



Assistant Secretary-General Coninx recalled that “CTED has taken a proactive approach to help States counter the terrorist threat to soft targets and critical infrastructures. Through its assessments CTED has identified the need for States to develop or expand national strategies and action plans to consider the threat to “soft” targets, working together with all relevant stakeholders, including through public-private partnerships.”

Ms. Antonia de Meo, Director of UNICRI, noted that “After 9/11, UNICRI applied its expertise in criminal justice and crime prevention to counter terrorism with a specific focus on security of major events and protection of vulnerable targets. We assist Member States to develop effective policies and resources to counter these threats. Drawing on the expertise and experience of each of us here today, we can build a comprehensive action plan to move forward together to counter terrorist attacks against vulnerable targets.”

“The protection of vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks is critical for the international community,” said Mr Stephen Kavanagh, Executive Director of Police Services of INTERPOL, “and law enforcement’s role is clear: analyze the intelligence, prepare for incidents, and build operational capabilities. When it comes to protecting vulnerable targets, we must work together across law enforcement and the larger international community or risk devastating consequences.

The opening ceremony was followed by a thematic discussion on the protection of religious freedom and the role of the international community in addressing the root causes of terrorism. The discussion was moderated by Assistant Secretary-General Coninx and featured representatives from the United Nations, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and various international organizations and experts. The discussion highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to counter-terrorism, one that addresses the underlying factors that lead to terrorism and promotes a culture of peace and tolerance. The discussion also emphasized the need for international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, and the role of the United Nations in leading this effort. The discussion concluded with a call for continued collaboration and support for the United Nations and its agencies in their efforts to counter terrorism and promote a more secure and peaceful world.