

United Nations High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism

Session V: Role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Architecture:

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Remarks of

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Chair, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

I am grateful to the Kingdom of Spain and to Under-Secretary General Voronkov of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism for inviting me to address you today in my capacity as Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Let me begin by saying that the protection of human rights should be an important aspect of the global fight against terrorism.

As acknowledged in UNSC resolution 1566 of 2004, terrorism seriously impairs the enjoyment of human rights, threatens the social and economic development of all States, and undermines global stability and prosperity.

Terrorist groups continue to make efforts to destabilize governments and, democratic institutions, and in recent times, to attain State power without disavowing their affiliation with terrorism.

Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

States therefore have a responsibility to protect their nationals and others against the threat of terrorist acts by taking positive measures and bringing the perpetrators of such acts to justice.

It is equally important to ensure that measures to counter terrorism are consistent with international law, including human rights law.

The UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate is fully committed to enhance capacities of member states in countering terrorism consistent with international law, through facilitation of technical assistance.

Throughout human rights are consistently mainstreamed as cross-cutting issues.

The Committee and its Executive Directorate working closely with UNOCT identify new and impactful ways to effectively encourage Member States to address human rights shortcomings in their counter-terrorism measures, in order to support the full and effective implementation of relevant Council resolutions.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Let me also share a few thoughts regarding the challenges we are facing today, and the efforts being made by the Counter Terrorism Committee, as a critical piece of UN Counterterrorism architecture to address them.

The threat of terrorism is grave and universal and continues to grow in several parts of the world, particularly in Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and several parts of Africa. A terrorist threat in one part of the world is threat to the peace and security in other parts of the world. It is therefore, imperative for us to reaffirm our

manifestations, and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is committed.

The CTC Open Briefing on 14 February 2022, focusing on terrorist threat in South work with the Member States in the regions pursuant to Security Council resolution 2395 (2017), highlighted that the recent developments in Afghanistan have raised serious global concerns about the possibility of it s becoming a safe haven for Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups. The Security Council demanded unequivocally that Afghan territory not be used for sheltering, training, planning, or financing terrorist acts and called for concerted action against all terrorist groups.

In the high-level international conference on counter terrorism in Central Asia on 3 March 2022, I underlined that the terrorist threat in Central Asia has remained high due to returning foreign terrorist fighters and developments in Afghanistan, and the ties between the Taliban, largely through Haqqanis, and Al-Qaida and foreign terrorist fighters remained close.

Additionally, in the past few years, we have witnessed the significant rise of ISIL and Al-Qaida in Africa, through the territorial expansion of their affiliates. In the Joint Open Briefing of the Counter Terrorism Committee and the ISIL and

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It is essential that we continue to identify further ways to support the victims of terrorism, including those who have suffered sexual and gender-based violence, by enhancing our efforts to uphold and recognize the rights of victims of terrorism and addressing their needs.

The Security Council has repeatedly emphasized the positive contribution that civil society, including women