that States strengthen their oversight of

national security agencies in South and South-East Asia. It will deliver targeted capacity-building and fruitful peer-to-peer knowledge exchange between States to better monitor, investigate, and review intelligence activities.

We hope this project will serve as a robust foundation for fostering human rights in national, regional, and international CT operations; and we invite regional States to join in this endeavor.

Third, the Republic of Korea advocates for a reformed UN counter-terrorism framework that enhances vital coordination among all participating entities.

The upcoming UN80 initiative provides a critical juncture to construct a more coherent counter-terrorism system. We acknowledge the leadership of UNOCT in driving this reform, a role central to its original mandate. And we call on UNOCT to deliver concrete proposals that improve synergy between the Compact entities.

As established in recent consultations with Member States, this reform must prioritize a clear demarcation of responsibilities and improved

collaboration, not the consolidation of agencies.

In this context, we reiterate our strong opposition to any new duplication of capacity-building mandates, a concern validated by the recent OIOS report. We expect UNOCT to continue exercising its strategic leadership to prevent such overlaps.

Mr. Chair, **to conclude**, my delegation would like to reiterate our firm support for global counter-terrorism efforts and the central role played by the UN and its organs. The Korean Government remains committed to fully implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant UN resolutions.

We will continue to actively engage in all efforts to achieve a world free of terrorism, including the ongoing work in this very committee that aims to finalize the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. I thank you. /END/