

**Statement by Mr. Raffi Gregorian,
Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of
the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of
Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the
establishment of the Committee**

Session II: International cooperation

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**Vice-Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Representatives,**

**I am honoured to participate in this special meeting
to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Security
Council resolution 1373 and the establishment of the
Counter-Terrorism Committee.**

**I would like to thank Ambassador Ladeb for the
invitation extended to UNOCT to join you on this
occasion.**

**On this day of commemoration, I would like to pay
homage to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and**

to all those around the world whose lives were stolen or otherwise shattered by terrorist violence over the years.

The Security Council's swift, consensus adoption of resolution 1373 under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and the establishment of this Committee demonstrated a united front against the global threat of terrorism and laid the foundations for strengthened national efforts and international cooperation against terrorism.

The comprehensive set of over 20 related resolutions adopted by the Security Council since then has served to help Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations tackle new and emerging trends, encourage multi-dimensional approaches, and strengthen attention to international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has played an instrumental role in both creating and advancing the implementation of this framework. I pay tribute to all its successive Chairs for their leadership.

Supporting Member States in strengthening their capabilities to implement Security Council requirements and the United Nations Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy has been a top priority for our Organization.

These efforts were bolstered by the reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, under the leadership of Secretary-General Guterres and with Member States' support, placing the partnership between UNOCT and CTED at its heart.

Yet, despite many achievements over the past 20 years, we must remain vigilant and committed to address the persistent and global scourge of terrorism. The threat posed by the Al-Qaida and Da'esh networks remains; developments in Africa and uncertainty in Afghanistan are especially worrying.

Violent extremism based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance has grown into posing one of the main terrorist challenges for many States.

Terrorists continue to adapt, using the Internet, social media platforms and other information and communication technologies, and exploiting new technologies such as drones, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and virtual assets.

They have also sought to benefit from the disruptions and socio-economic and political fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of these challenges, reinvigorated multilateralism, anchored in the United Nations Charter and international law, is indispensable. The Security Council's continued leadership and guidance is critical.

Excellencies,

Close engagement with this Committee and its Chair and maintaining an effective partnership with CTED has been a top priority for Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and myself.

There should be no mystery as to why that should be the case, because as a senior representative of a permanent member of the Security Council I was privileged to be involved in both the creation of UNOCT as well as drafting Security Council resolution 2395, which envisioned just the sort of collaboration that Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Assistant Secretary-General Coninx managed to establish.

Since its founding four years ago, UNOCT has greatly benefited from regular opportunities to

participate in this Committee's work, including its briefings on thematic and regional priorities, its meetings on country visits, and its direct dialogue with Member States.

Similarly, the action-oriented guidance produced by the Committee, such as the Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and related Addendum, has been especially valuable, and is actively integrated into our work in advising and supporting Member States through technical assistance.

Over the last four years, the close cooperation between UNOCT and CTED has become the engine of the United Nations counter-terrorism apparatus, steadily shifting into higher gears. We have regularly updated this Committee on our collaborative efforts in support of Member States in implementing relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

CTED actively contributes to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact led by UNOCT, variously as chair, co-and vice-chair of five of its eight working groups.

Like UNOCT, CTED works closely with our Counter-Terrorism Compact partners all of whom

benefit from the 646 technical assistance recommendations and 29 country assessments reports currently made available by CTED through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform managed by UNOCT.

Furthermore, UNOCT, including its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, draws on CTED's expertise and assessments in the design and delivery of technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States.

CTED plays a key role in the implementation of our multi-agency global programmes in response to Security Council requirements, including on countering the financing of terrorism; prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration; protecting vulnerable targets; and countering terrorist travel.

Let me just focus on the CT Travel Programme, in which CTED helps lead national consultations that produce roadmaps that beneficiaries develop with us to put in place the human rights-compliant laws, procedures, and systems needed to implement Security Council resolutions 2396 and 2482. To help support these consultations, UNOCT provides CTED with financial and staffing resources, as we do for other projects. Once the *goTravel* system is operational, a Member State is able to make use of INTERPOL and

other international, regional, and bilateral sources of information to begin detecting and interdicting the travel of known and suspected terrorists and other serious criminals right away. The return on investment is almost immediate. It is the clearest and most objective example of meaningful international cooperation engendered by our partnership with CTED in helping Member States implement provisions of Chapter VII resolutions.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, providing impactful technical assistance will remain crucial, whether on bilateral or multilateral basis, as the threat spreads to less resourced countries and becomes more sophisticated.

The United Nations system remains committed to play its part, together with our regional partners and upon request from Member States.

This Committee's dialogue with Member States, its policy guidance and recommendations, and its support in mobilizing resources, remain instrumental.

We of course appreciate Member States' sensitivities with regard to information regarding their counter-terrorism capabilities. But to the maximum

degree possible, we would welcome greater access for UN entities to the Committee's assessment reports and related preparatory analysis by CTED, as well as summary assessments of gaps and needs in different thematic areas.

The Committee's engagement with the wider United Nations membership and system, regional organizations, civil society and the academia, together with strengthened attention to human rights and gender, are positive developments which we further encourage.

UNOCT Office welcomes the Committee's continued guidance on key counter-terrorism issues that require urgent action, and we follow with great interest how the Committee is integrating the potential impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian assistance in its work and assessments.

We would also welcome the Committee's further focus on victims of terrorism and the challenges and opportunities offered by new technologies.

Excellencies,

We commend the achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate over the last two decades.

You can count on the continued support of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in helping Member States prevent and counter terrorism in the new decade.

Thank you.