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Vienna

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Advancing the Implementation
of the United Nations
Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

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This document includes the statements and remarks delivered during the Symposium, that were sent to the Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat.

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Foreword

by Mr. Ban Ki-moon,

*Secretary-General
United Nations*

Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to international peace and security that we face in this century. No nation can consider itself immune from its dangers, and no society can remain disengaged from efforts to combat it.

The General Assembly's adoption last year of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a breakthrough in international initiatives to address this menace. The Strategy represents an unprecedented consensus on a basic framework for collective action; for the very first time, all United Nations Member States agreed on a set of concrete measures to prevent and combat terrorism.

We are now tasked with translating these commitments into action. Member States need to expeditiously pursue all aspects of the Strategy. As they do so, the United Nations stands ready to offer its assistance. I urge Governments to take full advantage of the counter-terrorism resources and expertise available to them through the United Nations system.

The Strategy and its implementation need to be widely publicised and promoted. The Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in Vienna on 17-18 May 2007, made an important contribution to this effort. I thank the Government of Austria for initiating and hosting the Symposium, together with my Executive Office, which chairs the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The publication of the Symposium's proceedings will help to advance the discourse, and enable its insights to be shared among a broad range of individuals, institutions and Governments. The range of views contained in this document, as well as the richness of the discussion, can help build momentum towards transforming the Strategy into concrete results on the ground.

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Introduction

This publication contains the proceedings of the Symposium on “Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”.

The Symposium, jointly organized by the Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), was held in Vienna on 17-18 May 2007 and attended by more than 350 participants, representing 107 Member States and many international, subregional and regional organizations.

Special thanks should be expressed to the Government of Austria for its support without which the Symposium and this publication would not have materialized.

The purpose of the Symposium was to raise awareness of the Strategy, which contains more than 50 practical recommendations and provisions, and to promote its implementation as well as to identify measures for assisting Member States in this endeavour, including by mobilizing enhanced support for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which brings together representatives of a broad range of United Nations and related entities working on counter-terrorism issues.

The publication follows the thematic structure of the Symposium, which was composed of six thematic parts:

- Theme 1:** The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: An integrated approach in addressing terrorism
- Theme 2:** Implementing measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
- Theme 3:** Enhancing measures to prevent and combat terrorism
- Theme 4:** Increasing States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system: Lessons learned from UNODC's technical assistance delivery
- Theme 5:** Respecting human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism
- Theme 6:** The way ahead—Advancing the implementation of the Strategy

The publication includes the opening addresses, the concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Symposium H.E. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Vienna, the text of the six key note speeches and the 64 statements delivered, as well as various brief interventions from other participants.

The agenda of the Symposium, the final list of participants as well as a list of all interventions made during the Symposium can be found in the annexes.

Opening statement

By H.E. Ms. Maria Berger

Minister of Justice of Austria

It is my great pleasure to speak to you today on the occasion of the Vienna Symposium on “Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” which has been organized by the Government of Austria and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006 was a landmark event. For the first time in the history of the United Nations all countries agreed to a common strategic approach to combat global terrorism and its causes. However, we know that the value of the Comprehensive Strategy will prove itself only in its implementation. Hence, it is now an immediate challenge for the international community to promote the necessary awareness and political commitment for its implementation. Equally important for a successful implementation is also an enhanced cooperation among international organizations in order to reinforce support provided to Member States in their efforts to implement the Strategy.

The Austrian Government is therefore delighted to host this Second Vienna Terrorism Symposium given the widely recognized success of the first Vienna Symposium in 2002 on “Combating International Terrorism”. Let me assure you that the Austrian government attaches great importance to this conference. We are convinced that a successful implementation of the Strategy will require strong support and active involvement by all actors. Today’s large group of participants, representing governments, the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations family organizations as well as civil society and academia is in this respect a promising sign. I thank you all for accepting the invitation to come to Vienna in order to explore further ways on how to advance the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Since the adoption of the Strategy on 8 September 2006, United Nations Member States have been assisted by the United Nations in making the best possible use of the Strategy. Specifically the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force established by the Secretary-General in June 2005 has been a valuable coordinating and information-sharing body. The Task Force constitutes a forum to discuss strategic issues and to develop policy recommendations. The Strategy is relevant for the entire work of the United Nations—its main organs, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and all other related organizations. Austria therefore supports the intention of the Secretary-General to institutionalize the Task Force within the Secretariat in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime which has its headquarters here in Vienna certainly has a key role in its contribution to terrorism prevention. Its activities help to

found a global network of anti-terrorism legislature, which can enable Member States to fight terrorism efficiently and within the rule of law.

Terrorism prevention is about preserving our common values such as democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. I am convinced that all our coordinated action in the fight against terrorism must be based on the absolute primacy of the rule of law. There can be no contradiction between granting people more security and respecting the fundamental rights.

The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights in its recently published annual report on 2006 has alleged that governments in Europe, Central Asia and North America have continued—I quote—“to circumvent the prohibition on torture and ill-treatment in their efforts to combat terrorism, for example, by failing to prevent and remedy abusive interrogation practices; allowing for the use of evidence extracted under torture; sending terrorist suspects to countries where they faced a real risk of being subjected to torture and ill-treatment; and holding alleged terrorists in secret detention facilities outside the protection of the law”. The Helsinki Federation has commented that these developments at present form one of the most pressing human rights issues in the region.

Among those taking up a clear stance on the issue was outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who in an address marking Human Rights Day on 10 December 2006 stated that—and again I quote—“we must fight terrorism in conformity with international law, those parts of it that prohibit torture and inhumane treatment, and those that give anyone detained against his or her will the right to due process and the judgment of a court. Once we adopt a policy of making exceptions to these rules or excusing breaches of them, no matter how narrow, we are on a slippery slope. This line cannot be held half way down. We must defend it at the top”.

Indeed, the United Nations family has always opted for a balanced approach towards enhancing security while safeguarding fundamental human rights. In this spirit, I wish you a fruitful exchange and a stimulating debate and will be very much interested in the outcome of the discussion.

Opening statement

By Mr. Antonio Maria Costa

Executive Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is proud to co-host this Symposium on advancing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My thanks to the Government of Austria for initiating this event, and to colleagues from the Secretary-General's Office in New York for partnering with UNODC in organizing this meeting.

With the adoption of the Strategy last September, United Nations Member States spoke out clearly and in unison about their resolve to fight terrorism and what must be done to prevent it. Now comes the hard part—translating words into deeds.

UNODC can help. Indeed, the Strategy explicitly encourages States to draw on the technical assistance available at UNODC. This is a welcome recognition of our counter terrorism expertise which is often over-shadowed by our better known work to fight drugs and crime.

Indeed, we are the only United Nations body mandated, empowered and equipped to provide on-the-ground counter terrorism assistance to Member States.

We can draw on three comparative advantages.

First, a quarter century of experience and know-how in the development and delivery of specialized technical assistance to help governments combat drugs and crime. This is being put to use to counter terrorism, for example drawing on experience in fighting money-laundering, organized crime, drug trafficking and supporting criminal justice reform. This is our bread and butter and a good example of an integrated approach to addressing terrorism.

Second, a network of field offices that gives us an on-the-spot presence to help countries implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Third, an understanding of the sinister links between drugs, crime and terrorism that facilitates a holistic response to these threats which are dangerous in themselves, and even more menacing when combined.

Concretely, what can we do? UNODC is a service provider. Our work is needs-driven.

First, we assist Member States to become party to the universal instruments against terrorism. In January 2003 when we started providing such assistance, only 26 countries had ratified the first 12 universal counter terrorism instruments. Now 92 countries have ratified all of them. So there has been measurable progress, but we are only half way there.

Even if the implementation rate was 100 per cent that would not be the end of the story. In some countries, existing laws need to be revised, or new ones adopted. Criminal justice officials need to gain new experience and develop better networks.

Second, we assist States to incorporate into their national legislation the provisions of the instruments. We have also assisted countries in steering such laws through parliaments.

Third, once these new laws are put in place, UNODC assists States to train key criminal justice officials, especially prosecutors and judges, and financial intelligence experts. Theme 4 of this Symposium will be a useful opportunity to exchange views on what lessons can be learned from delivering technical assistance, not only from our perspective but from our institutional partners and, most importantly, the States concerned.

We are not resting on our laurels. In the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, UNODC was encouraged to expand on its terrorism prevention work, and we intend to do so by building on our existing expertise and taking new initiatives, for example:

- Promoting regional cooperation among regional criminal justice agencies to facilitate extradition and mutual legal assistance (drawing on existing expertise in the areas of drugs and crime);
- Identifying and promoting the use of good legal and criminal justice practices in counter-terrorism;
- Expanding the body of counter-terrorism legal research to include analysis and comparative studies in legislation;
- Encourage academic and professional training on the legal aspects of counter-terrorism;
- Further expand the delivery of technical assistance on the ground—the demand is there.

This is a massive task that can be best achieved through cooperation. UNODC therefore relies on close partnership with regional organizations, like the OSCE, OAS, and the African Union. It also holds regional and subregional workshops to increase international capacity and cooperation in combating terrorism.

As the Strategy points out, we must also look for ways to improve cooperation with the private sector since they are often the targets of terrorist attacks, or are the unwitting support systems for terrorists—whether it be banks, Internet providers, or transportation companies. I was pleased to take part in the global forum for partnerships between States and businesses to counter terrorism that took place in Moscow last November. There were a number of interesting ideas put forward which deserve follow up.

You took an important decision by adopting the counter-terrorism strategy. You also made a big commitment by agreeing to a plan of action.

As the title of this Symposium makes clear, it is time to move ahead with its implementation—“to advance”. We will be judged by our actions, not our words.

I urge you to use this opportunity to identify what steps are needed to implement the Strategy in your countries and regions, and to strengthen your networks.

The bottom line for all our work must be to ensure security and respect for human rights. The two are not mutually exclusive, indeed they are mutually re-enforcing. That is why our motto at UNODC is to attain security and justice for all.

We all have a heavy burden to carry to make the world safer from terrorism. We can make it lighter by sharing expertise, information, and advice.

I wish you a successful meeting, and urge you to take full advantage of the terrorism prevention expertise available at UNODC.

Opening statement

By Mr. Robert Orr

*Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning
Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

I am very pleased to address this important meeting and I wish to thank the Government of Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for co-hosting the event together with the Executive Office of the Secretary General. I hope that this Symposium will allow us an opportunity to have a frank and open discussion about where we all stand in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Eight months have passed since the milestone adoption by the General Assembly of the Strategy. While an extremely important political achievement in itself, the Strategy will only have real effects on those affected by terrorism if it is fully implemented. Today, with delegates from New York and Vienna as well, senior officials from capitals, and a wide range of external actors all gathered together, we have an excellent opportunity to examine what has been done and what still needs to be done.

At the outset, I believe that we need to acknowledge a few important points. First, we must approach the implementation process in a strategic manner. The Strategy contains more than 50 practical recommendations and provisions. While each and every one of them is crucial to our success in combating terrorism, we must agree on tactics for sequencing the implementation of the various measures if we are to maximize their effectiveness.

Second, we must agree that the main responsibility for implementing the Strategy falls on Member States themselves. There are provisions in the Strategy that call on various United Nations departments, specialized agencies, programmes and funds to take action. We, on the Secretariat side, are already in the process of implementing these measures. But well over half of the strategy is made up of direct calls to you, the Member States, to take specific action. Of course, the United Nations System stands ready to assist you in any and all means possible.

This brings me to the role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in the implementation process. As you know, the Task Force brings together 24 United Nations entities involved in aspects of counter-terrorism. Though some of these entities focus more counter-terrorism than others, they all have important contributions to make to the comprehensive implementation of the Strategy. These entities, working together in a coordinated and coherent manner under the umbrella of the Task Force, can act as an effective catalyst to Member States in implement the Strategy.

The Task Force has made substantial progress to date in making available to Member States, regional and subregional organizations, and civil society a wide-array of resources to draw upon in carrying out their counter-terrorism efforts. In January, the Task Force launched an Online Handbook that allows all actors to get in contact with and request assistance

from any of the 24 entities of the Task Force. We would welcome views on the usefulness of this tool and suggestions for what, if anything, we can do to improve it.

At the same time the Task Force has developed a short-term Work Plan containing a number of concrete initiatives encompassing the various aspects of the Strategy. For example, in the areas of addressing radicalization and recruitment to terrorism, protecting vulnerable targets, preventing and resolving conflicts, promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, and providing technical assistance, among others, Task Force Working Groups consisting of the relevant United Nations entities are exploring practical means of assisting Member States. During the course of this Symposium, representatives from many of the Task Force Working Groups will have the opportunity to discuss in detail with you the various aspects of their activities and how Member States can take full advantage of the resources they aim to provide. We are also looking forward to close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and civil society in carrying out these initiatives.

In closing, I must stress that the relationship between the Task Force and all actors must be symbiotic and mutually beneficial. To be effective in assisting all parties in implementing the Strategy, the Task Force will at the same time require their strong support. We have already established useful contacts, and in some cases concrete methods of collaboration, with a number of you here today. But if we are to have concrete results to show to the world at the Two-Year Review of the Strategy, all actors must be actively engaged, both individually and collectively. I hope that the discussion in the coming days will help cement the across-the-board cooperation that is essential if we are to make significant progress in defeating the scourge of terrorism.

**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:
An integrated approach in addressing terrorism**

Keynote address

By H.E. Mr. Bruno Stagno Ugarte

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica

I am pleased and honoured to give the keynote address for the opening theme of this timely and auspicious Symposium on advancing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Whereas the other themes deal with specific elements of the Strategy, this opening theme places the Strategy within the context of the United Nations overall response to terrorism, and highlights the importance of system- and nation-wide coherence in the global response that is required to deal with international terrorism.

The Strategy outlines a collective, principled, comprehensive approach that, in addressing root causes and strengthening the rule of law and fundamental human rights, is broader than coercive and reactive measures. From it stems the recognition that the United Nations can make a more effective use of its capacities, resources and mandates in addressing and combating terrorism and in contributing to a more credible and sustainable implementation of our counter-terrorism efforts. However, primary responsibility for the successful implementation of the Strategy lies ultimately on us, the Member States.

From past to present

The international community, through the United Nations and other multilateral fora, started working on the development of a comprehensive, standard-setting set of international norms in response to terrorism well before the events of 11 September 2001. Over the years, the General Assembly and other United Nations agencies have adopted thirteen terrorism-related treaties, covering every conceivable kind of terrorist act. They are based on the premise that terrorists should be brought to trial by their national governments, or should be extradited to a country willing to bring them to trial. The well-known principle of *aut dedere, aut judicare* (extradite or prosecute) is meant to make the world inhospitable to terrorists by denying them safe havens.

Several legally binding United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to terrorism have further strengthened these instruments, including the landmark 1373 resolution in 2001. These norm-setting Security Council resolutions, although robust in nature due to the powers conferred on the Council under Chapter 7, are however a controversial tool in that they circumvent the traditional international law-making process.

Although the United Nations and terrorism date back to the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte in 1948, since the 11 September terrorist attacks, many component parts of the United Nations system have incorporated counter-terrorism activities within their respective mandates. Parallel to the multiplication of mandates, there had been no truly effective mechanism of coordination available to clearly delineate competencies and responsibilities and make an effective use of resources.

As early as 2002, the Report issued by the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism [documents A/57/273 and S/2002/875] already identified important deficiencies, gaps and overlaps in the United Nations response to international terrorism. In an effort to instill greater coherence in mandates, the Report identified the Department of Political Affairs as the focal point of United Nations action on political and strategic issues related to counter-terrorism, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Vienna as the lead office in providing assistance to Member States in implementing the relevant counter-terrorism conventions and resolutions [recommendation 30]. To further improve coordination within the United Nations system, the Report recommended making counter-terrorism a regular (annual) item on the agendas of the High-Level Committee on Programmes and of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination [recommendation 31a] and tasking the Executive Committee on Peace and Security [ECPS], to meet every two months [recommendation 31b].

However, two years later in 2004, the High Level Panel Report stated that “the United Nations has not made the best use of its assets in the fight against terrorism.” This sobering assessment appropriately highlighted the need for Member States and the Secretariat to seriously consider how to make better use of the limited assets available, taking full stock of the continued deficiencies, gaps and overlaps, the inconsistencies and silences regarding the rule of law, fundamental human rights, and the issue of victims, and the limited sense of ownership felt by many Member States regarding the predominantly Security Council-centered United Nations action on counter terrorism.

The way forward

On 8 September 2006, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, laying the foundations for a collective, principled, comprehensive approach to terrorism. For the first time, we the Member States resolved to take concrete actions to combat terrorism in a coordinated manner, at the national, regional and international levels. For the first time, we agreed that conditions exist that can be conducive to the spread of terrorism. We agreed that to defeat terrorism, we must tackle those conditions. And we agreed to take political, operational, and legal measures to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms, while strengthening our national and multilateral capacity to do so. Finally, of fundamental importance, we agreed that protecting human rights and adhering to the rule of law is central to this fight. The following sessions of this Symposium are structured around these themes so I will not dwell on them.

Allow me instead to be somewhat provocative and highlight some issues that we must avoid as we move forward in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. First, we need to steer away the temptation to define terrorism in political and not legal terms. What we need to combat terrorism is a legal definition, not a political pronouncement. In this regard, it is of paramount importance that we avoid quasi-definitions like the ones originally contained in Security Council resolution 1566 or recommendation 44 of the High Level Panel. What we require is a technical legal definition, like the one proposed in article 2 of the draft Comprehensive Convention, still under negotiation. Let me point out, however, that the proposed definition has withstood the test of time and the various rounds of negotiations since 2001. The real outstanding question is not what goes into the definition as what stays out from the scope of application (article 18) of the draft Convention.

Second, let us also ensure that the politics of the moment do not trump the due process that must be strictly adhered to in addressing and combating terrorism. In this regard, and to name just one salient example, Security Council resolution 1530 should always remind us of how “costly” political considerations are to the due process. Similarly, and to make the rule of law and the respect for human rights an integral part of the Strategy, we must commit ourselves to revise the still fragile due process for adding and removing names from the 1267 Committee lists.

Third, and finally, although the Strategy will certainly lead to greater coordination and cooperation within the United Nations and beyond, we must not fall prey to accommodation. That is, that for fear of disturbing one or more turfs, we fail to address the underlying problem of different staff bodies, with separate resources and lines of accountability, having overlapping mandates. To mention some examples, consider the overlaps that exist between CTC/CTED and UNODC/TPB, between CTC/CTED and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee and the 1540 Committee. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is here called upon to play a key role, but without a comprehensive revision of mandates, the situation is unlikely to improve significantly. We cannot afford to gerrymander mandates and resources. We must conscientiously restructure the existing United Nations architecture on counter-terrorism to consolidate both mandates and resources in fewer bodies without affecting the comprehensive nature of the Strategy.

In this regard and in light of the 2008 review of the Strategy, I would invite you to consider a proposal presented by Costa Rica back in 2004 regarding the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner Against Terrorism (documents S/2004/758 and A/59/383). In many ways, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is a significant and welcome step in the right direction, but an insufficient one.

To close, events such as this Symposium, and its predecessor held in 2002, are important occasions in that they offer the opportunity to exchange views and rally behind a particular cause. We must all rally behind the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and stay true to our unanimous endorsement of this collective response to international terrorism. Let us move forward, let us be proactive and not just reactive, and to use a phrase employed by Mr. Costa in the 2002 Symposium, let us prove that we do not need a new crisis to prod ourselves into action.

We have created the momentum for a truly comprehensive and collective response to terrorism. We must continue the momentum and ensure that we do not suffer another wake up call like 11 September. In saying never again, we will require commitment and perseverance, but commit and persevere we must.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Guoqiang Tang

*Permanent Representative of China
to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Chinese)*

I'd like to start by thanking the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Austrian Government and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) for jointly convening the Symposium.

On 8 September last, the General Assembly adopted on consensus the Resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This is a significant step in implementing the Outcome Document of the Summit commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations. Numerous consultations took place among member States before the document was adopted, and they were able to show flexibility and reached compromise despite of the significant differences of opinion. This shows that a solution satisfactory to all parties can be found so long as Member States engage in patient discussions and maintain sufficient political will.

The international community has strengthened their cooperation against terrorism and made positive headways following the 11 September incident. Nevertheless, the situation of international counter-terrorism remains grim. According to relevant reports, the total number of terrorist attacks around the world reached 14,338 in 2006, which was an increase of 29 per cent. In Afghanistan, the number of terrorist attacks increased from 1,632 in 2005 to 5,388 in 2006. The threat of terrorism to Europe has also been growing. According to statistics, a total of 500 terrorist attacks took place in the EU countries. Africa is also vulnerable and has seen the threat of terrorism growing though a very large part of Africa has experienced a small number of attacks. Recently, terrorist organizations have been changing their names or extending their influences in the name of Al-Qaida.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represents the consensus and resolution of the member States to fight against terrorism and provides the strategic guidance to the effective global cooperation against terrorism. It has been over six months since the Strategy was adopted, and it is now in a critical stage of implementation. I would like to share with the meeting the following views on how the strategy can play its full part and how comprehensive measures can be adopted to fight against terrorism.

Emphasis should be placed on prevention in order to remove the root causes and conditions for the breeding of terrorism. There are complicated reasons for the emergence of terrorism, which include poverty and economic under-development. Terrorism is also linked to the lack of attention to education and extremist propaganda. Foreign occupation and regional conflicts also provide the excuse and justification for terrorism. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy attaches a great deal of importance to these and regards as the number of pillar the removal of the conditions favourable to the breeding and spread of terrorism. It has put forward such measures as efforts to resolve regional conflicts, speedy

ending of foreign occupation, assistance to wipe out poverty, promotion of long term economic growth and strengthening of the dialogue between civilizations. These measures are highly appropriate and necessary. We hope the international community, and the developed countries in particular, will increase their efforts to implement the strategy.

Input should be increased to help the developing countries to enhance their capacity to fight against terrorism. The majority of the developing countries are confronted with the grave threat of terrorism and have a strong political will to counter terrorism. Yet they have difficulties to respond effectively to terrorism due to the shortage of funds and capacity. Developed countries should increase their input to provide concrete anti-terrorist assistance to the developing countries, and help them enhance their capacity of legislation, law enforcement, intelligence gathering and border control. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy regards this as one of the pillars and advocates that the coordinating role of the United Nations should be strengthened. China fully supports this and will do all within her capability to provide anti-terrorist assistance to developing countries.

Equal treatment should be maintained and double standards must be avoided in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism is a threat to the whole mankind. No country can avoid being affected by it. It should be resolutely opposed no matter when and where it emerges for whatever reason or purpose. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy stresses that all countries should take comprehensive, coordinated and consistent actions against terrorism. This indicates that there should only be one criterion in the fight against terrorism. Starting from their own selfish interests and political considerations, certain countries have adopted double standards in fighting against terrorism. This is against the summit's outcome document and the spirit of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It won't do any good to the cause against terrorism either.

China has been faced with grave threats from terrorism. "The Eastern Turkistan" terrorists are closely linked to such international terrorist organizations as the Taliban and Al-Qaida. They collaborate with each other in terms of personnel, funding, training and actions in conducting numerous terrorist bombing, kidnapping and murdering of innocent people in China and Central Asia. That has caused a huge loss of lives and properties to the Chinese people. "The Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement" has been included in the list of sanctions by the Security Council Resolution 1267. We hope that the international community understands clearly the terrorist nature of "the Eastern Turkistan forces", and supports China in her fight against terrorism. China will also continue to take an active part in the international cooperation against terrorism in accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and make her contribution towards the fight against terrorism.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Liviu Aurelian Bota

Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, Vienna

I have the honour to address this distinguished assembly almost five years after my intervention during the first Symposium on Combating International Terrorism organized by our Austrian hosts together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in June 2002.

At that time I, undertook the task of stressing the necessity of building up and supporting a solid structure within the UNODC, that should have an important role in promoting and assisting international cooperation in the implementation of the conventions against terrorism, and I was referring to the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB).

Now, five years later, I have the opportunity to say I was right and I'm glad to have been one of the advocates for strengthening the TPB. The advisory role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the TPB in particular, is of crucial importance in the efforts of the States to fight against terrorism. UNODC's key role in this field is precisely that of providing assistance for ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and for strengthening the capacity of the national criminal justice systems in order to apply the provisions of these instruments in compliance with the principles of rule of law.

I'm speaking here today as representative of one of the countries that have fully benefited from the assistance provided by the TPB, during the last years, in the legislative area and also with the training of magistrates working in the field. I cannot but seize this opportunity to mention the excellent collaboration between Romania and the TPB since 2002 as a continuation of the previous strong cooperation between my country and the Center for International Crime Prevention.

I would like to mention also the most recent joint activity organized together with the TPB and OSCE: The Second Subregional Expert Workshop on International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism, Corruption and the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime, the event that took place in Bucharest between 13 and 15 November 2006 with the aim of providing a follow-up to the conclusions of a similar event held in Zagreb, Croatia in March 2005.

The event benefited from contribution of many United Nations bodies and institutions, and other international and regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, among others.

The meeting adopted a declaration urging States to: become parties and implement the universal anti-terrorism instruments and other related conventions; fully cooperate in the fight against terrorism in accordance with their obligations under international law; take all appropriate measures for the promotion of mutual legal assistance and extradition; intensify the exchange of timely and accurate information concerning the prevention and combating of terrorism; and finally to request and make use of technical assistance regarding the fight against terrorism, transnational organized crime, and corruption, provided or facilitated by relevant international, regional, and subregional organizations and bodies. This comes to underline the fact that countries are committed to cooperate internationally and regionally and at the same time they need to be assisted and supported through out their actions.

When the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the first reaction of the Member States, ours in fact, was to think about its implementation. We all acknowledge what a major challenge this is. Therefore it's vital for the Member States to have the possibility, in this major endeavour, to rely on adequate technical assistance when they need it. The Strategy has provided us with an overall policy precisely to guide the United Nations bodies in assisting States in their efforts of capacity-building in order to achieve long-term and sustained results.

The Strategy is indeed a major break-through since it addresses the multiple dimensions of countering terrorism in an integrated manner, building on its four pillars, as they are described in the annex of the General Assembly resolution. In complementing this approach, technical assistance must be delivered in a mutually reinforcing manner, reaching out to the various actors involved: criminal justice officials, law enforcement agencies, transport companies, financial sector, victims and civil society at large. As an example of this approach I would like to say that now, together with the TOPB, we are examining possibilities of bringing the provisions of the Global Strategy and those of the international instruments against terrorism closer to all parties to the criminal justice system in Romania, not only judges and prosecutors; but also lawyers and counsellors.

We appreciate the current efforts undertaken by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in exploring ways to facilitate this multifaceted technical assistance delivery. I am confident that this meeting today will help us identify the best ways to use the expertise already built up in the system for our outmost benefit.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Eugenio Curia

*Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Spanish)*

I would like to move straight to one particular point. Right now we have a global strategy involving a programme framework adopted by the General Assembly, which gives us political legitimacy via the system's democratic organ. This enables our activity to function alongside the legislative activity of the Security Council, which has, on more than one occasion, and rightly, been deemed to be *extra vires* or *ultra vires*. As the speakers have all pointed out, we also have a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy comprising themes, actors, resources and tools. In other words, as States we can devote ourselves, with our criterion of national ownership, to implementation, for which we also need a series of inputs ranging from funding to appropriate tools to meet our obligations.

Over the past five years, that is from late 2001 onwards, we have seen myriad decisions, activities, and new organs, whose mandates, when juxtaposed, make for constant overlapping of activities. This means that perhaps the philosophical criterion of movement and action and their respective results has not been duly met at any one time. Therein lies one of the major challenges facing us as States, comprising two crucial elements. The first is efficient and effective coordination: as Mr. Orr explained, there are at least 24 bodies—as many as 30 if we take the leaflet circulated into account—in addition to all the regional and subregional organizations. This means that, without effective and efficient coordination regarding the means employed to obtain results, we will perhaps find ourselves in two years' time once more saddled with similar lacunae and unmet objectives, despite the resources invested. So in this regard I think, at least, that the task force's role will be vital. If I may, I would like to make one observation, which is not meant to be negative, but just a critical comment on the existing situation: the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is perhaps not adequately fulfilling its role, if the result in terms of costs and benefits is considered.

Within the strategy with its four pillars and 50 activities—a huge “shop”—I would like to focus on a couple of points: the strategy often refers to the rule of law, international law, human rights, and international humanitarian law, this last being a fundamental topic; I cite the Minister of Justice of Austria, Ms. Berger, who referred to constant violations of the rule of law in the fight against terrorism, saying that this must be stopped and the necessary ways of avoiding it must be sought. Regarding the rule of law so often invoked in the strategy, I would like to mention something that is not spelled out, and that is the justice administration systems in our countries. There are many references to States' obligation to implement the Security Council recommendations and ratify and abide by the provisions of binding agreements, in accordance with the resolutions and the 13 conventions and protocols. Reference is also made to all the norms of international law. It is not enough simply to have a very good norm, and it is more than likely that the system will fail to function properly—with regard to obligations with which States must comply—if our justice administration systems—and by that I mean our prosecutors, judges and magistrates—are not properly trained and lack adequate mechanisms and resources. International

cooperation is vital to an adequate counter-terrorism system. We therefore regard the technical assistance provided to States as crucial so that we can duly fulfil our obligations. Still on the subject of the administration of justice, adequate and appropriate technical assistance will be vital if we want to be able to ensure adequate mutual legal assistance, extradition or best practices, and to share in and benefit from States' successful experiences.

What I see is that we face many challenges for the next two years when we review the practical results we are able to achieve in implementing this strategy. But as far as international cooperation is concerned, be it mutual legal assistance, extradition or best practices, let us at least hope that in two years' time we will be in a better position than at present. That is a fundamental point, among the many important points to be discussed—a very specific matter to which I wished to refer.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser

*Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the
United Nations, New York*

It is important I believe for us to say that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an achievement. For those of us who were in New York and negotiated that text, we know how difficult it was to reach it. You also know the compromised nature, of course, of the text, that is not an ideal text, but I think it will send politically an extremely important message that we were able to adopt that Strategy. It is important to make that point, and we appreciate the efforts made by everybody, to first of all disseminate the Strategy, and make it well known.

It is also important to say I believe that the nature of the Strategy poses in a way a risk when it comes to implementation. Because it is, it is a strategy that it is comprehensive and covers really all the aspects that are relevant, which is one of its strengths and one of its qualities. But when it comes to implementation, I believe that it also, poses certain risks in that it could pose a temptation for States to engage in a pick-and-choose exercise, which we believe is the wrong way to go when it comes to implementing the Strategy.

Now I wanted to make four points, as practical as possible this morning. The first is, when it comes to implementation, we believe that the Strategy poses, offers a great opportunity to overcome fragmentation within the system. I believe this is what the previous speaker also had in mind when he talked about efficient coordination. It is important that we do adopt an integrated approach, not only among all those entities that are seized with aspects of counter-terrorism work, but more importantly, also among the intergovernmental bodies that deal with counter-terrorism. The Foreign Minister of Costa Rica has referred to some sort of competition, I think he called it, between the Security Council and the General Assembly when it comes to counter-terrorism. Of course, the Strategy is a text that was adopted by the Assembly, but we hope and believe, and we think it is important for successful implementation for the Strategy, that this is also an opportunity to overcome possible competition between these two bodies, in order to bring all the efforts in the area of counter-terrorism together.

The second point is ownership by States. Bob Orr has said it very clearly: implementation falls squarely in the responsibility of Member States. We must all understand that, and I think it should be expressed in very concrete ways. If you look at the Strategy, it offers a wide array of measures, of activities, of things that need to be undertaken, and it is possible for States to take on particular aspects of the Strategy and make particular contributions to those areas. As far as we are concerned, we are very active on the issue of de-listing, which is measure 15 in part 2 of the Strategy, where we believe that the establishment of the focal point decided by the Security Council around Christmas, Resolution 1730, is a good step in the right direction, but is still far from what we need in the end.

The third point, we need to ensure the comprehensive nature of the Strategy. And this is where the Counter-Terrorism Task Force comes in. It must be possible for States that

are genuinely willing to implement the Strategy, to go to the Secretariat and to find the resources, the knowledge, and have access to the best practices available in order to implement the Strategy.

And the final point, which has been mentioned I think in passing, will come up again, I'm sure, is the relationship to the comprehensive convention. As you know, the efforts to negotiate a comprehensive convention are about 10 years old now. There was a lot of talk in New York, whether a Strategy should come before the convention or vice versa. We have adopted the Strategy before, which is a good thing, and the convention would be a very important addition and complement to the Strategy. But its absence, or the lack of the adoption of a convention is in no way either an impediment for the implementation of the Strategy, let alone an excuse for it. So we have to continue working on the comprehensive convention, but it is good for us to give priority at this time to the implementation of the Strategy.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas

Head of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Let me start by thanking you for inviting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to make a statement at this important meeting. The OSCE started working in the area of preventing and combating terrorism just five years ago, but over this short period of time it has managed to establish itself as an important player, providing its unique contribution through its comprehensive approach to security, very much like the integrated approach in addressing terrorism, reflected in the Strategy. Based on the experience of the OSCE we are convinced moreover, the OSCE and our hosts today—the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)—are major partners in the efforts to promote and strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism and to enhance international legal cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, thus providing a working example of a regional and a global body working together against terrorism.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, though not a legally binding document, is nevertheless of utmost importance. Having been adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly, it represents a blueprint for invigorating counter-terrorism work at different levels, building upon the work that has been already done in this area. Its focus on international cooperation in these issues and assistance in counter-terrorism capacity-building is of a particular interest to OSCE as a regional organization. The Strategy represents the comprehensive approach of the global community to countering terrorism. This fact makes even more topical and our meeting in this format on its implementation so important.

The importance that the OSCE attaches to this issue is illustrated by the fact that at our initiative the annual Tripartite High-Level meeting between the OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe, which this year we hosted here in Vienna on 13-14 February, was dedicated solely to the implementation of the Strategy and the role of regional organizations therein. The Tripartite meeting produced a joint communiqué, which outlines the joint vision of the three organizations in this regard and can be found on the OSCE website.

Let me try to outline briefly how we at the OSCE view our role as a regional organization in the fight against terrorism and what we have been doing to realize that vision into practice. I already mentioned that the OSCE approach to countering terrorism is comprehensive in nature, the same as to any other security issue. It means that we deal with it through three dimensions of security: the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human. Therefore our counter-terrorism action is both of preventive character, addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and of improving security and capacity-building nature. In this regard we see the OSCE as playing an important counter-terrorism role in five main directions:

Political support

In this respect the OSCE is working to raise awareness among its participating States about the terrorist threat and to mobilize political will to address it. That is happening through generating political support for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and other documents, but also for the application of standards, recommendations and best practices developed by different specialized global organizations and agencies.

I can hardly enumerate all OSCE programmes in this regard and I believe that yesterday's meeting has discussed them in detail. Nevertheless, as an illustration I would like to mention just a few examples:

- The OSCE participating States have adopted a number of commitments on enhancing the international legal framework against terrorism. We consider a major achievement the progress in becoming party to the 12 universal anti-terrorism instruments (UATI) which are currently in force. As of this moment, 48 OSCE participating States were party to all 12 UATI and the overall ratification/accession rate to these instruments exceeded 94 per cent, making the OSCE one of the areas with highest rate. Together with UNODC, we continue to promote legislative implementation of those conventions and protocols. To add to that, the Brussels ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism encourages participating States to become parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and regional instruments related to terrorism and international cooperation in criminal matters.
- Similarly, the OSCE has developed a number of commitments supporting politically the advanced security standards, elaborated by specialized international organizations and bodies. Examples in that respect are the ICAO minimum security standards for the handling and issuance of passports; the FATF recommendations on terrorist financing; the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade; the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources; the Interpol Lost and Stolen documents database. I am glad to be able to say that many of those organizations have acknowledged that the OSCE support has meant a difference and has contributed to increased implementation of those standards.

Capacity-building assistance

The OSCE is playing also an active role in helping States improve their capabilities to respond to the terrorist threat through supporting and facilitating the capacity-building programmes of the specialized organizations. Again, in line with adopted commitments, our mandates are in the areas of ratification and legislative implementation of the 12 UATI; legal cooperation; travel document security; money-laundering and terrorist financing; border control and management, including customs control and supply chain security; transport security. In all of those areas we are actively cooperating with the organizations mentioned above and have conducted numerous capacity-building activities, which have also won the recognition of our partners. Our work with ICAO on travel document security and with the WCO on container/supply chain security has been—I dare say—exemplary.

Identifying and addressing gaps

The OSCE is trying to complement the efforts of the international community by identifying areas where more needs to be done and offering solutions. A few examples in this regard: in 2004 the OSCE and ICAO held the first big conference on countering the threat on MANPADS to civil aviation. In 2005 we organized an OSCE-wide workshop focused on suicide terrorism and a conference on non-banking conduits for the financing of terrorism. In 2006 we partnered with the International Organization of Public Transport in organizing a workshop on urban transport security.

We consider this an important element of our contribution to the global effort against terrorism as regional organizations are better placed to know the concerns of their constituencies and also can ensure broader participation of relevant national officials than is possible at similar events at the global level.

A concrete example in this regard: the OSCE initiated and supported the participation of officials from the Central Asia participating States, all of which are planning an upgrade of their passports, in the annual ICAO Symposium on travel document security in September 2006 in Montreal. However, even with this support, only less than half of the 56 OSCE participating States took part in the Symposium. Thus, the OSCE has decided to organize an OSCE-wide event in July this year on the same subject, where all participating States will be able to attend and benefit from the insights of the ICAO experts.

International cooperation

I think the meeting yesterday pointed out the necessity to enhance coordination and cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the vertical dimension—i.e. between the United Nations structures and other global organizations on the one hand, and regional and sub-regional organizations—on the other. We consider this very important as it serves not only to align priorities and approaches, but also to better leverage resources and avoid duplication. The OSCE contributed to this type of coordination by co-hosting with UNODC the third Special Meeting of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations (Vienna, March 2004).

Regional organizations could also usefully contribute to horizontal counter-terrorism coordination. Upon informal request from the CTC Chair ATU has been sharing its know-how of organizing counter-terrorist activities with African security structures. In July 2006 ATU organized in Copenhagen a Working Level CT-Practitioners Roundtable from Relevant Regional and Select Subregional Organizations. This roundtable frank discussion on best practices and pitfalls of CT programmes carried out by different organizations was very much appreciated by the participants. It focused on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was at that time still a draft, and proved to be instrumental to strengthening horizontal cooperation between regional organizations. We think that this type of meetings should be conducted on a regular basis, as they provide an opportunity for the organizations to learn from each other and to help each other in developing approaches, programmes and activities in the counter-terrorism area. Actually my country has taken the lead this year by offering to host and support such a roundtable in Vilnius, on 19-20 June.

It is, of course, also possible to take that a step further, as the OSCE and the Council of Europe have done. You probably all know that the OSCE and Council of Europe are developing enhanced forms of cooperation in several areas, one of which is counter-terrorism. Last October the two organizations joined forces in organizing an important workshop in Vienna on fighting incitement and related terrorist activities.

Protecting human rights

Regional organizations can and should be instrumental in ensuring that all counter-terrorism policies and especially practices and measures are in full compliance with human rights standards and requirements. From its inception, the OSCE comprehensive approach to countering terrorism has fully taken into account these requirements. Two aspects of the OSCE policy should be underlined in this respect. On the one hand, our Organization ensures systematically that all its counter terrorism programmes are compliant with international human rights standards. On the other hand, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights offers a significant contribution to the OSCE counter terrorism efforts by providing to the participating States technical assistance and relevant advice, and by actively promoting tolerance and non discrimination.

After having given this description of ways and areas where we think our work contributes to the fight against terrorism and thus to the implementation of the Strategy, let's mention that we are also looking into a number of other issues, on which the Strategy puts an emphasis, especially with regard to addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Among them are countering violent extremism, radicalization and incitement to terrorism, in particular through the use of the Internet. Importantly, this would aim to enhance the role that civil society and the media have to play. With this in mind, the OSCE will be organizing at the end of May a major political conference to discuss these issues, as well as the development of public-private partnerships in the fight against terrorism. The OSCE is also looking into expanding its contribution to the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, which we consider important to the achievement of many of the goals of the Strategy at the global level.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that almost everything the OSCE is doing in the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions in one way or another contributes to meeting the goals of the Strategy. In this respect close coordination with national authorities, international and regional partners, including through meetings like this, helps in better aligning priorities and policies and we are looking forward to a substantive and beneficial discussion today and tomorrow.

Statement

By Mr. Vladimir Rushaylo

*Executive Secretary, Representative of the Commonwealth of Independent States
(Delivered in Russian)*

First of all, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I would like to express our gratitude to the organizers for this invitation and for the opportunity to address the Symposium during the discussion of the first agenda item.

We note with particular satisfaction the relevance of events such as this one, designed to broaden the global community's awareness of United Nations activities to promote international peace and security. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an important part of this work.

We believe that this meeting and, most importantly, the broad exchange of views on the measures needed to implement the Strategy are a further important step on the road towards uniting our counter-terrorism efforts.

The Strategy has received support throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States thanks to the recognized central role of the United Nations in organizing an effective system of international security. The next step will be to finalize the drafting of a comprehensive convention against terrorism.

From a practical point of view, the value of the Strategy lies in covering a broad and complex range of problems associated with combating terrorism, including political, legal, economic, humanitarian, organizational and law enforcement issues. We believe that it is precisely this comprehensive methodology, based on humanistic principles and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, that is the most productive and focused way of uniting our forces and pooling our resources in the fight against terrorism in today's world.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is also profoundly convinced today that political, economic and social measures are a crucial factor in effectively combating terrorism.

Implementation of the Strategy in the Commonwealth of Independent States is based on the organizational and legal framework for cooperation in the main fields related to current security threats and challenges. The standards for joint activities are also in conformity with the universal international instruments of the United Nations, Council of Europe and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The main legal text is the Agreement on Cooperation among States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Terrorism, concluded by a decision of the CIS Council of Heads of State dated 4 June 1999, in which the regulatory and legal status of "terrorism" was defined.

Most CIS member States have acceded to the full range of the United Nations conventions in force, or are working on doing so, and have incorporated Council of Europe and OSCE

instruments in their legislation and programmes. May I point out, for example, that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has been signed by all the CIS countries.

A comprehensive programme for cooperation among CIS member States to combat international terrorism has been developed and implemented in CIS countries for the period 2003-2004. The programme takes into account the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 and the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council.

The implementation of the 2005-2007 programme is being finalized this year and the CIS Executive Committee has already begun to draw up a draft programme for the period 2008-2010. The latter will most definitely include measures to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is also making a significant contribution to the development of a legislative framework for cooperation among CIS member States.

The following are being applied in the counter-terrorism field:

- A model criminal code for CIS member States;
- A model law on combating terrorism;
- A model law on countering the financing of terrorism; and
- Recommendations on the unification and harmonization of national counter-terrorism legislation.

The need for joint comprehensive measures to counter terrorism in CIS countries is taken into account when inter-State cooperation programmes are developed in related areas, including programmes against transnational crime, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

CIS countries have national counter-terrorism systems in operation. The Counter-Terrorism Centre was established in the year 2000 to organize cooperation among CIS countries and to coordinate their efforts. The Centre actively cooperates with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, related OSCE and European Union structures and other international organizations.

The CIS Executive Committee is responsible for the overall coordination of activities among CIS bodies engaged in countering new threats and challenges.

The most advanced form of training for CIS counter-terrorism units involves regular joint exercises conducted at facilities in the transport and energy sectors, including nuclear and hydroelectric power plants, and at vulnerable industries, and weapons and military bases and arsenals. It is also customary for representatives of international organizations to participate in these exercises as observers.

The fourth coordination meeting of CIS bodies cooperating in the fight against crime, held on 25-26 April 2007 in Astana in Kazakhstan, was an important step towards strengthening the overall security capacity of CIS countries. The meeting was attended by representatives

of all CIS countries and of a number of international organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

A decision was taken at the coordination meeting to include a section on counter-terrorism problems in the draft framework for further CIS development currently being drawn up.

Joint efforts to counter nuclear, biological and cyberterrorism and other new threats and challenges are a priority for CIS activities. These efforts are being actively pursued not only by security, defence and law enforcement agencies but also by health-care establishments, emergency relief agencies and the scientific community.

Useful avenues of cooperation for implementation of the Strategy may include:

- Improving information exchange;
- Providing further training for staff from law enforcement and other competent bodies;
- Stepping up the coordination of practical measures against terrorism and crime, particularly measures to cut off sources of funding from drug trafficking, the weapons trade and economic crime;
- Setting up regional counter-terrorism centres and furthering international cooperation and coordination among them;
- Harmonizing national legislation on the basis of universal and regional international agreements; and
- Strengthening logistical support.

In concluding my statement, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of CIS member States to unconditionally upholding the rule of law and respect for and protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism, as indicated in section IV of the Strategy and enshrined as a supreme value in the constitutions of all CIS countries without exception.

In conclusion, I would once again like to thank the organizers of the Symposium for this opportunity not only for us to familiarize ourselves with the latest international counter-terrorism experience in an open and trusting atmosphere, but also to exchange opinions on a wide range of problems currently facing us as we cooperate in the field of security.

Statement

By Mr. Robert Orr

*Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning
Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

The Strategy was adopted as a holistic, comprehensive document. As such, it should be implemented in an integrated manner if it is to be successful. Implementation of the strategy should not be a pick-and-choose exercise for Member States, as already mentioned by Ambassador Wenaweser.

In this vein, the Task Force, in addition to examining specific areas of the strategy where it feels it can add significant value, is in the process of developing a methodology to help Member States implement the strategy in an integrated manner.

However, this does not mean that an integrated implementation approach will replace the existing mandates of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) entities—or any entities for that matter—but rather consolidate the operational, cross-cutting provision of assistance.

We hope that such an approach on our end will bring an added value that will make it easier and more efficient for Member States to implement the Strategy as whole. Let me stress that assistance of any kind will be provided only upon the request of Member States. You are the ones in the driver's seat.

In the coming weeks, on the basis of the discussion we have here today, the Task Force will attempt to elaborate a methodology for this endeavour. In this regard we would welcome your thoughts on the type of criteria you believe should be used in guiding the process, and how best to correlate these criteria with the existing mandates of the relevant Security Council bodies.

After such a process has been defined, we will welcome interested Member States' requests for facilitating their integrated implementation process.

Statement

By Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde

*Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch
Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
(Delivered in French)*

My message today consists of five core elements:

- The Strategy does not replace but reinforces and complements the United Nations acquis in countering terrorism;
- Implementation is primarily in the hands of Member States;
- The successful implementation goes hand in hand with the adequate delivery of technical assistance, whenever required;
- An “integrated” implementation requires an “integrated” provision of technical assistance;
- The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force can be instrumental in such an “integrated” provision of technical assistance.

Let me now elaborate these points further:

(a) The Strategy, adopted by all 192 Member States of the General Assembly is an “instrument of consensus”, combining the “security-related preventive measures” with “measures addressing underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism” and “measures that give priority attention to ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law”. By doing so, it ensures broadly shared “ownership” for existing United Nations mechanisms, in particular those put in place by the General Assembly and by the Security Council in the aftermath of 11 September.

(b) As “owners” of the Strategy, Member States are those primarily in charge of its implementation. In the interest of their peoples, they should take the necessary steps to implement the Strategy in a fast, efficient, effective and sustained manner, to make their countries safer and more stable places to live.

(c) In meeting this challenge, Member States should have the possibility to rely on adequate assistance, whenever required. The implementation of the Strategy must be supported by technical assistance, especially capacity-building support, to ensure long-term and sustained results. As the Strategy calls for an “integrated” implementation, which recognizes the synergies existing between the various parts of the Strategy, technical assistance must also be delivered in an “integrated”—mutually reinforcing—manner, addressing all the facets and reaching out to the various actors, including criminal justice officials, law enforcement agencies, transport companies, financial sector, victims and civil society at large.

(d) The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, bringing together 24 United Nations and other international entities and organizations is a unique vehicle for ensuring the “integrated” delivery of technical assistance. The Task Force can make sure that profit is taken of the complementarity of the mandates and the work of the various technical

assistance providers represented in the Task Force and that assistance is provided in a coherent and complementary manner. This is in the interest of requesting countries as it is definitely far easier and more efficient to deal with an “integrated” system of assistance providers. It is important to clarify that the “integrated” approach does not replace the existing work of the assistance providers represented in the Task Force, but solely consolidates what they are doing individually in the interest of a truly “integrated” implementation of the Strategy.

Hence, such an “integrated” approach should be undertaken in full coordination with CTC/CTED. Moreover, the work will also be undertaken in full accordance with the needs assessments and evaluations made by other organizations, including IMF, the World Bank, ICAO, IMO and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

- (e) A successful “integrated” implementation will require strong support by Member States as well as the active involvement of all the stakeholders.

With the Strategy, we have a powerful shared tool to address one of the main scourges of today’s world. I hope we will join forces to take this unique chance and make the best possible use of that tool.

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Intervention by Mr. Rafiuddin Shah

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York

At the outset, let me thank the Austrian Government for organizing this Symposium and for its efforts to promote open debate on implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In the United Nations system, the General Assembly was first to start work on the fight against terrorism. During the last four decades it passed many resolutions. It addressed the fundamental problems related to the root causes of terrorism. However, it failed due to lack of an effective implementation mechanism and we bogged deeper and deeper in all types of terrorism.

In the pre-and-post 11 September scenario, the Security Council has also remained engaged in the fight against terrorism. The first major Security Council resolution to counter-terrorism came in October 1999. The Council's efforts were exhaustive but remained focused in the operational domain and lacked trust of the broader membership. Hence, these fell short of a comprehensive response, which was considered necessary to fight terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a carefully worded compromise document, was conceived in this backdrop. It was supposed to build trust through greater participation and look beyond the operational domain. However, during the past eight months it has failed to achieve the desired results.

The Counter-Terrorism Task Force which was meant for "coordination and coherence" with in the United Nations system has assumed lead role in the implementation of the Strategy. There is no progress on the issue of "due process" as referred to by the Honourable Foreign Minister of Costa Rica. There is no visible progress on the root causes of terrorism, as identified by the Permanent Representative of China. Efforts are being made to reinterpret the strategy in the UNESCO and education domain, though the issue was exhaustively discussed during the Strategy debate. Confidence-building conferences are being pushed in a controversial manner. We are duplicating the capacity-building work. Resolution of violent conflicts is being assigned to regional organizations, even if one side is not a member of those organizations.

My question is will this promote ownership of the strategy, which we all desire? I think not. The ownership will come through mutual trust and meaningful role for Member States in the decision-making process for the implementation of the Strategy. During the Symposium we will need to find ways for that.

Intervention by Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairperson, allow me to express to you and to the co-organizers our gratitude for convening this timely Symposium.

Israel welcomed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September 2006. While it was a good, first step in the right direction, as with all policy initiatives, the implementation remains the most crucial component, and will determine the effectiveness of the Strategy.

As mentioned by other delegations, we agree that the main responsibility for implementation of the Strategy lies with States themselves, and that the implementation should be integrative.

An integrated approach, in our minds, means not only integrated on the international and intergovernmental level, but also on a national level, streamlining resources and knowledge into the national infrastructure to promote maximal and comprehensive benefit. As was mentioned by the Ambassador of Lichtenstein, a pick-and-choose approach will not work.

In order to implement such an integrative approach, we believe States should be encouraged to create a national focal point with the responsibility of implementing the strategy, for overseeing its implementation and for liaising with appropriate domestic agencies and branches, as well as with international and multilateral institutions. A national focal point can help monitor individual progress while ensuring collective security.

Intervention by Mr. Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Vienna

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 was a landmark event. In this context, we welcome the adoption of a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which also addresses the root causes and the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

With regard to General Assembly (GA) Resolution 60/288, we should take into consideration that annex of the resolution is part and parcel of that resolution itself; therefore, in implementing the Strategy the provisions of the said resolution are to be read and interpreted together with the provisions of its annex (since it is the integrated part of it).

There are elements in the said resolution which are of significant importance. Some of them are as follows:

- Supporting all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respecting their territorial integrity and political independence, refraining in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, upholding the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, recognizing the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination or foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.
- Reaffirming also that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.
- Bearing in mind the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.
- As stipulated in the said GA resolution, Member States are determined to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures.

In addition, Paragraph 3 of the plan of action annexed to the resolution emphasizes that: Member States recognize that international cooperation and any measures that they undertake to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. In view of the above, it is imperative that the strategy, which is to lay the groundwork for future activities, be a comprehensive one dealing with all elements of importance that a resolute and effective fight against the scourge of terrorism warrants. We believe that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy contained in the resolution, if in any way neglects the above elements, falls short of meeting all the necessary requirements and would rather complicate the universal efforts towards combating terrorism.

Intervention by Mr. Mahmoud Aboud, Charge d'Affaires

Permanent Mission of the Comoros to the United Nations, New York

Mr Chairman, because of time constraint my delegation will make a brief comment and get right to the point at this stage of our work.

First of all my delegation would like to thank the Government of Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for organizing this very important Symposium and also to facilitate the participation of our delegation.

Speaking from a country which has ratified all the 13 Universal Instruments against terrorism thanks to the technical assistance of the UNODC, my delegation believes that to achieve the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Against Terrorism, it's not only the technical and legal assistance and implementation of laws which should be emphasized

by the International Community, as was well expressed by the delegations of Cuba and Algeria who spoke just before me.

We believe that the root causes which nourish and encourage terrorism should be one of the major tasks of the international community, because by ratifying all the 13 Universal Instruments against terrorism, a country is not immunized against terrorist attacks.

My delegation believes that if we want to eradicate terrorism we should tackle each and every element of this problem.

**Implementing measures to address the conditions
conducive to the spread of terrorism**

Keynote address

By H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin

Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, New York

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today. I thank all the organizers for convening this Symposium and giving me the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience.

It has already been eight months since we adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the United Nations General Assembly. Time is not yet sufficient to fully assess the results of the strategy. But I believe it is long enough to make an interim review based on the initial reactions.

So, I was very pleased to receive an invitation to attend this timely Symposium and make one of the six keynote addresses. But, having seen the particular theme I was expected to introduce, I started having mixed feelings! For, “conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism” is indeed one of the most difficult and sensitive areas to address. It is one of the most spoken, but yet the least charted territory in our struggle against terrorism.

Therefore, I may not be able and in some cases will not even attempt to provide full answers to some very difficult questions. But rather, I will try to air certain ideas and even some further questions of my own so that we can have an interactive and lively debate.

Let's start with what we understand from the term “conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism”. This is indeed an important matter. Because, this term is usually misrepresented as the “valid causes” of terrorism. Such a presentation, of course, then runs the risk of paving the way for the justification of certain terrorist acts.

In my mind, when we talk about such “conducive conditions”, it should not be an explanation of why terrorism can be the preferred mode of action at a given time and place. For, resorting to terrorism can by no means have a legitimate reason. No matter what the grievances are, the solutions should not be sought through terrorist acts. No ideological, political, economic, social, cultural or religious thinking can justify terrorism.

Then, what is it about these “conducive conditions”? What are these circumstances? Why are they so important? To me, they are those factors which are exploited by extremist groups and organizations in order to justify their militant ideas and thus recruit people to fight for them. They are built upon peoples' fears, despair, anguish and misery. As such, they are not uniform. Nor do they constitute a well-defined or standardized set of conditions.

But one thing is clear. No legitimacy can be conferred upon terrorist acts and practices based on these factors. They do not and can not justify terrorism as an acceptable or legitimate course of action. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is evil and criminal. It should be condemned and combated under all circumstances. No consideration whatsoever should be permitted to weaken or create doubts about our resolve to fight against terrorism.

Having said all these, can we or should we then turn a blind eye to such factors that the extremists are exploiting in full swing without any moral or political restraint? Certainly not. Whatever makes our fight against terrorism stronger and more effective should be given due support and consideration. Here, what is important is not to allow our efforts to address these factors be turned into a justification campaign for terrorism.

Now, allow me to reflect upon what these factors in practice are and how we can address them in a positive way. As I said before, there are a great number of factors which are apparently creating a suitable ground for terrorism to flourish. But they do not have the same impact in every circumstance. In other words, the same condition does not always yield to the same result. For instance, had terrorism been stemming directly from socio-economic deficiencies, given that there are so many countries suffering from underdevelopment, the number of terrorist campaigns would have been much more than the existing ones.

Indeed, the connection between terrorism and so-called “objective factors” is rather tenuous. There is a great deal of terrorism without poverty and oppression, and oppression without terrorism. In the final analysis, it can be observed that, terrorism occurs in wealthy countries as well as in poor countries, in democracies as well as in authoritarian regimes.

Thus, there exists no single root cause of terrorism or even a common set of causes. There are however, a number of preconditions and precipitants for the emergence of various forms of terrorism. Terrorism is therefore better understood as emerging from a process of interaction between different factors, rather than as a mechanical cause and effect relationship.

It is nevertheless useful to try to identify some conditions and circumstances that give rise to terrorism or that at least provide a fertile ground for radical groups that tend to use terrorist methods to achieve their objectives.

In this regard, extreme poverty, unjust social system, corruption, systematic violation of human rights, discrimination, economic marginalization and cultural alienation can easily be cited among such conditions. Regional conflicts are also considered to provide a suitable tool for acts of terrorism and for the operations of terrorist organizations.

Furthermore, problems of identity, hardship and degradation created by rapid socio-political change, international support to terrorist campaigns in pursuit of political gains, the abuse of religion for justification and mobilization; selective historical narratives which portray terrorism as a just response to victimization, are all important issues that need to be carefully thought over and addressed.

The list can be further expanded, but the bottom line is that these factors, alone or together can create a fertile ground for terrorism to flourish. And there is no doubt that elimination of these negative factors will contribute to the success in defeating terrorism. But the challenge here is that these problems are not easy to resolve. They have been perennial issues plaguing peace, security and stability throughout history. And mankind has yet to come up with effective answers to them. Besides, terrorism is often sustained for reasons other than those which gave birth to it in the first place. It is therefore not certain that terrorism will end even if the “conducive causes” are eliminated.

I do not want to sound like a pessimist. But as a realist, I just would like to underline that any success of the measures that we are going to employ to address those conditions conducive to terrorism require a comprehensive and long-term commitment on the part of everyone within the international community.

At this point allow me to open a short bracket. It has now become obvious that terrorism can only be eradicated through full cooperation and solidarity of the international community. Something Turkey has been emphasizing for the last two decades. For, terrorism unfortunately has long tentacles which can reach out to any part of the world. No country can feel secure and immune from the harm and destruction of terrorism. Thus no one can and should make a distinction between terrorists targeting "me" or "you". It is a global scourge that threatens the international community as a whole and thus it requires a joint action and response.

That said, I know you do not expect me to present a philosophical discourse but rather a more practical approach on what could be done. And let me try to do that. In this regard, eradication of poverty and improvement of economic imbalances prevailing around the globe comes first to mind. Indeed, those who can not support a viable and dignified life for themselves and their families provide an excellent recruitment ground for extremists. Particularly if there are striking imbalances within society itself. If people start losing their hopes for the future, then they can be lured into any direction.

So, we must all do more to promote fair, equitable and sustainable development that will be beneficial to the entire world population, with the least fortunate in the forefront. We must come up with creative solutions for difficult problems. The international community should be more giving, for sure. But capacity-building is more important than mere assistance. Our ultimate objective should be to help build self-sustaining economic structures in cooperation with their peers.

The United Nations system has already the necessary tools to be employed in this direction. The challenge is to make them more effective. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are all well-poised to make a difference. But not alone. Regional bodies and non-governmental organizations do also have an important role to play. We need to consolidate our efforts in a complementary fashion.

Secondly, resolution of long-standing political conflicts is another major area that we need to address more effectively in order to deprive the extremists a pretext for advancing their ill agendas. The situation in the Middle East, Iraq or Afghanistan are all examples of such major conflagrations that fuel radical tendencies all over the world. We must not allow these problems to fester and then spill over in different incarnations.

This is not something nations alone can manage. Again, a multi-layered cooperation having the United Nations at its epicentre is of utmost importance. Given the multitude of social, economic and political undertakings the conflict resolution and prevention requires, a collaborative approach engaging all relevant actors is needed. We must act together in pursuit of common goals and objectives.

I can go on and on giving examples of these conducive conditions and of the ways to tackle them. For example, lack of basic human rights and freedoms is also a matter of great importance in the fight against terrorism. Although authoritarian regimes are not always a target of terrorism and it is usually democratic societies under terrorist threat, one can not deny that radical and militant ideologies flourish in such repressive environments.

The same is true for countries where the rule of law and governance is failing. But I will not dwell upon all these issues one by one, since the time allotted for me is limited. Instead, I will try to draw some broad lines. Because what cuts across all these “conducive conditions” are three fold: a perceived or real lack of justice, insufficient level of mutual understanding and absence of viable channels of political communication and representation.

Indeed, one of the main reasons behind the state of insecurity and instability in this world is a perceived lack of justice: the feeling that the principles and values that have been agreed upon internationally are not applicable to all. This feeling or conviction is one of the strongest stimulants for mobilizing people. We have to recognize that today's world does not yet qualify for a just system. Wherever you go, but in particular in the developing and underdeveloped parts of the globe, there is always complaint of double standards, discrimination and unfair treatment.

I am not going to take sides here on whether this is true or not. But this is a fact we all need to face. We need to do more in explaining to the people at large the reasoning behind our acts and decisions. We must strengthen international law and enable it to rule. We must inject renewed confidence into the system. People should be able to rely upon the international system of laws and institutions and not attempt to take the justice into their own hands.

In my view, the United Nations should be at the core of this endeavour. Its basis for universal legitimacy ought to be reinvigorated. For, there is no other organization that can confer upon an equal level of legality and legitimacy. This is why we need a more effective United Nations. And this is why the reform of the United Nations is so important.

Secondly, given the increasing polarization between different cultures and religions, we need to exert more effort in promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The primary objective here is to encourage and improve mutual understanding among societies. This is very important because, extremist groups build their campaign on stereotypes, misperceptions and misrepresentations about the so-called “others”.

Therefore, we are all duty bound to do our utmost to combat such negative campaigns and spread the truth. In this regard, we must learn to cherish our cultural and religious diversity as a means of richness rather than a source of division. We must see that there are more that unites us in terms of universal values and principles than those which divide us. We must understand that all societies and nations have in their different ways contributed to human civilization in the course of history. Finally, we must realize that dialogue, tolerance, understanding and the search for peace have their roots in all major cultures and faith systems, and thus stop trying to indict certain religions or cultures for inherent inclination to violence and conflict.

If we can do so, then we will certainly be off to a bright common future where we will all benefit. Otherwise, if we fall into the trap of extremists and take the other direction, then we will all bear the dire consequences. Fortunately, there is a growing awareness of this reality and accordingly a number of promising initiatives have been recently put forward in this direction. Here, due to direct personal involvement, I will touch upon only one, namely the Alliance of Civilizations, which was launched two years ago by the United Nations Secretary-General and now has reached the crucial implementation phase under the co-sponsorship of Turkey and Spain.

The Alliance of Civilizations aims to build bridges among diverse cultures and facilitate understanding and cooperation across world communities and religions. The initiative is indeed a comprehensive global response to address the deepening divide in today's world. To this end, we have already come up with a solid Action Plan. Now, in the implementation phase we are going to initiate a number of projects that are designed to improve the level of understanding and collaboration among societies.

The four main areas under which those projects are developed are education, youth, media and migration. And rightly so, because if we do not educate our people, in particular the youth, and if we can not have a responsible media on board, then the already widening fault-lines between cultures and religions will make life unbearable for all of us, but especially for the migrant communities who feel the tremors of this divide on a first hand basis.

I will not go into details of these projects because they are still being fine-tuned. But personally, I attach greatest importance to those dedicated to the problems of the youth. Not only because they are going to be the opinion and decision makers of tomorrow, but they also constitute the most vulnerable segment of our populations to radical tendencies. Therefore, we must engage them, employ them, educate them and enable them. These four "E"s present the key to a better future. And this is what the Alliance of Civilizations is all about.

In order to ensure the success of the initiative, an extensive network of partners is being cultivated. Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, religious leaders, the corporate sector and the donor community are deemed not only as partners, but also as stakeholders in this significant undertaking.

Finally, as regards the third cross-cutter of those measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, we must provide open and fair channels of political representation. Those who feel excluded from the political processes and lack the legitimate means to seek their interests start looking for answers elsewhere. In other words, democracy is a strong antidote to extremist narratives.

Of course, democracy is not the sole answer. Because, we see terrorists coming out of democratic societies as well. But there is no doubt that extremists will have greater difficulty in advancing their ideas in free and open societies where it can be harder to manipulate the truth. The challenge there for States is to strike the right balance between fighting terrorism and providing security, without lowering democratic standards.

Here, of course, one should not equate democracy solely with elections. It is certainly more than that. In fact, the ballot box is the final step in a functioning democracy. A real democracy is a way of life which includes a spirit of compromise, equality, pluralism, the

rule of law, unhindered access to information and freedom of thought and expression. The bottom line is to be able to have an open society which can freely learn, think, express and judge.

There may of course be many other elements that are relevant to our subject, and they all deserve to be fully debated. For instance, incitement to terrorism and violence is another important topic that we need to address. It is certainly a condition conducive to the spread of this scourge. Therefore, we must pay utmost attention to this issue as well and take the necessary legal and practical measures to prevent our freedoms from being abused to our detriment.

Likewise, international support to terrorism in pursuit of political gains is yet another important issue to discuss. Those who expect returns from supporting terrorist groups should know that no one is immune from this calamity and any support given to terrorists will inevitably haunt those providers sooner or later.

However, I think I should stop here and leave the floor to other participants whom I believe will also shed light on these topics and give us some more food for thought. I am confident that we will then have a lively debate on this very important and sensitive theme.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Klaus-Peter Gottwald

*Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Vienna
on behalf of the European Union*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

Terrorism is a threat to all States and to all peoples. It poses a serious threat to the security of Europe and the lives of its citizens. Therefore the European Union (EU) remains determined to tackle this scourge with a comprehensive response. This implies that the EU also addresses conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The EU is committed to addressing all areas relevant in this context: Conflict resolution and prevention, support of the rule of law, promotion of economic prosperity, adequate access to education for all, intercultural and interfaith dialogue, prevention of radicalization and recruitment all deserve our full attention.

In this context the EU would like to reiterate its view that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting, but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals and strategies.

There is a range of conditions in society, which can create an environment, in which people are more easily radicalized. Such factors do not unavoidably lead to radicalization, but may make the radical message more appealing both to those who suffer from them and those who identify themselves with their suffering.

The EU is determined to work to eliminate structural factors supporting radicalization both within the Union and outside. As part of our response, the EU targets inequalities and discrimination where they exist and promotes intercultural dialogue and debate. Outside Europe the EU promotes good governance, human rights, democracy as well as education and economic prosperity through political dialogue and assistance programmes. In this area as well as in others the EU stands ready to share experiences and best practices with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Taskforce (CTITF) and is, at the moment, considering concrete ways to support the work of this Task Force. Such efforts might include, *inter alia*, the hosting of conferences, seminars and/or third country technical assistance projects.

The EU is also ready to strengthen cooperation with competent NGOs and civil society actors and will work to identify and mobilize European NGOs who could take part in the exercise.

Acts of terrorism within the European Union have shown that combating radicalization and recruitment area key issues in preventing acts of terrorism. Therefore, in 2005, the EU adopted its own Strategy and an Action Plan for combating radicalization and recruitment to terrorism and has implemented them since.

To counter radicalization and terrorist recruitment the EU has resolved to disrupt the activities of the networks and individuals who draw people into terrorism and make sure that

voices of mainstream opinion prevail over those of extremism, and to promote yet more vigorously security, justice, democracy and opportunity for all. It goes without saying that the EU's activities in this field will safeguard the respect for fundamental rights.

In the view of the European Union, combating radicalization and recruitment is an area particularly suited for a cooperation between the EU and the United Nations in implementing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Talks between the Chairman of the United Nations Taskforce, Mr. Robert Orr, and representative of EU member States in Brussels on 14 March 2007, have identified this as a high potential area for cooperation. Several EU member States are considering projects in this field.

With these brief remarks, let me reiterate: The European Union is and will remain committed to close cooperation with all parties and in particular the United Nations—here in Vienna we work excellently with UNODC and its Terrorism Prevention Branch—to fight this common scourge of mankind.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Peter Shannon

Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Vienna

Introduction

Globally, progress has been made in addressing the terrorist threat, but terrorist networks remain resilient and are adapting. Our counter-terrorism strategy since 11 September has necessarily been focused on catching terrorists and preventing attacks.

It is important that collectively we understand the appeal and counter the ideology propagated by terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaeda and which is taken up by other transnational groups, such as Jemaah Islamiah in Indonesia.

The heinous bombings in Algiers earlier this year carried out by the Al-Qaeda-linked Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, which killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds more, demonstrate the continuing threat posed by Al-Qaeda and its poisonous ideology.

Other terrorist groups that may have few obvious links to Al-Qaeda's leadership nevertheless operate according to Al-Qaeda's extremist ideology and tactics and continue to pose a threat to our collective security.

Australia welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; it is the most comprehensive CT statement ever adopted by UNGA. We, however, disappointed that as a compromise, language referring to "extremist ideologies" as a "condition conducive to terrorism" was not included in the text. An effective global CT strategy cannot ignore the ideological dimension.

Australian counter-radicalization initiatives

Australia is focused on supporting the South-East Asian region's counter-terrorism efforts over the long term. We are seeking to address extremism at home and in the South East Asian region through ongoing engagement with communities to strengthen democratic values, stigmatize terrorist groups and counter extremist propaganda.

Most recently the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer and his Indonesian Counterpart Dr Wirajuda co-hosted a subregional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism which saw participation from Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia. This meeting recognized that countering extremism and propaganda was key to success in countering terrorism and agreed on a range of activities toward that end. We welcome Thailand's initiative in planning to host a seminar on countering extremism and radicalization later this year.

Australia and Indonesia will hold a workshop on 29-30 May at the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) on how the Internet can be used to disseminate positive messages that counter the damaging ideology of the extremists. JCLEC is a centre

jointly established by Indonesia and Australia to enhance regional expertise in countering transnational crime and terrorism.

More broadly, Australia is working with regional partners to demonstrate that our counter-terrorism effort is not the clash of civilizations or religions, but a conflict of values between those who support violence on the one hand and those who support pluralism and tolerance on the other. We are taking specific measures to steer people away from extremism, including by promoting and facilitating dialogue among community groups and leaders to understand why people are drawn to extremist causes. We need to listen to communities who are concerned to find themselves the target of radicalization and to assist them to reassert traditional values over extremist ideologies.

Australia is in the process of developing a programme of activities to support the efforts of governments and NGOs in South-East Asia to combat terrorist propaganda and ideology. We are increasing the number of people-to-people exchanges between Muslim communities in South-East Asia and Australia. We are promoting with our neighbours regional interfaith dialogues—two have been held since 2004 and a third will be held in New Zealand later this month these allow religious leaders across our region to share ideas on the challenges facing their communities they demonstrate the commonality across faiths of certain fundamental beliefs.

Conclusion

As a global community we must be willing to build on the common ground we can identify, if collectively, we are to meet the challenge of terrorism. Together we must delegitimize terrorism, take decisive action against extremist and terrorist groups, promote tolerance and pluralism among communities at large and be aware of, and respond to the processes of recruitment and radicalization, and influence debate to create political space for all governments to take more resolute action to counter terrorism.

To conclude, Australia remains committed to working at all levels with Member States to overcome the grave threat to our security posed by terrorism, including the threat presented by radical ideologies.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber

*Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in French)*

Allow me to begin by thanking the organizers of this Symposium for inviting Morocco to speak at this meeting on the implementation of measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

I would like to mention some aspects which are, in my opinion, fundamental and are based on the United Nations Global-Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly those being considered by UNODC.

On behalf of my country, may I first reaffirm our condemnation of all acts of terrorism, regardless of the reasons, the time at which they are committed and the identity of the perpetrators. Terrorism is a heinous crime which must be fought using all available means.

Morocco considers also that recourse to terrorism using the pretext of religion is a distortion of and shows disrespect for religion; no act of terrorism can be justified on religious grounds.

In seeking to dissect the many conditions that contribute to the spread of terrorism, one necessarily has to acknowledge that the speed of socio-political change, brought on by rapid globalization, creates hardship which is exploited ideologically by groups and networks that advocate recourse to blinkered violence as a reaction to the rapid transformation undergone by the world and also to the dissemination of values and principles deemed inappropriate. Analysis of the phenomenon has also underlined the need for solutions to major political conflicts, some of which have existed for many decades and have destabilized entire regions, condemning large sectors of the population to misery, suffering and despair. This situation leads some small groups to turn to terrorism, because in their eyes it provides a response to the humiliation and victimization.

- Radicalism and religious extremism, as has occurred in many periods of history, are harnessed for exacerbated political and fanatical aims;
- The interconnections between terrorist networks and transnational crime and illicit activities are growing constantly in several regions of the world;
- The failure of the principles of democracy, freedom, openness and tolerance to take root;
- The misuse of freedom of expression and freedom of the press to incite violence and hatred;
- Difficult economic and social conditions;
- The worsening of forms of discrimination against immigrants, refugees or groups considered to be minorities;
- The spread of radical and intolerant ideologies, such as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism;

- Inadequate or no controls in geographically sensitive zones which are used by terrorists as a staging post for their criminal activities;

I would now like to outline some proposals concerning actions to be strengthened in the fight against terrorism:

- The special importance of international and regional cooperation in the battle against terrorism. In this context, allow me to underline the active role played by UNODC in providing technical assistance to Member States, in particular to improve international cooperation. UNODC's activities, which will expand with the implementation of the global strategy, require the necessary resources to be mobilized continuously, bearing in mind the positive evaluation made by Member States of the technical assistance provided;
- The need to redouble efforts to conclude the negotiations on a global convention against terrorism;
- The need to confront terrorism on the level of ideological debate;
- Reform in the area of religion to immunise society against extremist thinking;
- Protection of places of worship against extremist propaganda and obscurantism;
- Education in democratic citizenship to help combat ideologies and intolerant practices and promote freedom of expression, respect for pluralism and wider acceptance of diversity;
- Improvements to jails, a veritable recruitment ground for extremist groups;
- Sensitizing the public to the existence, causes and serious nature of terrorist crimes and the threat they pose and considering encouraging the public to provide the competent authorities with factual and specific assistance and thus contribute to the prevention of such acts;
- Support for a mobilization on behalf of the concerted action provided for in the Alliance of Civilisations, in order to bridge the ever-growing divides between societies and also within individual societies;
- The importance of reinforcing mutual respect among peoples from different cultural and religious traditions, based on recommendations for education, youth, media and migration policies, with special emphasis on the relations between the West and the Moslem world;
- Preventing access by terrorist groups to weapons-building technologies and to sophisticated means of communications;
- Combating terrorist financing, the principal mechanism for facilitating acts of terrorism.

These are the reflections my delegation wishes to share with you on this important and crucial issue.

Statement

By Mr. Ángel Lossada Torres-Quevedo

*Director General, International Affairs of Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain
(Delivered in Spanish)*

I should first like to thank the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Government of Austria for organizing this Symposium and bringing together such an impressive group of speakers.

I am particularly grateful for this opportunity to speak to you on the theme of implementing measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The Spanish Government has always maintained that the challenge of terrorism can only be successfully met through a comprehensive response by the international community that deals not only with short-term security requirements and the present-day threat but also with those conditions that can only be resolved from a longer-term perspective. I feel it is important however, to point out that the set of conditions that can contribute to the appearance, spread and strengthening of terrorism varies according to each specific context. It is thus not possible to establish a general theory on the conditions conducive to terrorism but it is necessary to refer to the individual contexts in which terrorism develops.

The threat of terrorism lends to a sense of urgency in the necessity of resolving the deep-seated problems besetting the international community and our societies. Such as long-standing unresolved conflicts, poverty, marginalization, absence of democracy and lack of respect for human rights, problems which nonetheless need to be overcome irrespective of their significance in combating terrorism and which are not necessarily conducive to it but often generate breeding grounds for its emergence.

Today, at this gathering, we are united by a universal condemnation of terrorism. We also believe that this is precisely the first premise for effectively combating it and achieving the radical delegitimization of any group or movement contemplating the use of terrorism as a political weapon. However, this condemnation and the conviction that terrorism is a criminal act that can have no justification, still require us to try to understand how and why different groups of individuals decide to join the ranks of terrorist groups. Understanding these conditions and developing measures to address them are the only valid recipe for long-term success against terrorism.

Spain, therefore, in its role as co-facilitator—together with Singapore—of the negotiations on the adoption of the Strategy, sought to ensure the inclusion in it of an extensive section on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Since the time available to me is limited and other speakers will be dealing with other aspects of that section, I will limit my own intervention to two sets of measures aimed at addressing conditions conducive to terrorism, which Spain strongly supports. Both areas of action serve the same objective, i.e. the need to mobilize civil society and alert the entire

populations of our countries to the idea that terrorism is never the solution to any problem, however major or acute it may be; that no cause can justify killing the innocent; and that to kill a person means the taking of a human life.

It is necessary to dispute and reject the idea exploited and spread by terrorists that between civilizations there is a conflict, of which they are at the forefront. To that end, we believe that the practical recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations, published last November, to which the Ambassador of Turkey has referred, are a significant contribution.

To oppose and dispel the false idea that we are at the crossroads of a clash of civilizations it is not sufficient for us to demonstrate and affirm, in forums such as this, our fundamental unity in the face of terrorism; we must also ensure that that same message reaches societies and peoples throughout the world. It is precisely in this area that the Alliance of Civilizations, a joint initiative of Spain and Turkey launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations makes its main contribution. The sound recommendations contained in that report in the areas of education, media training and youth are aimed at fostering conditions conducive to the spread of tolerance and respect.

Secondly, I wish to refer to the role that can be played by victims of terrorism in delegitimizing terrorism. The issue of the terrorism victim was considerably developed in the Strategy and previously highlighted as an innovative element in counter-terrorism strategies in the report of the former Secretary-General, "Uniting against Terrorism".

States' solidarity with victims of terrorist attacks is a major prevention measure in strengthening the ability of society to cope with cruel acts of terrorism through the conviction that no one who is the victim of an attack will be forsaken. When terrorism affecting us is not local but global and the real target of attacks is not the victims of any particular country but the international community as a whole, the duty of solidarity devolves on all of us within the international community and not solely on the State where the attack took place against us all.

Solidarity with victims of terrorism is also a key element in delegitimizing terrorists' ideology and countering their aim of dehumanizing victims, which is a tool used by them to divert attention from their crimes and focus it on their supposed political ends.

To combat such dehumanization it is essential to give victims back their voice so that society and civil society organizations respond to the violence and are aware of its real costs. Through their testimonies, victims can remind us all that to kill innocent people means the taking of innocent lives.

It is necessary to develop those elements of the Strategy which relate to victims. For that purpose we must:

- Support networks of victims' associations for the sharing of moral support and their best practices in psychological, legal and welfare assistance; and
- Provide specific training for professionals dealing with victims of terrorism in the areas I have just mentioned and strengthen the mechanisms for promoting their social reintegration.

It would be desirable also to develop a practical international mechanism to allocate funds for local projects in support and recognition of victims in communities that have suffered terrorist attacks and to demonstrate, through deeds, international solidarity with all victims of terrorism.

For this to be set in motion and be useful, not simply as a response to an attack that has already taken place, but as an additional factor in preventing terrorism, we rely on the efforts of all agencies of the United Nations system to include the issue of victims of terrorism in their mandates and thus incorporate it as a major part of their activities to combat terrorism and uphold human rights. Our national experience has demonstrated to us the value and real need for every State to equip itself with the means to assist and recognize victims as part of its national counter-terrorism strategies.

Statement

By Mr. Jon Erik Strömö

Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Norway has since 11 September 2001 focused strongly on identifying root causes to terrorism and to strengthen our common ability to defeat them.

We have given national priority to the importance of peace and reconciliation processes, the protection of basic human rights and the promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. It has been especially important to avoid any kind of “double-standards” in our approach to these questions, as this will continue to fuel the perception of injustice that exists among different groups and individuals.

In September 2003, Norway addressed the importance of root causes to terrorism in its high-level conference in New York named “Fighting Terrorism for Humanity. One key message was that the prevention of radicalization is the key to long-term prevention of terrorism.

Thus, addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism should be one of the main priorities in all counter-terrorism strategies that define themselves as comprehensive.

We are glad that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a proper manner addresses these conditions, because its importance cannot be underestimated. The key word is to prevent radicalization.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway have, as a direct result of the work on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, increased its focus on de-radicalization. De-radicalization might be a crucial factor in the prevention of further radicalization, not because the presence of a radicalized population is a root-cause to terrorism, but because the presence of a radicalized population will reinforce the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

In Norway we have been running a successful programme on the de-radicalization of individuals connected to extreme-right ideology. Based on this experience Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have recently supported a research project with the participation of leading international experts on the topic—named “Leaving Terrorism Behind”.

The idea is to extend our approach by including the important factor of de-radicalization. If successful, we might weaken the negative cycle of radicalization that seems to be fuelled by both the continued presence of conditions conducive to radicalization and the presence of a “radicalized entrepreneurship” that stimulates these conditions.

We think it's important to share our increased interest in the topic of de-radicalization, as a possible factor that can be utilized stronger by Norway, other Member States and the United Nations family.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that Norway, as always, is prepared to work closely with the United Nations and CTITF in their effort to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Statement

By Mr. Roberto Lamponi

*Director of Legal Cooperation Directorate
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs
Council of Europe*

The Council of Europe is grateful for this opportunity to address today's Symposium, which raises awareness for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, promotes its implementation and helps identify measures to assist States in this endeavour.

We believe in the crucial role that regional organizations can play in building political will to prevent and fight terrorism, a role which is also recognized in the Strategy, and in this respect, I would like to contribute our vision and experience as a pan-European organization.

The Council of Europe exists to uphold human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy, and is determined to combat terrorism which repudiates these fundamental values.

Terrorism is a complex phenomenon and, consequently, the fight against it requires a comprehensive approach. Condemnation and suppression are crucial, but insufficient alone as a long-term solution. The Council of Europe takes a threefold approach, which entails strengthening legal action against terrorism; safeguarding fundamental values; and addressing the causes of terrorism.

Our efforts towards the implementation of legal standards are coupled with a sound reflection on how to create the best conditions for a sustainable legal, institutional and social culture in order to prevent terrorism.

The Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (May 2005), which will enter into force on 1 June 2007, was adopted to increase the effectiveness of existing international texts. It also aims to foster greater international cooperation and more effective responses to this issue.

The Convention requires Parties to promote tolerance by encouraging inter-religious and cross-cultural dialogue involving, where appropriate, non-governmental organizations and civil society in the fields of education, culture and media, and by raising public awareness with a view to easing the tensions that might contribute to the upsurge in terrorism. This is very much in line with the objectives of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy's Plan of Action.

Among the latest developments within the Council of Europe, I should like to mention the international conference "Why terrorism? Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism", which was held in Strasbourg on 25-26 April 2007. This event, organized on the initiative of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), was a discussion-orientated forum for exchanging information, experience and ideas with a view to understanding the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and finding ways and means to prevent individuals from turning to terrorism.

A reflection on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue have been mainstreamed into all of the Council of Europe's on-going activities. The Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government (May 2005) made intercultural dialogue a priority of the Organization. The underlying principles of our policy are laid down in the "Faro Declaration" of 2005. They also underpin our bilateral agreements with UNESCO, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation.

To implement the United Nations Strategy, we build on the standard-setting aquis of the Council of Europe and use the various instruments that the Council of Europe has developed in all of its policy areas. Alongside the instruments and bodies specifically aimed at the protection of human and minority rights,¹ the Council of Europe also works in this field through its other bodies, such as its the North-South Centre and "Eurimages". Its various action programmes in the fields of education, culture and youth are particularly important.

Religion plays a special role in the debate about cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. In the past, the Council of Europe has essentially dealt with religious beliefs in two fields: the protection of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and of freedom of expression, as laid down in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Articles 9 and 10); and the role of religious beliefs as an important part of our cultural heritage, similar to other identity sources such as languages or history.

The importance that the Council of Europe attaches to the promotion of intercultural dialogue is illustrated by the intention of the Committee of Ministers to publish, later this year, a "White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue" which will summarize the experience of the Council of Europe in the various fields under its competence and formulate the guiding principles for intercultural dialogue action at all levels and by state and non-state actors. It will also offer examples of good practice.

It is through its comprehensive approach and its diverse activities that the Council of Europe contributes to the global action against terrorism.

¹The conventions and their monitoring mechanisms, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), etc.

Statement

By Mr. Vladimir Goryayev

*Deputy Director of Asia and the Pacific Division
Representative of the Department of Political Affairs in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

Many of the speakers who spoke in this segment which is analyzing the conditions conducive to terrorism including our distinguished keynote speaker Ambassador Ilkin of Turkey, have referred in their statements to conflict and instability as very important factors which is conducive to breeding and flourishing of terrorism. As you know the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) which is one of the entity in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force as its core function has the conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Of course, conflict prevention and conflict resolution have absolutely overriding priority for the United Nations in their own right.

At the same time, these essential actions preventing and resolving conflicts could have direct and very powerful influence in the combating, preventing terrorism. Conflict areas provide a very fertile grounds for training of terrorists, for indoctrination in extremist ideologies, for training, for providing safe-havens and to deprive potential terrorists of these safe-havens where the conflict and instability is would be great contribution to fight against terrorism. In providing of our assistance to you as Member States, we are trying to enhance our capacity, including in the regions that are vulnerable to instability. The Department of Political Affairs has most recently established a very small mediation unit which was tasked to be a centre for accumulating the knowledge and understanding about the conflict prevention for the service of Member States.

I am very pleased to inform you, and probably you would be the audience who publicly know about it just today, the Security Council has positively reacted yesterday to the initiative of the Secretary General to establish the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat for Central Asia.

It is very important strengthening of our hand of working in the region which is vulnerable to instability and threatened by multiple threats like terrorism, drug-trafficking and other evils which are conducive to terrorism. The Department of Political Affairs is also actively exploring opportunity for opening of the Regional Conflict Prevention Centre for South-East Asia in Singapore and the words which were pronounced today from this podium by the distinguished Ambassador of Australia highlighting the regional efforts in this area sounds very encouraging and probably will find the common understanding and excellent partner in that part of the world.

In our efforts to prevent and resolve existing conflicts, it is essential to solicit cooperation with international, regional organizations particularly the such important and influential ones such as the League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Conference, African Union, European Union, CIS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

In this process may maximize and to provide positive effect by using our comparative advantages United Nations and regional organizations. It is particularly important that this cooperation would be very powerful in our fight for hearts and minds in those regions. We could not be able to effectively combat terrorism and to address the conditions conducive to it unless we can lead by better thoughts, by better examples and by better ideology and in this process the cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations is absolutely indispensable.

In this context I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference and its Educational and Scientific Organization (ISESC) has initiated we do believe very interesting idea of holding the international conference which is entitled "Terrorism: Dimensions, Threats and Counter-Measures." Today, at the thirty-fourth ministerial of OIC in Islamabad the resolution was adopted endorsing and supporting this initiative. So this conference will take place on 15-17 November this year in Tunis and the personal patronage of his Excellency President Ben Ali of Tunisia and would incorporate several heads of States and governments and heads of several important international organizations including those which I mentioned about and Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon is also considering participating in this important international gathering. The conference will focus on addressing misconceptions and stereotypes and will improve the best understanding of Islam, its values, its culture at the same time it would improve the image of the West in the Muslim societies.

And the final point which I wanted to make, our efforts and initiatives would be successful only under one conditions that you Member States would provide us the United Nations with strong political, operational and financial support.

At this point I would like to ask kind of a rhetorical question, if this support in this area, in the area of conflict prevention is adequate? Unfortunately, the answer will be no. The Department of Political Affairs which sometimes is called as the foreign ministry of the United Nations has on board only 122 professional staff members and incurs only 0.8 per cent of the regular budget. Are these resources enough to counter such evil as terrorism? Therefore, please help us to help you.

Statement

By Ms. Ann Belinda Preis

*Senior Programme Planning Officer
Bureau of Strategic Planning*

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris
Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
to the Counter-Terrorism International Task Force*

In the World Summit Outcome document (September 2005), the world leaders agreed to “strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security” (para 81).

The document welcomed the “Secretary-General’s identification of elements of a counter-terrorism strategy” specifying, among others, that the strategy “should also take[s] into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism” and commending “the various initiatives to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations” (para 82).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has a very special contribution to make to the international fight against terrorism in its areas of competence, which are often seen as the soft part of counterterrorism activities—education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

As one of the main planks defined in UNESCO’s Constitution is “to build the defenses of peace in the minds of men”, the Organization is committed to promoting dialogue among civilizations—or in other terms “intercultural dialogue”—in the service of peace.

Since 11 September this agenda has acquired renewed interest, meaning and indeed relevance at the highest levels of government. UNESCO sharpened its framework of action in the fight against terrorism when its General Conference adopted in October 2001 a landmark resolution (31 C/39) entitled “Call for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism”.

The Resolution affirmed that dialogue “constitutes a fundamental challenge based on the unity of humankind and commonly shared values, the recognition of cultural diversity and the equal dignity of each civilization and each culture” and emphasized that “while acts of terrorism can never be justified whatever the motives, the world community requests a global and inclusive vision of development based on the observance of human rights, mutual respect, intercultural dialogue and the alleviation of poverty”.

UNESCO believes that the role of education—especially quality education and intercultural education—is the first and most pivotal component for any long-term action to counter terrorist proclivities. A crucial component of UNESCO’s long-term strategy for its contribution to the global struggle against terrorism is seeking to scale up existing programmes for strengthening the capacities of educational systems worldwide to integrate

human rights education, internationally shared values, mutual understanding, conflict prevention and critical thinking into every aspect of their educational systems, including the development of curriculum standards, the training of teachers and the approval of school textbooks.

Youth is a singularly important target group, as the school, and the classroom in particular, provides a privileged social space for “Learning to live together” and for rectifying stereotypes in the portrayal of other cultures, nations and religions and faiths.

Another central component is culture. At a time of accelerated globalization it is clear that culture—rather than being “a thing”—has become a dynamic space for exchange, overlapping, interplay, and transfer; hence a factor of development and peace. The promotion of and respect for cultural diversity is therefore an important vehicle for reconciliation between divided communities. This is particularly evident in the context of rehabilitation of damaged cultural heritages sites; in restoration and development of cultural institutions such as museums, libraries and archives; and in countering the looting of cultural property—actions which are entirely based on the notion of a shared responsibility of humanity to protect our common cultural heritage in all its forms.

UNESCO advocates that intercultural dialogue and cultural development must be placed at the heart of national development plans and the joint programming tools of the United Nations system.

A third component is the role of the media—both traditional and new. As terrorism creates a culture of fear which may result in serious restrictions on media freedom and freedom of expression, focus must be on the determinant role of independent and pluralistic media in preventing violent conflict and promoting mutual understanding among groups and peoples of different cultural, religious and social backgrounds.

Open and critical discussion within and among societies, facilitated by an independent media in exercise of its freedom to expression, is not only a prerequisite of a functioning democracy; it is an indispensable cornerstone of any holistic and comprehensive international approach to counter terrorism.

Support to media productions, which promote genuine dialogue, to high quality co-productions and the creation of cross-cultural journalist networks is of utmost importance. The creative use of media and information channels, including broadcast networks, can promote a better knowledge of other cultures and people and provide background and context for individuals or groups to take a critical inward look at ourselves and an open-minded one at others.

To counter stereotypes the media must be capacitated: to report, to provide analysis, and to defend the right to do so; to reflect on and promote the core values of tolerance and mutual understanding.

UNESCO stands ready to continue to contribute—while drawing on its specific domains of expertise—to the ongoing work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and to related future initiatives, which seek to implement concrete and sustained action aimed at countering the destructive cycle of violence-extremism-fanaticism-terrorism.

UNESCO is also ready to cooperate with all organizations and entities, including the Alliance of Civilizations.

Terrorism has become more insidious, more accentuated and indiscriminate than ever. Terrorism—and terror as such—is a form of violence with strong symbolic and communicative elements. Terror rests always and everywhere upon prejudices, intolerance, exclusion and—the rejection of genuine dialogue. A commitment to dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples is therefore a commitment against terrorism.

A few days ago, a panel on “Civilizations and the Challenges for Peace: Obstacles and Opportunities” was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York bringing together prominent academics, commentators and political leaders to explore causes and solutions for tensions between groups. With the appointment of Jorge Sampaio as the United Nations Secretary-General’s High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, the recommendations of the High-Level Group in their recent report can now enter the decisive implementation phase.

The avenue for tangible results in this regard will go through the power of dialogue, through the release of freedom by mutual understanding, and through the human well-being, security and development brought about by a joint investment in sustainable peace.

Statement

By Mr. Andrew Carpenter

*Chief of the Strategic Policy and Development Section, Police Division
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

I, too, would like to thank the Symposium's organizers the Austrian Government, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the UNODC for this opportunity to address you this afternoon on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the topic of "Implementing measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism".

As you are aware, and as the keynote speaker for this session has already mentioned, countries caught in or emerging from conflict exhibit many of the conditions conducive and thus are particularly vulnerable to the threats and spread of terrorism.

Also, a number of speakers have already said—and I will reiterate—that terrorists exploit entirely criminal means to sustain themselves and to carry out their activities.

Therefore, as outlined in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the best defence against terrorism is to ensure effective, fair and accountable criminal justice systems deliver, not only public safety, but the rule of law.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is dedicated to assisting the Member States and the Secretary-General in their efforts to maintain international peace and security.

The Department's mission is to plan, prepare, and manage the UN's peacekeeping operations, so that they can effectively fulfil their mandates under the overall authority of the Security Council and General Assembly, and under the command vested in the Secretary-General.

Currently, there are 9,500 United Nations police officers from 92 Member States deployed in 17 countries providing assistance that can generally be divided in three broad categories:

Interim law enforcement

Here, United Nations police officers are directly responsible for all police and law enforcement functions and have a clear authority and responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. They are entrusted with powers of arrest, detention and searches. These responsibilities have historically been given as part of United Nations transitional administrations (i.e. Kosovo and Timor Leste).

Security support to national police and law enforcement agencies

In this case, United Nations police officers, particularly members of formed police units, support national police and law enforcement agencies in the execution of their functions. They are not, ordinarily, considered as law enforcement officers under the legislation of the host country and their prerogatives are consequently limited: they may, however, stop, detain and search individuals in accordance with the mandate of their mission. They also play a key role in the protection of United Nations personnel and facilities. Such security functions in support of national police and law enforcement agencies are currently performed by members of formed police units assigned to the United Nations missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti and Liberia.

Assistance for reform, restructuring and rebuilding of national police and law enforcement agencies

United Nations police officers support the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of national police and law enforcement agencies through training and advice. Direct assistance is also required for the refurbishment of facilities and the procurement of vehicles, communication equipment and other law enforcement material. But this means extra-budgetary contributions.

In this vein, DPKO has produced a Portfolio of Police and Law Enforcement Projects—totalling 73 projects from nine United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

The full portfolio is available from the DPKO website:

http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/police/po_portfolio.pdf

Such assistance has been provided in the past, for example, by the police components of peace operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Implementation of any one of these projects would assist in reducing the current level of conduciveness towards terrorism and one step further towards the realization of effective policing in accordance with internationally recognized and adopted human rights standards.

Statement

By Mr. Francesco Cappé

*Coordinator, Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Unit
Representative of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

I would like to thank the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Executive Office of the Secretary General for inviting the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) to attend this important Symposium.

As a United Nations specialized agency, UNICRI is a unique first response broker providing strategic assistance and action-oriented analysis. Within the CTITF, UNICRI co-leads two working groups: one on “Protecting vulnerable targets”, with a specific focus on the dialogue between private and public sector; and a second on “Addressing radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism”.

The working group on “Addressing radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism” aims to provide concrete answers to the Strategy’s request to “reduce marginalization and the subsequent sense of victimization that propels extremism and the recruitment to terrorism”. Radicalization and recruitment to terrorism are worldwide and, we fear, long-lasting problems.

UNICRI strongly believes that the United Nations and the CTITF can play a catalytic role by bringing added value to the ongoing activities at national, regional and international level in this field. In particular, the CTITF, through its WGs, can act as a facilitator by involving all the entities working in the field, effectively spreading and widely communicating United Nations values and providing Member States with concrete means of intervention.

In order to best respond to its mandate, first of all the Task Force’s WG on “Addressing radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism” undertook an explorative exercise to define the focus and boundaries of its analysis. The main conclusion of this process highlighted the need to focus mainly on the technical aspects of this issue, especially through mapping and performing an action-oriented analysis of the national and regional best practice in the field.

Therefore, we agreed to start by collecting information on the policies implemented and actions taken by Member States and regional and subregional organizations to anticipate the problem and reduce the pool of new terrorist recruits all over the world. The resulting assessment will then be circulated among the Member States.

Following this phase, an in-depth analysis will lead to elaborate a set of examples and general principles for Member States to help them address the radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism, which, if adopted, might also be integrated into relevant technical assistance programmes.

In conclusion, allow me to stress that the contribution from the Member States and relevant regional and subregional organizations is of overall importance to ensure the attainment of the envisaged effective and long-lasting results.

Therefore, I would like to state—also on behalf of the other lead and supporting entities of our working group—that we welcome any contributions from you to support us to:

- Acquire relevant information on your national or regional initiatives in the field;
- Implement future envisaged activities;
- Raise awareness of our endeavour.

I am strongly convinced that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Task Force represents a milestone in the contribution that the United Nations can provide to the fight against terrorism.

Addressing radicalization and extremism is one of the keys to disrupting the spread of terrorism across our world. It is a long process that is only just starting but deserves the full commitment of the United Nations and all its members for years to come.

Statement

By Ms. Yael Danieli

*Past President, Senior Representative to the United Nations
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies*

The trauma of terrorism

In his message launching the volume *The Trauma of Terrorism: Shared Knowledge and Shared Care, An International Handbook* (Danieli, Brom and Sills, 2005) at the United Nations in New York on 1 March 2005, Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan stated, “the fate of those who survive terrorist attacks is too often neglected.” [Until now, even at this meeting, there were merely two mentions of victims, while victimization has been invoked only to explain the emergence of terrorists.] “Yet these [victims] are people with real injuries—... physical, ... mental. They are entitled to treatment, to compensation, and above all to respect, as individuals whose rights have been violated, and whose voice should be heard.”

This handbook examines the origins of modern terrorism; its impact on individuals, groups, and society; psychological first aid; acute and long-term treatment; school and community-based interventions; a multi-component model of preparing providers, individuals and communities; and contemporary mental health services. It has thus established the basis for technical assistance on optimal care for victims.

Terrorism is psychological warfare against the community. Even when it targets an individual, terrorism always claims many (direct and indirect) victims. Modern terrorists utilize technological advances in communications for mass psychological impact. Indeed, psychological casualties of terrorism far outweigh the physical ones, particularly in the case of bioterrorism.

Extreme terrorist attacks such as 11 September cause many to feel “nothing will ever be the same” and force a new normality: how do we live with growing levels of threat, anxiety, fear, distrust, uncertainty, and loss?

Psychological reactions to terrorism include shock and powerlessness; difficulty concentrating and sleeping; guilt; shame; anger; grief; re-experiencing; avoidance and resilience. Diagnostically, disorders associated with terrorism include acute stress disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, somatization disorders, substance abuse and traumatic grief.

Trauma exposure can cause a rupture, regression, and a state of being “stuck,” called “fixity” (Danieli, 1998). Fixity can be intensified particularly by the conspiracy of silence (Danieli, 1982) between survivors and society. This conspiracy of silence is the survivors’ reaction to the societal (including healthcare and other professionals) indifference, avoidance, repression, and denial of the survivors’ trauma experiences and trauma-related concerns. It is detrimental to the survivors’ psychological, familial and sociocultural (re-integration, and to society as a whole. Left unattended, they remain a festering wound in the body of their societies.

Individual and collective trauma history, survival strategies chosen, and the conspiracy of silence will determine the degree of rupture and the severity of the fixity. Fixity increases vulnerability to further trauma, even normal life transitions, and may transform immediate reactions into life-long post-trauma/victimization adaptational styles (e.g., victim, fighter, numb, “those who made it;” Danieli, 1985). For many, time will not heal, but rather magnify and extend responses that may carry intergenerational implications, including perpetuating cycles of violence.

Repairing this rupture is highly complex, cannot be accomplished by the individual alone, and must realize international victims’ rights (Danieli, 2006, 2007; see also Doucet, 2003).

Because terrorism is psychological warfare against the community, we must strengthen and develop culturally coherent, community and individual resilience and outreach through co-ordinated support networks as psychosocial defence. Preparedness and response should build upon existing mental health infrastructure and bring public and private resources together. We must resist the impulse to find a quick fix and look for swift closure to “flee back to normal,” recognizing, instead, the necessity for a long-term perspective and commitment. Policy makers must embrace the mental health consequences of terrorism as critical to national security, provide legislative and financial support, and work to reduce the stigma associated with mental health. Governmental efforts should be directed toward preparedness, response and recovery. Efforts must be integrated, connected, and coordinated among public, medical, and mental health, paraprofessional, volunteer, and community-based systems.

While the Handbook contains evidence-based mental health prevention and intervention for diverse populations and age groups, additional resources must be allocated to broaden its international scope to inform practice and provide training and support to interdisciplinary stakeholders, including first responders, healthcare providers, law enforcement, media, clergy, caregivers, educators, cultural and spiritual leaders and policy makers.

Addressing the General Assembly on 16 February, 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged that “We are challenged by victims and survivors [everywhere] reminding us that the wounds of [terrorist attacks] never fully heal... We cannot fail...them.”

I am heartened by and profoundly appreciate the shared commitment of both Secretaries-General to the plight and optimal care of victims of terrorism. Indeed, as the Secretary-General urged us, “Let us unite in this mission.”

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Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Intervention by Mr. Vadim Pisarevich

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations, Vienna

The delegation of Belarus would like to express its high appreciation to the organizers of the Symposium for the excellent organization of this very important event. We would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Ilkin of Turkey for his inspiring keynote address, as well as all the other speakers for their interesting remarks on this subject.

As many have outlined, the conditions conducive to terrorism are numerous and require a comprehensive, vigorous and impartial response on the part of the international community. Our delegation would like to touch upon just one of these conditions, namely, the problem of identity, which, we believe is not properly understood today, and as a consequence, whose relationship to terrorism is not fully recognized.

Why does identity matter so much? It matters because the contemporary world is all about how we treat others, how we perceive what is different from us—be it race, sex, religion, social and economic status, or political affiliation. We have to frankly admit that many of those, whose identity is threatened, take recourse to terrorism.

How do we deal with this problem? The answer is through emancipation. Just as 200 years ago it was mainly the work of emancipation that brought an end to slave trade, so can today's emancipation significantly contribute to eradicating many of the current global challenges, including terrorism.

People have to learn that there is much more that unites them, rather than divides. Diversity has always been and will be an inalienable part of life on this planet. This diversity enriches our civilization. People have to get this important message and learn to respect others, to be tolerant and to be fair.

In this regard we, by all means, welcome the efforts within the Alliance of Civilizations aimed, in the long run, at the task of educating people about each other and teaching them to live side by side with others, who are different from them.

Suffice it to say, that the issue of diversity in today's world was one of the key points of Belarus' statement at the United Nations Summit in 2005.

We firmly believe that effectively addressing the issue of identity and diversity will deal a severe blow to terrorism.

Statement by Mr. Jean-Francis R. Zinsou

*Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations, New York
(Delivered in French)*

The discussion of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism should be conducted without questioning the elements of the strategy, which is the outcome of arduous negotiations among Member States of the United Nations. The strategy was not conceived in order to legitimize terrorism. In fact, its sole objective is to pull the rug from under the feet of terrorists and to deprive them of the breeding grounds in which they prosper.

The various aspects of the issue were well presented this morning by the Ambassadors of Turkey and Morocco and the representative of the Department of Political Affairs. Efforts must be expended to make United Nations action more effective in the search for appropriate and lasting solutions to the serious socio-economic difficulties of developing countries, in order to guarantee to all the world's inhabitants the social minimum for a decent life. In this respect, international institutions working in the development field should be more closely involved in the evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

More effective help should be offered to the countries that are making efforts to move towards democratization so that the rule of law becomes truly instrumental in combating poverty.

The link between poverty and armed conflict is proven in that poverty considerably increases the risk that countries could succumb to mass violence. We need only remember the riots that devastated the city of Kinshasa in the early 1990s prior to the eruption of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several countries are currently facing serious crises that carry a real risk of eruption of armed conflicts, which could provide training grounds for terrorist organizations.

In its resolution 1625 (2005), the Security Council underlined the need to adopt a broad strategy of conflict prevention. Among other measures, it requested assistance for countries at risk of armed conflict in performing strategic conflict risk assessments, in implementing the measures agreed by the concerned countries, in enhancing national dispute management capacities and in addressing the root causes of armed conflict.

In order to administer this assistance, it is important to put in place appropriate structures both within the United Nations and in the countries concerned. The primary objective is to reverse negative trends by managing international assistance so that it contributes to conflict prevention.

The resolution also stresses the importance of establishing effective comprehensive strategies of conflict prevention, focused on averting negative developments in the security, economic, social and humanitarian sectors and in the field of governance and human rights in countries which are facing crises, with special attention to:

- Developing quick win activities to prevent conflicts arising from competition for economic resources and to monitoring tension arising from economic and social issues;

- Encouraging United Nations regional offices to facilitate the implementation of strategies aimed at curbing illicit cross-border activities;
- Strengthening the capacities of civil society groups, including women's groups, working to promote a culture of peace and to mobilize donors to support these efforts;
- Developing policy measures to foster good governance and the protection of human rights in order to strengthen weakened or collapsed governance mechanisms and to end the culture of impunity;
- Promoting the fairness and transparency of electoral processes.

The United Nations must fully assume its responsibilities towards the populations of developing countries, urging Governments to govern in the interests of their peoples and encouraging democratic processes. It is vital to ensure the effectiveness of development assistance and strengthen efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in order to prevent their proliferation from diminishing the ability of the countries affected to resolve their disputes by peaceful means and, in particular, internally.

We welcome the exhaustive reports prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of conflict prevention, which contain very important recommendations. In the most recent one, published in July 2006 as document A/60/891, entitled "Progress report on the prevention of armed conflict", the Secretary-General encouraged Member States to consider providing more predictable financial support for conflict-prevention activities. He urged them to consider dedicating an amount equivalent to a certain percentage of the annual peacekeeping budget—say 2 per cent—to the prevention of armed conflict.

He called on Member States and relevant parts of the United Nations system to launch a dialogue on conflict prevention that would feature regular discussions on this important field of activity and that would draw on the concrete experience of ongoing partnerships between the United Nations system and Member States in this area, specifically with regard to building national capacities for conflict prevention.

It is all the more regrettable that this report has not been able to set in motion a sufficiently strong process leading to concrete measures.

We welcome the European Union's renewed commitment to helping developing countries eliminate the structural distortions that can encourage radicalization and extremism.

This Symposium could contribute to raising the awareness of the international community to the need for a coherent strategy on conflict prevention as an integral part of general efforts to combat terrorism within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, since for that purpose it is very important to make the machinery of government effective and operational in all aspects and in States' assumption of all their responsibilities towards their citizens, ensuring their security and offering them future prospects that are equal to their aspirations.

Interventions by Mr. Rafiuddin Shah*First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York*

First I will like to express our full support for the explanation given by Ambassador Baki Ilkin of Turkey in his keynote address that no root cause of terrorism legitimizes any type of terrorism, may that be state terrorism.

Due to the shortage of time given by the Chair I will briefly recount some facts about the root causes of terrorism.

Al-Qaida and its senior leadership is product of one of the violent conflicts of our times.

The terrorist captured by my country, which include more than 600 belonging to Al-Qaida, and others captured by the international community have repeatedly confessed that they were brainwashed on the pretext of one or other violent conflict. This provides the strongest evidence about the causes of terrorism.

It is heartening to see increasing international support for the view that violent conflicts and foreign occupation are one of the main causes of terrorism. Today, the EU statement on this point (violent conflict) was the most important one.

On the other hand I would strongly oppose the clash of civilization or clash of values hypothesis. This is extremely dangerous. It promotes Islamophobia which falls in the domain of racism. This triggers extremist sentiments. It also encourages “sting operations”, which are routinely undertaken in some countries. These operations have no legal basis. Defamation of symbols of any religion must be criminalized. Any effort aimed at finding causes of terrorism in “religion, theology and culture” must be rejected. It may be noted that this view was endorsed by the 34th meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers in Islamabad.

At this stage, my one suggestion to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs is that it should focus to find innovative solutions for the peaceful resolution of violent conflicts, otherwise our efforts are doomed to fail.

Intervention by H.E. Zuheir Elwazer*Permanent Mission of Palestine to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Arabic)*

Allow me to begin by thanking you for giving me the floor and, in the name of the Palestine delegation, to thank you very much for inviting us to take part in this important Symposium. I take this opportunity to commend the Austrian Government for its active participation in holding it, as well as the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Palestine delegation has listened to all the speeches made today, particularly that of the Executive Director, Antonio Maria Costa, which focused on several of the subjects relating to the role of the United Nations in suppressing terrorism. In this connection we are here to express our disquiet at the increasing waves of terrorism in our region and throughout the world, and I recall the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the Israeli occupation of their land.

The Palestine delegation emphasizes the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Council of the Arab League in March 2007, which adopted a series of resolutions on the need to work to tackle the roots and sponsors of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and rejected the identification of terrorism with the Islamic religion, which places the highest value on tolerance and rejects terrorism and extremism.

We emphasize the need to hold an international conference on terrorism organized by the United Nations in order to facilitate an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, on condition that it takes into consideration the fact that international treaties do not permit the killing of innocent civilians and that a distinction is made between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to oppose occupation and aggression.

Eliminating the source of tension and double standards in the application of international law and putting an end to injustice, aggression and attacks on human rights and guaranteeing all of them, means eliminating factors conducive to terrorism and this means it is necessary to work towards tackling the roots of terrorism.

We also support the proposal to establish an international centre to fight terrorism that would contribute to enhancing international cooperation in this field and welcome the initiative in holding a debate on terrorism and combating it.

We also support the efforts of the United Nations with respect to combating terrorism and believe it necessary to enhance the current cooperation between the League of Arab States and international and regional organizations in this regard.

We emphasize that terrorism is by definition a serious threat to international peace and security and believe it necessary to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and to intensify technical assistance and various means of support to countries in the region, such as enabling the fulfilment of their international obligations in accordance with international legal instruments on combating organized crime, terrorism and corruption.

In conclusion, we emphasize the need for the international community to take a firm stand on what certain countries occupying the land of others are doing, claiming that it is self-defence, although it is more accurately described as organized state terrorism.

Intervention by Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar, Counsellor*Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations*

Addressing conditions that may facilitate the spread of terror is indeed important. History has shown us that while some individuals or groups, under certain circumstances, resort to terrorism, others do not.

Nevertheless, as was mentioned by the keynote speaker, the Turkish Ambassador, these conditions are exploited by terrorists to create fear and despair and misery, and as such should be addressed.

In this regard, addressing the problem of incitement is crucial. Terrorism does not grow in a vacuum. It is not part of the human condition to murder and maim. Human beings are taught and encouraged to carry out these despicable acts. Hence, more attention must be paid to incitement and indoctrination. The incitement of children in particular is a great danger. It nurtures an infrastructure of hate and poisons the life stream of society.

Similarly, terrorism spreads in areas where the government neglects its national responsibilities. When appropriate mechanisms for good governance and legal capacities are lacking, terrorism can find fertile ground to grow.

As was mentioned by the delegate of Spain, we believe that solidarity with the victims of terror is of extreme importance. As part of the conditions conducive to the spread of terror, the dehumanization of victims of terror should be addressed. We believe it is important that victims of terror have a voice, and they receive the moral, legal and social support they deserve.

Theme
Three

Enhancing measures to prevent and combat terrorism

Keynote address

By Mr. Ashraf Mohsen

Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Counter-Terrorism of Egypt

First I want to express our gratitude to the Austrian government and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for organizing this Symposium. I believe it is necessary to have, at this point in time, a look at what happened with the Strategy that we have fought very hard to get right in New York, all Member States. It is a very important topic and we'd like to thank particularly the Terrorist Prevention Branch for all their efforts, and of course the UNODC and the Office of the Secretary-General Mr. Robert Orr. There are too many people to thank, so I thank them all. On a personal note I would like to apologize to the translators for not having a standard text that they can work on, and for speaking too fast, but maybe this would help the audience at this good time of a siesta where I come from, so either it wakes them up or it will send them off to sleep forever.

So, anyway, we have to understand why we're here today. What's the whole point? If I understood correctly, the United Nations is trying, with a lot of success, to deal with the problem of terrorism, as it's a global phenomenon, as it's with us to stay, and as the United Nations has a role to play in that field.

It is, of course, even to understand how to get it right, how to enhance the measures for preventing terrorism, to combat terrorism, we need to find a way, we have to understand how we get there, how we are here now. The whole process started after a major shakedown. Not the 11 September acts, but the assassination in 1931, of the Foreign Minister of France and then, I believe, the Yugoslavian Crown Prince, whereby there was the first convention to combat terrorism in 1936.

From that day on, until now, we are faced with differences, because we cannot differentiate between terrorism and national liberation movements. The last four speakers are a case in point. We need to define terrorism. So we went on a different route. We criminalized acts instead of defining terrorism. We took the very sensible approach of defining what crimes, what terrorism is all about, by acts. Not by causes. And that's the right approach. But we have reached the law of diminishing returns. There are now 16 conventions, thematic conventions, a comprehensive convention is stuck, because we are approaching the issue of definition. And that's why we believe that there is a lot of good work being done, by the Implementation Task Force, as well as all United Nations bodies in that field. A lot of good work that needs to be improved, a lot of good work that should be enforced. Why? The problem of terrorism is with us for a long time to come. This is no new information, we all know it, and we all know, from experts, that terrorism will get worse. The danger is increasing, not decreasing, despite the successful efforts of all of our Member States as well as international organizations, including the United Nations.

The system that we have here now, ladies and gentlemen, leaves a lot to be desired. We have four Security Council teams, or committees, they are doing a marvellous job, with

that Security Council work. The GA has done its part on conventions, and they have more or less, reached the end of the time, the end of the, shall I say contribution, in the next stage. So we have to examine, to make the system better, we have to see what's wrong with this system. The problem now is too many organs of the Security Council working on terrorism. Too many exclusive clubs, regional or international, work on terrorism. This has to be revamped. The efforts of the Task Force in that field as well, and in this regard I would like to mention, that the Arab League Summit have actually endorsed and given support to the Strategy of the United Nations and its implementation. We also have to say, to see, in good course, that there is a lot of good will, and a lot of support for the efforts of the Task Force. And this is welcome news. But we need to see the way ahead. What can we do to make it better?

First of all, there are certain principles that we believe are necessary for the Task Force to abide by, or at least to consider in its future work. All parts of the Strategy, all four parts of the strategy, whether conditions conducive to terrorism, or what we used to call root causes, state capacity, human rights, as well as enhancing the measures, should be addressed on an equal footing. And I was very content to hear the ASG, Mr. Bob Orr, saying that's exactly what he wants to do, and we are welcoming this approach.

Secondly, we have to fight all forms of terrorism, not one form, not two forms, not terrorism by individuals and not by groups, all forms of terrorism, regardless of its motives, should be combated. This includes terrorism committed by individuals, terrorism committed by groups, or terrorism committed by States. This is also an issue that should not be ignored. If our work is to gain credibility and achieve success in combating this horrendous threat, we have to be aware of the problem. Without mincing words, without being shy, and without fear of not succeeding. Second, the issue of incitement. I heard before and in the Strategy, we welcome criminalizing and combating incitement. But we believe that incitement, all forms of incitement should be combatted, should be criminalized. This means, not only incitement to, direct incitement to commit terrorism, but indirect incitement to commit terrorism, which takes the shape and form of insulting one's religion and culture. By insulting one's religion and culture, one's own identity, this is a form of incitement to terrorism, and it should be criminalized. Just somebody asking somebody to make a terrorist crime, pushing somebody to react violently, is also a crime, and should be addressed.

We should also continue in our efforts to foster dialogue and understanding between culture, civilizations, and religions, and to consolidate the mutual respect of religions, of values. In this field, we believe that there is a role for all major religious institutions, that should be incorporated in the United Nations efforts, whether in the Muslim world, in the Christian faith, or in the Jewish faith, it doesn't matter. We have to make use of the centres of religions, directly, not through intermediaries.

Second, or third, I lost count, I beg your indulgence, the issue of human rights should not be ignored, and the issue of accusing the other of abusing human rights while not addressing what one does oneself, is an issue. We have to respect due process and human rights in all our efforts to combat terrorism, regardless of any kind of inhibition.

Then, there are other issues that should be addressed. We have seen some targeted sanctions. We believe that there are more areas that the Task Force should address. The terrorists' use

of the Internet, I would like to bring to the attention of the audience, that the Islamic Conference has today actually issued its initiative to combat terrorist use of the Internet, which incorporates practical measures asked by all Member States without infringing on human rights or privacy laws. We believe that the Task Force should commission the relevant United Nations bodies in helping build state capacities. For example the IMO should do something. Protocol is ready, funded, for States to help them save their maritime navigation and so forth. ICAO has a role to play with airports. The WHO has a huge role in terms of preparing the public as well as the Governments of all of us in handling, God forbid, a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction, and whether biological, chemical, well, you know the, CBRN basically. In this field, I believe that the IAEA has a role to play, and the Task Force should give it as much support as possible in making the universality of NPT. If we are feeling that terrorists may gain weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear, well, the source of this particular weapons or materials come either from the nuclear powers or the countries that have not yet joined the NPT. We believe that is an issue that should be addressed.

Finally, there is also the issue of the United Nations itself helping us all. Beware of indirect incitement, but by protecting us from the misuse of terms. We all here, even in some statements to United Nations organs, statements like "Islamic terrorism," "jihadists," "Muslim fundamentalists," and so forth. Just as Holocaust denial, ladies and gentlemen, is a criminal offence in a lot of States and is an unacceptable term in the United Nations, also such terms should be not only be refused, but combated and even criminalized. This is giving the attention, or the assumption, that there is a confrontation between the West and Islam. This is what's giving rise to a lot of calls for terrorism by criminal groups.

Finally, I believe that there is a role to play for the Task Force. I believe that the Task Force has done a lot, and should be doing more. However, I believe that the Task Force should be increased, expanded to allow for Member States that are active in the field of terrorism to participate, not only in implementing what the Task Force recommends, but in the decision-making of which priorities to adopt. We believe that the Task Force will gain immensely by the active participation of countries that have been fighting terrorism for quite some time. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not think that I have to remind you of who was warning about the danger of terrorism in the past. It was countries of the South, all Arab countries, Egypt included, were warning of terrorism for some time. Most of the terrorist individuals who are now arrested in European and Western States were sought by legal and security forces in Arab States for terrorism. At that time they were called, if I remember correctly, political opposition. Well, for their crimes, these alleged political opposition are in jail in Europe and the West, for terrorism. So, I'm not here to blame or to bring bad history, I'm just saying that there is a lesson to be learned from Muslim States and Arab States in fighting terrorism. Only recently, few days ago, the Arab Ministers of Justice established a working group to implement and to create a Centre for Combating Terrorism, a centre that is going to cooperate and benefit tremendously from UNODC and the regional office in Cairo, which we welcome of course.

The Task Force can gain a lot from the efforts of countries that are fighting the problem and have their experience—Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan—countries that have fought terrorism a lot. And others that I've not mentioned such as Morocco. This is something. But this not is an end in itself. I believe that eventually we should have a specialized agency to combat terrorism. Just like you have a United Nations agency that's involved in the fight

to save the environment, as we have the WHO that is doing a lot to help world health, ICAO for others, IAEA, terrorism is now a problem that is with us to stay, and I believe a specialized agency of that sort will help a lot.

If I can sum what I think is needed. Terrorism will not be fought by conventions, terrorism will not be fought by speeches. Terrorism will be fought by increasing international cooperation. And for this reason, only by strengthening such cooperation, by not making exclusive clubs, but broadening cooperation among all States, may we reach a viable solution that will help us in combating terrorism. I hope I haven't said too much or woken anybody from their siesta, and I thank you.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Ali Asghar Soltanieh

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Vienna

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for organizing this very important Symposium on Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The international community is at a decisive juncture of its counter-terrorism history, as it confronts new challenges and threats of a different nature against the innocent lives of people from different cultures and religions worldwide. The international debate on counter-terrorism strategy is expected to assume new dimensions and new directions as a result of the ongoing efforts which has now led to the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006. We are all gathered here in Vienna to combine our wisdom and mobilize our abilities for the implementation of this Strategy. I referred to the current state of affairs as a decisive juncture because the wrong diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses of the past and present and the erroneous analysis of what the international community should undertake to make a difference in future, will indeed take us back to a situation where we will be left again, with the same malaise we faced on counter-terrorism measures over the past years.

Clearly, the United Nations made considerable progress in the field of both standard-setting and implementation of counter-terrorism measures. Despite all these efforts and activities, unfortunately we have witnessed the escalation of terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, particularly in the regions where terrorism and ethnic and armed conflicts are linked together and have become the main threats of our time against international peace and security. These evil challenges along with narcotic drugs and arms smuggling has gone beyond the geographical borders and imperil the security and safety of all our citizens and nations and hampers the economic progress and the democratic processes in our societies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its part, has fought a costly war against heavily armed drug traffickers and terrorist groups costing the loss of thousands of lives of innocent civilians and law enforcement officials fell victim of the blind terrorist and smuggling operations in the last decades. We are determined to continue forcefully this fight against narcotic drugs which has its impact on cutting the financing of terrorism as well. Here, I would like to make a particular reference to some terrorist groups such as MKO, which has long been harboured by Saddam Hussein and fully supported by some Western countries and has carried out terrorist operations in and outside Iran. This kind of double standards approach is in contravention of the obligations of Member States under the United Nations resolutions.

The fight against terrorism, requires a comprehensive approach. The genuine fight against terrorism relies very much on how we identify the root causes of terrorism. Foreign occupation, exclusion, double standards, selectivity and certain hegemonic and expansionist economic

and political policies create conditions conducive to the spread of violent acts and terrorism. State terrorism is a form of terrorism which by itself put global and common measures in combating terrorism in jeopardy. Massive bombardment of a populated area, massacring innocent people including children under the pretext of combating terrorism has to be stopped by international community.

The legitimate struggle for the liberation of nations under foreign occupation could not be overlooked under the cloak of fighting terrorism, otherwise this would add to the risk of escalation of violent acts. We should continue our efforts towards achieving an internationally agreed definition of terrorism which shall be differentiated from the legitimate struggle and resistance of peoples under foreign occupation.

The rather failed experience of certain powerful States in their superficial, disproportionate, unreasonable and selective approaches in dealing with these challenges and threats has not helped to curtail this threat; rather it has added new dimensions to violence. Worse than that, some attempts are made to relate terrorism to a particular religion or culture. This is a wrong approach in the fight against terrorism and the worst form of injustice towards the divine religions and their teachings. We need to correct these misperceptions about religions. Furthermore, incitement of discord among religions and hatred against people of a different creed, race or nation is dangerous and inadmissible. We need to strengthen mutual respect among peoples of different cultures, traditions and religions, placing particular emphasis on Western-Muslim dialogue and relationship. Interfaith, inter-religion and intercultural dialogue can help find positive responses to the challenges posed by terrorism.

The best way to ensure that we are moving in the right direction is to bring back all our efforts in the fight against terrorism within the United Nations system. The fight against terrorism requires the serious will and participation of all nations under the leadership and auspices of the United Nations and in conformity with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Combating terrorism must also be consistent with the rule of law, respect for human rights and humanitarian law. Extraordinary rendition, setting up secret prisons, long-term incommunicado and arbitrary detention and inhumane torturing of alleged terrorist elements goes against the very principles of human rights and humanitarian law that we should all respect and adhere to them. These violations not only do not mitigate terrorism, but provoke more violence and terrorist acts. Furthermore, we should not allow unilateral actions, double standards or arbitrary judgment based on political grounds when interpreting acts and manifestations of terrorism. The experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has shown that eradication of extremism and terrorism can not be achieved through unilateral use of military force.

With regard to standard setting on terrorism prevention, I would like to emphasize that this task should only be delegated to the General Assembly and its related bodies. Expressing concern about the instrumental use of the Security Council for political motivation, this Organ should avoid encroaching on the tasks and duties of the General Assembly.

With the continuation of dialogue and encouraging cooperation among members of the international community, we can prepare the ground for common understanding on the tools at our hands and the ways and means of dealing with the challenges we face.

Statement

By H.E. Ms. Norma Goicochea Estenoz

*Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Spanish)*

Cuba supports all efforts aimed at ensuring adequate implementation of and follow-up to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 (resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006).

This Symposium therefore presents an opportunity to continue strengthening international cooperation in implementing the Strategy and in addressing related outstanding issues.

The section on “Measures to prevent and combat terrorism”, a topic that we are discussing in this forum, is the most extensive of the four sections that together form the plan of action set out under the Strategy.

We can report that Cuba is fully implementing all the agreed measures to combat and prevent terrorism identified in the Strategy.

The specific measures implemented by Cuba are based on our specialized knowledge in the area of combating terrorism, given that Cuba has been the victim of terrorist acts for more than 45 years, and has suffered irreparable losses with 3,478 Cuban citizens killed and 2,099 injured, as well as extensive material damage.

Cuba’s position on the subject of international terrorism is based on an ethical principle: the unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever, and for whatever reason they may be committed, and the categorical condemnation of any act or action, irrespective of who promotes it or carries it out, aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or concealing any terrorist act, method or practice. Consequently, Cuba’s legal system enables it to prevent, prosecute and suppress terrorism and to punish anyone who commits or is associated with terrorist acts.

We will be distributing to all participants a document summarizing the latest concrete measures taken by the Government of Cuba in that regard.

Cuba believes that the United Nations has a fundamental role to play in preventing and combating international terrorism. The United Nations and, in particular, the General Assembly, as the Organization’s most democratic and representative body, provide the appropriate framework for the formulation and development of a comprehensive strategy, without double standards, for genuine international cooperation in the fight against international terrorism.

We therefore welcome the agreement to conduct a biennial review, within the framework of the General Assembly, of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted last year.

In that regard, we call upon all States to demonstrate their commitment and political will to participate actively in negotiations for the preparation, within the framework of the General Assembly, of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that will help to strengthen the existing legal framework for combating that phenomenon.

Cuba also supports the convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a high-level international conference on terrorism to formulate an organized and unified response by the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We consider that the conference convened should agree on a clear and precise definition of the phenomenon that does not exclude acts of terrorism committed by States.

We would like to inform all participants that Cuba will be hosting a ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the subject of terrorism during the second half of 2008. We are confident that this meeting will help, *inter alia*, to promote more effective international cooperation in combating that scourge.

No strategy against terrorism can be effective unless it is based on international cooperation and coordination.

Cuba rejects the unilateral practice of some States, contrary to the spirit of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to arrogate the right to issue "certifications" and "lists" of countries that purportedly support international terrorism. Cuba considers this to be a spurious exercise that is politically motivated and fundamentally corrupt.

Instead of such unacceptable practices, what is needed is truly effective international cooperation that will make it possible to prevent and combat all acts of terrorism, eliminate its causes and ensure the arrest, prosecution or extradition of the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorist acts and actions and those who support or finance them.

Cuba has consistently maintained, will continue to maintain and is ready to increase its cooperation with all countries with a view to developing a cooperation mechanism, with the United Nations at its centre or based on bilateral agreements, to facilitate concerted action to eradicate terrorism. Our delegation will be distributing an additional document containing summary information on some of the areas in which Cuba is ready to afford cooperation to other interested countries in preventing and combating terrorism.

Some of the measures included in the Strategy should be applied to the Security Council. In all frankness, we have to acknowledge that that body is failing to meet its responsibilities.

On numerous occasions, Cuba has submitted to the Security Council valuable and detailed information concerning terrorist activities being carried out against Cuba from the territory of the United States of America. However, to date, neither the Counter-Terrorism Committee nor the Security Council has taken any action even so much as to evaluate the information submitted, nor has an investigation been launched into the failure of the United States of America to comply with its obligations under a number of Security Council resolutions.

One of the cases which Cuba has systemically reported to the Security Council is that of Luis Posada Carriles, the notorious international terrorist recently released in the United States of America.

Cuba denounces the complicity and absolute responsibility of the United States Government in the release of Posada Carriles, perpetrator of countless acts of terrorism against Cuba and other countries, including the mid-flight bombing of a civilian airliner that killed 73 people, as well as other outrages against the nations of Latin America.

It is impossible to eradicate terrorism if some terrorist acts are condemned whilst others are deliberately ignored, condoned or justified, or if the issue is simply manipulated to promote narrow political interests.

The release of this international terrorist is a flagrant violation of the resolutions on the fight against terrorism adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and is totally contrary to the spirit and letter of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Cuban delegation will be distributing a copy of the declaration issued by the Government of Cuba concerning the release of the terrorist Posada Carriles, which it believes will be of interest to all participants.

Instead of preventing and suppressing terrorism against Cuba, the United States authorities are illegally detaining Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González in high-security prisons in the United States of America. These five young Cuban men were only seeking, with great altruism and courage, to obtain information on terrorist groups in Miami in order to prevent violent acts by those groups and to save the lives of Cuban and North American citizens.

I would like to conclude by saying that now more than ever before it is clear that neither terrorism nor any of the other serious problems that threaten the very survival of humanity can be resolved by the use of force, because violence only generates more violence, and intolerance more intolerance; and when extreme measures are used to instil fear, all that does is create hatred, regardless of what the ultimate purpose of such actions may be.

Cuba will continue in its determined efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and reiterates its readiness to contribute to the full implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo

*Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Vienna
on behalf of the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations Counter-Terrorism Group*

May I first take this opportunity to commend the initiative to organize the Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I wish that this Symposium would enhance the synergy among Member States as well as relevant United Nations agencies in further implementing the Strategy and, in turn, enhance the effectiveness of global efforts in countering terrorism.

In this session, I would like to share with you some points relating to the significance of the Strategy to the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN), and the active role that the Organization has played on the implementation of the Strategy, particularly through the adoption of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while largely reflects the commitment of United Nations Member States, encourages regional and subregional organizations to create and strengthen counter-terrorism mechanisms and centres. In fact, some provisions can only be effective if cooperation among neighbouring States is in place. Therefore, the role of regional and subregional organizations is essential in the implementation of the Strategy.

The general nature of the Strategy's provisions allows regions and subregions a degree of latitude as they seek to develop implementation plan and programme in line with the global effort to curb terrorism.

ASEAN has a comparative advantage that facilitates the implementation of various provisions of the Strategy by its member States. The Organization offers an ideal forum for building trust and political will, sharing information, developing best practices and approaches that take into account cultural and other contextual issues, and undertaking region-specific initiatives or other actions that complement and build upon global counter-terrorism objectives.

To enhance ASEAN cooperation on counter-terrorism, the leaders of ASEAN recently signed the region's first legally-binding convention on counter-terrorism at its twelfth Summit in Cebu, Philippines.

This Convention can serve as an effective framework for regional effort in implementing the Strategy. The fact that the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism includes some language from the Strategy, including in areas related to condition conducive to the spread of terrorism and respect for human rights, reflects how ASEAN links global norms with its regional effort.

In line with the Strategy, the Convention provides a solid legal framework for ASEAN Countries to collaborate in countering the threat of terrorism in a comprehensive manner. The Convention criminalizes all offences within the scope of and as defined by any

of the 13 international treaties. It covers preventive measures, law enforcement, and rehabilitative programmes.

The Convention specifically provides an effective tool for law enforcement agencies and other relevant authorities in the ASEAN member countries to deepen cooperation and enhance synergy in combating terrorism, including in curbing transboundary movements of weapons, individuals, funds and materials related to terrorist operations.

Moreover, it also contains provisions on mechanism for strengthening capacity-building and consultation among officials, analysts and field operators, utilizing the regional training centres already existing in ASEAN member countries.

Of the regional characteristic and additional value of the Convention, which is in line with the Strategy, it contains obligations for ASEAN member countries to cooperate to address the root causes of terrorism and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. This provision is also supported by a particular area of cooperation to promote interfaith and intrafaith dialogue, education and public awareness of the threat of terrorism.

Another characteristic of the Convention, that I should mention, is the inclusion of the sharing of best practices on rehabilitative programmes. Cooperation in this area will allow State Parties to the Convention to carry out social integration programme with a view to preventing the perpetration of terrorist acts. This programme may also enhance the understanding of law enforcement agencies on the network of the existing terrorist cells and the patterns of new recruitment of terrorists.

With a view to expediting the entry into force of the Convention, ASEAN is currently developing collaborative activities with the UNODC to organize a workshop and training for law enforcement officials. This effort will support the national efforts by respective member countries to ratify the Convention.

I would be remiss if I do not mention another legally binding instrument concluded by ASEAN member countries that is also very relevant to the regional efforts in combating terrorism. In 2004, ASEAN member countries signed Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. This instrument provides a useful tool to help ASEAN in promoting regional cooperation in the area of legal cooperation and, therefore, it is instrumental for the effective implementation of the Strategy.

In addition to the Convention and other intra-ASEAN efforts, ASEAN countries also signed Joint Declarations on Counter-Terrorism with all of its Dialogue Partners. The declarations serve as the basis for developing and promoting cooperation between ASEAN and its partners. As their implementation, we are developing collaborative activities ranging from improving capacities and technical cooperation to combat terrorism.

Before I conclude, I would like to underline that the adoption of the Convention is only the beginning of a long journey to further and intensify regional cooperation in this area. I hope that it can be used as an example for other regions and subregions in supporting the implementation of the Strategy to ensure global peace and security.

Statement

By Ms. Michèle Coninsx

*Advocate-General
Belgian Representative of EUROJUST
Chair of the Terrorism Team*

What is Eurojust?

Eurojust is a European Union body established in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of the competent authorities within member States when they are dealing with the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border organized crime and terrorism.

What is Eurojust doing?

Eurojust stimulates and improves the coordination of investigations and prosecutions between competent authorities in the member States. Eurojust improves cooperation between the competent authorities of the member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests. Eurojust supports the competent authorities of the member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective when dealing with cross-border crime.

What is Eurojust's role?

Eurojust is the first permanent network of judicial authorities to be established anywhere in the world. Eurojust hosts meetings, with translation facilities, between investigators and prosecutors from different States dealing with individual cases and at a strategic level and specific types of criminality. Eurojust fulfils a unique role as a new permanent body in the European legal area. Its mission is to enhance the development of Europe-wide cooperation on criminal justice cases.

Who is who in Eurojust?

The College of Eurojust is now composed of 27 national members, one nominated by each EU member State. The national members are senior, experienced prosecutors or judges; some national members are supported by deputies and assistants.

Updated scoreboard: description of the terrorism team's objectives and tasks

The main objective of the terrorism team is to establish a centre of expertise on terrorism. The terrorism team has designed a “terrorism scoreboard”, addressing eight separate objectives/ issues. Each of these has a clear job description, a well-defined responsibility, a deadline, and requirements for follow-up and debriefing to the college.

The eight objectives are:

- Judicial cooperation: organization of all strategic coordination meetings on terrorism. Support whenever necessary in the context of operational and tactical meetings on terrorism.
- Improvement of interaction between counterparts dealing with counter-terrorism issues: continue regular contacts with—at EU level—national correspondents terrorism, magistrates specialized in terrorism or in charge of important terrorist cases, Europol, the European Border Agency, SitCen, the C.P.T.F. Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism Liaison Officers and Intelligence Services. Furthermore continue regular contacts with other European and international organizations involved in the fight against terrorism, such as the Council of Europe, the OSCE, UNODC and Interpol.
- Improvement of interaction with third States dealing with counter-terrorism issues:^{*} operational meetings are/will be held with Algeria, Morocco, Switzerland, and the United States. Development of contact points and the gathering of information on legislation of third countries are important.
- Judicial database on terrorism:^{*} Currently all terrorism judgments pronounced since 2005 in the EU member States are being listed. Our analysts will also make an analysis of these lists.
- Legal database on terrorism:^{*} database giving an updated overview of the available national, European and international legal documents/instruments related to terrorism.
- Cyberterrorism: establishing know-how in the field and detecting legal blockages, problems of jurisdiction, etc.
- Financing of terrorism: An overview has been established at Eurojust of existing EU and United Nations instruments in this field and cases relating to terrorist financing where Eurojust has been involved. Based on this overview, the Terrorism Team will assess Eurojust's added value in this field, search for possible future actions and for improvement of countermeasures.
- NBC-terrorism: information on legislation is gathered and TT will participate in conferences or meetings on the topic.

^{*}The emphasis will be on objectives three, four and five.

Statement

By Sir David Veness

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security
Representative of DSS in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

Framework

The alarming realities of the developing trend of international terrorism have exposed serious vulnerabilities in the protection of civilian populations, heightened when civilians gather in large numbers in places of public resort. There is a growth in the brutal practice of terrorist attacks in public places, in train stations, in crowded market places and at religious venues causing death and injury to the citizens of Member States when they are at home or abroad. Recognizing that no single Member State has the answer to all these challenges and that some Member States may value information and assistance, the strategy of identifying and sharing best practices has been devised within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) working group on Protection Vulnerable Targets.

Focus

The potential span of vulnerable targets is wide. Following a scoping assessment, the Working Group fully recognizes that many Member States have sophisticated arrangements in place to address key locations or critical infrastructure. Furthermore, there is considerable thematic activity in place concerning aviation and maritime targets. This latter activity embraces both national and international endeavours. Thus the Working Group seeks to address those categories of vulnerable targets which have received comparatively less attention and where the opportunity to add value as a result of the work of the group will be optimized. Given the scale of this subject, the Working Group is striving to avoid any duplication or overlap with current national and international good practice.

Activities

The working group on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets is actively engaged in a “three-pronged” approach to address various issues within the above framework as follows:

- Establishing a “referral centre” for the exchange of operational information and law enforcement best practice using the framework and capacity of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO);
- Shaping an action-oriented analysis of prevention strategies and techniques, including improved cooperation between the public and private sectors, utilizing the capacity and relevant experience of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI);
- Addressing the specific vulnerability of civilians and international targets in conflict zones through the evaluation and research devoted to all past and present United Nations operations, humanitarian and peacekeeping, as well as complex emergencies, including threats to internally displaced people and refugees coordinated by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Statement

By Mr. Richard Barrett

Coordinator, Representative of 1267 Monitoring Team in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

In section II, Paragraph 12 of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States pledge:

To work with the United Nations with due regard to confidentiality, respecting human rights and in compliance with other obligations under international law, to explore ways and means to: coordinate efforts at the international and regional levels to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on the Internet; use the Internet as a tool for countering the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that States may require assistance in this regard.

As a result, the CTITF has set up a Working Group that proposes to examine the ways in which the Internet is used for terrorist purposes; including the way in which it is used for the purposes of radicalization and recruitment; identify and bring together MS, IROs, industry and other stakeholders and partners to discuss this use of the Internet; and, identify possible ways to combat this use by examining existing legislation and regulation in this and comparable fields and assessing the technical issues involved, while taking full account of human rights concerns such as the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression.

The Working Group will need to decide early on where the United Nations system can add value to a debate that is already well underway, but given the global nature of the Internet, and the lack of immediately obvious solutions to a highly complex issue, it is clear that no State or group of States can deal with this issue on its own. The Working Group believes that the United Nations may have a special convening power when trying to bring together the diverse group of officials, lawyers, academics, users and private sector players necessary to develop effective and realistic proposals for international cooperation in this field.

Working Group configuration

Lead entities: EOSG and the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee.

Supporting entities: ITU, DPI, OHCHR, Interpol, DPKO, CTED, DSS, UNICRI, UNESCO, UNODC, DESA, the Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism and the Internet Governance Forum Secretariat.

Scope of work

The Working Group will first aim to make an inventory of initiatives already in hand nationally, regionally and internationally, in the public, private and academic sectors, and the resources available to pursue them. It will also aim to draw up a list of Member States and other primary stakeholders that are most interested in this issue. The Working Group invites participation from all Member States and looks forward to hearing from them, especially from those that have already conducted studies or taken practical steps in this area.

Looking more closely at the tasks so far identified, the Working Group will examine the ways in which the Internet is used for terrorist purposes in particular in terms of radicalization, recruitment; planning, financing and executing terrorist attacks. It will need to do this in close conjunction with experts from Member States, as well as with help from academics and other researchers.

It hopes to build up its inventory of current initiatives to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes both through its own research and through contact with individual Member States and international and regional organizations.

In collecting information on legal precedents and technical issues, it will hope to identify suitable partners in academia and the private sector, as well as among Member States.

When it comes to the stage of making proposals, the Working Group will need to arrange meetings of groups of government and other experts to review the material collected and consider possible new initiatives. This will of course be the critical stage of the work and it will be important that proposals are not developed which have little chance of broad international acceptance or are technically or otherwise unfeasible. It will be essential to draw on the experience of States and to ensure that all ideas take full account of human rights concerns.

At this stage, the Working Group will also explore ways to use the Internet proactively to counter the spread of terrorism. The Working Group, in conjunction with Member States, and the Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that lead to Terrorism, will explore initiatives designed to offer regionally and internationally, messages that undermine the narrative of those who seek to persuade others to terrorist violence.

If Member States agree to support these proposals, and subject to the availability of the necessary resources, the Working Group will aim by November 2007, to compile an initial report detailing the outcome of its mapping exercise. This should provide an overview of the ways the Internet is used by terrorists, the areas of most pressing concern, and a catalogue of existing technical and legal measures to deal with them deployed or under consideration by Member States.

This report would then act as a basis for discussion by groups of government experts, experts from regional and international organizations, researchers, private sector partners, civil society and others to identify proposals for further international action.

A further report could then go to all Member States for their consideration before September 2008. But all this depends on the endorsement and support of Member States.

Statement

By Mr. Ulrich Kersten

*Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations
Representative of INTERPOL to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

Introduction

The implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy requires above all an integrated and comprehensive approach. Looking at the Strategy's Plan of Action, many of the measures have direct relation to the work of law enforcement, which makes it necessary to involve the police at national, regional and international level. Therefore, Interpol, as the world's largest international police organization, has an important role to play in this process.

The mandate and the primary task of Interpol is to assist the police and law enforcement agencies in its 186 member countries in their efforts to prevent crime and conduct criminal investigations as efficiently and effectively as possible. In addition, Interpol also aims at supporting and assisting all other organizations, authorities and services whose mission relates to the prevention or combating of crime.

Interpol's activities in the area of counter-terrorism are one of the Organization's major priorities.

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

The United Nations General Assembly mandated the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to assist in the implementation of the Strategy. The Task Force provides an excellent opportunity to synergize the activities of the different stakeholders active in this area and avoid duplication of efforts.

Interpol, as a member of CTITF, is committed to supporting the implementation process and is actively engaged in a variety of Working Groups of the Task Force. In this way, Interpol brings in its law enforcement expertise, for example:

Addressing radicalization and recruitment to terrorism

Factors leading to violent radicalization and recruitment to terrorism as well as appropriate counter measures were discussed during a conference organized by Interpol in April of this year. Interpol will make the outcome and follow-up of this international gathering available to the corresponding CTITF Working Group.

Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

The Internet is increasingly used to facilitate terrorist activities by permitting the exchange of information on, for example, how to prepare explosives/bombs, but also with regard to recruitment and radicalization. There are already some efforts at national

and regional level to counter this phenomenon, but in order to develop a comprehensive approach there is a need for closer cooperation at international level. Therefore, the efforts of the WG in this area are of particular importance.

Countering the financing of terrorism

Another issue on the agenda of the CTITF is Countering the Financing of Terrorism. With a view to bringing forth a comprehensive picture of the current situation and to increase the effectiveness of existing systems, the WG decided to host a series of round table discussions with experts from various relevant areas such as banks, Financial Intelligence Units (FIU), intelligence as well as law enforcement. Following the Symposium, Interpol together with UNODC, will organize the round table with law enforcement experts.

Protecting vulnerable targets

The increasing vulnerability of targets, including venues for major events, mass transportation systems, major commercial centres, as well as natural resource supplies, necessitates specific preparedness in order to effectively protect these targets. There is a need to establish best practices and create a mechanism to share experience in this area. Interpol is prepared to use its information and communication tools to facilitate this process.

Preventing and responding to WMD

There is evidence that terrorist organizations have a heightened interest in the use of Weapons/Materials of Mass Destruction (WMD) to commit terrorist attacks. Within the Working Group on “Preventing and Responding to WMD”, Interpol can bring its expertise in the area of bioterrorism. For example, Interpol has published an “Incidence Preparedness and Response Guide”, a comprehensive, step-by-step manual for law enforcement in preparing for and dealing with bioterrorism incidence which has also been provided to the Working Group.

Exchange of information

The Plan of Action also stresses the necessity of strengthening coordination and cooperation among States in exchanging timely and accurate information concerning the prevention and combating of terrorism. Interpol’s communication and information tools provide this kind of service.

I-24/7

Interpol provides a secure global communications system for its member countries called “I-24/7” which allows for the transmission of relevant information and criminal intelligence about suspected individuals, wanted persons and crimes in a secure manner and within real-time.

Interpol’s databases

Once police can communicate across borders, they need access to information which can assist investigations or help prevent crime. Interpol has therefore developed and maintains

a range of databases covering key data such as names of individuals and wanted persons, fingerprints, photographs, DNA profiles, stolen or lost travel documents, stolen vehicles and illicit weapons related to criminal cases.

Furthermore, Interpol has created a counter-terrorism task force (Fusion Task Force) to gather and analyze information which focuses on regional challenges and needs through a network of specialized contact officers, thus facilitating the exchange of information in a timely manner.

The more information which is shared the more valuable Interpol's tools will be to Member Countries. It is, therefore, essential that law enforcement worldwide not only use the information and communication tools made available by Interpol but also that they contribute vital information relevant to criminal activity, such as reporting stolen and lost travel documents, stolen vehicles, etc.

Border security

Another area of importance identified in the Plan of Action is the need for enhanced border security. Prevention of terrorist movement and effective border security are only possible if law enforcement and border control authorities have access to specific information such as the information stored in Interpol's databases (especially wanted persons and stolen/lost travel documents).

To strengthen border security, Interpol strongly believes that providing police data to the "officers in the field", especially at border control points is of crucial importance. Therefore, Interpol is committed to assisting Member Countries in establishing such communication structures.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the most efficient way to assist member countries with the implementation of the Strategy's Plan of Action is to provide them with the necessary information and know-how. It is likewise important to continue the development of member countries' counter-terrorism capabilities through the delivery of technical assistance, including training, best practice, technical equipment, analytical services, etc. (capacity-building).

Statement

By Mr. Krzysztof Paturej

*Director, Office of Special Projects
Representative of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

The Chemical Weapons Convention does not specifically deal with the fight against terrorism and its provisions do not refer to terrorism. Nevertheless, the Member States of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) have confirmed that the Organization can not stay away from international efforts aimed at fighting terrorism.

The OPCW Executive Council in its consensus decision (7 December 2001) recognized that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself a contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts.

The Council identified five areas of activity in which the Organization makes a contribution to that effort:

- Promotion of universal adherence to the Convention;
- Full implementation of the legislative measures required by the CWC;
- Full implementation of the provisions of articles IV and V related to the destruction of chemical weapons;
- Full implementation of the provisions of article VI related to activities not prohibited by the Convention;
- Ability of the OPCW to respond to the assistance and protection provisions under article X.

At the same time the Council created a Working Group against Terrorism where Member States discuss different aspects of participation in anti-terrorist efforts. The Group is an important body of consultations with the international partners who are invited regularly to attend its meetings.

The OPCW has established and maintained channels of communication with a number of regional, subregional, and international organizations and agencies in the field of counter-terrorism, including the United Nations, OSCE, Interpol. The aim of these contacts has been to identify ways in which these organizations can assist one another, pursuant to relevant mandates, by exchanging information, knowledge, and expertise as needed, and by coordinating programme activities that relate to action against terrorism. These contacts are maintained in accordance with the mandate by the OPCW Policy Making Organs and OPCW confidentiality policy.

The role of the OPCW has been recognized in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which “encourages the International Atomic Energy Agency and the OPCW to continue their efforts, within their respective mandates, to help States to build capacity to prevent

terrorists from accessing nuclear, chemical, or radiological materials, to ensure security at related facilities, and to respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials.

The issue of protection of chemical plant-sites and transportation of chemicals receives more and more attention. As the attacks with chlorine gas in Iraq have shown, it is not inconceivable that terrorists could focus not just on developing and using prohibited chemicals, but on attacking chemical facilities and using everyday chemical products. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons supports growing interactions between Member States in the sphere of physical protection of chemical industrial facilities.

The OPCW contribution in the fight against terrorism has been confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction” (A/RES/61/68, 3 January 2007). This resolution, introduced every year by Poland, States in operative paragraph 3 that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection against chemical weapons (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its form and manifestations.

The Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons remains an active member of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force where it supports initiatives against weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

In conclusion, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons participation in the global fight against terrorism is based on the clear mandate by the OPCW Policy Making Organs. There is a consensus among Member States that the OPCW is not anti-terrorist agency, since Chemical Weapons Convention does not specifically deals with terrorism. At the same time there is a consensus at the OPCW that by an effective implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, maintaining and developing potential to assist Member States to meet the threat or use of chemical weapons, and by developing contacts with the international organizations, the OPCW actively supports anti-terrorist efforts by the international community.

Statement

By Mr. Hartmut Hesse

Senior Deputy Director

*Representative of the International Maritime Organization in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

Since the 1980s the International Maritime Organization (IMO) developed international treaties, guidelines and recommendations on measures to prevent unlawful acts against passengers and crew on board ships. Following the 11 September events, it introduced, Special measures to enhance maritime security (SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)) which became mandatory on 1 July 2004, apply to ships engaged on international voyages and port facilities serving them, and are primarily designed to counter acts of terrorism and enable ships and port facilities to cooperate in detecting and deter acts threatening security in the maritime transport sector.

The measures aim at preventing security incidents and address: (a) the ship as a target; (b) the use of a ship as a weapon; and (c) the use of a ship for transporting either persons or their means for causing a security incident or their means for such an incident. They presently apply to 158 States, constituting just over 99 per cent of the world's merchant fleet.

The ISPS Code provides a standardized, consistent framework for evaluating security risks, enabling Contracting Governments to offset changes in security threats with changes in the vulnerability of ships and port facilities. As a result it provides a universal standard for preventing and combating terrorist acts in international shipping.

To support these requirements, IMO has developed, and continues to do so, extensive guidelines on the interpretation and application of these provisions.

IMO recently also adopted, a regulatory framework on Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) to enhance the security of States. The corresponding requirements will enter into force on 1 January 2008. Work continues on practical aspects of establishing the global LRIT system.

In building maritime security capacity in developing regions, IMO has launched a Global Programme on Maritime Security. To date it has delivered 41 country advisory missions and a total of 27 regional and 55 national seminars, workshops or courses, training approximately 4,390 people on several aspects of the maritime security. Further regional and national events are planned—also and preferably in cooperation with other United Nations entities, to support the implementation and enforcement of the maritime security regime and to promote regional cooperation and coordination.

Information collated suggests a high level of implementation of the provisions [of SOLAS chapter XI-2 and of the ISPS Code]. However, the level of stringency in implementing, adhering and enforcing them seems to be “uneven” and has been “relaxed” in some cases. Seemingly not all Contracting Governments are giving full effect to all the provisions.

Compliance-wise, more difficulties are currently encountered with port facilities than with ships. Contracting Governments are encouraged to take appropriate action on this and IMO is happy to assist therein.

Strengthening the implementation and enforcement of the maritime security provisions is therefore, IMO's current priority.

In its work on keeping shipping lanes of strategic importance safe and open to international maritime traffic and thereby ensuring the uninterrupted flow there-through, IMO concentrated on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection were convened by IMO in consultation with three littoral States in Indonesia and Malaysia in 2005 and 2006 respectively. The latter identified a number of projects aimed at enhancing safety and environmental protection in the Straits. The littoral States also presented their ideas on a standing mechanism of cooperation between them, user States and other stakeholders. The final meeting of this cycle will be held in Singapore in September 2007 and is expected to approve such a mechanism.

IMO remains committed to assist Member Governments in their implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its field of expertise and supports the work of the CTITF in this respect.

Statement

By Ms. Marla Weinstein

Legal Adviser

*Representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

Thank you for inviting the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to participate in this Symposium and to make a brief presentation on our role in advancing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

International civil aviation has been, and may continue to be, one of the primary targets of terrorism. Aviation security has been the highest priority of ICAO since the 1960s. ICAO has taken initiatives to develop the first group of international conventions against terrorism. In 1970, the Hague Convention, concluded under the auspices of ICAO, incorporated for the first time in a United Nations Convention the *aut dedere, aut judicare* principle, i.e., the obligation for States to either extradite or prosecute. Five aviation security conventions and protocol adopted under the auspices of ICAO form a part of the thirteen worldwide counter-terrorism treaties within the United Nations system. Currently, ICAO is preparing for a meeting in July of a Special Subcommittee of the Legal Committee to prepare one or more draft instruments to address new and emerging threats to civil aviation. For instance, one of the purposes of this exercise is to ensure that directors and organizers of attacks such as those of 11 September are explicitly declared internationally punishable under these Conventions. In addition, ICAO actively participates in the work relating to a number of the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, particularly on issues relating to Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS).

ICAO contributes to the prevention of terrorism acts against civil aviation by adopting Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for its member States to implement with regard to aviation security, so as to assure the protection and safety of passengers, crew, ground personnel, the general public, aircraft and facilities of airports serving civil aviation. These SARPs are contained primarily in annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). By virtue of the Chicago Convention, member States are bound by the Standards unless they file a notification of difference. In particular, chapter 4 of annex 17 covers "preventive security measures" for member States to establish and implement so as to prevent weapons, explosives or any other dangerous devices, articles or substances, which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference, from being introduced on board an aircraft engaged in civil aviation. Such measures would be incorporated in a member State's aviation security programmes, at the regulatory, airport, and airline levels and possibly at other levels as determined by the State. Member States are responsible for the implementation of security-related standards, and are strongly encouraged to implement the recommended practices, as contained within annex 17, as well as security-related SARPs in other annexes.

To promote a better implementation of annex 17 by member States, ICAO launched in June 2002 the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP). The programme provides for

the conduct of universal, mandatory and regular audits of the aviation security systems in all ICAO member States. The objective of the USAP is to promote global aviation security through the auditing of member States on a regular basis to assist them in their efforts to fulfil their aviation security responsibilities. The audits identify deficiencies in each member State's aviation security system, and provide recommendations for their mitigation or resolution. ICAO's Coordinated Assistance and Development (CAD) section provides support in resolving the deficiencies in some member States. As at 14 May 2007, 161 member States have benefited from an initial audit.

Annex 9 to the Chicago Convention—Facilitation, also has a fundamental bearing on security issues, including control procedures at national borders and measures pertaining to travel documents. ICAO publishes specifications with regard to machine readable travel documents (MRTDs), which currently exist as Machine Readable Passports (MRP), Machine Readable Visas (MRVs) and Machine Readable Official Travel Documents (TDs). The global inter-operability of MRTDs facilitates inspection of international travellers at borders and generally enhances security.

The introduction of e-Passports is a very important step in improving aviation and border security, while at the same time offering benefits in enhanced facilitation of passenger processing. The ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) is the main global distribution point for public signing key certificates from all issuers of e-Passports who are required to validate and authenticate such documents. Inspectors of e-Passports throughout the world will be able to access the PKD and use the public signing keys to validate e-Passports in confidence.

With respect to capacity-building as part of the global counter-terrorism effort, ICAO's Coordinated Assistance and Development (CAD) Section provides technical assistance in aviation security. In particular, the Section is responsible for the development of all Aviation Security Training Packages (ASTPs) that are provided to members of the Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC) network, currently a network of 16 designated ASTCs around the world. The CAD Section is responsible for effective and efficient implementation of the coordinated assistance and development strategy, and for promoting transparency in the implementation of the Aviation Security Plan of Action.

Statement

By Mr. Nadim Kyriakos-Saad

Senior Counsel

Representative of the International Monetary Fund

First, I would like to thank the Austrian authorities for hosting us and the UNODC for inviting me to this Symposium.

Today, I would like to say a few words about the work of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the area of combating the financing of terrorism before going briefly over the efforts of the working group on terrorist financing that has been formed by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Over the last years, the IMF, from its perspective as an economic institution, has become increasingly concerned about possibly systemic consequences of money-laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) on its members' economies and the international financial system.

The Fund's efforts are driven by our concern to safeguard the integrity of the international financial system and are an important component of our mission to "foster orderly underlying economic and financial conditions" across our membership.

The IMF's AML/CFT activities can be divided in three elements:

- Assessments of compliance with the standard to identify strengths and weaknesses;
- Technical assistance to help address the weaknesses;
- AAML/CFT policy and research development.

Assessments

IMF assessment work conducted under the umbrella of the Fund's and the Bank's Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) and the Fund's Offshore Financial Sector Programme. Collaborative effort with the World Bank, FAFT and the FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs).

The assessments are based on:

- A common standard, the FATF 40+9
- A common methodology
- A common training programme for assessors

The fund may also address the AML/CFT as part of its annual article IV consultation missions.

Technical assistance

Technical assistance (TA) is provided in several areas to strengthen our members' AML/CFT framework:

- Drafting of AML/CFT laws and regulations that meet the international standard
- Implementation of laws, regulations, policies and procedures by financial sector supervisors and other relevant agencies
- Training and capacity-building of all relevant agencies.

More specifically, TA focuses particularly on:

- Diagnostics
- National AML/CFT strategies, coordination and policy
- Risk assessment
- Awareness raising
- Legislation
- Regulations and guidelines
- FIUs
- Supervisory structures and tools
- Criminal justice
- International cooperation
- Effectiveness and efficiency of the AML/CFT framework

Policy and research

Over the last six years, the IMF has been active researching and analyzing international practices in implementing AML/CFT regimes as a basis for providing policy advice and TA:

- A reference guide on AML/CFT issues;
- Handbooks on FIUs and on legislative drafting for CFT;
- Works on hawala and remittance systems; and
- Papers on other topics including the impact of terrorism on financial markets and integrating AML/CFT protections into general work on financial market integrity and stability.

Several other projects underway: handbook on confiscation of assets derived from crime; development of tools for risk-based approach; study of underground criminal economy; development of guidelines for financial institutions.

Observations resulting from assessments

The new standard has significantly raised the bar—overall level of compliance went down. The level of compliance varies across greatly from one country to the other with significant differences depending on a country's level of income. The level of compliance is significantly

lower with respect to some of the Recommendations relating to TF as well as with regard to measures introduced in 2003 (and subsequently) with regard to ML.

The way forward

Most countries are still facing challenges implementing the FATF Recs to varying degrees. There is great need for the assistance provided by international institutions such as the IMF, WB, UNODC, and Interpol in helping jurisdictions raise their protections against ML and TF.

The Fund remains committed to monitor its members countries' AML/CFT framework and help address the weaknesses. It will also continue to participate in the development of the necessary tools to help countries implement the standard, such as:

The assessments of money-laundering and terrorist financing risk and vulnerabilities, and assistance to developing countries

Developing countries face different challenges and different risks. It is crucial for them to prioritize the implementation of AML/CFT measures, and develop sequences action plans for the development and implementation of AML/CFT systems.

Activities of the CTITF Working Group on terrorist financing

In its efforts to assist Member States, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has formed a working group on tackling the financing of terrorism, which is examining the various components of counter-terrorism financing strategies to make proposals to increase the effectiveness of the implementation by Member States of international standards, including the FATF Special Recommendations.

The work of the working group (WG) on TF does not aim at revising the standard in this area but rather at assisting member States in understanding and resolving the difficulties they are facing in its implementation.

In order to fulfil this task, the WG is performing a stock-taking exercise of the current approaches to address terrorism financing, as well as their effectiveness. This stock-taking exercise, which is advancing well, includes:

- Reviewing available literature on the degree of implementation by Member States of the international standards for combating the financing of terrorism, the obstacles to such implementation, and recommendations/new ideas for effective implementation and combating terrorism financing.
- Reviewing statistical data on the implementation of the international standards, based on available assessment reports of the relevant Task Force entities
- Seeking input from a range of experts from a variety of sectors/communities. In this regard, members of the WG have organized a series of round-table meetings with experts from each of the following sectors/communities:

Law enforcement and criminal justice

Private sector/banking
Regulators
Intelligence
Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs)

This work would not have been possible without the support of the Member States and we look forward to Member States' continuing support to our work in assisting them to develop their approaches in confronting the challenges of combating the financing of terrorism.

Statement

By Mr. Jeffrey Avina

*Director, Division for Operations
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

I have a nice canned speech which will pretty much lay out, I think, what the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is doing today. But although I have the benefit, and thankfully to the foresight of the Chair, to have the chance to reflect last night on what I have heard yesterday, what I hear, is about the effective work of a lot of different organizations. What I also hear from Member States is the different complexities of this issue and what it makes me feel as a person who is not an expert in terrorism but as a person who tries to bring a management skills set to any problem which threatens the good of the world is that this organization, UNODC, of which I am one of the directors, we also need to evolve the way that we deal with terrorism to be effective and to be most responsive to the Member States.

As I listened yesterday and as I'll listen today I recognize how transversal this issue is and how very much, very many of our different skill sets could impact on making us a much more effective partner to the various agencies present here today. They could impact on making us much more effective in assisting Member States.

UNODC has three main pillars: crime, drugs and terrorism. UNODC has a new strategy. A new strategy document which has been approved by our two boards. UNODC now has the challenge of taking this strategy and ensuring that we take a horizontal approach to dealing with this issue going here forward.

I was very happy to hear my colleague from the IMF speak about the work that's being done in the area of tackling the financing of terrorism. UNODC is also a member of this board, co-chairing this board with the IMF and the World Bank. It is recognition of the fact that UNODC as an organization has competencies in a number of areas which may or may not be known. Soon to be one these is the area of money-laundering. In the area of money-laundering where we've been active for over ten years, the key force now is to ask the question to you all and to ourselves, "How can we apply our skills most effectively in this specific area to this specific problem."

For me again, that is a challenge. It is a challenge of recognizing that different issues will arise, that they will have many different faces and that this organization has the responsibility to adjust and to evolve and to assume the responsibility of these problems as they arrive in transversal manner so that all the expertise that we have in this organization can address the problems. And I should state, for the record, that there are a number of areas where we are already working. And many of these have been very effective.

Our principle function is basically to help countries ratify the universal legal instruments against terrorism and assist national criminal justice systems to implement these. In addition to the work in money-laundering, we're doing a lot of work with many of our partners

here on elaboration of model laws, on legislative drafting, on mutual legal assistance and international cooperation seminars at national and regional levels to instil the same type of cooperation we see here today.

We are also working hard with our various partners to develop financial intelligence units, and I think my colleague from the IMF presented this very well in terms of the type of work that needs to be done and the work that's being done as well by them with their article 4 consultations. Capacity-building in this area is a responsibility of us all and certainly UNODC will not step away from this responsibility.

What I would like to say in conclusion is that the more that I hear us talking, I understand how complicated this issue is and the various forms it takes, what is key is that the work that we do does save lives and the cooperation which is required and the understanding amongst us of the different natures of this problem is critical if we are all to be effective together. The basis of terrorism is historical, it's national, it's subregional, there are many elements. We know how complicated it is. The question is, how quickly can we move to ensure that our working together effectively does more good than the harm that's being done by those who only wish to do harm?

Statement

By H.E. Ms. Taous Feroukhi

*Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in French)*

The Algerian delegation welcomes the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the global counter-terrorism strategy, which attests the common will of Member States to work to preserve collective security.

The holding of this Symposium in Vienna affords, in our view, the opportunity to identify ways and means to turn into actions the measures set out in the four sections of the Plan of Action, which focuses on reinforcing Member States' capacities and strengthening the role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism.

Member States will be keen to contribute to consolidating the emerging international counter-terrorism cooperation, a role entrusted as of now to the institutionalized Task Force which has been given the job of assuring coordination between the agencies of the United Nations system and international organizations concerned with the question of terrorism.

Algeria supports the primary objective of the strategy, namely, to enable Member States to benefit from the cooperation and technical assistance provided by international organizations and the United Nations agencies. In view of the fact that we are in Vienna, we call on UNODC to continue its work within its areas of competency, as outlined by Mr Costa, its Executive Director, especially as regards legal assistance, the links between organized crime and terrorism, money-laundering, and the training of specialists and experts in justice matters.

Allow me to make some preliminary comments on theme 3 of the agenda of the informal work of the Symposium:

- The mission entrusted to the Task Force—improving complementarity and coordination among the various United Nations bodies dealing with terrorism—will depend largely on the mandate given. It would be appropriate therefore to consider this crucial aspect, which will be decisive for the fulfilment of such a complex and exacting mission.
- The identification of priorities and the establishment of appropriate mechanisms to foster synergies among the agencies and organizations concerned are necessary, bearing in mind the number and range of measures envisaged in the Plan of Action.
- The ample flexibility granted to the Agencies and Organizations invited to make contributions to strengthening State capacities, the lack of a deadline and, in particular, the lack of adequate financial resources risk slowing the implementation of the Strategy considerably, while terrorists constantly work to improve their strategies.
- Implementation of the strategy requires a strong and unequivocal signal from Member States to provide the appropriate responses to these institutional and financial questions.

- Recent experience has shown that international cooperation can make a difference in legal and judicial matters, particularly extradition. Here too, the voluntary nature of the measures envisaged in the Plan of Action risks undermining the dynamics of the Strategy, given the absence of a more decisive commitment to produce significant advances in this area.
- A further aspect deserves our attention, namely, terrorists' use of modern communications methods, particularly Internet and satellite channels, to disseminate their evil ideology. The deplorable role of some satellite TV channels, which have become mouthpieces for terrorist groups, requires the exploratory measures envisaged in the Plan of Action to be strengthened.
- With regard to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, it would have been useful if the FATF had been added to the list of international bodies and organizations included in section III of the Plan of Action and encouraged to cooperate with the Member States in order to cut off the terrorists' sources of funding.
- Similarly, work to enhance the cooperation between cultures and civilisations is a priority issue, given the stigma attached to the Muslim religion, which today is—regrettably—equated with terrorism. Sustained efforts in education, culture and religion are needed to resolve the misunderstandings and stereotypes that nurture hatred.

At regional level, efforts must continue to encourage African countries who have not yet done so to ratify the African Convention on the preventing and combating terrorism, which was adopted in Algiers in 1999. Secondly, efforts must also continue for the implementation of the African Union Plan of Action, which was also approved in Algiers in 2002. Both instruments contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Strategy.

In this regard it is important to recall that African countries can avail themselves of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), based in Algiers. The Centre aims to ensure coordination and awareness of the terrorism phenomenon among African States by organizing seminars, training experts and specialists and exchanging information via national focal points.

At national level, adaptation of domestic legislation to existing international counter-terrorism instruments and to Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism is a challenge for States such as Algeria that have signed up to these instruments and resolutions. It is hoped that the Strategy will support the efforts of Member States in this process, which requires advanced knowledge and the training of experts and specialists.

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin

Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, New York

If I have not missed out anything, there has been no reference to the rule “extradite or prosecute”. There is a large number of terrorists seeking and getting political asylum in third countries. These countries may be acting on humanitarian considerations. But this inevitably turns these countries into safe havens for the terrorists.

The ideal thing is to extradite them. If the host country is unable to do that, it should at least prosecute them.

Intervention by Ms. Verónica Calcinari

*Alternate Representative, Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Spanish)*

May I begin by thanking the Government of the Republic of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for organizing this Symposium.

We welcome the holding of the Symposium since it enables us to put forward ideas and also share experiences with the aim of strengthening the fight against terrorism.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its firm and categorical stance in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It also reiterates, so that there be no doubt whatsoever, this commitment in all appropriate international forums on the subject. A clear manifestation of our policy is the manner in which we have strengthened our domestic legislation to prevent and punish acts of terrorism. Moreover, our Government has played a leading role in the establishment of proposals aimed at intensifying and reinforcing the formats for bilateral, regional and world cooperation, since these are the only spaces that guarantee that the scourge of terrorism can be tackled bravely and without double interpretations.

In this context, we consider it appropriate to state that the activities of terrorist groups must be combated within a framework of strict adherence to the rules and principles of International Law, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and International Humanitarian Law, as well as in accordance with the provisions of the Plan of Action of the

present Strategy; countries must prosecute and—where appropriate—extradite the perpetrators of acts of terrorism, and prevent such acts against other States from being organized or financed within or outside their territory.

In the light of the above, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to manifest our government's absolute and unequivocal rejection of the decision by the United States to free Luis Posada Carriles, despite the extradition request submitted to the appropriate authorities in the country. As is well known, Mr Posada Carriles is responsible for many acts of terrorism against Cuba and other countries, including the terrorist attack on a plane belonging to Cuba's national airline in October 1976, which killed 73 innocent civilians from different countries. Mr President, my government has yet to receive a reply from the Government of the United States.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that in order to truly tackle terrorism cooperation must be strengthened in the area of mutual legal assistance to extradite and bring to trial those responsible for these terrorist acts. In this regard, granting shelter to those involved in such crimes is incompatible with international law and contrary to the spirit of the different international legal instruments on the subject. It also shows disrespect and is offensive to the victims of these terrorist acts and their families.

May I close, Mr President, by endorsing the views already expressed on several occasions during the debate: primary responsibility in this battle rests with the Member States and their actions.

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Redouane Ben Khadra

*Legal Adviser to the Secretary-General
Head of the Legal Department, Cairo, on behalf of the League of Arab States
(Delivered in Arabic)*

First, I should like to confirm what has been said in the statements of the delegations of Arab States that have spoken, particularly in relation to their views on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the need to arrive at a definition of terrorism and State terrorism. I should also like to make it clear that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, support for which the Arab States announced at the Riyadh Summit last March, is an important basis on which to crystallize the concept of partnership on ways of opposing terrorism and continue the efforts to achieve an agreed international definition of terrorism that would include the distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to oppose occupation and aggression, emphasizing that killing innocent civilians is not accepted by religious laws or international instruments, to speed up completion of the drafting of the United Nations comprehensive convention on terrorism and hold an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations or a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on terrorism.

As a regional organization that is active in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, the League of Arab States works to encourage, enhance and coordinate cooperation between

the Arab States through a number of legal, judicial and security mechanisms and its introduction of the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, 1998, which contains a definition of terrorism and a series of measures in the security and judicial fields in line with the measures referred to in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international resolutions and conventions. Matters not dealt with in the Convention are covered by other League of Arab States decisions and conventions.

The Arab States have taken great pains to enhance regional and international cooperation, implement United Nations resolutions relating to terrorism and accede to and apply at national level international instruments on terrorism. Some Arab States have passed legislation on combating terrorism, while Arab conventions to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and other Arab conventions to combat computer crime, including preventing terrorists from using the Internet, are currently being drafted, all of this in the framework of respect for human rights and international law. The League of Arab States has so far received replies from 13 Arab States on the measures they are taking to prevent terrorists obtaining weapons of mass destruction. These replies have been sent to the United Nations Secretariat in response to its request to include them in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly.

In the field of international cooperation, the League of Arab States has approved the model Arab law on international judicial cooperation on criminal matters in order to improve existing mechanisms in the framework of the Arab League, particularly with respect to the extradition of offenders and mutual legal assistance.

With respect to the proposal in the Global Strategy to establish an international centre to fight terrorism and the call for regional organizations to establish regional centres to fight terrorism, I should like to emphasize that the Arab States support the idea of establishing an international centre and believe such a centre should not replace the existing international counter-terrorism bodies that play a significant role in international efforts in this field, but should rather be a support in coordinating those efforts and achieving the desired effectiveness of the measures aimed at preventing and combating terrorism. The proposed centre might also play an important role in information exchange and serve as a link between national and regional centres through a unified database, the contents of which could be exchanged and discussed with the requisite speed through secure media, particularly as regards the pursuit of terrorists and their organizations and obstructing their movements.

With respect to the establishment of a regional centre, the League of Arab States supports this recommendation and has taken steps to implement it. As the head of the Egyptian delegation said yesterday, the executive office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice has passed a resolution to form an Arab working group in the framework of the Councils of Arab Ministers of Justice and Ministers of the Interior to examine the idea of establishing an Arab counter-terrorism centre.

It remains for me to point out that, despite their great importance, security and legal measures are not sufficient in themselves to confront terrorism because, in addition to measures to tackle the conditions conducive to terrorism, it is essential that the media, educational and religious institutions, civil society organizations and social science and psychology institutions play a part in tackling extremist ideas and the culture of terrorism and suicide, disseminate an enlightened discourse and the culture of peace and tolerance and reject the

discourse of the clash of civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs. We must also prevent terrorism being associated with religions, cultures or ethnic groups and enact the necessary legislation to criminalize contempt for religions, in particular in the light of the attacks on the true Islamic religion and its symbols.

The League of Arab States, which is bound by relations of fruitful cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, all the United Nations agencies concerned with combating terrorism and with a number of regional organizations, is always ready to play an active part in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the framework of United Nations resolutions and mechanisms, particularly in the field of building the capacities of the members of the Arab League.

Intervention by Mr. Pornchai Danvivathana

*Deputy Director General, Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand*

At the outset, I would like to thank UNODC and the host Government for organizing this Symposium and for extending an invitation to us in this regard.

Under theme three, I have several points to share with you as follows:

Firstly, I would like to echo what was said about the principle of *aut dedere, aut judicare*, which is widely recognized. Some say that to implement this principle is to treat an act of terrorism as a political offence exception. We note that time is required for this principle and the concept of political offence exception to become state practice. However, it would be helpful for developing countries if a study were made to reflect on how close or how far apart we are from recognizing such principles and concepts of state practice. This would help us to understand better what measures are or are not available.

The next point is the need to relax some legal principles. There is a trend that double criminality for one should be relaxed. Within the framework of mutual legal assistance, this has been relaxed in the case of Thailand if it is so provided—international agreements to which Thailand is party. However, it is premature for us to adopt the same approach in the area of extradition. We should explore further whether such principles should or should not be flexibly applied.

The third point is on assistance to be provided to as many developing and least-developed countries as possible because they also need to combat terrorism themselves and to help monitor terrorist activities to ensure full cooperation with the international community. Many countries in South-East Asia cannot afford the travel expenses to attend this Symposium. Should the United Nations Global Strategy be implemented in a comprehensive manner this issue should be seriously considered.

The last point I would like to make is the regional approach that the Permanent Representative of Indonesia mentioned about yesterday. I wish to state that Thailand has had a mechanism at the national level since 2000, apart from the ASEAN regional approach that we advocate. In other words, we have implemented some, if not all, elements contained in the United Nations Global Strategy as far as Thailand is concerned.

Intervention by Mr. Mabrouk M. Milad

*Chargé d’Affairs, a.i., Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Arabic)*

My country's delegation would like to thank the Austrian Government and the United Nations Organization for their initiative in holding this important Symposium.

My country has for many years attached particular importance to the question of terrorism in view of the fact that it has been one of those most scorched by the fire of this terrible phenomenon. It has drawn the attention of the international community to the serious threat it poses to the peace and security of peoples and called for study of its causes and ways of fighting it. I will briefly outline the measures my country has taken to combat terrorism, which include:

- A request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in a letter dated 7 January 1992 to convene an extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in order to study the phenomenon of international terrorism, define the concept clearly and agree on it and examine its causes and ways of combating it without encroaching on the rights of peoples to self-defence and their established right to self-determination, which are guaranteed by international laws and treaties, foremost among them the United Nations Charter.
- An early initiative to draw the attention of the countries of the world to the involvement of Al-Qaida in terrorist acts. As early as 1992 it asked Interpol to pursue members of that organization and their head, Osama bin Laden, for terrorist acts that targeted foreigners living in Libya. It issued an international notice in this connection in May 1998 and was thus the first country to request the arrest of Osama bin Laden and a number of members of Al-Qaida.
- Ratification of 12 international conventions on terrorism and the conclusion of bilateral agreements with Cyprus, Italy, Malta and Pakistan to cooperate on combating terrorism, as well as the regional agreements concluded in the framework of the OAU (Organization of African Unity) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, signed in Algiers on 14 July 1999, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism, signed in Cairo on 24 April 1998, and the Arab Convention on Judicial Cooperation, signed in Riyadh on 4 April 1983 (please find enclosed the said conventions).

- Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations at all international gatherings through official declarations to those gatherings and official communications to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Security Council.
- The establishment in 1984 of a counter-terrorism office directly responsible to the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Relations and International Cooperation. It is responsible for monitoring terrorist practices and identifying their effects and ways of combating them.
- Initiative in condemning the terrorist attacks on the United States of America on 11 September 2001 and affirming the right of the United States to defend itself by all lawful means in accordance with the United Nations Charter.
- Formation, by General People's Committee resolution 6806 dated 3 November 2001, of a national committee composed of heads of agencies involved in combating terrorism in order to follow up the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001 (S/RES/1373(2001)) and submit the Jamahiriya's responses on measures taken to suppress and combat terrorism.
- Notification of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, established under Article 6 of Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001, of the designation of the national contact point requested by the committee, namely the General Administration for International Organizations of the General People's Committee for Foreign Relations and International Cooperation, in order to facilitate communication with the Security Council Committee and countries seeking coordination and information required to implement the provisions of Resolution 1373/2001 and other relevant resolutions.
- Harmonizing national legislations in accordance with the stipulations of the Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism. Law No. 2 for the year 2005 relating to money-laundering was promulgated and came into force effective 12/1/2005. The provisions of this law states, inter-alia, that the funds are considered unlawful if they result from a crime including the crimes stated in the international convention for combating organized crime, and the protocols annexed thereto, as well as the international conventions against corruption, and other relevant agreements. It also stipulated that the financial, commercial and economic institutions in the country are held criminally liable for the crime of money-laundering in case committed on its behalf or for its account.

In addition, Law No. 1 for the year 2005 on the reorganization of banks, credit and security, was issued, empowering per its fiftieth Article the customs officers to practice the authority bestowed to them under the customs law concerning the control of the entry and exit of various currencies and goods.

On the other hand, the draft of the new sanctions law presented to the grassroots People's Congresses for its study and adoption stipulates per its Article No. 260 that it considers the voluntary offering of funds or collecting them or saving them for use in launching terrorist acts as a terrorist act that the Libyan Law prohibits, and wherein the criminal is punished by life imprisonment if that act resulted in causing harm to persons or damage to property.

In addition to the issuance of a number of directives and instructions relating to monitoring the movement of entry and exit from and to the Great Jamahiriya, and exerting strict control over the entry and exit points, and surveillance of the borders. In this regard, there is effective coordination with each of Egypt and Tunisia, through joint

administrative and security committees established according to bilateral agreements for cooperation with these two countries, on measures that could be taken to control the common borders, and following up on the movement of individuals and goods crossing through them. Moreover, coordination is under way with the regional groupings, where periodic meetings for the ministers of interior and security in the member states of the Arab League are held, as well as meetings of the ministers of interior and security, and the heads of security systems in the grouping of (the coast and the desert) countries, which includes 21 African states, and meetings of the West-Mediterranean states at the level of ministers and experts in the domain of security and terrorism combating.

- Friendly and transparent cooperation with the two Security Council committees established under Security Council resolutions 1373 of 2001 and 1267 of 1999, the former on combating terrorism and the latter on Al-Qaida and the Taliban. Delegations of the committees were received in the Jamahiriya when they visited the country in July and December 2004. On those occasions, ways of enhancing cooperation and collaboration with them were explored and the delegations examined the measures the Jamahiriya had taken to implement the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism.
- The national report that member states were required to submit under the Security Council resolutions was submitted to the committees, as were all the explanations that were sought as to its contents.
- The National Legal Symposium on Terror Combating was held in Tripoli during 18-19/3/2007 at the initiative of the General People's Committee for Justice, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and under the patronage of the General People's Conference and the General People's Committee.

Intervention by Mr. Mohammad Mohammad

*Chargé d’Affaires a.i
Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Arabic)*

My country's delegation would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Vienna and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for organizing this Symposium, which aims to advance implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 September 2006, after obtaining the unanimous support of Member States.

While the delegation endorses what was said in the statement of the League of Arab States, it would like to make the following comments:

It is necessary to work towards holding an international conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations that would agree on a clear definition of terrorism and distinguish it from national struggle and opposing foreign occupation as legitimate rights guaranteed by United Nations law, international law and international agreements.

Since foreign occupation is a source of injustice, coercion and humiliation and the prime cause of violence and terrorism, the Member States in this international organization need to continue to work together to eliminate the causes of terrorism by eliminating the source of tension that gives rise to terrorism and put an end to double standards in the application of international law.

My country's delegation would like to recall here the resolution passed by the last Arab Summit, held in Riyadh, which affirmed support for the efforts of the United Nations in combating terrorism and the importance of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006.

My country's delegation added its vote to those of all the delegations convinced of the need to tackle as a priority the causes of terrorism, such as occupation, marginalization, poverty and injustice, and of not associating the accusation of terrorism with Islam, a religion that encourages tolerance, love, peace and justice.

The delegation emphasizes that it condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, particularly state terrorism as the prime perpetrator of organized terrorism.

Intervention by Ms. Samantha Job

Representative of the United Kingdom in the CTC

As this is the first time I have taken the floor, I would like to thank the organizers of this important event for bringing us together to discuss the Strategy.

I would like to open with a quote from the Strategy "We, the States Members of the United Nations, resolve: ... To consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemn terrorism ... and ... To take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism ...". "We, the States Members of the United Nations" resolved to take action to implement this Strategy, and that is what we are here to talk about today. I would like to make three points on this theme.

Firstly, we must remember the significance of the achievement of the Strategy. It is a strong international statement of what we agree on. And we agreed by consensus. It was not easy to reach that consensus, but we managed it. There are issues on which we do not agree, and some of them have been raised by delegations during this Symposium. But we have come together to focus on the Strategy, on which we do agree, so we should maintain that focus. We should leave aside what we do not agree on. There is a lot of work to do in the Strategy. Let's focus on that.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Task Force for all their hard work. They perform an important role of coordination and coherence, and have done an excellent job of bringing the parts of the United Nations system together in a focused way. We would like to offer them our full support. But, with the best will in the world, the Task Force cannot do our

work for us. We, the Member States, have to implement these commitments and obligations for ourselves.

Thirdly, and in the spirit of sharing some of what this Member State is doing on implementation, I would like to share a few details of work in the United Kingdom (UK) with you.

Without falling into the trap of picking and choosing between commitments in the Strategy, the UK has nevertheless looked at it and identified some priority areas based on our national experience and threat. We would particularly like to see progress on tackling incitement, on raising standards of transport security, and on countering the financing of terrorism.

The UK national Counter-Terrorism Strategy covers all the main elements set out in the UNGA Strategy, although formulated in a slightly different framework. We have a strategy to “Prevent” the emergence of a new generation of terrorists by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; and the promotion and protection of human rights is essential to this; to “Pursue” and disrupt terrorist networks to deny them the means to carry out attacks; to “Protect” the potential targets of attacks; and to ensure that we are adequately “Prepared” for the consequences of terrorist attacks.

Under the Prevention elements of the UK strategy there are aspects that we have heard about here under the “conditions conducive” theme. We believe there is a great deal that States can do to counter the message of extremists who seek to undermine the culture of peace justice and human development. To give a concrete example, the British Government has supported a programme developed by independent organizations (the “Radical Middle Way project”) to bring respected international Muslim scholars to the UK to meet with young British Muslims and to tackle extremist misinterpretations of Islam. We think this is a good example of how civil society can be engaged in our work, which I will come back to.

Also under “Prevent” the UK has taken national steps to tackle incitement, including new legislation. We recognize that tackling incitement is a complex issue, which requires different national approaches, but we would be interested in taking forward work in this area, including the potential for technical assistance.

We fully support the involvement of civil society in the fight against terrorism. We believe that governments and international organizations need to develop a partnership with civil society in support of CT efforts, and would be interested in hearing from other partners ideas for taking this work forward.

In the category of “combating” terrorism (Part 2 of the General Assembly’s Action Plan), the UK has been active in tackling terrorist financing, and would like to point to one concrete recommendation in the Strategy in this area, for the implementation of the FATF forty recommendations on money-laundering and nine special recommendations on terrorist financing. We call on all Member States to put those in place. The UK has also made efforts to support other States that are in the process of strengthening and developing their national capabilities in this area. For example, in November last year, UK experts joined forces with the Malaysian South-East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, to hold a workshop that allowed practitioners and policy-makers from around the region to share their experiences of work to counter the financing of terrorism.

Sadly, the UK has been the victim of several attacks on our transport system over the past two years. The UK's transport security measures are continually under review in light of our understanding of the threat. We would like to draw attention to this particular issue in the Strategy, and our willingness to take forward work in this area.

Beyond these specific examples of UK activity, I would like to draw delegations' attention to the fact sheet circulated by the EU Presidency of concrete actions that the EU has been taking, including in providing technical assistance to other countries.

Mr Chairman, I would like to end my statement with a challenge to all the Member State delegations here today. We, the Member States, resolved to take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism. I would like to challenge all Member State delegations, as they take the floor, to give an example of at least one concrete thing they are doing, or planning to do, to implement the Strategy.

Intervention by Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar, Counsellor

Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations

Arms transfers to terrorists have become a strategic threat to regional and global peace and security. Such transfers take place when States choose to provide terrorists with arms, turn a blind eye or lack the necessary capacity, or fail to give sufficient priority to this problem. As part of "Measures to prevent and combat terrorism," Israel believes this important issue, which was mentioned in the Strategy, chapter two, article five, should be addressed with the greatest urgency by the international community.

Additionally, the need to continue to aggressively address the financing of terror and the prosecution of terrorists are important areas within the counter-terrorism strategy which need to be addressed. But since they were addressed by others, I will not elaborate. To these I would add two other issues which also deserve particular attention: restricting the cross-border movement of terrorists and enforcing embargos.

Theme
Four

**Increasing States' capacity to prevent and combat
terrorism and strengthening the role of
the United Nations system:
Lessons learned from UNODC's
technical assistance delivery**

Keynote address

By H.E. Ms. Margrethe Løj

*Ambassador of Denmark to the Czech Republic
(former chair of CTC)*

I have been asked to introduce the debate under this theme through a few remarks on technical assistance for the implementation of the international counter-terrorism obligations, and also to make a few comments on compliance.

My remarks are based on my experience not only as chair of the Security Council's Committee on Counter-Terrorism, but also on many years' involvement in development cooperation.

UNSCR resolution 1373 is not the usual kind of Security Council resolution. Yet it is adopted under chapter VII of the Charter. As such it is binding for all Member States, and it contains measures which have to be implemented by the Member States.

The resolution basically aims at making it more difficult for terrorists to operate worldwide—and thus, hopefully, to create a solid basis for preventing terrorist attacks wherever they may occur. Focus is thus on the need for adopting legislation and ensuring that implementation mechanisms are in place. However, the resolution does not contain any punitive measures. Already at the time of the adoption of the resolution in 2001 it was recognized that it would be a long and difficult process for many countries to implement these measures—and that many countries would need technical assistance for this task. Broadly speaking, I have often, for the sake of illustration, divided Member States into three groups:

- Those who are willing and able to implement the measures;
- Those who are willing but do not have the capacity to do so without assistance;
- Those who have the capacity but not the political will to implement the measures.

When discussing technical assistance our focus should be on identifying and assisting the countries in the second group. We must not—wrongly and by default—lump these countries which are politically willing, but lack the necessary capacity, together with those countries which do have the capacity but lack the political will.

In my view, it is absolutely necessary that all actors, including United Nations agencies, regional organizations and national governments focus specifically on assisting the group of countries needing assistance, before eventually—and I will revert to this issue later—dealing with those countries which are unwilling to implement the measures.

Only such an approach will ensure even-handedness, credibility and the goal: to make it more difficult for terrorist to operate.

These considerations lead me to some reflexions on the issue of fighting terrorism in relation to promoting sustainable development. What should be the priority? My answer to that

question is that we are talking about two sides of the same coin. Many of the measures stipulated in resolution 1373 and in the conventions are also necessary elements in the efforts to promote security as well as economic and social development. If you do not like the term “counter-terrorism measures”, or if you do not like the term “good governance”, then use any heading you like; for instance “necessary governmental structures creating conditions conducive for long-term development” or something else.

My point is simply this: A well-functioning financial system is necessary for economic development, for attracting direct foreign investment—and for fighting terrorism. A well functioning border and customs control mechanism is necessary for promoting exports, for combating illicit trading in goods—and for fighting terrorism.

So, I believe it is high time that all actors—in the so-called “combating terrorism field” as well as in the co-called “development field”—should stop fighting over words and get down to the real task of acting jointly. And it is high time that development actors—in both international institutions and in donor countries—stop using the reflex answer: “We don’t do counter-terrorism measures” as an excuse for inaction.

Technical assistance is needed. Facilitation of technical assistance is needed. This is recognized in resolution 1373. And it is recognized in the Strategy. Unfortunately, when I relinquished the chair of the CTC at the end of 2006, I had to report to the Security Council that regrettably, the CTC and its executive directorate, the CTED, had only few concrete results to report in the field of facilitation of technical assistance. This more than five years after the adoption of resolution 1373.

This is not to say that valuable work is not taking place within the field of technical assistance within the United Nations system. UNODC, for one, makes outstanding efforts in assisting Member States in the legislative field. This work is highly commendable and it is absolutely necessary. But UNODC does not cover all of the areas which need to be addressed. So while these efforts are essential, they are not sufficient.

I sincerely hope that the adoption—at long last—of a United Nations global counter-terrorism strategy and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force will create renewed momentum, not only for the CTC/CTED, but also for the whole international community to achieve concrete results and to deliver on technical assistance.

In order to achieve such concrete results, a few very basic principles should—and I am tempted to say of course—guide our efforts:

- The approach should be proactive;
- The approach should be characterized by a spirit of true partnership with the country in need of assistance;
- The response to identified needs should be speedy and concrete.

Finally, I would like to say a few words on the issue of compliance. Actually, resolution 1373 does not mention the word compliance—instead it talks of monitoring implementation.

However, I know that compliance is at the back of the mind of many partners, inside as well as outside of the Security Council.

This fact is reflected in the difficult discussions within the CTC when deciding which countries to visit—upon their consent—to monitor the implementation of the resolution. And it is reflected in the frequent first reaction from the countries in question, which—put very bluntly—more or less has been the question: “Why us, what have we done wrong?”

In reality, of course, the purpose of the visits is to promote enhanced implementation, to identify technical assistance needs, and hopefully to provide the substantive, targeted priorities for the work ahead.

That being said, I will certainly not rule out that compliance will some day in the future have to be dealt with. But let me underline that it will require new decisions. And let me advise those who might take such decisions in the future that in order to be effective and credible such decisions have to be taken on a solid and objective basis.

In summing up, I will underline that there is no choice. We have to assist those countries which need assistance to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and their counter-terrorism obligations but do not have the necessary resources. We have to stop talking about delivery and facilitation of technical assistance. And we have to stop institutional infighting. We know what has to be done. It is nearly six years since 11 September. We say never again. Let us prove that we mean what we say and let us prove it by achieving concrete results on the ground.

If not, the international community, including the United Nations as a whole and its various entities, will lose credibility. But more importantly, ordinary citizens—men, women and children who may in the future be the victims of terrorist attacks—will be paying the price.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi

Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Vienna

First of all, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Austrian Government for hosting this important event. Japan also appreciates the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General and the UNODC for taking the initiative to hold this Symposium.

The Government of Japan has implemented counter-terrorism measures based on a three-pronged strategy, firstly, to strengthen domestic measures; secondly, to promote international cooperation; and thirdly, to provide capacity-building assistance.

Based on this policy, Japan has dispatched Maritime Self Defence Force vessels to the Indian Ocean through the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law since December 2001. Japan also contributes to strengthening political will and legal framework to fight against terrorism through various multilateral, regional and bilateral fora. Japan provides assistance to countries in need of enhancing their capacities on counter-terrorism such as anti-money-laundering. We also continue our efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism by promoting “consolidation of peace”, “nation-building” as well as “human security” approaches.

Regarding capacity-building assistance, Japan has provided expert training and at times, granted the necessary equipment and facilities needed to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts to countries in need, particularly Southeast Asian States.

This fiscal year, Japan decided to further strengthen its assistance by establishing two new schemes titled “Grant Aid for Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism and Security Enhancement” with a budget of approximately US\$63 million and “ASEAN-Japan Integration Fund” with a budget of approximately US\$68 million. As an example, Japan provided Indonesia with a grant of Patrol Vessels in June 2006 and improved Cambodia’s port security facilities and equipment in August 2006.

The ASEAN-Japan counter-terrorism dialogue was also launched to explore cooperation on counter terrorism measures, utilizing those funds. We will also continue providing financial support for the technical assistance programme being conducted by the UNODC.

Since 2003, Japan has organized an annual seminar to promote accession to the international Counter-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols. The latest seminar was held in March of this year in Tokyo, with the participation of government experts in the area of treaties and legislative affairs from Southeast Asian and Pacific countries, Australia and the United States as well as the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI). This year, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC, who has attended the seminar in the last several years, provided perspectives on the role of the UNODC in assisting countries’ accession of the Conventions and Protocols.

During the seminar, participants reported on their recent efforts in ratifying Counter-Terrorism conventions and protocols, particularly the progress made since the previous seminar in 2006. We were pleased to observe a common course among participants in that each and every country is making steady progress and their efforts are producing tangible results.

The seminar was concluded with the recommendation, among others, to call on UNODC as well as relevant international agencies to develop national and subregional programmes for the delivery of technical assistance on the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism, more specifically, for the criminalization of terrorist acts established by those instruments.

This seminar led to a tangible outcome and in this regard, Japan welcomes the adoption of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism in January 2007 which is in line with the universal legal instruments against terrorism and commends the work of UNODC with ASEAN in developing the Convention.

I would like to inform you that on 15-16 May, Japan organized the fifth ASEM Conference on Counter-Terrorism in Tokyo. It was attended by not only Asian and European States, but also relevant international and regional organizations such as CTED, UNODC, SEARCOT(South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism), JCLEC (Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation) and ILEA (International Law Enforcement Academy in Thailand).

Japan believes that the Conference served as an important avenue for ASEM partners to exchange knowledge, experience, techniques and further enhance concerted efforts on countering terrorism challenges. The Conference concluded with the Chair's summary which included concrete suggestions on steps to be taken by ASEM countries. Copies of the Chair's summary are available at the back of this conference room.

Finally, the aforementioned measures of the Japanese Government are aimed to respond to and assist the United Nations efforts on counter-terrorism. Therefore, in its implementation, Japan will continue to maintain a close partnership with the United Nations system by gaining the participation of relevant United Nations organizations. Japan will also continue to assist United Nations efforts, particularly in technical cooperation with a view to increasing States' capacity to counter terrorism.

Japan believes that, to protect people and States from such terror, we need to enhance counter-terrorism measures and capability based on international standards. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides a blueprint for a coordinated, consistent and comprehensive response to terrorism.

From this point of view, the Government of Japan provided assistance to the Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation to organize a workshop in January to discuss how best the Strategy can be implemented in the Asia-Pacific region. The final report was issued in March and is available on its website, www.globalct.org. We believe that the report provides useful analysis and recommendations on the issue.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Sheel Kant Sharma

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Vienna

Let me, at the outset, join previous speakers in thanking the Government of Austria for its help and generosity in organizing this Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Strategy on Counter-Terrorism. It is heartening to see the main actors of the United Nations system represented in this Symposium. The strategy document is a valuable product of intensive endeavour by all the member States to work out a consensus on combating terrorism. This consensus for counter terrorism commits all of us for action not words. The United Nations system has derived concrete points of action from this document out of a complex web of prescriptions and recommendations. It is important to underline that the mandate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in this overall context has been rather modest and difficult. In contrast, as facts reveal, the mounting menace of international terrorism has shown no sign of relenting. Nonetheless, it is extremely important for the United Nations system in general and the UNODC in particular to remain engaged in counter terrorism under the umbrella provided by the strategy document. This is because of the imperative of a global and comprehensive approach for unreservedly addressing terrorism. Even modest but coordinated action with support of entire United Nations membership would make a significant contribution when international community's thrust towards combating and preventing terrorism becomes less equivocal. The world at large just cannot afford to get used to living with terrorism even as maximum responsibility for implementing the strategy remains in the national realm.

The lessons drawn from India's own long national experience of dealing with terrorism are that untiring work and painstaking coordination of all aspects of democratic governance, law enforcement, intelligence and administration of justice lie at the core of counter-terrorism. Democratic governments have to constantly grapple with the challenge posed by the tension between burden of more laws on ordinary civilian and the compulsion of preventing potential terrorists from exploiting loopholes in criminal and civil jurisprudence. The United Nations Conventions, to all of which India is a party, address the need to strengthen these core requirements worldwide. We appreciate contribution being made by UNODC towards wider adherence and implementation of these United Nations Conventions. We also share commitment to addressing terrorism through regional groupings, through bilateral cooperation and through every other mechanism which is available for international coordination. This Symposium makes a crucial contribution by focussing our combined efforts to diverse aspects of counter-terrorism strategy, as also reminding all of us about this burning issue of our times.

Statement

By H.E. Ms. Béatrice Damiba

*Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in French)*

The Minister of Justice of Burkina Faso accepted the invitation by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to participate in this important Symposium on the global counter-terrorism strategy. However, due to circumstances at home, he regrets that he has been unable to travel to Vienna.

Allow me, Mr President, to welcome the holding of this Symposium and the commitment shown by the Austrian government in organizing it. May I also express our best wishes for success and convey to UNODC our appreciation for the particular help its Terrorism Prevention Branch has given to Burkina Faso constantly within the framework of the promotion of international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Burkina Faso was among the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and to sign up to the first twelve universal instruments for the elimination of international terrorism.

- Our country has also ratified the African Union Convention on the prevention and combating of terrorism and participates actively in the activities of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), which is based in Algiers.
- In November 2001, thanks to assistance received from UNODC, our country hosted a subregional ECOWAS ministerial seminar aimed at promoting ratification of the Palermo Convention and its protocols.
- In January 2005 a national seminar on the incorporation at national level of the provisions of the aforementioned Convention and protocols was organized in Ouagadougou and led to the adoption of a Plan of Action and recommendations for the implementation of these instruments.
- In February 2005 an Interpol training seminar on counter-terrorism investigation techniques was organized for sub-Saharan Africa/Baobab Project.
- The same year, between from 29 March-1 April, Burkina Faso hosted the fifteenth HONLEA Africa meeting. As each of knows, these scourges are so interlinked that they cannot be tackled in isolation.
- In February-March 2006, five judges from Burkina Faso benefited from a specialization trip to Vienna, Toulouse, Paris, Algiers and The Hague in the framework of international anti-terrorist cooperation. This pilot programme has subsequently been extended to other groups from other countries.

Burkina Faso has also requested technical assistance and training for some of its officials. The country has benefited from UNODC, ICAO and EU support for the following actions:

- Training of 42 judges on the general theme of “justice and the fight against transnational organized crime”;
- Training of 90 court officials in “gendarmerie in the fight against crime”;
- Training of 50 judicial police officers in the “fight against transnational organized crime”.

Moreover, Burkina Faso has also benefited from a technical evaluation from the civil aviation security audit programme.

The above illustrates the extent to which strengthening capacities through training or recycling professionals in these areas is crucial, not just for a country like my own, but for Africa overall.

Burkina Faso ranks among the countries which have the will but not the capacities (to use the classification referred to by Ambassador Margrethe Loj just a moment ago).

Thanks to the exemplary cooperation received from the Terrorism Prevention Branch, Burkina Faso hosted between 20-22 March 2007 the fourth Conference of Justice Ministers of French-speaking African countries for the implementation of universal counter-terrorism instruments. A dozen international and regional organizations took part in the conference.

The resulting Ouagadougou Declaration sets out commitments and recommendations and the Ministers welcomed the adoption by the United Nations of the global counter-terrorism strategy. (The text of the Declaration is available outside the meeting room). The Justice Ministers called for integrated and coordinated technical assistance for the implementation of the global strategy against terrorism. In effect, the fight against terrorism cannot be waged in isolation. It must be collective and based on solidarity (which is why we have been meeting here since yesterday). It also requires genuine exchange of experiences and coherent financial resourcing.

Although our Penal Code already contains appropriate provisions for tackling terrorism, in order to bring ourselves into line with international legal instruments, Burkina Faso recently improved its National Legislation Codification Commission, entrusting it with, among other tasks, the immediate job of reviewing our Penal Code and Criminal Procedures Code. To that end, and following a request from the Burkina Faso government, in October 2007 the prevention of terrorism branch will organize a workshop in Ouagadougou for members of the Penal Code Sub-Committee of the National Legislation Codification Commission.

As part of its counter-terrorism policy, Burkina Faso also intends to set up in the near future a National Counter-Terrorism Coordination Committee.

Regarding lessons to be drawn and by way of conclusion:

- We must continue to show solidarity
- We must never say “it only happens to others”
- It is necessary to educate and train; to draw up guides and manuals
- Adequate resources and means must be allocated to this fight
- As part of a coherent approach, the United Nations system has—more than ever—an essential role to play alongside Member States.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Gregory L. Schulte

Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Vienna

I also want to take up the challenge that was put to us by our representative from the United Kingdom, and that was for each nation to talk about one concrete thing they're doing to help implement the Strategy that we're discussing here today. And I have one small thing the United States is doing that I'd like to mention, but I think it's relevant to this topic, and that is that the US government has contributed 2 million dollars over the last two years to the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to the Terrorism Prevention Branch, and to the Global Programme against Money-laundering. And this is because the United States thinks these two programmes are very important and I want to talk a little bit about the Terrorism Prevention Branch. And we very much appreciate the expertise of that branch and the practical assistance that it gives to Member States in promoting ratification of universal instruments and helping countries to align their domestic legislation with their international obligations, and in working with judges and prosecutors to facilitate implementation.

UNODC's work in the area of international cooperation in criminal matters is important. It's important because it's helping to build the capacity of countries to engage in mutual legal assistance and extradition. Both are important to implementation of the relevant anti-crime conventions and counter-terrorism instruments.

There are other parts of the UNODC that are also doing valuable work such as the Global Programme against Money-laundering that I mentioned, and the Legal Advisory Programme. UNODC should continue to ensure coordination exists, not just with other United Nations entities, but also within the organization itself in order to maximize expertise in advance of UNODC technical assistance missions.

What are some of the lessons that we've learned from UNODC's experience in technical assistance delivery? First, the importance of, of coordinating very closely with the CTC and CTED. Secondly, partnering with other relevant organizations, including regional and subregional entities. Now those of you who work in Vienna know that right across the Danube there's the OSCE. And this is a good partner for a lot of this work. Here in Vienna there's a term that's used that's called "crossing the Danube" and occasionally I'll hear colleagues from UNODC or the OSCE say, "Well, we need to cross the Danube to coordinate our work." And it sounds as though there aren't any bridges across the Danube, that you actually have to build bridges, that you have to build a raft and go across. Well as Ambassador Stelzer can tell us, there are plenty of good bridges across the Danube, and there's even a metro line. And so crossing the Danube here, crossing the Atlantic to New York, making all these bridges, taking advantage is important as we go about addressing, implementing the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated fashion.

We've also learned from the experience of UNODC, that reaching out to other major assistance providers is important to ensure proper coordination, and also finding synergies

within UNODC itself. To tap into the broad array of programmes dealing with crime and drugs and to mainstream the issue of counter-terrorism. Another valuable lesson learned that should be emulated is UNODC's work with regional organizations like ASEAN, in helping them to align regional instruments with international universal conventions and protocols. Yet another valuable lesson is the importance of reporting. The Terrorism Prevention Branch has done a terrific job in providing timely accurate summaries of their technical assistance seminar, seminars and activities, as well as documentation to show concrete results achieved by their programmes over the medium- and long-term. I may say as an aside that the ability of the Terrorism Prevention Branch and their willingness to document results is actually, I think a model that could be emulated by other parts of the United Nations. They have provided donors with transparent and accurate reporting on how contributions have been used, which helps instill confidence in all of us and in all the donors. In closing let me make a somewhat larger point about the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. From the US perspective, the Task Force needs to take care to ensure that, as the General Assembly proceeds to implement the Strategy, and the Security Council continues its implementation of counter-terrorism-related resolutions, there is coordination and cooperation between these principle organs as they go down their mandated tracks that are separate, but do it together.

Statement

By Ms. Carol Fuller

*Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism
Organization of American States*

My comments address the advantages of partnerships with regional organizations—in this case, the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). CICTE was created in 1999 by the Organization of American States to promote national, regional and international cooperation to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in the Western Hemisphere. It became fully functional in 2002 with establishment of the Secretariat. Since then, the counter terrorism architecture for the Western Hemisphere has rested on UNSCR 1373, the universal legal instruments against terrorism, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, the CICTE Work Plan containing principles of cooperation and concrete counter terrorism measures approved by the OAS member States—and now the United Nations Global Strategy.

CICTE, through the Secretariat, provides capacity-building training and technical assistance and promotes international cooperation. Its ten programmes are organized in six main areas: border controls, financial controls, critical infrastructure protection, counter-terrorism legislative assistance, terrorism crisis management exercises, and policy development and coordination. A unique network of National Points of Contact from each country serves as the principal means to communicate with the Secretariat and with one another on technical issues and to organize in-country training. Thus, focal points on counter terrorism already exist in the Western Hemisphere.

A key goal for CICTE has been to create and strengthen partnerships with other international, regional, and subregional organizations. In March 2003, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee cited CICTE as a model for regional integration to combat terrorism and then asked CICTE to host the second meeting of regional organizations in October 2003. Collaboration and cooperation with the technical assistance agencies of many countries and international organizations, especially the various entities of the United Nations, has developed as an integral part of our approach and methodology—with noteworthy success. One of the key lessons the hemisphere has learned is that enhancing security to combat terrorism requires expanding and improving cooperation—internationally, regionally, subregionally, and domestically, even between government agencies and with the private sector. Today, the Secretariat partners with more than 20 governmental and private organizations. For example, our port security and airport security programmes help countries comply with the International Ship and Port Security standards of the International Maritime Organization and the aviation security standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) worked through CICTE to launch its International Permanent Observatory on Enhancing Security for Massive Events, and CICTE and the United Nations Regional Centre for Crime, Disarmament and Economic Development for Latin America (UN-LiREC) are coordinating to help countries comply with their obligations under UNSCR 1540.

Our well-established partnership on counter terrorism legislation with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC may represent the best example of how strong coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations can benefit the Member States of both. We regularly conduct joint workshops in OAS countries, providing technical assistance on drafting legislation to ratify and implement the various antiterrorism instruments. This partnership has increased the impact of both organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. It helps to avoid duplication, heightens awareness among national authorities across the region of the relevance of terrorism issues, and strengthens international cooperation by encouraging ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

The lessons of our partnerships are clear. By joining with larger or better-funded organizations, such as the United Nations, regional organizations can leverage greater financial and personnel resources and draw on their global expertise. In reverse, the United Nations and other international organizations can draw on regional expertise and logistical contacts to help them accomplish their own objectives. Member States benefit from both, but it is essential that they avoid seeing duplication when the reality is actually multiplication of effort through the global and regional partnerships. Finally, although governments are responsible for the security of their citizens, security is a shared responsibility. Success requires a new partnership between governments and civil society to address the underlying causes holistically and promote greater understanding and security awareness within society. CICTE welcomes the opportunity to partner with others to achieve concrete and practical results in our joint efforts to combat terrorism.

Statement

By Mr. Peter Colgan on behalf of Ms. Anita Nilsson

*Director, Office on Nuclear Security
International Atomic Energy Agency*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is honoured to have been provided with the opportunity to address this important “Symposium on Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”.

This year the Agency celebrates 50 years of experience in working together with its member States in the three areas covered by its mandate: nuclear technology, safety and verification.

While the Agency's long-standing activities in the areas of nuclear safety and safeguards also contribute to nuclear security, dedicated nuclear security programmes are generally recognized as having developed in the mid 1990's in response to concerns about an increase in incidents of illicit nuclear trafficking. The Agency's activities in the nuclear security field developed further in subsequent years and especially following the tragic events of 11 September 2001.

The Agency is now implementing its second dedicated Nuclear Security Plan for the years 2006-2009, which has been approved by its Board of Governors and General Conference. Through the implementation of the activities foreseen in the Security Plan, the Agency assists States, upon their request, in preventing nuclear material and related technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors and, accordingly, helps States fulfill their international obligations. Further, pursuant to their respective safeguards obligations, most States are required to establish and maintain a system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. Our safeguards inspectors regularly monitor hundreds of nuclear installations and thousands of kilogrammes of nuclear material on a near-daily basis. Clearly, all this contributes to preventing nuclear terrorism.

In this regard, the Agency welcomes recent measures strengthening the international legal framework to promote nuclear security and combat nuclear terrorism, including the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and associated Export/Import Guidelines, and the Nuclear Terrorism Convention. In addition to these instruments and to the Agency's comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) form also part of the international platform for supporting the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan. The 50th IAEA General Conference, which was held last year, invited the Agency's Secretariat to provide assistance to Member States, upon request and within the scope of the Agency's statutory responsibilities, for the States' implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540.

The Agency's relevant programmes and activities include, *inter alia*, the following:

- To promote adherence to and assist States in the implementation of the relevant international instruments.

- To provide legislative and regulatory assistance to enable States to adopt the necessary legislation to implement instruments under the Agency's purview, such as safeguards agreements and additional protocols and the CPPNM and its Amendment.
- To assist in strengthening the States' systems for controlling nuclear material and related technology, so as to enable governments to implement legal instruments to which they subscribe and to tighten national controls.
- To provide support to States for the implementation of high standards of physical protection of nuclear material, nuclear facilities and nuclear transport.
- To provide support for the States' efforts to upgrade customs and border controls, in order to enhance the capability to detect illicit trafficking of nuclear material and related technology, and
- To operate a 24-hour network to facilitate notification and coordination of assistance and response in the event of a terrorist attack using nuclear or radiological weapons or materials through the IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre.

In addition, the Agency also facilitates the development and publishing of a series of policy documents on nuclear security guidance, containing recommendations and practical arrangements on how States can implement their international obligations that are relevant to strengthening nuclear security. This guidance, on how to establish and maintain a system of accounting for and control of nuclear material, facilitates the implementation of States' obligations pursuant to their respective safeguards agreements. Also, guidance on the design and maintenance of a physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and facilities is needed to support consistent implementation of the CPPNM and its amendment, when in force.

To further assist States in their efforts to implement their international obligations, the Agency offers and carries out evaluation and assessment services to help States identify what needs to be improved in the area of nuclear security, including their State Systems of Accounting for and Control of nuclear material, and their regimes for the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. Since 2003, more than 70 such peer-based review missions have been carried out by the Agency.

However, the strengthening of nuclear security measures in States requires financial, technical and human resources. In many cases, States require assistance in reaching this goal. Accordingly, capacity-building continues to be a cornerstone of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009. As part of it, the Agency offers a comprehensive education and training programme, with a large variety of education and training events, including technical and scientific visits and on the job training in the fields of physical protection of nuclear material and facilities, and illicit trafficking. Since 2003, about 150 training events have been carried out with more than 3000 participants from more than 100 countries.

The Agency has also strengthened its efforts of international coordination. Regular meetings are convened with Member States and other international organizations in this regard. The Agency develops, in consultation with individual States, Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans which bring together all the work that is required to implement, inter alia, obligations of the legal instruments that are relevant in the nuclear area. These Plans provide a comprehensive work-plan for an individual country and can be used to help in the coordination of activities and generating the required resources. The Plans improve the efficiency of existing resources and help to avoid gaps. All activities are performed with due consideration to maintaining confidentiality of sensitive information.

The Agency has also responded to some States' physical protection needs by providing upgrades and technical support for improved physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. Some nuclear facilities have also received technical support to strengthen their nuclear material accounting systems. For capacity-building in the area of detection of nuclear materials in illicit trafficking, including at border-crossing points, more than 800 detection instruments have been provided to some 20 countries.

The cost of activities carried out by the Agency in the nuclear security area during 2006 was approximately of US \$20 million. The Agency's programmes and activities in this area are funded mostly from extra-budgetary funds through the Nuclear Security Fund. In addition, significant in-kind contributions are received from Member States.

The Agency believes that the continued high level of extra-budgetary and in kind support for its Nuclear Security Plan underscores the value that States place on the Agency's work. Member States regard the Plan as a well coordinated programme that was devised in consultation with States. The regular coordination with donors and recipients ensures that the Plan remains responsive to States' needs and to the changing international situation.

What lessons can be learned from the Agency's approach?

- That plans, programmes and initiatives are more acceptable and are thus more likely to achieve success when they involve all the stake holders;
- That the Agency, with its unique role has unique access to States in the nuclear field;
- That the Agency has the resources and well coordinated activities to assist States in strengthening nuclear security; and
- That the Agency can build synergies with its other programmes and with those of other international organizations and States.

And how can the international community support Agency efforts?

The Agency welcomes the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, initiatives such as the convening of this Symposium, as well as other similar efforts by the international community, as they provide the necessary high-level political support for our activities in the area of helping States combat terrorism. In particular, it would be very encouraging if States were to provide extra-budgetary and in-kind contributions to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, and to work with the Agency to avoid duplication of programmes and services, in order to ensure that the Agency's activities are not hampered by other initiatives and activities. We are together in the fight against nuclear terrorism and our activities should contribute to that goal.

Statement

By Mr. Ahmed Seif El-Dawla

Chief of Section

Representative of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee

One of the main objectives of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) is to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Member States in order to help them meet their obligations under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

As you are all well aware, several provisions of that resolution correspond closely to the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Indeed, the States Members of the United Nations explicitly refer to the Committee and its Executive Directorate in the Global Strategy, encouraging them to continue their work to facilitate technical assistance to Member States and to regional and subregional organizations, with a view to improving the coherence and efficiency of technical-assistance delivery in the field of counter-terrorism.

It is thus useful to highlight here that, as a facilitator, CTED also assists Member States to implement the relevant provisions of the Global Strategy.

In the conduct of their work, the Committee and its Executive Directorate have a unique role to play. Their approach must be comprehensive, as they are required to evaluate counter-terrorism measures in every possible field, whether relating to legislation, financial law and practice, the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, customs, law enforcement and international cooperation in criminal matters. This reflects the broad scope of Security Council resolution 1373. In fact, the resolution's broad scope is also demonstrated in the requests submitted by Member States which cover a wide variety of fields relating to counter-terrorism. CTED must therefore cooperate closely with its partners with a view to facilitating technical assistance to Member States in these fields. These partners include the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and many others.

Through its participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), CTED enhances its cooperation with all its partners and works to promote the development of clear synergies at the operational level.

In its efforts to identify areas in which a Member State may benefit from receiving technical assistance, CTED also attaches great importance to gauging the State's success in implementing its international legal obligations. The two processes cannot proceed on an alternate basis. Rather, our aim is to ensure that facilitation of assistance and measuring State implementation move forward together, in a complementary fashion.

One of the outcomes of CTED's work on capacity-building with its partners is the compilation of a list of identified technical assistance needs. The list ensures that the various areas of expertise (legal, financial law enforcement and border control, and so forth) are

interrelated, consolidated and prioritized in a comprehensive manner. The list is an important component of the Executive Directorate's ongoing dialogue with potential donors and providers, as it helps to identify where its partners can most usefully provide assistance in the various areas. This comprehensive approach also aims to prevent overlap and duplication in the provision of technical assistance, ensure that financial and human resources are not wasted, and focus assistance efforts on areas that still require attention.

I would like now to outline briefly the main lessons learned from our facilitation of technical assistance, both in general terms, and with particular reference to implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments.

Equipment vis-à-vis legislation

The first point I wish to make is that many States believe it is more important to request, for example, the provision of equipment and hardware than to request assistance in setting up the legal framework necessary for combating terrorism. While it is certainly true that States' operational capacity to combat terrorist operations does not depend solely on establishing adequate legislation, such legislation is essential for bringing perpetrators of terrorism to justice and for promoting cooperation between States in criminal matters such as extradition and mutual legal assistance.

For all these reasons, CTED often engages in consultations with the Member State concerned in order to highlight the importance of establishing an adequate legal framework and encourage the State to take advantage of the available technical assistance in this field, such as that provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The cooperation between CTED and UNODC is illustrated notably by the referrals made by CTED to UNODC regarding States' technical assistance needs in their implementation of the international conventions and protocols for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. In this regard, the referrals made to UNODC, on a regional basis, concern 22 States from Africa and West Asia; 17 States from Europe and Central Asia; and 11 States from the Americas, the Caribbean, the Pacific and South Asia.

UNODC is currently addressing several of these referral areas and is also engaged in dialogue on technical assistance with many of the aforementioned States. CTED works closely with its partners in UNODC on follow-up activities to these referrals. As a result, close synergies have been established between the two United Nations offices.

Long-term process

The second lesson learned is that the provision of technical assistance is a long-term process, which requires a considerable degree of planning and coordination. The outcome of technical assistance may not always be immediately visible. It is therefore important to maintain dialogue with Member States and remain closely engaged with them and follows up with our partners in order to facilitate the provision of technical assistance.

Political, as opposed to technical implementation of the international conventions

My last point concerns the political, as opposed to technical implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments. Since the adoption of Security Council

resolution 1373, many States have either enacted counter-terrorism legislation or modified existing legislation. However, because the adoption of such legislation often reflects the political will of the government concerned, it may not always reflect all the elements necessary for effectively implementing the universal instruments. For example, it may not incorporate the offences set forth in the universal instruments as serious offences in domestic law. In this regard, I would stress that the programmes provided by the various bodies that make up the Task Force, including UNODC and its Terrorism Prevention Branch, provide an excellent opportunity for Member States to fully implement the universal instruments at the legal, operational and institutional levels.

These, then, are some of the lessons learned with respect to the facilitation by CTED of technical assistance in the implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by emphasizing the solid progress that has already been achieved. It is important to be positive in our approach to this vitally important issue. We must build upon our joint successes and our common understanding to overcome whatever differences Member States may have with respect to the fight against terrorism.

I believe we can justly say that a great deal of progress has already been accomplished since the adoption of resolution 1373. That progress is notably reflected in the significant increase seen in the number of States parties to the universal counter-terrorism instruments. In this context, I would highlight the 1997 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the 1999 Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. At the adoption of resolution 1373, only 26 States had ratified the Terrorist Bombings Convention. That number has now jumped to 149. There has also been a remarkable surge in ratification of the Financing of Terrorism Convention, which had only four States parties in 2001, but now has 156.

And this success has, in turn, been instrumental in the development of a common international legal language among Member States concerning terrorist acts.

Adoption of the Global Strategy has brought a vital new momentum to this process and built upon these achievements by defining a comprehensive and integrated approach to guide us in our joint efforts to increase States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, including the full and effective implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments.

The work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force serves to reinforce our ongoing cooperation with our partners, both within and outside the United Nations.

Let me assure you that CTED will continue to play its part, in accordance with its mandate, in our joint efforts to enhance the capacity of Member States to combat the scourge of terrorism.

Statement

By Mr. Berhanykun Andemicael

Coordinator, 1540 Committee Experts

Possible nexus between weapons of mass destruction and terrorist activities

The 1540 Committee, as one of three Committees of the Security Council dealing with terrorist threats in one form or another, concentrates on the potential risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) i.e. nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, with particular reference to hitherto unregulated area of possible proliferation involving non-state actors including terrorists. Resolution 1540, which was adopted under chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, deals specifically with the potential nexus between WMD proliferation and terrorist activities. This is my first point.

Secondly, given the escalating terrorist incidents of the past decade in virtually all the continents, the emerging threat of a possible use of WMD and related materials by organized terrorist groups is quite possible. It seems clear today that terrorists would not hesitate to use any means available to them. In that respect the international community finds itself in a race against time.

Role of the UNSC 1540 Committee

The third point has to do with the role of the 1540 Committee and its experts. We address the prevention rather than the other aspects of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this respect the first step for the Committee is to take stock of all existing and planned measures, that is, legislative, enforcement and other measures, including civil and criminal codes, to prevent WMD proliferation. These include accounting for, securing and physically protecting sensitive materials and preventing illicit trafficking. Considerable progress has been made towards this end.

However, over 50 States are yet to submit their first reports to the Committee on the implementation of the resolution. Hence, the importance of the outreach activities that we are conducting at the regional and subregional levels. I must stress that we are doing some of them in collaboration with CTED and the 1267 Monitoring Team and now also in partnership with UNODC. In its third year, the Committee has now embarked on the more complex task of advancing the implementation of all aspects of Resolution 1540, essentially to facilitate bridging the gaps in many countries between the obligations enumerated in the resolution and the measure they have already in place.

Challenges of Implementing resolution 1540

Fourthly, what implementation challenges do these gaps signify? A State, for example, may have ratified the CBW or the BWC or the NPT, but unless it follows up by further legislation with regulations and other measures at the national level, implementation remains incomplete, with a

risk that sensitive chemical, biological or nuclear agents might remain without adequate control and thus become an easy target for terrorists. For many States this is not a simple task.

Importance of cooperation and assistance

Finally, our outreach activities conducted in 2005/2006 demonstrated that major assistance efforts are needed to ensure full implementation of resolutions 1540 and 1673 in all the weapons areas. Accordingly, the Committee has embarked on assembling information on both needs, for and offers of, assistance. The role of the Committee is one of serving as a clearing house on relevant assistance. For this purpose, it is working to obtain detailed assistance requests to be matched by assistance offers. The Committee does not have its own resources for assistance purposes but relies on the cooperation of bilateral donors and international and regional organizations and other institutions with considerable experience and extensive programmes. To underscore the importance of such cooperation, the Security Council held an open session last February at which member States as well as the IAEA, the OPCW and the World Customs Organization explored modalities for practical cooperation. A comprehensive strategy for assistance is now being prepared, which will make fuller use of the Committee's website.

Statement

By Ms. Arvinder Sambei

*Head of the Criminal Law Section
Commonwealth Secretariat*

I would like to begin by thanking the organizers for extending an invitation to the Commonwealth Secretariat to attend and participate in this timely meeting. We have worked closely with the TPB for the past few years in delivering training and capacity-building in our member States.

Over the next few minutes I am going to focus what we have learnt over the period, particularly from training workshops.

It is striking that counter terrorism measures do not relate to a single confined area of law but rather encompass a wide range of topics all of which contribute to an overarching concept of counter-terrorism.

In our experience the key components of any counter terrorism initiative are:

- Effective international cooperation;
- The need for a multidisciplinary approach (including the early involvement of the prosecutor), which is relatively new in common law systems;
- Interrelationship and distinction between IHRL and IHL.

Any effective measures for counter terrorism, and indeed any measures dealing with trans-national and organized crime generally, must recognize the significance of international cooperation amongst States and law enforcement agencies. However, this is one area that remains conceptually difficult and in fact “mystical” for the practitioners. The factors that contribute to this perception are essentially three fold:

- Lack of practice and knowledge;
- Most States have either no, or at best an outdated, framework to deal with the demands of MLA, extradition, confiscation, etc;
- Fixed mind or perhaps a misplaced idea that international cooperation erodes State sovereignty.

This lack of recognition of component parts has an adverse knock-on effect: often neither the donor community nor States themselves are fully to discern which aspect of CT training would most benefit them.

I would like to briefly highlight the challenges we face when working with donors and our member States and, of course, possible solutions.

Donors

Generally speaking within the CT context, donors have either not recognized or if they have recognized have not adequately addressed these component parts. Consequently, when donor funding is provided to organizations it is often labelled as a CT project without addressing the areas of activity for which the funding can be used e.g. international cooperation.

A possible solution to this is perhaps early dialogue between capacity-building organizations and donors in order to ensure that funding is best directed to need.; sometimes there is a misplaced insistence on the part of donors that funding cannot be used other than for CT.

A second factor to be borne in mind is one of donor priority countries. We understand that but would like to encourage a more regional approach in appropriate circumstances e.g. border control or international cooperation, rather than confining assistance to country-specific projects.

Communication with countries

A number of challenges are encountered here, all of which are easily avoidable. Generally speaking it is difficult to open dialogue with a country as we do not know who or which agency should be approached to discuss training and more importantly to enable us to understand its priority needs. If this is done at an early stage it permits local ownership and a better and targeted training product.

Once contact is established, we have, regrettably, found that every attempt to get the workshops moving is extremely slow as we are often met by silence. This usually occurs where there has been a shift in the priority of a country's law and order mandate or a change in the political imperative.

We do recognize that CT is a subject that is acutely sensitive to the political climate; for that very reason, we urge States to at least keep us informed of a delay or cancellation so that we are able to adapt and address these changes. Often we do not know whether proposed dates for training are acceptable or not—this makes arrangements extremely fraught and “last minute”. Consequently costs go up and frustration occurs!

Participants—in order to ensure sustainability, countries need to identify the “right” participants, (ideally persons who will remain in post for some time and can cascade learning). We often have no idea of who will be attending or their level of experience. If we have this in advance, the training programme can be tailored for the group rather than remaining at either the “awareness raising” or generic training level.

Methodology

I would finally like to say a few words about methodology. In our experience the key to a successful outcome to a project is phased delivery. This permits organizations to plan ahead, coordinate and see which one is best placed to deal with a particular part of the project. We, and our partners, want to ensure that the training complements rather than duplicates each others work.

The Commonwealth CT programme has been developed in three phases:

- Phase 1:** Awareness raising on a regional basis. This has helped to build regional networks which, in turn, are key to effective MLA etc
- Phase 2:** Training specialists and trainers so they are able to undertake national training programmes
- Phase 3:** Assisting with national training programmes (Kenya and Grenada)

The workshops, in phase 2 and 3 in particular, are practical, immersive and interactive through the use of case studies which require both real and slow time decision-making.

The workshops also aim to build confidence in decision-making (single decision maker) and working in a multidisciplinary team to replicate as far as possible real life situations.

Conclusion

There must be clear objectives on the part of both the country and organizations. Sufficient time should be set down for the workshops (2-3 days do not permit fuller discussions and tend to deal with the “tip of the iceberg”).

Value of partnerships amongst regional and international organizations should not be underestimated; but to work effectively they must have complementary mandates rather than one having a narrow or restrictive mandate.

Importance of communication with the country.

Training must be targeted to meet the country's needs which then leads to local ownership.

In training law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, the judiciary is often overlooked—this must be addressed.

I have tried not to shirk from highlighting the challenges faced, but would like to finish by accentuating the positive—that close working relationship between UNODC and Commonwealth Secretariat to which I referred at the outset makes best use of each partner's comparative advantages. Despite all the challenges I will say the partnership is working.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Hiruy Amanuel

*Programme Head of the Capacity-Building Programme Against Terrorism
Intergovernmental Authority on Development*

I come from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) subregion—grouping the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. The region has established a counter-terrorism programme—the only sub-regional programme in Africa—headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The programme is inspired and politically led by IGAD, and administered by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) based in South Africa. In this sense, it is unique—it is an intergovernmental programme, but implemented by a research institution that is non-governmental.

The region feels vulnerable to terrorism. In addition to inter-State and intra-State conflicts, the Horn of Africa has additional heavy challenges—the high level of poverty, the depletion of resources, the large regions that are under-governed, the prevalence of small arms and light weapons, and the challenge of State building and national reconciliation in Somalia. But this has not deterred the region from going ahead and establishing the programme.

Our programme has been established—not because there is cooperation in the region—but to find ways to create cooperation. Through the support from of seven partner States mainly from Europe, the Capacity-Building Programme Against Terrorism (ICPAT)—although still just one year old—has begun to deliver support to a number of States in the IGAD region.

What are we delivering? What are we doing?

First of all we are making a push so countries—for their own reasons—ratify and implement the international and regional CT conventions. We study the legislation and laws in each country, identify the gaps in national workshops and make and try to implement recommendations. This we have done in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Uganda. A start has also been made in Sudan.

We also evaluate the capacity of the judiciary in dealing with CT cases:

- We carry out studies
- We discuss the results in national meetings
- We make recommendations for action

This has already been done in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Uganda in partnership with UNODC.

Secondly we are pushing for interdepartmental cooperation in each country. Institutions need to consult, share information and ideas in resisting terrorism:

- No habit like this in many parts of Africa;
- We study the status, mandate and capacity of each institution in each country;
- We run meetings with all relevant institutions together;
- Together, we identify the problems, suggest ways out and follow-up;
- This has been done in Sudan and is now underway in Kenya.

Thirdly, we press for stronger management of borders:

- We discuss the problem with national institutions;
- We carry out field research along the borders;
- We bring the results to a national meeting, make recommendations and follow-up.

In this we are in communication with the International Organization for Migration.

Lastly we concentrate on training. We have developed a one month long counter-terrorism training course for law enforcement officers in each country. The course is to run for one month in each country:

- In this we partnered with subregional bureau of Interpol;
- We have also received professional support from experts in the Commonwealth Secretariat.

In addition, we have prepared a terrorism vulnerability assessment and delivered it to the Council of Ministers of IGAD last month. We included matters such as the economic impact of terrorism and public perceptions towards terrorism.

We face many challenges

- Scepticism;
- Other priorities—fight against poverty;
- Public perceptions;
- The security situation in Somalia and the lack of key institutions there;
- Reluctance of Eritrea to participate.

The way forward

- Persistence in carrying out the programme;
- Working to get a full national buy-in from all countries—trust building;
- Use of national personnel;
- Close collaboration with national institutions.

International cooperation is the key

There could be duplication of efforts. We have seen this in the case of one country in the region. Such activities must be done in partnership at three levels—in our case:

- National institutions;
- Our subregional programme;
- Continental/UN initiatives.

We are very appreciative of the partnership with UNODC which has worked with us and delivered on six support activities in three countries—also with the subregional bureau of Interpol, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. There are new links with OSCE, and we are keen to learn from ASEAN and other regional groups.

In our region terrorism reflects a partnership between local, regional and international actors. The response has to fit the challenge. The response to has to come from a real collaboration from our side as well.

Statement

By Ms. Kuniko Ozaki

*Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

In my brief statement on this theme, I wish to cover the following main points:

- Progress in ratification
- Insufficient incorporation of the international obligations into domestic legislation
- International cooperation
- Coordination among international institutions
- Terrorism and other forms of crime

Progress in ratification

Since 11 September 2001 and the subsequent adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) the number of ratifications for the universal legal conventions and protocols related to terrorism has gone up significantly: In July 2001, only two States (Botswana and the United Kingdom) had ratified all the first 12 universal instruments. Today, we have 16 instruments including the new International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and there are 92 countries that have ratified at least 12 of these instruments. 19 States have already ratified the Nuclear Terrorism Convention which requires 22 States Parties in order to enter into force.

Insufficient incorporation of the international obligations into domestic legislation

In spite of the speedy ratification process, there is still a long way to go before they can be considered to be fully implemented by Member States as required by United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and relevant provisions of international treaty law. In particular, the offences set forth in the universal instruments as well as the provisions which oblige State to ensure that terrorist are extradite or prosecuted are in many cases not incorporated in the domestic penal legislation of Member States.

International cooperation

In spite of the increased demand from the Member States for workshops on international cooperation, we should not forget that such cooperation will remain difficult if the offences set forth in the universal conventions and protocols against terrorism are not fully incorporated in the domestic penal legislation of Member States. This point has been highlighted a few weeks ago by the representative of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate at a joint UNODC/OSCE workshop on international cooperation. Not enough attention is paid to the fact that, without proper training, including in foreign languages, criminal justice officials will remain very much handicapped in the area of international cooperation.

Coordination among international institutions

It is of paramount importance that the CTC and the CTED fully fulfil the role assigned to them through Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1535 (2004), respectively. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will hopefully lead to further reinforcing their efforts and is used as a multiplied factor. In particular, for international counter-terrorism efforts to be credible, we need to address situations in which considerable technical assistance delivered do not lead to tangible results. We also need to ensure that there is no duplication of technical assistance efforts. We recognize the important role international, including regional and subregional organizations, can play in the fight against terrorism. Several among them have proved to be effective partners in our counter-terrorism efforts. In the meantime, one of the lessons learned it that they require significantly increased human and financial resources as well as specialized expertise to live up to expectations and make a difference in countering terrorism.

Terrorism and other forms of crime

As mentioned by the President of the United Nations Security Council in January 2004 and reinforced by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, organized crime and terrorism are manifestations of two different types of criminality. Still, it has been observed that trafficking generated by organized crime (drugs, weapons, contraband) may often constitute one of the sources of financing for terrorists. Thus efforts to combat organized crime are an indirect means of preventing terrorist phenomena. UNODC will give reinforced attention to benefit from the synergy of efforts in addressing both terrorism and organized crime and the complementarity between the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Drug Control Conventions.

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Mr. Marcio Reboucas

Second Secretary

Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Vienna

The Brazilian delegation reiterates the absolute repudiation of the Government and society of Brazil to all forms and manifestations of terrorism, under whatever pretexts, and likewise reiterates its understanding that the fight against this phenomenon is a common endeavour and that a high level of international cooperation is central to its efficacy.

The combat against terrorism must make use of all means compatible with the Charters of the United Nations and that of the Organization of American States (OAS) as well as other relevant instruments and principles of international law, in full respect to the due legal process and under strict observance of human rights, civil liberties and international humanitarian law. Any lack of observance of those principles would be a retrogression, inasmuch as it would give room to arbitrary or discriminatory acts and would undermine the legitimacy of the security policies adopted to protect society against terrorism.

Besides the observance of human rights in the repression and elimination of terrorism, there is a constructive aspect that should have priority in the fight against this phenomenon, which is the prevention of terrorist acts. With this aim, it is particularly important to strengthen cooperation both among judicial authorities and law enforcement agencies, including anti-money-laundering agencies, with a view to foresee and dismantle the actions of terrorist groups and their possible association with other criminal organizations. It is also relevant to promote, within societies, democratic values and those of cultural, religious, ethnic and racial tolerance, as well as cooperation for economic and social development.

The Brazilian society has been fortunate to live in peace and harmony within its territory, especially taking into account the diversity of ethnical groups in its composition, which encompasses virtually all regions in the world. We have boundaries with almost all South American States. We are involved in integration processes which aim at economic development and the preservation of peace in our region.

We work together with neighboring countries to prevent and combat terrorism in a variety of different mechanisms, such as the Permanent Working Group of the Meeting of Interior Ministers of MERCOSUL, which met twice under Pro-Tempore presidency of Brazil, in 2006, as well as in the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the OAS and in the United Nations Committee Against Terrorism.

Brazil, has so far, ratified twelve of the thirteen existing international instruments to combat terrorism. The last one, the Convention on Combat to Nuclear Terrorism, of 2005, was signed by Brazil and is currently in the National Congress for ratification. On the financing of terrorism, we are members of the International Financial Action Group on Money-laundering

(GAFI/FATF), created in 1989 within G-7. GAFI contains forty recommendations that offer a comprehensive plan for actions to be implemented with a view to combat money-laundering and nine special recommendations aiming at repressing the financing of terrorism. Together with forty recommendation on money-laundering, the nine special recommendations provide the basic framework to detect, prevent and eliminate the financing of terrorism. Within the Brazilian Government, a dedicated anti-money-laundering agency, the Council for the Control of Financial Activities (COAF), was established in 1998.

The Brazilian Government makes a clear distinction between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and does not recognize automatic links between the two phenomena. The former is moved strictly by financial interests, whereas terrorism employs violent methods with the aim to spreading generalized fear and obliging a State to act or refrain from acting. Having this objective, terrorism may make use of transnational crime, such as drugs and arms trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in people and corruption, in order to support its activities. In certain social contexts, terrorism could avail itself of persons in situations of vulnerability, poverty and social exclusion to attain objectives.

The Brazilian Government appreciates the work being performed by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC, which is in accordance with the division of labour set in the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Brazil attaches importance to these mandates, but wishes to highlight that they are limited and that the focus of UNODC is and should remain, chiefly on the fight against drug trafficking, corruption and transnational organized crime.

Intervention by Mr. Vadim Pisarevich

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations, Vienna

As UNODC Executive Director Mr. Costa noted in his statement yesterday “the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy encourages Member States to draw on technical assistance”. Indeed, each and every state can effectively tackle terrorism only if it is adequately equipped for this task. This point was strongly and clearly underlined by all the distinguished speakers on this theme.

The Republic of Belarus has ratified all the existing international instruments in the area of counter-terrorism. And we have been successfully translating respective international obligations into our national legislation.

In this regard Belarus attaches great importance to the issue of technical assistance. Our country was among those States that received in the past direct technical assistance through the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB). We welcome the TPB’s focus of expanding its technical assistance activities in light of the growing demands on its expertise. We believe that UNODC and its Terrorist Prevention Branch can claim significant comparative advantage for delivering technical assistance in the area of counter-terrorism.

At the same time, Belarus is convinced that there is much room for perfecting the system of technical assistance within the United Nations system. It should be improved, above all, in terms of providing quick response to States' requests.

In this regard I would like to provide one example. In 2005, upon proposal of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Belarus requested technical assistance for strengthening its law enforcement capacities involved in fighting terrorism. Yet, there was no response to our request.

We believe that the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force will help redress such deficiencies, and ensure adequate and timely delivery of technical assistance to United Nations Member States.

Interventions by Mr. Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi

*Counsellor,
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations, Vienna*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that effective implementation of the Strategy requires international cooperation and technical assistance. In this regard, we commend the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the UNODC for its contribution towards preventing and combating terrorism through the provision of technical assistance to States, upon their request, for the promotion of the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the international conventions and protocols against terrorism.

However, it should be noted that the TPB cannot assume a normative role which is the preserve of the United Nations General Assembly. Furthermore, it has to adhere to the established United Nations practices and procedures and ensure transparency, impartiality and participation of all Member States; since the mandate of the Terrorism Prevention Branch is to provide assistance to requesting countries for the ratification and implementation of the international instruments against terrorism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciates the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC for its contribution in convening a Workshop on Prevention and Combating Terrorism on 17-18 January 2007 in Tehran. The Workshop was organized jointly with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Iranian Judiciary.

The assistance of the TPB during the workshop to have common understanding on scourge of terrorism and as a result to facilitate the consideration, ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism was very much welcomed.

It is hoped that providing technical assistances, both at national and regional level, would contribute to development of a collective framework in fighting terrorism.

Intervention by Mr. K. Candra Negara

*Directorate of International Security and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Indonesia*

First of all, I would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to all countries and international organizations that have provided support and assistance to Indonesia in our endeavour to enhance our national capacity to counter terrorism.

Secondly, I would like to share information to all delegate that Indonesia is currently working hand in hand with the European Union and in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to hold a symposium on "Implementing International Conventions (especially Terrorist Bombing and Terrorist Financing), Cyberterrorism and Rehabilitative Measures in Jakarta on 29-30 May 2007. The Symposium will be participated by approximately 100 law enforcement officers, experts and law practitioners from Indonesia (including from regions that deal with terrorist threats and acts) and European Union, and will be organized in the form of dialogue to promote the exchange of experience and best practices.

As many delegate here are aware of, Indonesia and Australia have established the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) that has proven to be a tremendous pool of resources for the region in the fight against transnational crime, particularly terrorism. Since it became operational in 2005, the centre has conducted more than 89 training courses and has trained approximately 1969 law enforcement practitioners from Indonesia and countries in the region. The trainings and sharing of experiences and expertise have enabled law enforcement officers to remain vigilant and innovative.

Due to the success story of the JCLEC, we have received several requests for cooperation and assistance from various countries outside the region in term of sending participants or inviting instructors to their countries. Nevertheless, we have to admit that since this Centre is focused to increase the capacity of the law enforcement officers of Indonesia and countries in the region, we have not allocated sufficient budget for any activities outside the region. I would seek and welcome any suggestions from the participants of this Symposium in this regard.

**Respecting human rights for all and the rule of law as
the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism**

Keynote address

By H.E. Ms. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin

Counter-Terrorism Ambassador of Sweden

Since the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September last year, terrorist attacks have continued to claim victims around the world. That is the tragic background to our meeting, and that is why we must continue to stand united to counter a threat that affects us all. This Symposium is a valuable opportunity to show a united stance and my government is grateful to its organizers, the Austrian Government, the UNODC and the EOSG. I believe that our discussions show a strong common will to deliver results based on the United Nations strategy.

Within the framework of the United Nations, important efforts are being made to facilitate implementing the strategy. The Executive Office of the Secretary General and the members of the CTITF have started out in an impressive way. They have taken on a huge task, and we support them in their endeavour. But equally important is that each and every member state take a responsibility for implementing the United Nations strategy. This is especially so regarding human rights and the principles of rule of law, the topic of this session that I have the great honour to open. In this field, we as Member States all have a clear responsibility to live up to our obligations and commitments.

And that is where I would like to start my presentation: in the commitments that we all share, and that we reaffirmed in the strategy, in the international legal framework as the basis and precondition for effective counter-terrorism. I would then like to highlight some of the challenges we face in order to make human rights a reality in our everyday work to fight terrorism. Finally I will look ahead and briefly touch upon potential ways to move our work forward.

The international legal framework for the fight against terrorism is well developed, with the sixteen universal instruments at its core. Sweden is strongly committed to finding an agreement on the comprehensive convention, which will fill gaps between existing instruments. Yet we should not let outstanding issues obscure the fact that a solid legal framework is already in place for our counter-terrorism cooperation, a framework that is clearly based on human rights and the rule of law.

Human rights law is, in effect, key to all counter-terrorism. Measures against terrorism will be effective and perceived as legitimate only when they are taken within a framework of international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. If we do not take this into account in our daily efforts to counter terrorism, we will become counter-productive.

This means, for example, that our counter-terrorism measures must respect the global ban on torture, the right to a fair trial, the right to be heard and the right to be informed about the grounds for detention. This means that our crucial work to counter extremism and incitement to terrorism must respect the freedom of expression. I could go on, but time does not permit

me to separately cite all the different human rights that are directly relevant in the fight against terrorism. Let me just underline what, in Sweden's view must be the key to the understanding of our obligations in this field. That is that there can be no legal gaps in the protection of the rights of individuals: there can be no instances where the protection applicable and guaranteed in human rights law and international humanitarian law can be set aside.

We have all committed ourselves to the high principles of human rights. But what does it mean in practice? Declaring our support of principles will not be enough. We also need to discuss how to ensure and promote human rights in the everyday operative work. How do we combine the need for strong measures with the need to ensure that these measures comply with human rights obligations? That is a key question. It is my government's firm belief that we can and must translate these different needs into a coherent reality. Yet we must also acknowledge the challenges involved. So let me focus on some of these challenges.

First, a few comments on human rights and radicalization. Terrorism thrives in environments where human rights are violated, where political and civil rights are curtailed. I think we are all aware of cases where terrorists have exploited human rights violations to gain support for their extremist causes.

Against this background, we should keep in mind that even counter-terrorism actions with quite legitimate goals can be counter-productive if the respect for human rights is not a core element. Mass arrests and prolonged detention periods of terrorist suspects might benefit an operation in the short term. But in the long term such methods run the risk of radicalizing individuals who may later be found innocent, or harden those who already believe in violent extremism. The detention centre at Guantanamo Bay has become a symbol of this dilemma. My government's declared view is that the detention camp should be phased-out, and the detainees be given a fair trial.

Similar situations can be found elsewhere. It is a recognized fact in different parts of the world today that prisons and detention centres have become fertile grounds for radicalization. If detentions are carried out without respect for the rule of law and the human rights of suspects, these measure run a high risk of contributing to creating fresh recruits for extremist or terrorist groups.

Let me go on to another challenge: sanctions. Sanctions are an important tool in the prevention of terrorism. In order for this tool to be effective, the sanction regimes must be perceived as credible and legitimate. Conformity with international legal obligations, including human rights, is of key importance in this context. And here, it is fair to say that the type of targeted sanctions that are relevant in the prevention terrorism has presented the international community with new challenges. When we apply targeted sanctions against individuals, involving measures such as freezing of assets, it is necessary to consider how they affect human rights and principles of rule of law.

Against this background, Sweden along with many other States has criticized the United Nations sanctions listing mechanism under the 1267 regime. Together with others we have made active efforts to improve listing and delisting procedures. And I wish to underline that we do welcome the positive steps that have been taken recently, most notably the adoption of resolutions 1730 and 1735. My government will follow with great interest what practical effects the new procedures will have. Yet I must also stress that important deficiencies remain,

in our assessment. We will therefore continue to work for further improvements, including with a view to creating some kind of review mechanism within the Security Council.

One primary area where human rights and the rule of law must be upheld is in the work of our criminal justice systems. At the political level, we are good at talking about the importance of human rights in combating terrorism, but what messages are we sending to our national police forces, to our judges and prosecutors? Maybe we all too often demand short-term efficiency, while forgetting to talk about human rights and rule of law.

A key aspect of the rule of law is that the individual can put trust in legislation, authorities and courts. In the fight against terrorism the challenges can be particularly difficult. One example is the exchange of information—or rather intelligence—and the use of this intelligence by law enforcement authorities.

Exchange of information is widely considered as a key to effective counter-terrorism cooperation. In highly sensitive cases like terrorism investigations, questions arise. Can we use information in court, especially if it could be suspected to have been obtained by investigation techniques that possibly may have violated human rights in another case, in another country? Extracting evidence through torture or other practices violating human rights is of course never acceptable under any circumstances. Third countries which receive information that may have been obtained by illegitimate methods face another human rights dilemma. To use the information could be seen as a tacit acceptance of torture. Moreover, information obtained through abusive interrogation methods may be unreliable from an operational point of view.

The respect for Human Rights is important as a principle in its own right, but it also has very practical consequences for operative judicial and police cooperation. Many countries would rightly decline to expel or extradite persons to a country which cannot be trusted to apply human rights in the further judicial process. This might hinder or delay important convictions, but is in some cases the only way to ensure that human rights are observed. It is also a question of upholding the legitimacy for the cooperation in the long run. Judicial cooperation could be much improved if the mutual trust in application of human rights and rule of law could be fostered.

As these examples show, human rights and the rule of law are not lofty principles, they are values that boil down to very concrete decisions, decisions that affect peoples lives. It takes both skills and guidance to know how to act according to these values in the daily counter-terrorism work.

These challenges and examples also show the close link between respect for human rights on the one hand, and, on the other, efficiency and effectiveness in the operative work.

What is also clear is that we cannot pick and choose when to apply human rights. Because undermining the protection of certain human rights will undermine the human rights system as a whole. And we simply cannot afford the consequences of weakening the system which has been put in place to protect us.

Looking ahead, finally, we have much to accomplish. The baseline is that it is the responsibility of every single state to ensure the security of its own citizens, both by countering terrorism and by ensuring proper protection of human rights and the rule of law. We can

learn from each other and achieve stronger protection for human rights if we adopt common standards, and enhance our exchanges of information and knowledge. The Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook is a good example of how this can be done. Now, we need to make maximum practical use of this instrument.

We also need to make the best use of our different human rights instruments. Last year, the historic decision to create a new Human Rights Council provided new momentum to human rights work within the United Nations. We want the new Council to be a truly effective body, which can also deal with some of the challenges we are discussing today. We should make good use of the tools at the disposal of the Council: the Universal Periodic Review, the system of Special Rapporteurs and the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office all play crucial roles. My government welcomes this. We attach great priority to the increased efforts to mainstream human rights in the United Nations system as a whole—in development work, in peacekeeping, as well as in counter-terrorism activities.

New approaches to development cooperation and to the links between development, human rights and security is another way forward. In this field, we need to address issues such as radicalization in fragile States. One challenge lies in preventing extreme voices from gaining ground in societies with weak social and educational systems. This involves complex issues, including to ensure that our efforts do not infringe upon the freedom of expression or on other human rights.

Capacity-building is a related area. Let me stress the key importance of capacity-building in strengthening respect for human rights in the everyday work against terrorism. Because human rights is not only a question of obligations or political commitment, but also of capacity in terms of legal frameworks and well-functioning institutions with trained personnel. In recognition of this reality, Sweden is a strong promoter of capacity-building of judiciaries and police forces. In this context I would like to commend the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch. It is doing a tremendous work in facilitating the implementation of the United Nations strategy through legal capacity-building. My government has recently made a special contribution to that effort.

It is also important to encourage regional and international cooperation in the work of police forces and courts. Training, visits and exchange programmes contribute to building confidence and to increase understanding between law enforcement agencies.

We need to continue sharing best practices and my government is certainly willing to contribute. One area of interest may be Sweden's current work to mainstream human rights in the work of our police forces. The Swedish National Police Board is at present actively reviewing how human rights training is incorporated into police education. An ethics council and a working group on police ethics have also been established within the National Police Board, all in order to mainstream human rights into the methods and daily work of policing in Sweden.

Let me end by once more thanking the organizers for giving us a timely opportunity to focus on what can be done better, to share views and experiences, and to learn from each other. Open dialogue of this kind is a key to success. Yet ultimately the political will to live up to our obligations and commitments is what makes a difference. Ladies and gentlemen, with the principles of rule of law and respect for human rights as our basis, our efforts to prevent terrorism will be efficient, fair and just.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Deniau

*Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in French)*

As a victim of international terrorism at home and abroad, France has long demonstrated its resolve to combat the phenomenon. Our experience leads us to make the following three remarks:

- The fight against terrorism and the rule of law are not contradictory;
- Respect for the rule of law and human rights reinforces the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism;
- The international dimension of terrorism is unavoidable.

The fight against terrorism and the rule of law are not contradictory

Our experience of terrorism and the threat our country has faced since the 1980s have led us to seek an effective and adapted response to this challenge. Our response stands unequivocally within the law.

France's fight against international terrorism respects pivotal principles, including the rule of law, human rights, public freedoms and international law.

Accordingly, France has established an original criminal justice system for the prevention and repression of terrorism. The central element of the system is the Law of 8 September 1986, which was adopted in the wake of the wave of attacks in 1985 and 1986 and was completed further by the Law of 23 January 2006, approved by broad consensus in Parliament. Our judicial system is characterized by the following three elements in particular:

An act of terrorism is defined as the combination of a crime or offence in common law and the 'individual or collective attempt to seriously undermine public order using intimidation or terror'.

The existence of a specific offence enabling the support structures of the perpetrators of attacks or their accomplices to be eliminated, and also to prevent attacks in the course of preparation (such as the attack which was prevented in Strasbourg at the end of 2000).

The specialization of counter-terrorism judges, which has helped develop a true counter-terrorism culture and has made the fight against terrorism unquestionably more effective.

The White Paper on national security and terrorism published in 2006 sets out the country's counter-terrorism strategy in a transparent and informative manner.

Respect for the rule of law and, in particular, human rights reinforces the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism

We believe that the fight against this scourge necessitates a clear body of legislation and procedures which are known to all. When they are clear and respect the principles of the rule of law, the rules are better understood and therefore more effective:

Example: TV broadcast ban in 2004.

Conversely, when the fight against terrorism disregards respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms it fails to achieve its purpose on two counts:

- It inevitably leads to abuses (the Special Rapporteurs and independent experts of the United Nations have highlighted the growing threat of certain measures that may go as far as extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, recourse to torture);
- It is potentially counterproductive: by establishing arbitrary and discriminatory measures, the battle against terrorism, if it fails to respect the principles of the rule of law, can breed intolerance and hatred, two factors that can contribute to radicalization.

Therefore, we must ensure that the concept does not prevail of a fight against terrorism that, after giving an illusory impression of effectiveness, risks nurturing a vicious circle of arbitrary repression and radicalization.

For these reasons also France repudiates anything that might lead to the establishment of an association between membership of a religion and terrorism, or which might give credence to the notion of a clash of civilizations.

(Cf. Statement by the Turkish ambassador).

The international dimension of terrorism is unavoidable

It is unavoidable because terrorism is international and we need to cooperate to establish an international legal framework capable of combating it and to ensure the effective implementation of these legal instruments.

In this regard, the adoption of the global counter-terrorism strategy by the international community was particularly important. The adoption of this text by consensus reinforces—and we welcome this—the international provisions established, especially Resolution 1373.

It is important to stress that the strategy accords a significant place to human rights protection: its fourth pillar is devoted entirely to human rights, while the need to respect these rights underpins the whole text. We also welcome the decision by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to take account of the question of human rights and to reinforce cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, whose pivotal role is highlighted in the Strategy;

We welcome the work of the Special Rapporteurs, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and hope that all countries will extend a permanent invitation to the United

Nations Rapporteurs to visit them and will systematically agree to requests for visits; We rely on the Task Force to afford human rights priority in the fight against terrorism.

As we have heard several times, implementation of the Strategy is primarily the responsibility of States. To that end, they should—if they have not done so already—ratify the sectoral conventions relating to the fight against terrorism and make terrorist acts an offence in their domestic legislation. They should also sign up to international instruments guaranteeing the promotion and protection of human rights, whether core Conventions or other vital instruments such as the international Convention for the protection of all persons against enforced disappearance. France recently organized the signing ceremony for this text and I would like to use this Symposium to call on States who have not yet signed to do so.

Over and above the establishment of a legal framework, the international community must help States with effective implementation of the texts.

We must also encourage and support the activities of all United Nations bodies whose mobilisation is indispensable in order to counter terrorism in a manner respectful of human rights. Coordination among these bodies, an aspect underlined in the Strategy, guarantees the success of their mission. Attention has been drawn to this aspect many times and France fully endorses the analysis given.

The coordination of the activities of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and those of UNODC is also essential to equip States with a criminal justice system that is effective and respects the rule of law.

I should also like to emphasize the importance of the comments made by Mr Costa at the opening of the Symposium and congratulate UNODC on the quality of its work and the comprehensive technical aid it has delivered. Based on the Office's long experience in assistance with international judicial cooperation, the Terrorism Prevention Branch has developed concrete programmes tailored to the needs of the States concerned. Its actions help show that the incorporation of international texts on terrorism can be achieved with respect for national legal traditions. Moreover, the resolve of the branch to provide assistance in all the official languages of the United Nations, thus anticipating the resolution on multilingualism adopted yesterday by the General Assembly, is a demonstration of effectiveness and universality which is to be welcomed. This aspect lies at the very heart of the mission of the United Nations.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Claude Heller

*Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nation, New York
(Delivered in Spanish)*

The international community has had to address a series of challenges in the fight against terrorism in recent years. One of these is how to guarantee international peace and security in the face of the perverse consequences of terrorism without sacrificing the universal and absolute value of human rights. This is an indispensable condition for civilized coexistence within our own borders and worldwide.

In a number of commitments, the United Nations has established that measures taken by States to combat terrorism and to protect and afford the required security to their citizens must respect the obligations contracted under international law, in particular human rights legislation, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

It is our task to analyse how the United Nations system can coordinate and strengthen its counter-terrorism actions in order to consolidate the objectives of preventing and combating terrorism more effectively, while at the same time guaranteeing respect for fundamental rights in complete accordance with international law.

Without doubt, the Strategy adopted in 2006—the theme of this Symposium—is a comprehensive agreement in the fight against terrorism which will allow the United Nations system to give a coordinated, general and coherent response to the phenomenon. Nonetheless, we must be fully aware that the Strategy will only be meaningful if States express the political will needed to adopt the various concrete measures set out in the Strategy and if the technical capacity needed to implement them is developed.

With respect to the provisions of the Strategy concerning respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, we must begin by analysing the system's capacity to coordinate, promote, and guarantee compliance by States.

In this regard, two important measures adopted recently by the Secretary General deserve mention: the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. Given their broad and interdisciplinary make-up, both these bodies have great potential to support States in achieving compliance with their duties arising out of the Strategy.

Moreover, existing structures such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have ample experience and capacity to provide assistance to States, for example, in consolidating national criminal justice systems, in preparing and analysing draft legislation, and in building institutional capacities to adopt and deliver measures and policies on human rights protection and the fight against terrorism, whose objectives are complementary as opposed to contradictory.

In analysing what States need to do to adopt the measures established by the Strategy and the role of the United Nations in this process, one wonders whether it is enough to consider signing up to international human rights instruments or to consider accepting the competence of international and regional supervisory bodies.

It is also appropriate to ask, from the institutional standpoint, how and where actions adopted by States to safeguard human rights when taking counter-terrorism measures are recorded. How does the Organization monitor these processes and which of its bodies are competent to evaluate the measures?

In recent years, for example, the Executive Directorate of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee has increased its dialogue and links with the system's competent human rights bodies, in order to include the human rights component when examining States' compliance with their obligations under Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions.

The General Assembly has also set itself the task of negotiating a draft international convention against terrorism. As we know, although currently in its final stages, the convention has not been adopted yet.

However, in our opinion one of the best measures contained in the Strategy is the reference to the Human Rights Council, the creation of which is one of the most important aspects of the reforms undertaken in recent years. This body should play a pivotal role within the Organization to foster the universality of human rights instruments and secure their implementation at national level. In tandem, the Council has to identify the needs of each country in order to provide the technical assistance needed to address the challenge of preserving human rights in the fight against terrorism, via the different bodies of the system.

It is also very important for the Human Rights Council to exercise its powers to draw the attention of the different bodies of the system, and the international community, to serious State measures or situations which, in the context of the fight against terrorism, stray from the goal of human rights protection and, consequently, from international law.

Although the Human Rights Council is still at the institution-building stage and is still establishing its working methods, it already has sufficient resources to perform the above tasks, through the work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism and the creation of a universal periodic review mechanism which, in addition to its initial functions, could make a contribution by examining the advances made in the implementation of the Strategy.

All these tools require the full cooperation of Member States, however. There is little point in establishing a strategy and promoting institutional reform such as that undertaken by the United Nations without endorsement from the Member States in the form of actions.

In order to fully consolidate the rule of law in the fight against terrorism, States need to set an example by transposing into national law their international commitments and the universally-applicable principles inherent to human rights.

The United Nations has proven in-the-field capacity to deliver the assistance and strengthen or create the institutional capacities needed by Governments to give effect to their

international commitments. This capacity should be viewed as an instrument in the service of Member States, which they can call upon at any time.

Implementing the counter-terrorism strategy requires, therefore, States to commence or continue the corresponding national processes to adopt the measures set out in the strategy. At the same time, the Organization needs to strengthen, in a coherent manner, its institutional capacity to support and supervise States in this task. Consequently, it is crucial that implementation of the Strategy is evaluated regularly by the General Assembly to ensure compliance with its objectives and, where appropriate, to decide on future actions to strengthen these in this priority aspect of the international agenda.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Carlos Alberto Higueras Ramos

*Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Spanish)*

Despite the inhumane nature of terrorism, no international consensus has yet been reached on a comprehensive legal definition of that phenomenon. However, neither its extreme cruelty nor the absence of such a definition should serve as an excuse for States, in combating terror, to shirk their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law instruments.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a major step forward in terms of the response of the international community to the challenges that this global problem poses. The Strategy not only reaffirms the global condemnation of any act, method or practice of terrorism, but also expresses, for the first time, clear political support for an integrated approach to combating this cruel phenomenon, establishing the foundations for a systematic, sustained and effective response to the various aspects of the terrorist phenomenon.

For Peru, it is also very important that the Strategy recognizes what has become increasingly evident within Peru, namely the importance of the links between terrorism and other criminal phenomena that facilitate it, such as illicit drug trafficking, organized crime, money-laundering and other activities; phenomena that are clearly of a transnational nature. Given that context, combating terrorism must be combined with action against those related phenomena.

Countries which, like Peru, have in the past suffered the devastating impact of terrorism, understand that the response must be comprehensive, addressing the underlying social and political problems. It has been recognized that enforcement activities should go hand in hand with far-reaching policies to promote development, reduce poverty and strengthen democracy, while also ensuring full compliance with human rights and international law. In Peru, this approach has been embraced as a policy under the national agreement on governance (Acuerdo Nacional). Democracies should not allow themselves to be carried away by the fear and anxiety that terrorists seek to instil; instead, they should combat them by implementing policies that protect the civil liberties of their citizens while respecting international humanitarian law and human rights instruments. Only in this way can governments maintain the ethical and political legitimacy needed in order to defeat the scourge of terrorism.

International experience to date demonstrates the difficulty in achieving a balance between human rights protection and security policies in the context of counter-terrorism. However, the same experience has also shown that the fight against terrorism calls for trust in and on the part of peoples. In that regard, actions to combat terrorism should not have a negative impact on the treatment of immigrants, refugees, internal migrants or ethnic minorities.

There is no doubt that in an integrated approach to the fight against terrorism, including prevention, enforcement and post-conflict action through the police, judicial and social sectors, the promotion and protection of human rights is a core element that strengthens the ability of the State to combat terrorism and to build a culture of peace that facilitates

the processes of post-conflict reconciliation and strengthening of democracy. Both objectives are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Civil society organizations play a key role in this process by promoting a culture of peace, ensuring respect for human rights and participating actively in dialogue and cooperation.

The counter-terrorist legislation adopted in Peru at the beginning of the 1990s, against a backdrop of political and social upheaval, was revised from 2001 onwards as Peru returned to democracy. Following a complex process during which Peru was condemned by international human rights bodies, the decisions of those bodies were implemented, which entailed amending related legislation in order to bring it into line with international human rights standards while taking into account the firmness that has to be exercised in combating criminal acts rooted in terrorism.

Peru continues to abide by its commitment to implement the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, recognizing the important role of the Commission and the Court in the difficult political and social process that Peru underwent in order to restore democracy following the coup d'état of 1992, one of the pretexts for which had been the fight against terrorist subversion. With the democratic institutions duly restored, the trials of leaders of the Shining Path and Tupac Amarú (MRTA) terrorist groups resumed in impartial and transparent proceedings presided over by civil judges who observed due process.

The lesson learned from those years was that strengthening democratic institutions and the presence of the State, respect for human rights and law enforcement are indispensable in any prevention policy. In that regard, the Government of Peru has begun to implement a peace and development plan for the Apurimac and Ene river valleys for 2007-2011, with the involvement of the Ministry of Defence and other governmental bodies. The project comprises a plan of multisectoral action to foster economic development and improve the social conditions of the local population with the aim of ensuring peace and security and promoting the active participation of organized society.

With regard to post-conflict action, following the establishment by the Government of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2001 and the publication of its recommendations, a high-level multisectoral commission was established to monitor State actions and policies in the areas of peace, collective reparations and national reconciliation. The current Government has publicly reaffirmed its commitment to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly in relation to reparations, underscoring the need to act more decisively in order to make progress in implementing those recommendations and to develop an adequate policy of redress for victims. In addition, a reparations council has been established, financed by the Government.

The case of Peru might therefore serve as a valuable lesson to other countries and for the effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The experience of Peru demonstrates that every society should create the conditions necessary for the ongoing development of domestic legislation and comprehensive prevention, enforcement and post-conflict policies.

Faced with the mistakes of the past and an ever-present threat, it is more urgent than ever to find an appropriate balance, according to each situation, between effective enforcement action and comprehensive policies that embrace human rights.

In many societies, such as that of Peru, that balance is crucial in ensuring that the defeat of terrorism is not temporary but rather is sustained by the simultaneous building of trust in the rule of law, democratic coexistence and intercultural dialogue.

This is all I wished to say, in these few minutes, about the 25 years of suffering and pain caused by terrorism in Peru. Collective reparations and national reconciliation are acts that follow criminal acts of terrorism. Peace is the highest goal to which Peru aspires, with the full functioning of its democratic institutions and, most importantly, the full exercise by its citizens of the everyday civil liberties to which they are all entitled.

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra

*Director, African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), African Union
(Delivered in French)*

May I begin by saying how happy I am to be here today with you to discuss the crucial question of the compatibility between the effective fight against terrorism and respect for human rights and freedoms.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Government of Austria, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for organizing this important forum for discussing and exchanging views on the progress achieved on the United Nations counter-terrorism strategy.

The presence here today of such a learned assembly of eminent personalities, legal experts and specialists in counter-terrorism will, I am sure, prove very fruitful for our debates and conclusions. How can terrorism be countered while respecting the fundamental rights of human beings?

How, given the general censure of terrorism, can and do democratic States prevent and combat terrorism in all its manifestations without losing their soul? This is the substance of the theme proposed for discussion and which, in the five minutes speaking time allocated, it is our job to examine in the African context and from the standpoint of the responses offered.

Terrorism is viewed by the international community today as one of the most serious threats to world peace and security. Not only does it constitute a negation of human rights, it is also a barrier to the economic and social development of States.

Africa, which already suffers war and conflict in parts of the continent, must also—in addition to its current difficulties, which are compounded by the fragile economic situation—contend with the dangers posed by terrorism. The challenge is considerable given that African countries must not only combat the problem but also ensure their territories are not used as shelters, transit points and recruitment posts for international terrorism.

Establishing a legal framework to counter-terrorism

In response to the terrorist attacks which have taken place in Africa (in Algeria during the “decade of tragedy”, the bomb attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi and Mombassa, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania), the Organization of African Unity, long before the tragic and painful events of 11 September 2001, established a regional framework to prevent and combat extremism (cf. OAU Conference in Dakar in 1992 and the OAU Summit in Tunis, which adopted a Code of Conduct condemning extremism in all its forms) and terrorism.

The broad lines of the legal framework to tackle terrorism were established initially in the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted in 14 July 1999 in Algiers, a city which has suffered badly at the hands of terrorists.

In addition to defining terrorist acts, the Convention encourages African States to strengthen their border control and surveillance methods and take all measures to prevent the creation of support networks for all forms of terrorism.

It also commits States to promoting the exchange of information and specialist knowledge concerning terrorist acts, to create databases on terrorist acts and organizations and to establish effective cooperation links to combat this scourge.

Succeeding the Organization of African Unity with a new ambition, namely, to “create a united and integrated Africa, imbued with the ideals of justice and peace, a strong Africa based on solidarity, composed only of democratic States which respect human rights and are concerned to build balanced societies”, the African Union has taken up this deep concern for continental security and has adopted several legal instruments aimed at strengthening the provisions of the Convention.

One month after 11 September 2001, as an expression of their sympathy for the people of the United States and their rejection of terrorism, African leaders met in Dakar and adopted the Dakar Declaration on Terrorism, in which they reaffirmed the will of Africa to contribute to the global fight against terrorism.

In September 2002, the African Union adopted a Plan of Action which defines concrete strategies aimed at combating terrorism; determines the roles and responsibilities of the Commission of the African Union and the Union’s Peace and Security Council in the battle against terrorism; took the decision to create the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism.

The Centre, based in Algiers, has been operational since 13 October 2004 and is tasked with helping strengthen the African Union’s capacities to prevent and combat terrorism. Similarly, in order to ensure effective implementation of the 1999 Convention, within the framework of the Plan of Action, in July 2004 African States approved the Protocol to the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating Terrorism.

Under the terms of the Protocol, African States undertake specifically to:

- Prevent the entry and formation of terrorist groups on their territory;
- Identify, detect, freeze and seize all funds and assets used or apportioned for the commission of an act of terrorism;
- Immediately inform the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of all acts of terrorism committed on their territory.

In combating terrorism States can avail themselves of both national and international Law in order to confront the challenge using the lawful effective prevention means and coercive methods they afford. In this regard, a permanent balance must be struck between the need for repression and the need to protect human rights.

On 18 January 2003, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, addressing the members of the Security Council on the problem of the relationship between terrorism and human rights, highlighted the problem when he stated that “Each of us has to be fully aware that human rights protection must not yield to the effectiveness of action against terrorism. On the contrary, in the long term, human rights, democracy and social justice are seen to be one of the best remedies against terrorism.”

Five years after they were spoken during the period that followed the worldwide commotion caused by the tragic events of 11 September 2001, these words retain their terrible validity. All the legal instruments adopted by the African Union to combat terrorism reflect unequivocally the will expressed by the Union in its Constitutive Act (articles 3(h) and 4(o)) to “promote and protect human and peoples” rights, respect the sanctity of human life, and condemn and reject impunity and political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities’. Specifically, article 22 of the Convention for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism stipulates clearly that “nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as derogating from the general principles of international law, in particular the principles of international humanitarian law, as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights”.

The adoption of these different legal instruments, in fulfilment also of the obligations arising out of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (which was adopted in 1981 in Nairobi at the eighteenth Conference of the OAU), evidences that the fight against terrorism is above all for African countries an affirmation of human values whose protection is exercised through the application of national and international legal provisions in accordance with international standards for the protection and safeguarding of human rights. This important commitment by the African Union to scrupulously respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the area of counter-terrorism merits congratulation.

The unanimous ratification of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the subsequent adoption of the Protocol by all African countries is undeniable proof of the will of African States to prioritize human rights and to engage in frank and continuous dialogue with international and transnational human rights stakeholders. In this area, however, experience shows the need to move beyond public declarations and commit to verifying the effectiveness of the rights. This is where the shoe pinches.

An examination of the situation in the various countries, through a review of their legislation and the methods and practices used to combat terrorism, indicates that public statements concerning respect for human rights are not adhered to by all countries.

It seems as if the grave danger posed by terrorism and the need to eradicate it have served to inhibit consciences, often leading the national counter-terrorism authorities to adopt emergency laws and shun better methods in order to be more effective in combating terrorism.

Human rights defenders have drawn attention on many occasions to practices which contravene human rights. Aware of its international obligations, the African Union has committed itself to establishing safeguards and, through the different mechanisms adopted, is performing a clearly educational role.

Mechanisms to monitor respect of human rights

In order to guarantee the effective implementation of the provisions set out in the various legal instruments, a number of mechanisms have been put in place.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

The African Commission, established in 1986, was tasked by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights with monitoring the Treaties and mandated to promote and protect human rights.

In its role as the interpreter of the African Charter, the Commission carries out many visits to African countries to promote the Charter among decision makers, civil society and NGOs. It encourages Member States to create credible and autonomous national human rights institutions.

The Commission regularly organizes training seminars for interested parties. It also compiles documentation to aid the preparation of model legislation and in this way help Member States transpose the provisions of the Charter (article 45).

It has already adopted a number of resolutions aimed at raising awareness of human rights issues among African States (cf. Resolution on the protection of human rights and the status of human rights in the fight against terrorism at the thirty-seventh Session of the ACHPR, 21 November-5 December 2005, in Banjul, Gambia).

The Commission has no power to impose its recommendations on States; consequently, it was felt from the outset that a new mechanism was needed to afford greater protection for human rights. The African Union addressed this concern by creating an African Union Court of Justice.

African Union Court of Justice

This is one of the statutory bodies of the African Union. Under the terms of the Protocol adopted in Maputo (Mozambique) on 11 July 2003, the African Union Court of Justice is competent for all disputes and requests submitted to it concerning:

“The interpretation and application of the Act; The interpretation, application or validity of Union treaties and all subsidiary legal instruments adopted within the framework of the Union”.

In July 2004, the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union took the decision to “merge the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice into a single jurisdiction”. The decision has been criticized by human rights defenders, including the International Federation of Human Rights, on the basis that “the modes of recourse to the Court of Justice do not allow victims of human rights violations and NGOs to bring actions directly before the Court”.

The African Union Court of Justice has not been established yet but there is cause for congratulation nonetheless. The African Union has taken a major step forward by setting up the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights established by the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights creating the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Adopted in June 1998 by the OAU at its thirty-fourth session in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights creating the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights entered into force on 26 December 2003.

In the Preamble the Protocol States that “the attainment of the objectives of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights requires the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to complement and reinforce the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights”.

Reinforcing the Commission's advisory role, the Protocol—which seeks to give effect to the spirit and letter of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights—entrusts the African Court with the task of examining at legal level “all matters and all disputes brought to it concerning the interpretation and application of the Charter, the present Protocol and any other human rights instrument”.

Established in January 2007, the Court, which has 11 elected judges and is based in Tanzania, is empowered therefore to examine allegations of breaches of human rights.

Working independently of African governments, the Court, through its rulings, should serve as a veritable springboard to ensure respect for regional human rights protection provisions in Africa. The following are authorized to bring cases to the Court:

- The Commission of the African Union
- The State Party which has lodged a complaint to the Commission
- The State Party against which a complaint has been filed
- The State Party whose citizen is a victim of human rights violation
- African intergovernmental organizations.

To ensure effective protection of human rights, article 5.3 of the Protocol has established a revolutionary provision: it allows individuals and NGOs with observer status before the African Commission to take cases directly to the Court, provided that in ratifying the Protocol the State has accepted the competence of the Court (ex: Burkina Faso).

Hopefully therefore the new Court, with the mandate it has been given to protect human rights, will—through its independence and effectiveness—help lead the legitimate and necessary fight against terrorism.

Conclusion

Despite their limited economic, institutional and human resources, and with the support of international cooperation, African States are ready to play their role in the global fight against terrorism.

Resolved to build States genuinely based on the rule of law, many countries in Africa have already demonstrated a serious commitment to citizens' rights by adopting and ratifying

not just the various regional human rights instruments but also universal counter-terrorism instruments. However, the time has come to go further and really commit to making national legislation truly compatible with international standards.

Based on the model of the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights will certainly have an important role to play in the establishment of regional legislation affording genuine protection for the human rights of African citizens.

For their part, human rights non-governmental organizations will also have an important role to play in the process gradually put in place.

The commitment of the African Union, set out in the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in Grande Baie (Mauritius) in which the organization urges Member States to “take urgent measures to guarantee the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in Africa”, will certainly help guarantee the primacy of the law and make the Law the unifying framework of the fight against terrorism and organized crime.

Statement

By Mr. George Okoth-Obbo

Director
Division of International Protection Services
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not a mandated agency in the field of counter-terrorism. It has been entrusted with the mandate to ensure the protection of refugees. Refugee protection and counter-terrorism are, however, intersecting in ever more critical ways.

Let me therefore thank, Mr Chairman, the Secretary-General's Office, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Austria for this opportunity for UNHCR to highlight today the relationship between these two fields. I will also state UNHCR's attitude to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the principal subject of this Symposium. I will focus on the issues that are pre-eminent in relation to legal compliance.

Today, some nearly 10 million people need protection as refugees across the globe. They are victims of massive abuses of human rights. Indeed, refugees are often among the first victims of terrorism whether at home or across borders. UNHCR thus of course supports legitimate efforts to combat terrorism. In this way, one among the roots of forced displacements will thereby be mitigated.

The concern we have had is that, unfortunately, evidently warranted efforts in battling this scourge have also had critical adverse impacts on the international protection of refugees. Asylum-seekers and refugees have been vilified, stigmatized or criminalized as themselves terrorists. Those from certain religions, cultures, regions or background are implicitly or automatically viewed as merchants of death rather than seekers of the safety they have lost at home. Asylum itself is in the imagination of many a citizen equated with havens under which perpetrators of terrorism lurk and ply their invidious trade. A number of evidently necessary and legitimate policy, legal and practical steps in law and judicial enforcement have nevertheless been applied so broadly or otherwise strictly that this same diminishing effect on asylum and protection space is the result. Thus the following occurs:

- Asylum-seekers increasingly find it difficult to gain access to territory or to asylum procedures.
- Detention and forced return to the country of origin is being resorted to more frequently and without regard to the risk of persecutory danger.
- A raft of broad policy, legal and administrative instruments, particularly to exclude or remove refugees or asylum-seekers with greater facility, is being resorted to and applied, even on a collective basis, as opposed to the principle which normally requires proof on a case-by-case basis.

UNHCR does not believe that counter-terrorism (CT) measures need necessarily lead to the erosion of the domain, fealty to or practice of refugee protection. On the contrary, the implementation of those measures in a manner that is compliant with the rule of law and standards of international law, human rights and refugee law will not only preserve, but also underpin and even expand asylum. The legal and policy machinery of asylum itself has inbuilt instruments the likewise proper use and application of which will help secure State and public safety and security goals.

In the full version of UNHCR's paper prepared for this Symposium, which will be distributed separately, these interconnections are explained in detail. For now, I would like to underscore the following key messages in the context of the objectives and priority issues with which this Symposium is seized.

First, UNHCR welcomes the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter-Terrorism. Genuine asylum-seekers, refugees and the system of asylum and refugee protection as a whole have all to gain from societies in which no one has to fear the kind of lurking, inordinate risk and danger that modern terrorism represents.

Secondly, as the measures set out in this Strategy are implemented, asylum space and the protection rights of asylum-seekers and refugees should be respected and preserved. The key here is due diligence and compliance. UNHCR thus strongly supports the emphasis in the Strategy on compliance with international law, human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law. In respect of international refugee law as such, the most vital touch points of States' compliance which UNHCR urges are:

- Admission to the territory and non-rejection at the borders;
- Admission into due procedures;
- Proper and fair determination of claims and need for protection;
- Assurance of basic standards of treatment, above all protection against forcible return to a territory where refugees and asylum-seekers might face persecution (non-refoulement) and non-recourse to detention on an automatic basis.

Thirdly, UNHCR would like to underscore that asylum-seekers do not come before asylum States and host populations only as claimers of rights. They indeed bear duties themselves towards those States and communities, most notably, to comply with national laws and regulations established for public order and good. The record shows that by far the decisive cross-section of refugees and asylum-seekers are law-abiding members of the communities in which they find themselves. Those who abuse the laws established for public good and order, or the institution of asylum, should feel the full force of the law as anybody else. And let it be underscored that a duly managed system of asylum does not protect terrorists from prosecution. On the contrary, international refugee law does provide for the identification of those who have committed heinous acts or serious crimes and their exclusion from the protection the system provides.

Fourth, and building on the point just made, the instruments of the refugee protection regime, when applied duly, judiciously and in a justiciable manner, are veritable in meeting the interests of States in that juncture where asylum obligations might intersect with those of countering terrorism. These include the due determination of refugee status; grant of that

status only upon clearly established criteria; exclusion from that status of those who have committed egregious crimes; the cancellation of the status of those who subsequently exhibit invidious intentions or purposes; the ability of States to remove from their territories such persons under due process; the proper management of borders; exchange of information with due regard to protection priorities; and capacity-building.

Fifth, as we have heard throughout this Symposium yesterday and today of the imperative to combat incitement and stigmatization, so also does UNHCR urge for priority to be assigned to stemming the vilification, criminalization or stereotyping of asylum-seekers and refugees. Rather, that they are themselves escaping persecution and danger, and need the empathy and support of the States and people among whom they find themselves, needs to be given fulsome recognition and prominence.

Finally, I wish to reiterate that while UNHCR is not formally a member of the CTITF, we have collaborated and will continue to work closely with the Task Force and other entities in different ways on matters relevant to the intersection between refugee protection and CT measures. In particular, we have cooperated with the Executive Directorate of CTC, UNODC and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on questions relating to how the respective standards and principles can be cohered. All this will continue.

UNHCR also collaborates and works with States on a day-to-day basis to ensure the proper application of the obligations owed to asylum-seekers and refugees, while also assuring national security priorities. Let me underline that UNHCR will continue this necessary and appropriate collaboration with all players and stakeholders. It looks forward to continuing these contacts and efforts in the implementation of the Global Strategy, and to follow up with special interest some of the challenges that have been highlighted yesterday and today, particularly:

- A common definition of terrorism;
- The need for clear implementation mechanisms of the Global Strategy;
- Identification of review mechanisms;
- The adoption of measurable benchmarks against which performance should be assessed;
- An integrated and coherent approach and avoidance of duplication of tasks.

Statement

By Ms. Lisa Oldring

Human Rights Officer

*Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

I would like to thank the Government of Austria and UNODC for the invitation to participate at this important meeting.

Security of the individual is a basic human right, and the protection of individuals is accordingly a fundamental obligation of Government. Too often, this simple observation is overlooked in the counter-terrorism discourse, with human rights portrayed as an obstacle to legitimate security objectives rather than fundamental to their achievement.

Yet it is clear that terrorist acts aim at the very destruction of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as the human costs of terrorism are felt in virtually every corner of the globe. At the same time, the measures adopted in the name of countering terrorism themselves pose grave challenges to the protection of human rights.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reaffirms the inextricable links between human rights and security, and places respect for the rule of law and human rights at the core of national and international counter-terrorism efforts.

As the Honourable Minister of Justice of Austria and the Counter-Terrorism Ambassador for Sweden both have suggested, the counter-terrorism measures adopted in recent years by some States illustrate only too vividly the costs of compromising on human rights. In some places, States have adopted “shoot to kill” law enforcement policies in response to perceived terrorist threats. In others, States have engaged in torture and other ill-treatment in the name of countering terrorism, while the legal and practical safeguards available to prevent torture—such as the establishment of systems for the independent monitoring of places of detention—have been disregarded. The independence of the judiciary has been undermined by an abuse of power by the executive, while the use of exceptional courts to try civilians has impacted upon the effectiveness of regular court systems. Across the globe, repressive measures have been used to stifle the voices of human rights defenders, journalists, minorities and civil society.

Together, these practices have undermined the legitimacy of democratic institutions and have proven counter-productive to national and international efforts to combat terrorism by lawful means. They also have had a seriously corrosive effect on the rule of law and human rights around the world, as the erosion of standards becomes difficult to contain.

Through the Global Strategy, member States have committed to adopting measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. This must include the development of national counter-terrorism strategies which seek to prevent acts of terrorism and address the conditions conducive to their

spread; prosecute or lawfully extradite those responsible for such criminal acts; foster the active participation and leadership of civil society; and give due attention to the rights of all victims of human rights violations. The international human rights treaties must become part of the global counter-terrorism architecture.

In coordination with other members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and as lead of the Working Group on Protecting Human Rights, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' efforts to support States in this area have focused on five broad initiatives, namely:

- Deepening the understanding of human rights obligations in the context of counter-terrorism through focused research and analysis;
- Promoting strengthened protection of human rights through leadership and advocacy;
- Providing technical assistance to States, upon their request;
- Conducting human rights training, including for judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials; and
- Developing tools to assist practitioners, such as fact sheets and publications on human rights and counter-terrorism, the relationship between international humanitarian law and human rights, and the human rights impact of targeted sanctions.

The Office also provides ongoing support to the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and the many special procedures mandates, notably the Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism. Resources permitting, the Office will continue to cooperate with partners at regional level through a series of workshops to identify and address specific human rights challenges.

To conclude, the Office of the High Commissioner continues to support all efforts by member States to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in countering terrorism through the development and implementation of human rights-compliant legislation and policies. The implementation of the Global Strategy can only be effective with strict adherence to human rights and the rule of law.

Statement

By Mr. Serguei Tarassenko

*Principal Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs
Representative of the Office of Legal Affairs in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

The plan of action of this strategy, among other things, calls upon Member States to consider becoming parties without delay to the existing counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

Taken together, the existing 16 instruments, constitute a solid and comprehensive international legal framework against the scourge of terrorism. Most of these conventions are based on the principle *aut dedere aut judicare*—prosecute or extradite; they foresee individual criminal responsibility for specific terrorist offences committed by perpetrators of terrorists acts. Moreover, they are based on the principle of cooperation among States in combating terrorism.

Today, some of these sixteen counter-terrorism instruments, such as the aviation security conventions, have achieved almost universal ratification. However, to be efficient and effective, it is essential of course that all 16 counter-terrorism instruments be ratified by all Member States. In order to assist Member States in this endeavour, the Secretariat has already organized several special treaty events.

Yet another special treaty event will be held this year in parallel with the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. It will focus on the, on the theme entitled, “Towards the Universal Participation in the Implementation of a Comprehensive Framework for Peace, Development and Human Rights.” Of course, a list of the proposed treaties will include all terrorism-related conventions deposited with the Secretary General. The event is scheduled to take place in late September, early October, and all Member States that have not yet done so, of course will have the opportunity to deposit their instruments of accession to these conventions during the event coming in September.

In order to promote the soonest entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which requires just three ratifications to become effective, the Secretariat will convene a panel discussion on 18 June in New York. Panelists will include a representative of the Russian Federation, the Member State which originally proposed and drafted, the initial draft was prepared by the Russian Federation, as well as including representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and academia.

The main goal of the June panel is to raise awareness of the nuclear terrorism convention and other treaties related to the terrorism, in advance of the 2007 annual treaty event. All Member States are invited to participate in the panel discussion in June.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the importance of Member States undertaking reaffirmed in the global strategy that their measures to combat terrorism should comply with their obligations under international law, particularly under human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

As the distinguished representative, the Permanent Representative of Turkey stated in his keynote address yesterday, we must strengthen international law and its rule. In the same vein, her Excellency Minister of Justice of Austria has also pointed out that it is essential to ensure the primacy of international law.

We in the Secretariat, and certainly in the Office of Legal Affairs, are encouraged by these thoughts, fully share these valuable remarks, and stand ready to assist Members States in implementing them.

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Intervention by Mr. Daniel Frank

*Department for International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
(Delivered in French)*

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for having organized this important meeting on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Switzerland would also like to thank the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and particularly its Chairperson, Mr. Robert Orr, for their efforts in advancing the Plan of Action, annexed to the Strategy.

We have before us a balanced strategy that rests firmly on the five pillars envisaged by the previous Secretary-General in his report of 27 April 2006 entitled “Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy”. One of those five pillars is respect for human rights and the primacy of the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. Although that aspect of the Strategy appears only in the last chapter of the Plan of Action, it should be pursued by the United Nations and Member States with the same determination that we apply to enhancing international cooperation between police forces, mutual judicial assistance, extradition and information exchange. I hope that the small number of delegations that have spoken on this topic does not reflect the importance assigned to it in the implementation of the Strategy.

In implementing the Strategy, Switzerland will make every effort to enhance the legitimacy of counter-terrorism activities by promoting greater respect for human rights and the rule of law. It will, for example, seek to ensure fair and transparent procedures for placing persons on Security Council sanctions lists and removing them from the lists. The establishment of a focal point within the Secretariat is an important step forward but it does not yet guarantee due process. According to the Strategy, the subject should be dealt with as a matter of priority by the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). Switzerland is ready, with other partners, to assist the Committee and the Task Force in that regard.

At the same time, Switzerland considers that Member States should make every effort to ensure that not only the victims of human rights violations but also the victims of terrorism receive all the attention that they deserve at the national and the international level.

Intervention by Mr. Christopher Michaelsen

*Human Rights Officer
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Team
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) would like to thank the Government of Austria and the United Nations for their kind invitation to attend this important Symposium. Let me briefly identify some challenges which relate to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and inform the delegates about several relevant ODIHR activities in this regard.

The ODIHR, in its “Common Responsibility” report submitted to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels in December 2006, noted that a number of human dimension commitments have not been satisfactorily implemented within the context of counter-terrorism efforts in the OSCE region—notably through the use of secret detention. We specifically recommended addressing the issue of non-refoulement in a new OSCE human dimension commitment in order to strengthen OSCE commitments on the prohibition of torture and clarify the international standards that apply. We further recommended an additional OSCE commitment specifying that “commitments relating to effective remedies and arbitrary detention apply equally to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism”.

As Ambassador Wenaweser of Liechtenstein pointed out in his statement yesterday, the international listings mechanisms for terrorist organizations and individuals suspected of terrorist activity is a topic that warrants further attention. I am glad to report that the issue was discussed in detail at an expert workshop on human rights and international cooperation in counter-terrorism that the ODIHR organized together with United Nations OHCHR in November 2006 in Liechtenstein. The report is available on our website.

(http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/02/23424_en.pdf)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy affirmed the determination of Member States to “further encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage, as appropriate, on how to enhance efforts to implement the Strategy.” On 14-16 March 2007, the ODIHR, in cooperation with CIDOB, organized an informal working-level meeting on the role of civil society in preventing terrorism. The report which includes specific recommendations is also available on our website.

(http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2007/05/24495_en.pdf)

Solidarity with victims of terrorism is another key priority for the ODIHR Human Rights and Anti-Terrorism Programme. The OSCE Permanent Council, in decision 618 (2004), recognized the need to strengthen solidarity with victims of terrorism and tasked the ODIHR to assist national governments and civil society in their efforts to design and implement protection and compensation mechanisms for victims. In this regard, I should like to draw your attention to the OSCE High-Level Meeting on Victims to be organized in Vienna on 13-14 September 2007.

Finally, the OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) tasked the ODIHR to cooperate with UNODC in providing technical assistance on the implementation of international anti-terrorism conventions and protocols as well as on the compliance of this legislation with international standards. The ODIHR continues to stand ready to provide technical assistance to OSCE participating States in this regard.

Intervention by Mr. Mbalembou Pato

*Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations, New York
(Delivered in French)*

As I am taking the floor for the first time, please allow me to offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for this Symposium, and for the resources made available to certain countries, including my own, to allow them to take part.

I also want to express my appreciation to all the speakers who have taken the floor on agenda item 5, and to welcome particularly the statement by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden.

My country, Togo, fully supports the fight against terrorism, drugs and money-laundering; however, there can be no justification for failure to respect human rights. I wish on this occasion to draw your attention to certain points concerning the concept of human rights. When people talk about the concept of human rights, they do so in a very general way and leave to one side aspects that can sometimes, if one is not careful, give rise to serious dangers. I am thinking in particular about the concept of the rights of migrants and also the right to food, because today, as current events show us, there are people who take boats to cross oceans and, believe me, they do not do it to see the West, or to see the architecture! It is because these populations are really hungry. If these people are ready to sacrifice their lives to get to Europe today, what may happen tomorrow? Perhaps tomorrow it will not be their own lives they are willing to sacrifice, but—I am very unhappy and very sorry to say this—the lives of others!

One also gets the impression that today this question of human rights is always approached in a manner that is very distorted in relation to the current situation. What do we see? We see that countries that were once held up as bad examples in terms of their human rights records have made considerable progress whereas, paradoxically, those who taught us these ideas of human rights are adopting types of behaviour that are not at all suitable for teaching in schools or in democracies. One also gets the impression that the attitude shown by the international community is—if you will pardon my saying so—more or less hypocritical. The way in which the behaviour of developing countries, in terms of human rights violations, is condemned is different from the approach taken towards certain countries: “the developed countries”. The same thing happens when it comes to sanctions. I have—or my delegation has, at least—the impression that sanctions are imposed arbitrarily. When you are powerful, you are let off the hook and when you are poor, believe me, you get the rope round your

neck. Today, some sanctions have shown their limitations. The conclusion is that in reality these sanctions are arbitrary. And I do not know what thoughts might be germinating in the heads of the people in the countries affected by these sanctions. The Sanctions Committee should therefore try to have a closer look at certain forms of behaviour so that the concept of human rights can be taken up in an impartial and non-arbitrary manner.

Intervention by Mr. Christophe Payot

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, New York

By approving by consensus the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy last September, the General Assembly confirmed the leading role of the United Nations in tackling the scourge of terrorism through a comprehensive and multifaceted approach.

For Belgium, a genuine believer in the virtues of multilateralism, the Strategy is a unique instrument guiding Member States through a coherent framework helping them implement a wide range of actions to prevent and combat terrorism. Indeed, we, as Members of the United Nations, are the prime recipients and shapers of the Strategy. It is our actions, or our lack of commitment and resolve, that will make the Strategy a success or a failure.

Belgium fully supports the comprehensive approach on which the Strategy is built. No cause can ever justify the indiscriminate killing of innocent people and terrorism can never be justified. But we recognize that terrorism does not grow in a vacuum. Many factors can fuel and radicalize views and be conducive to the spread of terrorism. This is why Belgium attaches great importance to the fight against radicalization and recruitment and has developed, at the national level, a plan to combat radicalization, while actively contributing to the implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan.

Taking radicalization implies various channels and instruments, both on the preventive and repressive sides. To be truly successful it has also to involve the civil society and non-governmental actors.

This is one of the various reasons why Belgium has chosen to support the initiative for an “Alliance of Civilizations” from the very beginning. We have become a member of the so-called “Friends of the Alliance”, an informal group of selected Member States of the United Nations. We financially contributed to the activities of the High Level Panel established by the Secretary-General. We also tried to feed the process with ideas. Last year, under the Belgian OSCE Chairmanship, an important seminar was convened in Brussels on the impact of the media, and more in particular the Internet and the satellite television, on the way “the West” and the “Middle East” perceive each other. In February, another seminar was convened in Brussels to look at the recommendations of the High Level Panel and try to focus on concrete and practical measures to guide our work.

The fight against terrorism is also a battle of ideas and values. In the long run, we will only defeat those who hold the most violent and extremist views if we can uphold respect for human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

This has been recognized by the very prominent place devoted to human rights and the rule of law in the Strategy. In this field, NGOs can also make a very valuable contribution.

In this regard, Belgium has already funded various projects. As suggested by the UK delegation, I would like to mention one concrete Belgian contribution: the Global Security and Rule of Law Programme from the International Commission of Jurists, contributing to a better articulation and integration of the human rights dimension into counter-terrorism measures.

Indeed, we believe that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals.

I would like to conclude by expression my deepest appreciation to the Austrian Government, the Executive Office of the Secretary General and UNODC for convening this important and timely Symposium as well as for the excellent organization.

Intervention by Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York

The Rule of Law at national and international level and human rights are important pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In this regard the listing and de listing procedures of the Security Council sanctions regimes need our attention. The existing procedures lack due process and the right to effective remedy. These principles are held as *jus cogens* by the international community.

There were many instances when individuals and entities were placed on the sanctions list without even a statement of case. Due to lack of evidence many individuals could not be prosecuted. However, for years without a trial, these individuals suffer the sanctions. We understand the logic of immediate action against the suspect, but absence of a proper review mechanism is unfair and illegal. This converts sanctions into life imprisonment.

Sufficient evidence must be provided in a year or two to start legal proceedings against the listed individuals, otherwise they may be automatically de-listed after a specified period of time.

I will also like to express my support for the views expressed by the Swedish Counter-Terrorism Ambassador on the listing and delisting procedures of the 1267 Committee.

Intervention by H.E. Zuheir Elwazer

*Permanent Mission of Palestine to the United Nations, Vienna
(Delivered in Arabic)*

Thank you for giving me the floor. I should like to begin by thanking everyone who has spoken at today's sessions and to stress the importance of what they said in their speeches. I was heartened by the French Ambassador's statement in which he referred to the issue of the existence of a White Paper containing paragraphs on injustice, particularly in relation to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (as I understand).

If we want to discuss peace in the Middle East, I wish to point out that complete, just and final peace in the region will only be achieved if there is a just and speedy solution to the Palestinian question, which is the essence of the conflict in the region.

The peace we are seeking is peace based on law and justice and international legal resolutions, particularly the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Therefore, in order for there to be stability in the region, which will be reflected in world peace, the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of return, to self-determination and residence in their country, an independent Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital, must be enforced, which means realizing the vision of the American President, George Bush, of seeing a Palestinian state established alongside the state of Israel.

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin

Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, New York

When we discuss the issue of human rights and rule of law, we must also raise the issue of the human rights of the terror victims. Some are deprived of their fundamental right to life. Others are maimed for ever. Almost all who survive go through psychological trauma for the rest of their lives.

By referring to human rights of the victims we would be sending the right message to the international community and to the victims themselves. We would also be conveying our reaction to terrorist and potential terrorists.

Theme
Six

**The way ahead:
Advancing the implementation of the Strategy**

Keynote address

By Mr. Giampaolo Cantini

Head of the Counter-Terrorism Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

I'd like to express my gratitude to the Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for their kind invitation to address this distinguished audience on theme 6 "The Way Ahead".

Over the last day and half we had a unique opportunity to review the multiple aspects of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. There are several lessons that can be drawn from such an intense exchange of views and ideas. Also, based on our proceedings of the last few days, I would suggest, for this panel session, a few lines for discussion and possible recommendations:

We have taken a commitment to review the implementation of the Strategy by the Autumn of 2008. Thus we are somewhat at the half way point. Much has been done—especially by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which has done an impressive amount of work in a few months—but certainly the time frame is tight. The idea of a second edition of this Symposium, this coming autumn, is appropriate. We need to intensify and coordinate work at all levels: United Nations system, international and regional organizations, Member States, civil society.

We should frankly recognize that the Strategy addresses areas where scientific knowledge, expertise, institutions, practices, programmes are somewhat dishomogeneous. We have a wealth of analysis and experience on terrorism financing, for instance, or adaptation of international instruments to domestic legislation, but we do not have the same level of acquaintance with the themes included under the heading "Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism" or to national systems of assistance to victims of terrorism. So we ought to assign priority to an in-depth analysis and to the exchange of experiences and practices in these less-known thematic areas. And we should also bear in mind that, due to their very nature, such areas may require some time before we can detect measurable progress towards our goals. And in doing so, we must not neglect the regional and subregional levels. Member States have a particular responsibility in promoting this process in an integrated manner on the national level. With regard to the broad theme of "Measures to Address the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism", I have the pleasure to inform you that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Germany have agreed to co-sponsor a workshop on youth radicalization in the Mediterranean region, organized by the Centre on Studies on Federalism of Turin and by the Global Counter-Terrorism Centre of New York, to be held in Rome on 11-12 July 2007. We believe that such a thematic focus on a regional scale may be beneficial to addressing issues and recommending measures and policies with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Strategy.

In doing so we should consider how best to promote the interaction between the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, the member States and civil society.

Academia, business communities, media, and NGOs have a great potential for contribution. They should be closely involved in the work of analysis and policy recommendation at the regional level, through workshops and other informal gatherings, that allow them to share the results of their research and transmit the practical knowledge acquired in their fields of specialized activity.

Regional and subregional organizations should have a special role in this process. Counter-Terrorism regional centres, in particular, might consider making their analyses and experiences available beyond their regional membership. Just as each region confronts a particular kind of terrorism risk, each Centre and organization will develop particular approaches and areas of expertise that might benefit the process. And cooperation between regional organizations might be very helpful as well. The EU, for example, is doing a considerable amount of work on counter-terrorism and on the issue of radicalization in particular. There might also be very practical channels of cooperation such as the establishment of networks of focal points: the G8, for example, took the initiative, several years ago, to establish a permanent network for alert on cybercrime and cyberterrorist attacks. Today 47 countries from all regions belong to this network. An idea might be to encourage the enlargement of this membership through the cooperation of regional organizations and with the specific support of their member States, whose active involvement and sense of ownership are indispensable to this sort of network.

The CTITF has undertaken a huge effort to make an inventory of the activities of the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system that are relevant for the implementation of the Strategy. A look at the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook provides an impressive account of the resources that the United Nations system can make available. It is now crucial that we proceed from the compilation of such an inventory to an understanding of how best to interact within the system itself and with the member States in order to implement the Strategy. This should be another priority of action. Member States should continue to give their active political support to the Task Force over the long term as it undertakes this difficult and essential endeavour.

A basic point remains how to connect, in the implementation of the Strategy, the United Nations system, the regional organizations, the Member States. Here I would like to highlight one specific issue, technical assistance, to which, after all, a whole section of the Strategy is dedicated. First, counter-terrorism (CT) assistance should be conceived as part of an overall effort aimed at institutional capacity-building as closely interlinked with the promotion of development, human rights and economic growth, which can only take place in an environment where security from the risk of terrorism is reasonably ensured. Ambassador Loi of Denmark made very pertinent remarks to this effect this morning. The Strategy underscores the complementarity of security, development, rule of law and good governance. The language of paragraph 7 of Section I of the Plan of Action is pretty clear on such a connection: “To encourage the United Nations system as a whole to scale up the cooperation and assistance it is already conducting in the fields of rule of law, human rights and good governance, to support sustained economic and social development.”

Having said that, we ought to reflect on how we can make the best possible use of lessons learnt from the processes and mechanisms available in the field of development aid. How, for instance, can we optimize the impressive work of CTED in identifying capacity-building needs? How can the process it establishes with member States be made available, with their

consent, to international organizations and donor countries? Which mechanisms can be devised to bring together all of the United Nations and other international entities represented in the Task Force with the aim of filling the gaps that are being identified in CTED's review processes? How can we integrate the expertise and technical assistance capabilities of Task Force components like the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Peace Keeping Operations, and the World Health Organization, so that they are best able to make their contribution? Can CTITF provide a unique opportunity to make available, in a synergic way, the resources of the United Nations system at large? More in general, how can a continuum be ensured from the analysis of national States-of-the-art in CT efforts to the identification of institutional gaps, and ultimately to the goal of remedying such shortcomings? These points were raised yesterday by Jean-Paul Laborde in his statement. The Strategy has brought us to a new level, offering a comprehensive international approach which should be complemented at the national and regional levels in order to maximize efficiency, eliminate overlap, and integrate the expertise of all relevant actors.

These are not theoretical problems. The Strategy contains at least two key paragraphs, 4 and 6 in section III, that address the need to improve the facilitation of technical assistance: "4. To encourage measures, including regular informal meetings, to enhance, as appropriate, more frequent exchanges of information on cooperation and technical assistance among Member States, United Nations bodies dealing with counter terrorism, relevant specialized agencies, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and the donor community, to develop States' capacities to implement relevant United Nations resolutions."; "6. To encourage the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate to continue to improve the coherence and efficiency of technical assistance delivery in the field of counter-terrorism, in particular by strengthening its dialogue with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and working closely, including by sharing information, with all bilateral and multilateral technical assistance providers."

All the relevant bodies and the proper mandates are there: CTC as a facilitator of technical assistance; CTED as the expert body that acts as the focal point in reviewing national and regional implementation of UNSCRs and in identifying priority needs; the CTITF as a unique resource for harmonizing the capacities of the United Nations system in this area. To this we must add the new impetus provided by the imprimatur of the General Assembly, and with it the prospect that individual Member States will reinforce the process through concrete measures at the national level. But we need to look at how to connect these resources and how to ensure that the Member States most in need of assistance actually benefit from this machinery. We have the institutions, but we need a creative thinking on mechanisms and processes.

We ought to always bear in mind that a genuine sense of ownership from the member States is one of the key elements for an effective implementation of the United Nations Strategy and through it for a successful international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The resource represented by the Task Force must not become a substitute for individual commitment by sovereign States. Only with the continued engagement and commitment of the Member States will the coordinating mechanism offered by the Task Force truly bear fruit.

Statement

By Ms. Evelyn Puxley

Director

*International Crime and Terrorism Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada*

I want first as others have begun by thanking to begin by thanking the United Nations Office at Vienna, UNODC and most particularly the Republic of Austria for organizing and hosting this event, particularly the Republic of Austria for your generous hospitality having had the great pleasure of serving as a representative of my country for four years in Vienna, it is a wonderful day to be back.

Those of us who come at the end of the session have, I suppose, a particular opportunity because we have an opportunity to reflect on some of what we have heard for the past two days, and to suggest some practical steps forward based on what we've heard. I don't pretend to address all of the themes that have been canvassed here today, I do want to make a few remarks as regards technical assistance, capacity-building on counter-terrorism and engagement of civil society in countering terrorism. The latter is a theme which, perhaps like the attention that we should pay to the victims of terrorist actions, is a theme which has been somewhat overlooked in our discussions.

We should, I think, be heartened by the extent of participation in this Symposium, on the part of member States and other organizations and indeed some representatives of civil society. Not least because, as I understand it, one of the goals of this event was to raise awareness of the Strategy to keep alive the momentum so evident eight months ago in New York when the Strategy was agreed, to carry that momentum through to implementation. I would make two observations based on almost two days of discussions. First, all speakers here, have condemned terrorism and affirmed that there can be no justification for the resort to terrorist actions and all have called for increased attention for implementing the Global Strategy. This, despite still outstanding disagreement on the definition of terrorism and hence the deadlock in moving forward with a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

My delegation is one of those who would wish for agreement on the convention based on the text that has been on the table for some time. It is regrettable that we have not been able to move forward. However, despite this ongoing disagreement, there is certainly an evident commitment to advancing the Strategy and its implementation. This should be taken as a positive sign and this is especially so, as others have mentioned, and particularly Mr. Orr, at the inception of these discussions. This is particularly important given that most of the work that was identified in the Strategy and to be undertaken in following it up is work that must be undertaken by Member States, albeit with the assistance of the Secretariat and the United Nations system as required. But this assistance cannot and should not be seen as a substitute for State effort. One concrete indicator of States commitment would be ratification and implementation of all thirteen United Nations conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism. We need to be able to report significant progress on this front by the time we are asked to review this Strategy in September 2008 and I would

like to note and in this endeavour the very important work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. We think this work has been instrumental in moving forward with the ratification of the international instruments and my country is pleased to support this work through voluntary contributions.

I would note that the Strategy was adopted as a consensus text without a vote. This is indeed a signalled achievement for the General Assembly and this brings me to my second observation. We should, I think, be cautious so soon after agreement on the Strategy, we should be cautious and avoid seeking, in discussing its implementation, avoid seeking to enlarge or improve on the text. There has been much reference here today to the root causes of terrorism. As the distinguished Turkish Ambassador to the United Nations noted yesterday, the conditions conducive to terrorism are among the least charted. This was also a note underlined by my distinguished Italian colleague. What does seem clear, is that there is no single or common root cause. It is better, to cite again the Turkish Ambassador, better to understand terrorism as emerging from a process of interaction of various conditions and to avoid suggesting, in my view, that there may be causes of which terrorist actions are the inevitable effect. We do not want to risk appearing to justify terrorism.

This certainly does not mean that we should ignore the conditions terrorists exploit as outlined in the Strategy only that the effort to address these conditions and this work to diminish the appeal of the terrorist narrative this will be a long-term challenge, requiring sustained international commitment. We need to reaffirm, not least for their intrinsic worth, and their effect on diminishing the appeal of the terrorist narrative, our firm commitment to resolving long-standing conflicts to sustainable economic development and to sustained efforts to improve cross-cultural and interfaith understanding.

One aspect of the counter-terrorism challenge mentioned frequently over the last two days is the process of radicalization and recruitment to terrorism and how to prevent it. Some of these processes are still not well understood and I would cite here particularly the use of the Internet by terrorists. I am very pleased to note that one of the working groups in the Task Force is focused on this issue. It is indeed a very difficult dilemma: how to manage the use of the Internet to radicalize while also preserving the right to free speech and freedom of association. However, all Member States can be proactive now in taking measures to respond to those who would incite terrorism and therefore promote radicalization. We can do so by publicly reaffirming, as Member States have all done here in Vienna, our absolute repudiation of terrorist activity by whomever and whatever their target. The innocent civilians who are the terrorists' victims are just that: innocent. We should consider the target of terrorists not to be them or others but us.

The Strategy mentions the importance of engaging civil society and here also States must act, not United Nations agencies. In this regard, I would mention a Canadian experience. We have developed over the past two years a new mechanism to engage all Canadian ethno-cultural communities in a dialogue on national security, including terrorism. The objective here is to provide a structured forum where groups who may feel marginalized or singled-out, including by government counter-terrorism measures, where such groups can express their concerns and interact with representatives of the Canadian law-enforcement and national security community. This is also a forum to seek more information about the implementation domestically of our counter-terrorism policy and our international counter-terrorism priorities.

Currently, on the cross-cultural roundtable on national security which is the name of this mechanism, we have representatives from Canada's native communities, from Canadian citizens, from the Muslim and Jewish communities, from Sikh and Tamil Canadians, as well as from Canadian citizens who traced their roots to Africa. We would be happy to share more information on this approach to engaging citizens in the counter-terrorism debate. For Canada, this mechanism is based on our strongly held view that diversity is a source of strength, including in countering-terrorism. As the Strategy mentions we do not want terrorism to be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and our approach to engaging our citizens reflects not only the structure of Canadian society, which is highly diverse, but this fundamental principle in the Strategy.

Finally, a few comments and perhaps a question to the Task Force. This Symposium has been an opportunity to learn more of the Task Force structure and the activities of some of its working groups. We would like to learn more. We were particularly appreciative of the information provided by the group focused on vulnerable infrastructure.

Mr. Orr had mentioned at the beginning that we should look to sequence our approach to implementing the fifty-plus recommendations in the Strategy. My delegation would welcome continuing engagement with the Task Force on determining such sequencing and would welcome any initial views he may have.

Finally, to follow up on my Italian colleague's intervention, a comment on capacity-building assistance. The Strategy enjoins those able to do so to assist States with the will but not the resources to meet their counter-terrorism commitment. Canada intends to continue to do its part. Two years ago, we instituted a counter-terrorism capacity-building programme to that end. To ensure that our assistance is most effective we would welcome more input from CTED, not least based on their country visits. This would help us to identify recipient country needs and to target Canadian assistance. A donors meeting with the CTED in New York might be a useful first step in that direction.

Statement

By Mr. Josaia Naigulevu

Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji Islands

The gauntlet was cast at the Madrid Anniversary with the announcement of a strategic landmark for the United Nations community, the Counter-Terrorism Global Strategy. The Strategy, drawing from the proposals of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change offered a vision for a comprehensive and effective approach to combating terrorism encapsulated by four pillars amongst them, dissuading people from resorting to terrorism; developing state capacity to combat terrorism; and defending human rights. The Global Strategy now provides an important framework for national, regional and global counter-terrorism effort.

I am however reminded by the statement of the former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report to the General Assembly on the 27 April, 2006 “A real strategy is more than simply a list of laudable goals or an observation of the obvious... Only when it guides us in the accomplishment of our goals is a strategy worthy of its name.” In his address to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain echoed similar sentiments: “Member States must now translate the commitments into action for the strategy to be truly significant.”

True, that member States must take practical steps to implement the elements of the Global Strategy. It is a responsibility they have as responsible members of the United Nations. But the effective promotion and implementation of these goals, their sustainability can only be accomplished by an engaging partnership between Member States and the United Nations.

A desired broad collective security that is both effective and equitable can only be achieved by a marshalling of their concerted efforts. Whilst Member States are urged to take steps to implement the elements of the strategy, a global cohesion and momentum can perhaps be best achieved through strategic support services and coordination by the United Nations and its agencies.

I set out below a number of proposals, a “way ahead” to advance the implementation of the Global Strategies.

Need for effective planning and coordination

In the report of the SG’s High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the group suggested the need for improved institutional organization and coordination. There is much to be gained if global response were coordinated and effected in a planned manner.

The Global Strategy could perhaps be effectively promoted and implemented by the United Nations and its agencies if it were to develop a broad but comprehensive strategic plan articulating its coordination plan designed to promote each element of the strategy; identifies through a process of consultation its organizational strategic partners and donors and resources

at their disposal; identifies the range of short-term and long-term priorities and timelines; and sets out to develop standards, best practices and models that can assist common and cohesive approach to implementation; and develops monitoring and improves reporting mechanisms to assist compliance where necessary and measure success where relevant.

To maintain its relevance and support, the United Nations must constantly review and change if necessary certain elements of the plan. This process of strategic planning will not only improve the United Nations and its strategic partners' ability to coordinate implementation effectively and obtain information about the range of activities, but also help guide member States in national efforts to implement the strategy. The dissemination of its strategic programme can be achieved through its own internal "legislative" process and which may be adopted by regional organizations. No doubt the significant task of developing such programmes would require a review and rationalization of resources and structures of both the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Counter-Terrorism Taskforce.

Yesterday, the point was made about the overlap of mandate of United Nations agencies. This will be an inevitable consequence of the comprehensive, integrated strategy approach.

As part of the process of strategic planning, the United Nations may consider undertaking a review of the mandates insofar as they relate to the implementation of the global strategy and promote consensus and divided responsibilities, if necessary, that seeks to reduce tension, duplication and wastage.

For Member States I consider a similar approach could be taken—a strategic plan outlining how it proposes to implement each element of the Global strategy, and co-ordinated by a central agency, or a combined multiagency taskforce.

Coordinating the efforts of international and regional organizations

Where there is the prospect of a large number and range of players and contributors co-existing and duplicating efforts, prudence and economy would demand that each is fully informed about the others work; and that responsibilities are agreed and efforts coordinated. This can best be achieved by round-table meetings coordinated by a regional institution or a United Nations institution preferably at regional levels. A full and accurate record of their respective responsibility and contribution, and guiding policies can then be maintained and disseminated by the regional institution and on the Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook.

Recommendations, standards, best practices Robert Orr—"Methodologies"

Since the promulgation of the Convention on Offences and certain other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft in 1963, United Nations Conventions and Resolutions have provided the normative framework for global counter-terrorism efforts. Compliance in the past has been largely assessed on the basis of accession to the 12 counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and the number of reports transmitted by Member States. The question that one may ask is: how effective have they alone been in furthering the global counter-terrorism goals?

I believe it is now timely for the United Nations community to review the compliance and monitoring mechanisms to determine how the systems can be enhanced.

I make the following proposal. In doing so I am convinced about the need to assist developing countries confronted by equally important competing national interests, and the need to develop relatively uniform but more effective responses.

The extent of accession has been large and varied, in each case determined by technical capacity and resources. Technical capacity does not necessarily mean sending someone to help. It can equally be achieved by developing tools to assist member States. To this end, I propose the development by the United Nations and/or its agencies of a consolidated counter-terrorism manual comprising of the following:

1. Accession to conventions

- (a) A summary of key articles of each convention and explanatory notes on method of compliance;
- (b) Explanatory notes on potential resource and legislative implications of each convention upon accession.

2. Legislating against terrorism

- (a) Development of model law on counter-terrorism containing key provisions and offences identified by each United Nations Convention.
- (b) A compilation of explanatory notes that allude to potential legal issues and challenges.

3. Best practices

A succinct outline of best practices in prevention, investigation and prosecution of counter-terrorism, the recovery of proceeds and assets, and the treatment of victims.

4. International cooperation

- (a) Summary of best practices in extradition and mutual legal assistance.
- (b) A compendium of forms and templates.

I suggest that perhaps the most practical and efficient way of developing this manual is to engage selected international experts as working groups, and allocate them specific tasks and timelines. Their work could be coordinated by one of the agencies of the United Nations

The foregoing is a brief statement of specific proposals that I wish to make. I support the proposals made in this forum about promoting awareness and policy level commitment at all levels; the practical way of harnessing the support of civil society and industry, and mobilizing resources and experts for enhanced technical assistance delivery, together with projected activities for implementation.

Statement

By Mr. Ilya I. Rogachev

*Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, New York
(Delivered in Russian)*

The Russian delegation is grateful to the organizers of this Symposium, during which serious issues have been raised regarding the implementation of the Global Strategy and attempts have been made to formulate some answers to those questions. Today, eight months after the adoption and launch of the Strategy, it is time to assess the progress made in implementing it.

But how are we to measure the extent or stage of its implementation? What body will do this? Is it possible to do so under existing mandates? What lessons will we, the representatives of Member States, learn from the process of implementing the Strategy, and how will we do this? In other words, is an implementation mechanism needed that the Strategy now lacks and, if so, what kind of mechanism? How would a possible mechanism like this work in conjunction with the Task Force? And what capacities and powers would it have in terms of providing technical assistance?

Our delegation believes that these questions require urgent answers because, as things stand now, we have nothing to be proud of as far as implementing the Strategy is concerned. This measure will undoubtedly help us to formulate those answers more clearly. But we regret the slow pace of implementation, because the Russian Federation welcomed the adoption of the Strategy as a major step forward for United Nations counter-terrorism activities. I would now like to touch upon a few points, not presented in any kind of order, in response to a number of common problems already raised here.

(a) The definition of terrorism and the Strategy. Ultimately, if we could agree on a legal definition of terrorism, this would obviously resolve some acute problems, particularly in the field of international cooperation. However, we should not let the absence of such a definition stand in the way of implementing the Strategy. Most of the Strategy's provisions are in no way tied to the definition of terrorism.

I would recall here that the United Nations Convention against Corruption, while essentially comprehensive, does not contain a definition of corruption. On the other hand, the so-called "sectoral conventions" do contain a definition of terrorist acts.

(b) If terrorism is at once our common enemy and also a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that can be defeated only through universal efforts, as reflected in the Strategy and its title with the word "global", then why do we again have certain cracks appearing in the counter-terrorism front, particularly between Security Council and General Assembly decisions?

Through the adoption of its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolution 1373, the Security Council covered over the holes and attempted to provide an immediate response

to what had become a clear threat to international security. The measures decreed by the Security Council can therefore be implemented relatively directly and promptly, with a swift impact.

General Assembly resolution 60/288 reflects the understanding reached during negotiations on the Strategy, namely that it should contain measures to be implemented immediately, measures that will take several years to implement and measures that will have to be treated as long-term goals. In our view, Security Council decisions come into the first category of measures.

(c) The Strategy will help to further synchronize Security Council and General Assembly efforts and, in our opinion, technical assistance could serve as a platform or joint basis for this.

Implementing the Strategy is primarily a matter for States, as has been stated here repeatedly.

Allow me to share some of our national experience. We in the Russian Federation are convinced that businesses and States have common or very similar interests where protection from terrorism is concerned. We believe that much is to be gained by fostering cooperation with the business community and with civil society as a whole.

One area for such cooperation, and an area where work at the international level has not yet begun, is the study of non-conventional (primarily financial) channels used to feed terrorism. We are pleased to note that this matter was addressed by Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In our view, States and businesses urgently need to work together to prevent use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

Statement

By Mr. Mojtaba Amiri Vahid

Deputy Permanent Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations, Geneva

At the outset, I should congratulate the Austrian Government for its commendable efforts in initiating and pursuing the idea of convening Symposium on Combating International Terrorism through the implementation of the United Nations Global Strategy. I also thank the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the United Nations Office on Drug Control and Crime Prevention for skillfully organizing this inspiring gathering. It is my great pleasure to speak on behalf of the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at this Symposium, on the contributions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the international efforts on combating international terrorism and taking fundamental steps on advancing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The threat of terrorism has haunted the international community for many decades and unfortunately has intensified in recent years. It is still a major challenge to international peace, stability and security. As a multifaceted phenomenon, its dire implications affect all corners of the world.

This Symposium is indeed a great occasion to take advantage of past experience, identify the obstacles encountered along the way, evaluate existing strategies and exploring possibilities of more results-oriented cooperation in combating terrorism at national, regional and global levels.

The 11 September attacks in the United States and subsequent acts of terrorism in various places such as Bali, Madrid, London, Bangkok, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Algeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan, just to name a few, demonstrated that terrorism continuously recognizes no boundaries of geography, wealth, religion, culture or even power. The horrible tragedies of 11 September indeed symbolized more than anything else our collective vulnerability. And it underlined that terrorism is a global menace and as such requires a global response. No country or region is immune from terrorism, nor could any one alone successfully tackle and eradicate this calamity. As the previous Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan rightly pointed out in his thoughtful 2002 editorial in the New York Times “the United Nations provides the forum necessary for building a universal coalition and can ensure global legitimacy for the long-term response to terrorism.”

The history of international campaign against terrorism goes back to the First International Conference of Penal Code in 1926. Since then terrorism has been high on the agenda of the international community. The Geneva Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations in 1937, was the first major drive to develop a global and collective view of terrorism. The Convention, although never entered into force, laid the stone for the United Nations, in the course of the past decades, to codify a set of international norms and rules into legally binding instruments to fight different forms of terrorist acts.

The instruments, which each deal individually with a specific crime come to represent a trend called the “piecemeal” or “thematic” approach in criminalizing such acts that constitute a terrorist crime. It is no surprise that these instruments tend to limit the dangers imposed by particular trends in terrorist acts through forcing member States to prosecute, punish and even extradite terrorist offenders without any exception. A significant question that can arise here is whether these instruments have managed to successfully meet their objective, notably to create an atmosphere uncongenial to terrorism. The answer may not always be assenting. Furthermore, judgment cannot be made without carefully considering the intrinsic limitations of the instruments as well as the political will of the parties concerned with implementing them faithfully. In my view, codification and adaption of the instruments are without a doubt positive steps towards the right direction. It should be noted, that they hardly offer solutions that will significantly decrease the growing dangers of this international phenomenon.

However, in order for States to confront terrorism both effectively and successfully, they need to set up multidimensional policies and strategies that would also address the root causes of terrorism. The emphasis on the roots of this horrific threat should not be regarded as a tactic to justify terrorist acts. Nor, is it a policy to escape from obligations to take legal action against terrorists and their supporters. Historical experiences and the existing realities do attest to the fact that this is the only effective strategy that must be developed, supported and implemented worldwide if we are serious about uprooting terrorism. The unfavorable economic, social and political conditions prevailing within and among States along with a general decline in the moral and ethical values as well as the increasing insensitivity to principles of justice, fairness and responsibility toward our fellow human beings, provide a fertile ground for terrorism to flourish. Therefore, international efforts and cooperation cannot and should not be directed solely to challenging the symptoms of the problem; namely the use of violence. They should also pursue vigorously the elimination of the roots and breeding grounds of this phenomenon.

The counter-terrorism campaign at the regional level has also contributed to the international fight against terrorism. Six regional organizations, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference, have succeeded in concluding regional conventions to this end. Regional and subregional approaches to combat terrorism command support and sympathy due to the shared values, history and common policies between and among member States of the same regional organization or subregional arrangement.

In this broader topic however, I limit myself specifically to the contribution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to the global efforts in advancing the implementation of the United Nations global fight against terrorism. I will try to briefly share with you the measures adopted by the Organization in response to the heinous implications of terrorist acts at the regional and international level.

The issue of terrorism has been accorded high priority on the OIC agenda. In the final document of the Sixth Islamic Summit, held in Dakar in 1991, emphasis was placed on the importance and necessity of coordination among the member States to campaign against all forms of terrorism and extremism. The twenty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Karachi in 1993, adopted a resolution on the necessity of “Compilation of Code of Conduct for Fighting International Terrorism”. The Code of Conduct was drafted by a working group and approved by the Seventh Islamic Summit, held in December 1994 in Casablanca.

The important provisions of the OIC Code of Conduct include:

- Declaring that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances;
- Unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism regardless of their origins, causes and purposes, without prejudice to the legitimate rights of people under occupation to struggle for their independence and self-determination in conformity with the provisions of the OIC and United Nations Charters;
- Strong commitment to combat terrorism and to take firm and effective bilateral and collective steps to prevent acts of terrorism in all its forms;
- Commitment to refrain from undertaking, attempting or participating in any way in financing, instigating or supporting acts of terrorism;
- Preventing the use of member States' territories for planning, organizing, executing, initiating or participating in any terrorist activity or for the harbouring, training, arming, financing, recruiting or providing any facilities to such elements and activities
- Enhancement of cooperation in countering and combating terrorist acts, prosecuting or extraditing their perpetrators;
- Cooperation in the fields of exchange of relevant information on terrorists and their activities;
- Commitment to enhance media activities so as to counter biased campaigns against Islam, and expose the schemes of terrorist groups;
- Introducing, in educational curricula, the human values, principles and ethics of Islam which forbid the practice of terrorism.

The eighth Islamic Summit, held in Tehran in December 1997, adopted a resolution on the follow-up of the code of conduct. The resolution invited the Governmental Expert Group to consider ways and means of elaborating a draft convention on combating international terrorism based on the principles enshrined in the Code of Conduct.

Subsequently, the Governmental Expert Group during two separate meetings held in Cairo and Jeddah managed to finalize the draft OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism. The Convention was adopted at the Ministerial Session in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in July 1999.

The OIC Convention is indeed a unique document that tries to combat terrorism through prescribing a set of rules and obligations that all member States should vigorously pursue. In contrast to the 12 United Nations counter-terrorism instruments, the OIC Convention provides a rather comprehensive definition of terrorism—the controversial issue which the United Nations has yet to overcome in order to finalize a comprehensive convention. The OIC Convention defines terrorism as “any act of violence or threat thereof, notwithstanding its motives or intentions, perpetrated to carry out an individual or collective criminal plan with the aim of terrorizing people or threatening to harm them or imperiling their lives, honour, freedoms, security or rights or exposing the environment or any facility or public or private property to hazards or occupying or seizing them, or endangering a national resource, or international facilities, or threatening the stability, territorial integrity, political unity or sovereignty of independent States.” The Convention also provides a definition of “terrorist crimes”.

The OIC definition of terrorism, as may have been noted, entails an extensive scope of application. At the same time, it safeguards the legitimate rights of the peoples who struggle against foreign occupation, aggression, colonialism, and hegemony, while underlining in this regard the imperative of the observance of the principles of international law.

The Convention underlines that terrorism shall not be considered a political crime, even when politically motivated. It provides for preventive measures, including education, exchange of information and expertise, detection and interception of weapon transfers, border security, and establishment of a database on terrorist groups and activities.

The Convention requires state-parties to cooperate in combating terrorism, including extensive provisions for cooperation in investigation, judicial cooperation and extradition.

It even includes provisions to seize the financial assets and resources of terrorist groups.

The OIC Convention shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of the Seventh instrument of ratification. Numbers of States have already ratified the Convention, and a number of other OIC members are in the final stages of the Constitutional process of ratifying it. However, the OIC General Secretariat at its highest level will take necessary measures to encourage all Member States to expedite the completion of the ratification process.

Immediately after the 11 September tragedy, on the initiative of the OIC Chairman then President Khatami of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the OIC held an emergency ministerial meeting in Doha on 10 October 2001. The Doha Declaration rejected terrorism in all its forms, categorically condemned the 11 September terrorist attacks, rejected any association between Islam and the events of 11 September and called for dialogue and international cooperation under the United Nations auspices to combat terrorism.

A second extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on terrorism was held in Kuala Lumpur in early April of 2002, during which a declaration and a plan of action were adopted. The Ministers underlined the urgency of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, and reiterated the necessity of differentiating between acts of terrorism and legitimate struggles for national liberation and self-determination. They also rejected any unilateral action under the pretext of combating international terrorism, as this will undermine global cooperation against terrorism. Moreover, they decided to work towards the early convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to devise a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In the Plan of Action, the Extraordinary Session established an open-ended Ministerial level OIC Committee on International Terrorism with the mandate to formulate recommendations of specific measures, including the measures to expedite the implementation of the OIC Code of Conduct and the Convention on Combating International Terrorism. The Committee has also been mandated to formulate measures to strengthen dialogue and understanding among different civilizations, cultures and faiths.

In December 2005, the Makka third Extraordinary Summit adopted a Ten-Year Programme of Action, in which the OIC Head of States reaffirmed their resolve to combat the scourge of International Terrorism. They have also committed themselves to review national legislations

in order to criminalize all terrorist actions and practices that support, finance and instigate terrorism. The Summit further agreed to work on the Saudi proposal for the creation of an International Centre for combating Terrorism under the aegis of the United Nations. This proposal was made along with other useful and action oriented recommendations during the International Conference on Combating Terrorism which was hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, on February 2005.

Furthermore, the Makka meeting, by emphasizing that terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace, security and stability, took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for a review mechanism to provide a comprehensive Strategy which duly takes into account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self-determination by the people under foreign occupation or alien domination.

Consistency with all previous ICFM resolution on Combating Terrorism, the latest which was adopted by the thirty-third ICFM in Baku, Azerbaijan, the OIC and its member States, have continued to emphasize the centrality of international cooperation between all States, international as well as regional organizations to bolster efforts of the international community to effectively combat terrorism. In this context, the OIC and United Nations have been engaged in consultation to organize an International Conference on Root Causes of Terrorism in Tunis under the high patronage of President Ben Ali in November 2007. The conference will provide an opportunity for international community to tackle seriously one of the major concerns of the OIC member States in the global campaign against terrorism.

Moreover, within the context of the existing OIC/UNODC Cooperation, on 11 April 2007, a workshop was conducted by the experts from Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of the United Nations and OIC officials have met in the OIC General Secretariat and after extensive discussion they have decided to hold annual workshop on the month of April for consultation and preparation of joint initiatives and actions.

Various resolutions, declarations and initiatives of the OIC underline the central role of the United Nations in spearheading and coordinating the global campaign to eradicate terrorism. They also emphasize the readiness of the Organization and its member-States to actively contribute to such efforts. The OIC will continue to work with other countries and support the efforts of the international community in advancing the combating of international terrorism undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations in a transparent and impartial manner and in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law and relevant international conventions and instruments. In this context, the insistence of the OIC for a conceptual precision of terrorism and identification of root causes of this universal phenomenon are motivated by a genuine desire to establish international consensus for a rule-based approach to the international challenge.

A very serious concern of the OIC member-States that has also been underlined in the Doha, Kuala Lumpur and Makka Declarations is the disturbing campaign that attempts to attribute terrorist acts to Islam and Muslims particularly in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States.

Terrorism has no religion, no nationality or ethnic background. It is in fact the negation of everything religion stands for. Intolerance, extremism and violence have no place in Islam

or among its adherents. Even from a purely pragmatic perspective, we must not purport to accord any legitimacy to terrorist acts by associating them, even with a misguided interpretation of Islam, which categorically condemns the killing of a single innocent human being equating it with genocide against the entire humankind.

It is therefore a source of deep concern that a new wave of Islamophobia and bigotry against Islam and Muslims has been emerged in recent years. Allowing this to happen would be tantamount to providing a victory for the perpetrators of the barbarism of 11 September, the demagogues who advocate clash, hatred and intolerance.

I cannot but concur with the OIC Secretary General's remarks, made at the International Conference on Counter-Terrorism in Riyadh in February 2005, that terrorism is not a manifestation of the clash of civilizations but a clash between civilizations and barbarism. But, terrorism and terrorist activities should not be used as a pretext to stimulate chronic cultural and political misconceptions, stereotypes and prejudices.

Finally, terrorism cannot be combated through the same policies and means that provided a fertile ground for it in the first place. The eradication of terrorism could only be realized through the inclusion and participation of all members of the international community in a comprehensive global effort under the auspices of the United Nations, not only to fight the terrorists but more importantly to deprive them of any legitimacy caused by exclusion, injustice and the arrogance and indifference of power. To a large extent, participation in this Symposium is an indication of the desire of the international community to take that path. I am confident that the Organization of the Islamic Conference will not hesitate to continue to play its part in this pertinent endeavour.

Statement

By Mr. Francis Maertens

*Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

The purpose of my intervention is to draw the attention of Member States to the coherence of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) current and planned terrorism prevention activities with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Following the General Assembly adoption, last September, of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, our Office undertook an extensive process of consultations with Member States to review UNODC's ongoing counter-terrorism work and propose new ways and means to strengthen our capacity to deliver concrete results on the ground. The exercise led us to identifying the following six areas where UNODC intends to strengthen its counter-terrorism technical assistance:

- The promotion of regional cooperation among criminal justice agencies, building on our anti-crime and anti-drug expertise;
- The development of best legal and criminal justice practices in counter-terrorism, especially in countries which do not possess state-of-the-art legislation and administration;
- The expansion of knowledge in legal research to enable comparative analysis of legislation;
- The promotion of partnerships with other institutions to promote academic training and develop legal expertise;
- The integration of our counter-terrorism legal expertise within our network of field offices.

What is extremely important for us is that the identification of these expanded tasks in our counter-terrorism prevention work was fully integrated into another important process: the formulation of UNODC's Medium-Term Strategy (2008-2011), recently endorsed by our governing bodies: the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

UNODC's Medium-Term Strategy is grounded on a three pillar approach encompassing all our work in:

- The promotion of the rule of law;
- Policy and trend analysis;
- Prevention, treatment and reintegration as well as alternative development.

UNODC's future activities in Counter-Terrorism prevention provide a similar sense of direction in our work in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I am therefore pleased to see that thanks to your support, we have already incorporated the

relevant elements of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy into UNODC's medium-term strategy for the next year.

We, at UNODC, are committed to deliver within our mandates, on the expanded tasks entrusted to us by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. By combining relevant expertise in criminal justice matters, legal assistance or anti-money-laundering, we offer to Member States a menu of services to develop capacities that can be compared, shared and emulated among countries.

Statement

By Mr. Janos Tisovszky

*Information Officer
United Nations Department of Public Information
Representative of the Department of Public Information in the
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

To advance the implementation of the strategy there is a need to recognize the importance of clearly communicating its significance as well as its practical benefits.

The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) promotes the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations to the widest public audience.

DPI has been a member entity of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) since its establishment in 2005. Working through the Task Force has enhanced its ability to promote the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations in a more coherent and focused way.

Since its adoption last September, the global strategy has served as the framework to communicate and showcase the United Nations counter-terrorism actions.

In advancing the implementation of the strategy, DPI's work aims at raising and maintaining awareness to the strategy, and through this, to create a wider understanding and support for the strategy and its practical action points. That understanding and support may serve as the basis for a more active involvement on the part of the larger public to implement the strategy.

The Outreach Division of DPI has been actively promoting the strategy through its ongoing direct outreach work to civil society, opinion leaders, academia and youth. There is a growing number of requests for lectures and briefings on this topic. Just at headquarters since 2006, so far, close to 50 briefings and lectures have been organized to visiting groups involving over 1600 participants on the topic of the United Nations counter-terrorism work. The Outreach Division is also continuing its successful "unlearning intolerance seminar" which aims at reaching out to civil society and academia to promote tolerance and diversity. These efforts may also foster a stronger engagement on the part of civil society to support the strategy.

DPI's world wide network of over 60 country offices has been disseminating information on the strategy, reaching out to their respective audiences. This global network is in fact a collection of local audiences that allows for more specific and targeted outreach which can encourage a broader support for the strategy in all geographic regions.

The United Nations website, which registers more than 50 million visits annually, gives prominence to the Organization's counter-terrorism work. Since the adoption of the strategy a new, more user-friendly and informative website has been created to promote the strategy and its implementation. The website also provides easy access and navigation to all United Nations system entities engaged in counter-terrorism work.

The counter-terrorism website will continue to give visibility and provide transparency on the ongoing work of the Task Force and its entities to implement the strategy. The site is currently only in the two working languages but DPI is in the process of developing the site in all official languages. This website also hosts the new Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook.

The United Nations News Centre, which has a daily outreach to some 5,000 journalists through media-alerts, has been regularly covering counter-terrorism actions through its news stories—including the current Symposium.

DPI also uses its more traditional tools of communications to promote the UN's counter-terrorism efforts—such as the background note and the updated fact sheet produced for this Symposium.

However, building and maintaining support for implementation requires going beyond raising awareness to the strategy. It is crucial to show how making progress and achieving certain key action points of the strategy contribute to practical benefits in the fight against terrorism in all regions. There is a need to demonstrate the practical value of the strategy for the individual wherever that individual may be on the globe.

DPI in its global communication work will focus on that. However, just as implementing the strategy requires concerted action so does the effort to communicate this. It is important for all stakeholders—Member States, United Nations system entities, regional organizations and experts—to clearly communicate the work done in taking forward the action points of the strategy that have practical benefits for people in their daily lives. This in turn should contribute to not just a wider understanding and support for the strategy but also to sustaining momentum for its implementation in all regions.

Statement

By Mr. Eric Rosand

Senior Fellow

Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

The adoption of the Strategy has the potential to make an important long-term contribution to the international community's efforts to address and prevent the scourge of terrorism. It signals the re-emergence of the broader United Nations membership on the long-term and general issue of terrorism, after more than five years of largely a Security Council-led effort.

Having received the support of every United Nations Member State, the Strategy provides a holistic framework and a coordinated plan of action for a wide variety of stakeholders ranging from States and multilateral organizations to civil society and the private sector. Practical and coordinated implementation of the Strategy and sustaining support for those efforts, however, is the next and most difficult step. The presentations and discussions over the past two days, as well as the discussion paper circulated in advance of this Symposium, have put forward a number of excellent ideas on how to help achieve this. I will use my intervention to highlight a few more.

Efforts need to be taken to ensure that national capitals are not only made fully aware of its work and the larger Strategy implementation activities, but that they see the practical relevance of the Strategy to their national counter-terrorism efforts and as an integral part of collective efforts to address terrorism within their own region. By identifying and explaining how discrete elements of the Strategy can contribute to the development and implementation of more effective national counter-terrorism measures, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force may be able to overcome one of the shortcomings of the United Nations counter-terrorism programme, namely, the difficulty it has had engaging with national counter-terrorism practitioners and sustaining high-level interest in these capitals in the United Nations counter-terrorism work. The task force needs to help build constituencies in national capitals that are committed to both its and the Strategy's success.

Since many States believe that addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism should be the focus of efforts to eradicate it, part of a strategy for building constituencies in national capitals could involve finding ways to promote the linkages between the Strategy and two major United Nations initiatives that lie at the heart of efforts to address these conditions: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Alliance of Civilizations (AOC). The Strategy refers explicitly to both but offers no guidance on how they relate in practical terms to Strategy implementation. Given that the task force includes members that are integral to monitoring the MDGs and who are particularly well-suited to promoting the AOC Report recommendations, it could encourage States and other stakeholders to understand that their progress on these two initiatives are not only interconnected, but part of a broader strategic framework to address terrorism. To the extent that the task force can identify concrete ways in which the Strategy can be used to further implementation

of both the MDGs and the recommendations contained in the November 2006 Report of the AOC High-Level Group, the more likely it will be able to sustain broad-based support among the United Nations membership.

National governments will need to assume the leading role in implementing the Strategy and should take their own initiative to ensure that they are taking the Strategy to heart by implementing more efficient whole of government approaches themselves. While recognizing the primacy of States in this exercise, one of the keys to Strategy implementation will be whether the coordination and coherence of the United Nations system on counter-terrorism is enhanced. Here, an effective and efficient task force will be essential. As has been documented today, the task force, under the leadership of its coordinator, Assistant-Secretary-General Orr, has got off to an excellent start, particularly given its limited human and financial resources. Its long-term success, however, may be determined by how much progress it makes in addressing a number of challenges that lie ahead. I will highlight only a few.

First, how it will engage with the Security Council's subsidiary bodies, and the Security Council more broadly? Ensuring transparency, including by providing regular briefings to interested Member States, which would offer States an opportunity to comment on its work will be important. Clearly articulating how an effective task force can strengthen the work of the various Council bodies, in particular the CTC and its CTED will also be essential.

Second, the amount of time and energy each task force member will be able to devote to the task force may be limited to their pre-existing full-time job responsibilities. Each representative will likely need to have sufficient commitment and resources from the highest level within their own organizations to sustain a meaningful collective effort. To facilitate this commitment, United Nations intergovernmental bodies represented on the task force may wish to consider formally endorsing the Strategy and the work of the task force.

Third, in addition to finding ways to break down some of the barriers that have limited cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on counter-terrorism, the task force will need to stimulate efforts to project a more coherent United Nations response to the threat. The adoption of the Strategy is a step in the right direction. Its impact may be limited, however, unless the different counter-terrorism actors within the United Nations system make a concerted effort to promote their activities through the lens of the Strategy, using it whenever possible as a tool to promote their work.

Finally, the task force will need to find ways to sustain awareness of the Strategy and its work at the regional and subregional levels as well as to ensure not only its work reflects the different regional and subregional perspectives, but that there is a coherent and consistent United Nations counter-terrorism presence that has support from local stakeholders in the different regions.

Before concluding, I would like to offer few reflections on the past two days of discussions. First, it seems clear that few are fully satisfied with the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations response to terrorism and many believe there is a need to improve the coordination and cooperation among the different relevant parts of the United Nations system. The Strategy does highlight the need for a more efficient United Nations response to terrorism and greater coordination and cooperation among the different stakeholders and offers a modest solution: supporting institutionalization within the United Nations

Secretariat of the Secretary-General's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The CTITF is doing important work. But our discussions have left me with a few questions.

Has the GA provided it with the necessary resources or sufficient mandate to oversee implementation effectively, stimulate a more effective United Nations response, and coordinate the activities of the different parts of the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions at the international, regional and subregional levels?

Are the necessary institutional structures in place to support implementation of the Strategy's "whole of system" approach to combating terrorism over the long term?

Can implementation of the Strategy succeed in the absence of a mechanism by which the Member States, who are supposed to be taking ownership of the Strategy, can engage (and possibly guide) the task force?

Can implementation of the Strategy succeed in the absence of a forum in which Member States can engage in a comprehensive discussion of the range of issues addressed in the Strategy?

I would judge the Vienna Symposium a resounding success, partly because it has usefully highlighted a number of the challenges that will need to be addressed within the United Nations in order to maximize the role it can play in supporting Strategy implementation. Yet, this formal setting, which tries to tackle all aspects of the Strategy in two days, may not be the most conducive format for making further progress on the often sensitive issues involved in this area. What is needed now is an opportunity to drill down on some of the core issues and challenges raised by so many of you too. Therefore discussions should move to an informal setting involving a group of interested government and non-government experts from different disciplines and regions with practical knowledge of and experience in the subject matter, and freed from the political constraints that limit the discussions in the United Nations. Such a process might offer the opportunity to brainstorm about creative ways to tackle these issues and help develop the forward-looking consensus that cuts across regions that is needed to enhance the role and effectiveness of the United Nations counter-terrorism programme. The recommendations from such a process could then be presented to the General Assembly for consideration when it reviews Strategy implementation in the autumn of 2008.

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Mr. Germán Villalba Chávez

*Operative Profesional, General Intelligence Directorate, Colombia
(Delivered in Spanish)*

My delegation would like to thank the Government of Austria, the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary General and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for organizing this Symposium. It affords a valuable opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the actions undertaken by Member States, by entities and agencies working within the framework of the Implementation Task Force, and by regional organizations and experts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The government of Colombia attaches great importance to the fight against terrorism. Indeed, one of the essential objectives of the National Development Plan 2006-2010 submitted by the Government to Congress is the consolidation of a Democratic Security and Defence Policy.

This Policy seeks to uphold the democratic system and the rule of law, guarantee security and freedom for our citizens, protect human rights and foster economic and social development.

Colombia's implementation of the Global Strategy is grounded on the principle that a multilateral cooperation strategy aimed at combating terrorism in a sustained manner must include the adaptation of domestic legislation to international instruments and the effective application of the range of existing universal and regional legal instruments, not just those dealing with different aspects of terrorism but others also, such as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It must include also the establishment of mechanisms permitting effective international coordination and strengthening of intelligence-gathering capacity, both to prevent terrorist acts and to dismantle terrorist networks and their support structures.

In line with its commitments to the international community to prevent and suppress terrorism, particularly article 2 (a) of the Plan of Action, Colombia has ratified most (9 out of 13) of the International Conventions on terrorism adopted within the United Nations framework. Colombia is at present undertaking the necessary internal steps to ratify the Conventions to which the country is not yet party.

Terrorism, the financing of terrorism and terrorist acts are serious criminal offences in Colombian law, in accordance with the definition set out in the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was approved in Colombia through Law 800/ 2003 and entered into force in August 2004. It should be emphasized here that the majority of the conducts listed in the Conventions which are currently in force in Colombia, as well as those pending ratification, are considered serious crimes in our law and are punishable by at least four years in prison.

In accordance with the obligation set out in article 2 (b) of the Plan of Action, Colombia has resolved to apply and make fullest use of United Nations Resolutions concerning measures to combat terrorism, particularly Resolutions 1373, 1540, 1267, 1566 and 1624.

In a short period of time, Colombia has made progress in bringing its domestic legal system into line with the commitments derived from the different international instruments.

Through Law 975/2005, Colombia has advanced the definition of a legal framework which, in accordance with constitutional provisions, reconciles the demobilization of members of illegal armed groups with the ethical and legal obligations arising out of the rights of victims and of society, in order to secure a sustainable peace.

Colombia is convinced that, to obtain financing, terrorism forges ties with other criminal activities, including drugs and arms trafficking, kidnapping, etc. For this reason we have advocated the recognition of the close relationship that exists between terrorism and other forms of transnational crime and, consequently, we have promoted extending the concept of shared responsibility to the fight against terrorism.

Among the various aspects of its counter-terrorism policy, Colombia has made it a priority to strike at the sources of financing. The competent authorities endeavour, therefore, to broaden the channels of cooperation and information exchange so that the assets and resources that nurture terrorist organizations can be identified, frozen and confiscated.

Law 1121 of 29 December 2006 represents the most recent legislative initiative taken by Colombia on the matter. It adopts a wide-ranging and mainstream approach to the financing of terrorism by involving the financial system, bodies subject to oversight by the national Financial Regulator and the Financial Analysis and Investigation Unit. In this way, Colombia further meets its obligations under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the Special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

The counter-terrorism actions adopted by Colombia are a national policy and are in agreement with the international conventions to which our country is party. Colombia assists with the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through the measures outlined above, which are consistent with the provisions contained in the Plan of Action giving effect to the Strategy.

Mr. Paul Goa Zoumanigui

*Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Guinea to the United Nations, New York
(Delivered in French)*

I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for the manner in which you are presiding over our work and to thank the organizers of this Symposium, which, in more ways than one, is an opportunity for the international community to review its strategy in the fight against terrorism so that it may further adjust the strategy in order to ensure success.

I would like to thank the various speakers who have, in their respective statements, given us a better understanding of the different parameters to be taken into consideration in assessing the scourge that terrorism represents, as well as what must be done to eradicate it. My delegation believes that the actions of the various actors in the fight against terrorism must be conducted within a legal and political framework that is integrated, coordinated and complementary, for no entity is safe from terrorism and the consequences of terrorism.

To that end, my country, the Republic of Guinea, underlines the importance of cooperation, mentioned by several speakers. This is an opportunity for me to express our gratitude to our bilateral and multilateral partners, especially the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which has, among other things, provided training for Guinean staff in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. This has enabled us to amend domestic legal texts so that they take better account of certain aspects of the fight against terrorism and to accede to international conventions relating to the fight against terrorism to which Guinea was not a party.

Guinea is also taking part in international, regional and subregional intergovernmental conferences and meetings so that it can continue to implement, in a coordinated framework with the other actors of the international community, the necessary measures in the fight against terrorism.

My delegation's support for the fight against terrorism stems from the fact that terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. All terrorist acts, regardless of who perpetrates them and of their motivation, are criminal and unjustifiable. That is why we condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The complexity of terrorism makes it necessary to adopt a global approach to combating this scourge. Political quarrels and differences of opinion must in no way distract us from our commitment to fight this evil that affects the entire international community.

In the actual implementation of this strategy we must always keep in mind the fact that success in the fight against terrorism will be measured in terms of the number of lives saved and terrorist attacks thwarted. This will only be possible through cooperation, dialogue between civilizations, acceptance of our differences in the light of our common interests, the resolution of the conflicts, especially regional conflicts, that are tearing so many countries apart and the search for solutions to the problems of development.

In this connection, my delegation is appreciative of the training and awareness-raising programmes based on seminars.

Intervention by Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah*First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, New York*

This is the last time I am taking the floor to express my views. The Symposium provided us a good opportunity to discuss some important issues related to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At this stage, I would like to share few important comments about the Strategy.

We think international community's response to terrorism should be comprehensive. It should cover all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism.

The strategy to address extremism should be different from the strategy against terrorism. Terrorists we must confront, extremists we should convert. During the Strategy debate Pakistan proposed a time-structured approach to develop the strategy. Such an approach could provide a framework for a comprehensive strategy; it could help in identifying implementation objectives and could also help in determining priorities. We also identified that the short term response be aimed at providing support for enhancing effectiveness of ongoing operational efforts. The long-term response should address the underlying root causes of terrorism, including the long-standing political disputes e.g. Palestine and Kashmir.

The dialogue among civilizations should be institutionalized. It could be pursued through the panel on the Alliance of Civilizations and such other initiatives, including President of Pakistan's initiative on the Enlightened Moderation.

The international community should help to establish economic opportunity zones for those underdeveloped and economically marginalized areas of the world, which are affected by terrorism.

To promote better understanding and cooperation, the entire United Nations membership should be involved in the decision making process of the counter terrorism strategy through establishment of a General Assembly Counter-Terrorism Committee. The Security Council counter terrorism committees should also be open to participation by all Member States.

In the end I would like to highlight some questions raised by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in New York. He pointed out that we lack an implementation mechanism for the Strategy. He raised questions about the role of the Task Force. He also suggested some measures to bridge the existing gaps between the Security Council and the General Assembly. I am sure we all would have taken note of those ideas, which could prove good food for thought for our future deliberations.

Intervention by Mr. K. Candra Negara

*Official, Directorate of International Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Indonesia*

Indonesia believes that beyond the immediate aspect of combating terrorism, any country should also find ways to resolve the root causes of terrorism which over the years have become the reservoir for violent radicalism and extremism. Our success in overcoming those problems would make those who justify their violence based on these factors no longer credible. Beside that, respecting law and order, human rights, and avoiding prejudice on religion, race, nation, and ethnicity is Indonesia's position in handling terrorism.

To prevent recruitment and suppress radicalisms, Indonesia has taken the following measures:

- Identifying persons who are potentially to be recruited by terrorist groups and monitoring the activities of radical groups;
- Raising public awareness on threats posed by terrorism through dialogues and seminars involving all components of society and conducting anti-violence campaign in cooperation with leaders of religious and educational communities;
- Monitoring and supervising study programmes and curriculums in all educational institutions throughout the country and reviewing both printed and non-printed materials which may incite hatred and encourage terrorist acts;
- Minimizing and preventing the rise of social conflicts and empowering the moderates; and strengthening the role of the media in preventing violent radical acts.

Indonesia has taken a number of initiatives to address the root causes of terrorism on ideological grounds by fostering mutual dialogues amongst different faiths. Indonesia has been very active in sponsoring interfaith dialogues at the regional and interregional levels such as the convening of the first ever International Conference of Islamic Scholars (ICIS), the Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation and the Asia-Europe Interfaith Dialogue. Indonesia encourages all countries continuously to promote the interfaith dialogue and cooperation to broaden their understanding and tolerance toward building interfaith cooperation and harmony.

Indonesia also believes that an effective strategy to combat terrorism requires the involvement of all components of society including the media. Indonesia recognizes the importance of the media to play a role in the efforts to enhance dialogue and promoting tolerance and coexistence, to discourage the development of an environment conducive to incitement to terrorist acts. The media can play a significant role in nurturing understanding and bridging the difference among cultures and civilizations. On the other hand we must not lose sight of the fact that the media can provoke situations of intolerance. For that matter, we are consistently of the view that freedom of expression entails a sense of social responsibility.

Intervention by Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Mottaghi-Nejad

*Director, Multilateral Political Affairs Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran*

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

I would like to make a few remarks on the issue of advancing the implementation of the Strategy on counter-terrorism.

As it has been mentioned by many speakers, fighting terrorism requires the concerted efforts and political will and resolve of all nations and players in the international community. In combating terrorism, all our efforts should be organized under the auspices of the United Nations and our fight should be in conformity with the United Nations Charter, international law and international humanitarian law. The road ahead should be based on the framework drawn by our leaders in the word summit outcome document adopted in 2005. We should be keen not to deviate from that framework.

The United Nations strategy should be instrumental in the international endeavours against terrorism. Nevertheless, it should not substitute the efforts to conclude the comprehensive convention on terrorism or the definition of terrorism. We have to work consistently towards achieving an internationally agreed definition of terrorism and terrorist acts which shall be differentiated from the legitimate struggle and resistance of peoples under foreign occupation.

It is imperative for the General Assembly to review the plan of action on a regular basis to provide a truly comprehensive Strategy which duly takes into account all root causes of terrorism. We believe that the condition conducive to the spread of terrorism is to be among the immediate objectives of the strategy, and this issue has been addressed to some extend in this Symposium and should be further elaborated on any outcome. We remain convinced that in our confrontation with extremism and terrorism, we will not succeed if the environment that breeds terrorism, including foreign occupation, state terrorism, injustice, exclusion and systematic denial of human rights is allowed to thrive.

It is also important that the United Nations extends its cooperation to other inter-governmental organizations such as Organization of Islamic Conference as well as regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism. We also need to strengthen mutual respect among peoples of different cultures, traditions and religions. Intercultural and inter-religion dialogue can play a key role in fighting the menace more effectively.

At the end, I would like to thank once again the organizers of this important Symposium and express the hope that our deliberations in the course of these two days have provided us a better vision and understanding of the road ahead in advancing the implementation of the Strategy. With the continuation of dialogue and encouraging cooperation among members of the international community, we can prepare the ground for common understanding on the best ways and means to deal with the biggest challenge of our time, i.e. terrorism.

Intervention by Mr. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou

*Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Benin to the
United Nations, New York
(Delivered in French)*

My delegation associates itself fully with the statements made by the Ambassador of Denmark and the Ambassador of Burkina Faso, which currently holds the presidency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). As a framework for regional integration and cooperation in the interests of peace, security (*inter alia*, in combating cross-border crime) and promotion of the economic and social development of Member States, ECOWAS should be more involved in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In response to the statements made regarding the subject under discussion, my delegation would like to make the following comments:

- Synergy should be established among development institutions and bodies engaged in combating terrorism.
- The aim is to ensure the functionality of the State. We must reflect and take action not only to establish the necessary legislation but also to build implementation capacity. This is particularly important as regards the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which calls for awareness and identification of the assistance needs of Member States.
- To that end, it is necessary to create the necessary institutional framework and ensure the availability of material resources. It is also essential to train personnel and integrate them into information exchange networks, and to foster cooperation in assisting victims.
- As regards resources, it is necessary to enhance support measures by increasing the availability of mobilized resources. It is important to ensure the consistency of policies for economic and national security development. Within the framework of budget reforms negotiated with the international financial institutions, such as Public Expenditure Reform Adjustment Credit (PERAC), greater attention should be given to the security needs of Governments, which is also a factor in promoting economic and social development. Law and order are essential for development.
- The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should keep in mind the need to ensure the consistency of policies at this level.

Intervention by Mr. Konrad G. Bühler

Counsellor (Legal Affairs), Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York

After two days of very fruitful discussions, permit me to make some final remarks on behalf of the host country to highlight some special features of this Symposium and the main challenges on our way ahead.

The Vienna Terrorism Symposium has been a pioneering event in many respects.

First, this meeting was the first occasion after the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006 to bring together all actors engaged in the fight against terrorism, i.e. Member States, the United Nations and its various bodies, funds and programmes, other international organizations and civil society to discuss the implementation of the Strategy.

Second, this meeting was also the first time that all members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force had the opportunity to present their work and exchange views on the implementation of the Strategy with the wider United Nations membership. We very much welcome the very informative and transparent discussions and express our hope that these exchanges will continue in the future.

Looking at the way ahead, the main challenge in the implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy will be the necessary transformation of terrorism prevention into a horizontal agenda within the United Nations system. The provisions of the Strategy bear relevance to the entire work of the United Nations, to its main organs, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and all other related organizations. This necessary mainstreaming of terrorism prevention into all relevant United Nations activities will require enhanced cooperation and coordination.

Making terrorism prevention a horizontal agenda has been widely discussed in the context of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) response to the Strategy. In the past, UNODC's contribution to terrorism prevention had been largely focussed on the work of its Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), which offered, upon request, technical assistance to Member States to sign, ratify and implement the international instruments against terrorism.

With the Strategy, UNODC will need to enhance its technical assistance delivery function, within its existing mandate, going beyond the TPB by also including its anti-corruption, money-laundering and rule of law units. In fighting illegal drugs and trans-national organized crime, UNODC has accumulated important expertise which needs to be made available to an integrated strategy against terrorism.

Representing the Austrian government, I do hope that Vienna will be able to lead the way also this time. The challenge to the UNODC to make terrorism prevention its horizontal agenda might offer lessons to be learned for the mainstreaming of terrorism prevention into the agenda of the whole United Nations system.

Let me conclude by thanking all speakers and participants for their contributions and constructive spirit in the discussions here in Vienna. We sincerely hope that this "Vienna spirit", as an expression of our common goal to fight the scourge of terrorism, will be maintained in all our future efforts to implement the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Concluding remarks and closure

Concluding remarks by Ms. Kuniko Ozaki

*Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

We have reached the end of a very intensive two-day session. We have had the privilege to hear so many thought-provoking interventions, representing the views of Member States from all geographic regions as well as of many entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and civil society.

I wish to all for your highly valued contributions. They have been the foundation for the rich debate and brainstorming during these two days.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude for the Government of Austria for initiating, hosting and co-organizing this seminar; my sincere appreciation also goes to the colleagues of the Executive Office of the Secretary General.

Let me recall the substantive goal of this Symposium—to generate global action required:

- To raise awareness for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to promote its implementation;
- To identify measures for assisting Member States in this endeavour, including by mobilizing enhanced support for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

I believe that we can say, in all modesty, that this Symposium has helped in fostering information sharing on the Strategy and its implementation. It has helped to brainstorm further on the content of the four pillars of the Strategy and how to go about implementing them. It has helped to be informed of the steps under process that Member States are making in this regard. It has helped to increase awareness of how the United Nations, international and regional actors can and should support Member States in their endeavours, and how these organizations plan to go about doing so. We also heard about the role of civil society and the private sector, including the media, in this endeavour.

This Symposium has offered a forum for exchanging good practices and discussing possible initiatives. We leave this room with a wealth of ideas and proposals. This is a valuable achievement but at the same time this is only the first step. Now comes the time that we have to translate these commitments and ideas into action. And we have to act immediately and sustain this momentum.

In my mind, one of the key things some of you stressed in this Symposium is that successful implementation requires active and coordinated involvement of all actors. We also heard repeatedly, that the key to successful implementation is in the hands of Member States. Allow me to express again my gratitude to the representatives of so many countries for having accepted the invitation to discuss and share with us here how they plan to fulfil their lead role.

This event has, however, also emphasized that Member States can draw on effective support, in responding to this challenge. As you know, UNODC stands ready to enhance the provision of technical assistance to counter-terrorism in its mandated areas. Many other assistance providers within the United Nations system and the regional and subregional organizations have also reaffirmed their firm commitment to support countries in this endeavour. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, working in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, offers us a valuable vehicle to ensure that the assistance is delivered in a complementary, coherent and “integrated” manner and can, hence, act as a catalyst for the implementation of the Strategy.

I hope that Member States draw on the assistance offered, as they have been encouraged to do so in the Strategy. And I also hope that the assistance providers will be given the political support and resources required.

The challenge ahead of us is huge and critical. We owe it to ourselves to give the best for the benefit of the people we serve. I wish you and us all success in this endeavour.

Concluding remarks by Mr. Robert Orr

*Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning
Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force*

This has been a very timely and important meeting on advancing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In my introductory statement I said that the main responsibility for implementing the Strategy falls on Member States, and that the United Nations system stands ready to support them in any and all means possible. I am heartened that over the last two days many of you not only recognized your primary responsibility explicitly but also described concrete measures you are taking to implement the Strategy. Such ownership is critical to the success of the Strategy and is to be encouraged.

On our side, the members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) have appreciated the opportunity to share with you what we are doing, both individually and collectively. More importantly, it has been extremely valuable to hear about your vision for the continuing implementation process, and how we can be of assistance.

Along with the strong political confirmation for the Strategy that was expressed by all participants, a number of important concrete proposals and practical suggestions were raised by Member States, regional and subregional organizations, and members of civil society. Just some of the practical suggestions that have been mentioned by Member State delegations for which you have envisioned a role for the CTITF include:

- Ensuring that the voices of victims of terrorism are heard, and helping to facilitate a dialogue between victims and States;

- Sharing best practices on preventing radicalization, as well as promoting national de-radicalization and rehabilitation programmes;
- Sharing best practices on the protection of vulnerable targets ranging from mass transport to civilian populations in areas of conflict;
- Addressing armed conflicts as conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism;
- Harmonizing the provision of technical assistance through user-friendly coordination mechanisms;
- Countering the growing terrorist use of the Internet, as well as using the Internet to combat incitement of terrorism and extremist ideologies;
- Enhancing Member State implementation of international standards to combat terrorist financing;
- Preventing terrorist access to nuclear, biological and chemical materials that can be used to inflict mass casualty;
- Incorporating human rights obligations and the promotion of the rule of law into all aspects of our counter-terrorism work; and,
- Ensuring that the Strategy is implemented in an integrated manner, without fragmentation or duplication of work.

Numerous participants expressed interest in working jointly with the Task Force to implement provisions of the Strategy. This will be particularly important when it comes to integrated implementation. We welcome these expressions of interest and look forward to developing modalities to facilitate this partnership.

As Chairman of the CTITF, I also appreciate the many expressions of support for the work of the Task Force. I hope that many Member States, regional and subregional organizations, and members of civil society will be ready to engage in an ongoing and mutually beneficial relationship with the Task Force without delay.

Based on support expressed at this Symposium for the Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook, we will continue to maintain it. I hope that it continues to be widely promoted and used, as it can play an important role in informing national, regional and subregional counter-terrorism focal points of the Strategy and the resources provided by the United Nations system in this regard.

In closing, I would like to reiterate something that the Executive Director of UNODC stated at the beginning of this Symposium: the world will judge us not by the statements we make but by the results we achieve. The composition of this meeting confirms that to achieve those practical results, strategic partnerships among and across Member States, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, and the United Nations system are crucial. Only by working together can we succeed in our common endeavour to create a more secure world where the sanctity of life is no longer threatened by terrorism.

Concluding Remarks by the Chairman H.E. Mr. Thomas Stelzer*Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Vienna*

At the outset I must say that I am pleased with the broad attendance and interest expressed by all participants. Some 103 Member States, numerous regional and subregional organizations, a wide variety of civil society organizations, as well as members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force have come together to pursue our common endeavour. I am also extremely impressed with how so many different actors in the United Nations system were organized and coordinated themselves under the umbrella of the Task Force in such an effective manner. We came together at this Symposium in Vienna to discuss ways to advance the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I believe we have made notable progress in this regard. Two days have produced a wealth of ideas, proposals and information to assist us all in this endeavour. These will be captured for future reference through the publication of the proceedings of the Symposium, containing the text of the keynote speeches and statements made at the Symposium.

Permit me, as part of my concluding remarks, to recall some of the highlights.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes the first universally agreed framework to counter terrorism. Its success, however, depends entirely on its implementation through concrete measures.

The implementation of the Strategy rests primarily with Member States and requires long-term and sustainable commitment. In this regard, the Symposium highlighted various approaches and courses of action for the Strategy's effective implementation, emphasizing a plethora of measures. In particular, the Symposium underlined the importance of:

- Applying an “integrated” approach to counter-terrorism that covers a broad range of measures and for this purpose setting-up a national institutional framework that facilitates interagency coordination for an integrated implementation of the Strategy, such as the establishment of a national focal point;
- Ensuring that all counter-terrorism efforts are undertaken in full compliance with the rule of law, human rights and international law principles;
- Recognizing that sustainable development and prevention of conflicts are key components of all counter-terrorism efforts and that development cooperation has a crucial role to play in countering terrorism;
- Adopting effective measures to implement existing United Nations counter-terrorism commitments, including adherence to and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, the relevant Security Council resolutions and human rights instruments;
- Responding to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including by addressing violent conflicts and fostering dialogue between and mutual respect among cultures and religions with special emphasis on “engaging, employing, educating and enabling” the youth;

- Ensuring that solidarity is expressed and adequate support is provided to the victims of terrorism;
- Completing the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, especially agreement on the scope of applicability;
- Preventing the abuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes;
- Ensuring that measures are adopted at the national level to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act/s;
- Identifying good practices in different Strategy-related areas that could be shared with other States;
- Enhancing international cooperation in criminal matters, law enforcement, border control cooperation and the protection of vulnerable targets;
- Making better use of the assistance delivered by the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations;
- Providing enhanced support and capacity-building assistance to other States for the implementation of the Strategy, including through ensuring the necessary political will, as well as operational and financial resources to multilateral assistance providers;
- Encouraging partnerships with and active involvement of relevant civil society and non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, private sector (including the media) in counter-terrorism efforts.

Member States upon request should be provided with adequate technical assistance and related resources to help them strengthen their capacities to implement the Strategy. In achieving this aim, it is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts. It is also necessary to provide the required level of resources to enable the United Nations system and other service providers to fulfill their mandated tasks effectively.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has a crucial role to play in facilitating the implementation of the Strategy. Whereas various United Nations system organizations have been undertaking counter-terrorism measures, the Task Force, for the first time, brings together 24 of those entities. In this regard, it is recalled that the Task Force will facilitate the provision of integrated support and assistance by its members to countries in areas specifically requested by the countries concerned; will not replace the existing mandates of the CTITF entities—but rather consolidate the operational cross-cutting provision of assistance and the best possible use of all the expertise and experience available among its members; is in the process of developing a methodology to help Member States implement the Strategy in an integrated manner should take measures for ensuring effective dialogue and communication with the Member States, and steps to keep Member States informed of its work and will require financial and substantive support in order to effectively assist Member States.

In delivering counter-terrorism technical assistance, UNODC, particularly its Terrorism Prevention Branch, has gained valuable experience, expertise and partnerships, leading to notable achievements. These should be further built upon, drawing on the lessons learned. Consideration may be given to identifying areas within the competence of UNODC in which its services to Member States could be expanded, complementing and enhancing its

current counter-terrorism technical assistance delivery for strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and related capacity-building. UNODC should actively pursue a cross-cutting approach in its counter-terrorism technical assistance delivery, benefiting from the synergy of efforts in its other areas of mandates in crime prevention and drug control. UNODC should be challenged to effectively integrate counter-terrorism within its existing various mandated areas and competencies, including required internal coordination. When successfully achieved, this could serve as a possible model and lessons learned for mainstreaming counter-terrorism into the international agenda, especially in the work of United Nations system organizations. We should also explore how Member States and multilateral institutions can support UNODC in meeting this challenge.

Regional and subregional organizations should reinforce their important role in developing tailor-made regional and subregional initiatives for the implementation of the Strategy, including:

- Coordinating initiatives with the work carried out by other stakeholders in the region and relevant United Nations entities and other international organizations;
- Promoting judicial and law enforcement (including border control) cooperation at the regional level;
- Providing capacity-building assistance, in partnership with the United Nations and international organizations, with special attention being given to the needs and priorities of the region;
- Promoting the ratification and implementation of regional and subregional counter-terrorism instruments in support of the universal legal framework and related counter-terrorism initiatives.

Civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector should work closely together with Member States, the United Nations system and other international, regional and subregional organizations to advance the implementation of the Strategy.

Advancing the implementation of the Strategy is challenging to all constituents. The overall success of the Strategy depends on us, the Member States of the United Nations. This realization should motivate us to work towards concrete actions and measurable results, supported by relevant United Nations entities—including the CTITF, other international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector. Failure in this endeavour is not an option. We must be proactive, committed, and willing to persevere in order to counter the common and global threat of terrorism.

Agenda and programme of work

Symposium on “Advancing the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”

Vienna International Centre, 17-18 May 2007

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

Day 1, Thursday, 17 May 2007

10.00-13.00 Opening

H.E. Ms. Maria BERGER, Minister of Justice of Austria

Mr. Antonio Maria COSTA, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Mr. Robert ORR, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning, Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (EOSG), Chairperson of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)

Theme 1: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: An integrated approach in addressing terrorism

[Issues expected to be covered under this theme include: the Strategy within the context of the overall United Nations action in combating terrorism, the comprehensive character of the Strategy; counter-terrorism responses at the national, regional and international levels; the need for an “integrated” implementation of the Strategy; and the possible role of the CTITF in this regard]

Keynote address by:

H.E. Mr. Bruno Stagno UGARTE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

Brief statements by:

H.E. Mr. Guoqiang TANG, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Liviu Aurelian BOTA, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Eugenio CURIA, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Christian WENAWESER, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, New York

H.E. Mr. Rytis PAULAUSKAS, Head of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the OSCE

Mr. Vladimir RUSHAYLO, Executive Secretary, Representative of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Mr. Robert ORR, EOSG, Chair of the CTITF

Mr. Jean-Paul LABORDE, Representative of UNODC in the CTITF

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor.

13.00-15.00 Lunch break

15.00-18.00 Theme 2: Implementing measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

[Issues expected to be covered include (see Strategy, Plan of Action—Section I): preventing and resolving conflicts; promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue; promoting sustainable development; strengthening the rule of law; human rights and good governance; addressing political and economic exclusion; supporting victims of terrorism; action taken at the national regional levels; and action by organizations and entities represented in the CTITF]

Keynote address by:

H.E. Mr. Baki ILKIN, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, New York

Brief statements by:

H.E. Mr. Klaus-Peter GOTTWALD, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Vienna, on behalf of the EU

H.E. Mr. Peter SHANNON, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Omar ZNIBER, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, Vienna

Mr. Ángel LOSSADA, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain

Mr. Jon Erik STROEMOE, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Mr. Roberto LAMPONI, Director of Legal Cooperation, Council of Europe

Mr. Vladimir GORYAYEV, Deputy Director of Asia and the Pacific Division, representative of DPA in the CTITF

Ms. Ann Belinda PREIS, Senior Programme Planning Officer, Representative of UNESCO in the CTITF

Mr. Andrew CARPENTER, Chief of the Strategic Policy and Development Section, Representative of DPKO in the CTITF

Mr. Francesco CAPPÉ, Coordinator, Security Governance Counter-Terrorism Cluster of UNICRI, Representative of UNICRI in the CTITF

Ms. Yael DANIELI, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Theme 3: Enhancing measures to prevent and combat terrorism

[Issues expected to be covered include (see Strategy, Plan of Action—Section II): strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters, law enforcement and border control cooperation; countering drug trafficking and organized crime; countering the misuse of the internet; protecting vulnerable targets; preventing and responding to WMD attacks; tackling the financing of terrorism; action taken at the national/regional levels; and action by CTITF entities/organizations]

Keynote address by:

Mr. Ashraf MOHSEN, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Counter-Terrorism of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Brief statements by:

H.E. Mr. Ali Asghar SOLTANIEH, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Triyono WIBOWO, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Vienna, on behalf of the Chair of the ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Group

Ms. Michèle CONINSX, Advocate-General, Belgian Representative of EUROJUST

Mr. David VENESS, Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, Representative of DSS in the CTITF

Mr. Richard BARRETT, Coordinator, Representative of 1267 Monitoring Team in CTITF

Mr. Ulrich KERSTEN, Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations, Representative of INTERPOL in the CTITF

Mr. Krzysztof PATUREJ, Director, Office of Special Projects, Technical Secretariat, Representative of OPCW in the CTITF

Mr. Hartmut HESSE, Senior Deputy Director, Representative of IMO in the CTITF

Ms. Marla WEINSTEIN, Legal Adviser, Representative of ICAO in the CTITF

Day 2, Friday, 18 May 2007**10.00-13.00 Theme 3: Enhancing measures to prevent and combat terrorism**

Mr. Nadim KYRIAKOS-SAAD, Senior Counsel, Representative of IMF

Mr. Jeffrey AVINA, Director Division for Operations, UNODC

H.E. Mrs. Taous FEROUKHI, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Vienna

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Theme 4: Increasing States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system: Lessons learned from UNODC's technical assistance delivery**Keynote address by:**

H.E. Ms. Margrethe LØJ, Ambassador of Denmark to the Czech Republic (former chair of CTC)

Brief statements by:

H.E. Mr. Shigeki SUMI, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Sheel Kant SHARMA, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Ms. Béatrice DAMIBA, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Gregory L. SCHULTE, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Vienna

Ms. Carol FULLER, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, Organization of American States

Ms. Peter COLGAN, Head of Section on Detection and Response of the Office of Nuclear Security, IAEA

Mr. Ahmed Seif EL-DAWLA, Chief of Section, Representative of CTED

Mr. Berhanykun ANDEMICAEL, Coordinator, Expert Staff of the 1540 Committee

Ms. Arvinder SAMBEI, Head of the Criminal Law Section, Commonwealth Secretariat

H.E. Mr. Hiruy AMANUEL, Programme Head of ICPAT (Capacity-building Programme Against Terrorism), IGAD

Ms. Kuniko OZAKI, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Theme 5: Respecting human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

Keynote address by:

H.E. Ms. Cecilia RUTHSTROEM-RUIN, Counter-Terrorism Ambassador of Sweden

Brief statements by:

H.E. Mr. François-Xavier DENIAU, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Claude HELLER, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, New York

H.E. Mr. Carlos Alberto HIGUERAS RAMOS, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, Vienna

H.E. Mr. Boubacar Gaoussou DIARRA, Director of the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT-CAERT)

Mr. George OKOTH-OBBO, Director, Division of International Protection Services, UNHCR, Geneva

Ms. Lisa OLDRING, Human Rights Officer, Representative of OHCHR in the CTITF

Mr. Serguei TARASSENKO, Principal Legal Office, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), Representative of OLA in the CTITF

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

13.00-15.00

Lunch break

15.00-18.00

Theme 6: The way ahead—Advancing the implementation of the Strategy

[Issues expected to be covered under the theme include: promoting awareness and policy level commitment for the implementation at domestic, regional and

global levels; practical ways of fostering the involvement of civil society, the private sector and the media; mobilizing resources and expertise for enhanced technical assistance delivery; mobilizing support for the work of the CTITF; and projected steps/activities for the implementation of the Strategy, including envisaged time frame]

Keynote address by:

H.E. Mr. Giampaolo CANTINI, Head of the Counter-Terrorism Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy

Brief statements by:

Ms Evelyn PUXLEY, Director, International Crime and Terrorism Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada

Mr. Josaia NAIGULEVU, Director of Public Prosecutions, Fiji Islands

Mr. Ilya I. ROGACHEV, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, New York

Mr. Mojtaba AMIRI VAHID, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Conference to the United Nations, Geneva

Mr. Robert ORR, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning, EOSG, Chairperson of the CTITF

Mr. Francis MAERTENS, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC

Mr. Janos TISOVSZKY, Information Officer, Representative of DPI in CTITF

Mr. Eric ROSAND, Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Remarks by other participants wishing to take the floor

Concluding remarks and closure

Ms Kuniko OZAKI, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC

Mr. Robert ORR, Chairperson of the CTITF

H.E. Mr. Thomas STELZER, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Vienna

List of interventions

List of interventions

Opening:

H.E. Ms. Maria Berger	Austria
Mr. Antonio Maria Costa	UNODC
Mr. Robert Orr	EOSG

Theme 1: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: An integrated approach in addressing terrorism

Keynote address:

H.E. Mr. Bruno Stagno Ugarte	Costa Rica
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Brief statements:

H.E. Mr. Guoqiang Tang	China
H.E. Mr. Liviu Aurelian Bota	Romania
H.E. Mr. Eugenio Curia	Argentina
H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser	Liechtenstein
H.E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas	Lithuania, on behalf of the OSCE
Mr. Vladimir Rushaylo	Commonwealth of Independent States
Mr. Robert Orr	EOSG
Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde	UNODC

Remarks from the floor:

Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah	Pakistan
H.E. Ms. Taous Feroukhi	Algeria
H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba
Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar	Israel
Mr. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou	Benin
Mr. Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi	Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Mr. Claude Heller	Mexico
H.E. Mr. Luis Alberto Padilla Menéndez	Guatemala
Ms. Verónica Calcinari	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Mr. Mahmoud Aboud	Comoros
Mr. Robert Orr	EOSG
H.E. Ms. Taous Feroukhi	Algeria
H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba

Theme 2: Implementing measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

Keynote address:

H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin	Turkey
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Brief statements:

H.E. Mr. Klaus-Peter Gottwald	Germany, on behalf of the European Union
H.E. Mr. Peter Shannon	Australia

H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber	Morocco
Mr. Ángel Lossada Torres-Quevedo	Spain
Mr. Jon Erik Strömö	Norway
Mr. Roberto Lamponi	Council of Europe
Mr. Vladimir Goryayev	DPA
Ms. Ann Belinda Preis	UNESCO
Mr. Andrew Carpenter	DPKO
Mr. Francesco Cappé	UNICRI
Ms. Yael Danieli	ISTSS

Remarks from the floor:

H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba
Mr. Vadim Pisarevich	Belarus
Mr. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou	Benin
Mr. Rafiuddin Shah	Pakistan
H.E. Mr. Zuheir Elwazer	Palestine
Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar	Israel
Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde	UNODC
H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba

Theme 3: Enhancing measures to prevent and combat terrorism**Keynote address:**

Mr. Ashraf Mohsen	Egypt
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Brief statements:

H.E. Mr. Ali Asghar Soltanieh	Islamic Republic of Iran
H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba
H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo	Indonesia
Ms. Michèle Coninsx	Belgian Representative of EUROJUST
Sir David Veness	DSS
Mr. Richard Barrett	1267 Monitoring Team
Mr. Ulrich Kersten	INTERPOL
Mr. Krzysztof Paturej	OPCW
Mr. Hartmut Hesse	IMO
Ms. Marla Weinstein	ICAO
Mr. Nadim Kyriakos-Saad	IMF
Mr. Jeffrey Avina	UNODC
H.E. Ms. Taous Feroukhi	Algeria

Remarks from the floor:

H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin	Turkey
Ms. Verónica Calcinari	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Redouane Ben Khadra	League of Arab States
Mr. Pornchai Danvivathana	Thailand
Mr. Mabrouk M. Milad	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mr. Mohammad Mohammad	Syrian Arab Republic
Ms. Samantha Job	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. Amanullah Zeweri	Afghanistan
Mr. John Sandage	United States of America
Ms. Meirav Eilon-Shahar	Israel

Theme 4: Increasing States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role of the United Nations system: Lessons learned from UNODC's technical assistance delivery

Key note address:

H.E. Ms. Margrethe Loj Denmark

Brief statements:

H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi	Japan
H.E. Mr. Sheel Kant Sharma	India
H.E. Ms. Béatrice Damiba	Burkina Faso
H.E. Mr. Gregory L. Schulte	United States of America
Ms. Carol Fuller	OAS
Mr. Peter Colgan	IAEA
Mr. Ahmed Seif El-Dawla	CTED
Mr. Berhanykun Andemicael	Expert Staff of the 1540 Committee
Ms. Arvinder Sambei	Commonwealth Secretariat
H.E. Mr. Hiruy Amanuel	ICPAT/IGAD
Ms. Kuniko Ozaki	UNODC

Remarks from the floor:

H.E. Ms. Norma Miguelina Goicochea Estenoz	Cuba
H.E. Mr. Sheel Kant Sharma	India
Mr. Marcio Reboucas	Brazil
Mr. Vadim Pisarevich	Belarus
Mr. Ali Hajigholam Saryazdi	Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. K. Candra Negara	Indonesia
Mr. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou	Benin

Theme 5: Respecting human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism

Keynote address:

H.E. Ms. Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin Sweden

Brief statements:

H.E. Mr. François-Xavier Deniau	France
H.E. Mr. Claude Heller	Mexico
H.E. Mr. Carlos Alberto Higuera Ramos	Peru
H.E. Mr. Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra	ACSRT—CAERT
Mr. George Okoth-Obbo	UNHCR
Ms. Lisa Oldring	OHCHR
Mr. Serguei Tarassenko	OLA

Remarks from the floor:

Mr. Daniel Frank	Switzerland
Mr. Christopher Miachaelsen	OSCE
Mr. Mbalembou Pato	Togo
Mr. Christophe Payot	Belgium

Mr. Rafiuddin Shah	Pakistan
H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser	Liechtenstein
H.E. Mr. Zuheir Elwazer	Palestine
H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin	Turkey

Theme 6: The way ahead: Advancing the implementation of the Strategy**Keynote address:**

Mr. Giampaolo Cantini	Italy
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Brief statements:

Ms. Evelyn Puxley	Canada
Mr. Josaia Naigulevu	Fiji Islands
Mr. Ilya I. Rogachev	Russian Federation
Mr. Mojtaba Amiri Vahid	OIC
Mr. Francis Maertens	UNODC
Mr. Janos Tisovszky	DPI
Mr. Eric Rosand	Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Remarks from the floor:

Mr. Germán Villalba Chávez	Colombia
H.E. Mr. Eugenio Curia	Argentina
Mr. Paul Goa Zoumanigui	Guinea
Mr. Rafiuddin Shah	Pakistan
Mr. K. Candra Negara	Indonesia
Mr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Mottaghi-Nejad	Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Jean-Francis Regis Zinsou	Benin
Mr. Konrad Bühler	Austria

Concluding Remarks:

Ms. Kuniko Ozaki	UNODC
Mr. Robert Orr	EOSG
H.E. Mr. Thomas Stelzer	Austria

List of participants

List of participants

Member States

Afghanistan	Amanullah ZEWERI, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations, Vienna
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Algeria	Taous FEROUKHI, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Vienna Said KHELIFI, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations, Vienna Thouraya BENMOKRANE, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations, Vienna Mokhtar Amine KHELIF, Head, Desk of General Assembly, United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amina LADJAL, Counsellor, Presidency
Angola	Fidelino Loy de Jesus FIGUEREIDO, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations, Vienna Dulce GOMEZ, First Secretary, Advisor to the Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations, Vienna
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	Bertram EISNER, Ministry of the Interior
	Anita ZIELOWSKI, Trainee, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, Vienna
	Johanna WEBERHOFER, Trainee, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, Vienna
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	Yap ABDOU, Magistrate, General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon
	Albert BOMONO MEGNINGUE, Sub-Director, Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon

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Iraq	Muayed H. ALI, Attaché, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq Zina HUSSEIN, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Iraq, Vienna
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Italy	Giampaolo CANTINI, Head, Counter-Terrorism Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Alessandro AZZONI, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, Vienna Rino DI SARNO, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Defense Michelangelo ANACLERIO, Captain, Department of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior
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Kyrgyzstan	Jenish KADRAKUNOV, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations, Vienna Stanislav GRIDNEV, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations, Vienna
Latvia	Aivars VOVERS, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations, Vienna Andris PELSS, Head, International Operations and Crisis Management Division, Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Martins KLIVE, Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations, Vienna
Lebanon	Bilal KABALAN, Chargé d'Affairs a.i., Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations, Vienna Charles ATTA, General, Internal Security Forces, Bureau of the Director General of ISF
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mabrouk M. MILAD, Chargé d'Affairs, a.i., Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Vienna Mahmoud Aboud SEIF, Counsellor, Department of International Organizations, Libyan Foreign Ministry Abdallah HEBRARAH, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, Vienna
Liechtenstein	Christian WENAWESER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the United Nations, New York
Lithuania	Rytis PAULAUSKAS, Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the OSCE, Vienna Robertas ROSINAS, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations, Vienna Gintaras STONYNS, Head of Division, Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg	François BERG, Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations, Vienna
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Message from Mr. Abdulaziz bin Saqr al-Ghamdi

*President, Naif Arab University of Security Studies (NAUSS)
(Translated from Arabic)*

I convey to you the best wishes of the Arab University for Security Sciences and assure you, on the basis of the complete partnership between the University, the United Nations Organization and the international community, of the importance of international cooperation to combat terrorism, provided it results in concern for intellectual security, so that terrorism is fought simultaneously with the intellect and security.

Your Excellency, Gentlemen, Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, which represents 22 Arab States, has attached particular importance to combating terrorism and in 1983 began to focus its curriculum on combating its causes. In this framework, 257 training sessions have been organized involving 8,500 trainees from all the Arab States. Some of these sessions have been implemented in the framework of international cooperation in Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, and the United States of America. The University has published 41 scientific publications that have been distributed to relevant security, scientific and international institutions. The University has inspired its students to study all aspects of the phenomenon and has awarded 80 doctoral and master's degrees in this field. The University has also organized 12 seminars, contributed scientific working papers to 57 Arab and international meetings and given 36 lectures on terrorism, some of which have emphasized the role of Arabs and Muslims in combating terrorism and were organized in Austria, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Naif Arab University for Security Sciences will continue its efforts to combat terrorism, valuing the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. I wish your conference every success.



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