

Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend all of you a very warm welcome to the Special Meeting of the Counter - Terrorism Committee.

Today, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in pursuant to that resolution, we are reminded of the horrific events of 9/11 terrorist attacks and its aftermath.

The nature, intensity, coordination and sophistication of those horrendous attacks brought home the need for urgent and concerted action to collectively combat the scourge of terrorism.

Precisely on this day ten years ago, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1373 (2001), which has proven to be a major milestone in global counter-terrorism efforts. The Council unequivocally condemned the terrorist attacks, and introduced a far reaching set of measures aimed at bolstering the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within their borders and across regions.

I compliment the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for taking an active role in furthering the agenda of the United Nati

There is hardly any region of the world that has not been scarred by terrorism during the past decade. The events in Abuja, Baghdad, Bali, Kabul, London, Madrid, Moscow, and Mumbai—to mention a few—are but footnotes to the tremendous personal tragedies involved.

We need to confront these challenges and we must confront them squarely and decisively. Much more remains to be done to make States free from the threat of terrorism. Some of the challenges facing us include the need to effectively address new threats brought on through increased use by terrorist groups and individuals of new information and communication technologies for recruitment, incitement and fundraising.

Challenges also remain in the area of countering terrorist financing, including the need to monitor more effectively new payment methods, informal money and value transfer systems, and the use of cash couriers. Furthermore, the problem of securing porous land and sea borders remains a major challenge for many States. We also need to bear in mind that bringing perpetrators to justice requires continued training to law enforcement and prosecution services.

Mr. Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we deliberate today to chart out our salient achievements as well as the key challenges and strategies towards overcoming the many ordeals which remain in our path, I call upon all Member States to remain true to the initial call echoed here ten years ago to respond to this challenge in a manner which affirms “our common humanity and the values that we share.”

I firmly believe that this is achievable through the introduction of counter-terrorism measures which uphold the rule of law and are compliant with States’ obligations under international law, in particular international hum