



Engaging Partners for Capacity-Building:  
United Nations' Collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Centres  
International Conference  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
16-17 February 2013

Closing Statement  
17 February 2013

Mr. Jehangir Khan  
Director a.i., CTITF Office

Your Highness, Prince Dr. Turki bin Mohamed bin Saud Al Kabeer, Deputy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, let me congratulate and thank the custodian of the two holy places, King Abdullah Abdul Azziz, as well as his Excellency the Foreign Minister HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal, and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for having provided us with such generous hospitality over the course of these two intensive days of meetings. I also wish to especially thank Your Highness Prince Turki for so ably and successfully chairing this important international conference.

I also wish to thank His Excellency Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, and Chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board, as well as the permanent mission of Saudi Arabia for their excellent support for our work at the UN in New York.

The Secretary-General greatly appreciates the commitment of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, and his government to international counter-terrorism efforts and the work of the United Nations in this important field. The Secretary-General attaches the greatest importance to the United Nations counter-terrorism work, including the UNCCT, which is generously supported by the Kingdom.

He congratulates you on the success of this conference. We can now be confident that after this productive conference on United Nations' Collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Centres as well as the recent international conference in Bogota on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies and many fruitful, collaborative projects between our different centres will follow. I am sure they will strongly support our collective efforts in counter-terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Over the course of yesterday and this morning, this Conference followed the structure set out by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Our distinguished session chairmen have excellently summarized the achievements of the sessions. Your substantive presentations and statements from the floor have shown once again that the four pillars of the Global Strategy provide comprehensive guidance not only for United Nations Member States, but also for governmental and non-governmental counter-terrorism centres. The continuing relevance of the strategy in countering terrorism is self-evident. It is based on the principle of a robust joint effort by the international community as a whole. The international community has recognized that no State alone would be able to end this transnational threat. International collaboration cannot be limited to inter-state relationships. It must go beyond the traditional international actors and facilitate alliances between Centres that focus on different areas of counter-terrorism, grouped according to the four pillars of the Global Strategy.

In regard to Pillar one, the centres' capacity building programmes address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this regard, panellists and other participants clarified that social resilience and factors such as economic development need to be taken into account in designing these programs. Moreover, tackling terrorism in a multi-ethnic environment can be a challenge that needs to be taken into account in developing good counter-terrorism programs. Constant and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of these programs was seen as an essential component to improve effectiveness.

In regard to Pillar two, which focuses on the prevention and combatting of terrorism it was emphasized that transnational collaboration between centres is required to tackle the evolving threat. Many representatives clarified that capacity building programmes are seen as a cornerstone for providing officials with a better tool-set in countering terrorism. I was glad to hear that participants were keen to learn from each other; not only during this conference, but that they expressed the interest to continue exchanging good practices in future.

In regard to Pillar four, participants underlined the essential need to respect the rule of law and human rights for all as fundamental bases of the fight against terrorism. They also reemphasized the mutual reinforcing relationship between security measures and human rights promotion and capacity building. International law, including human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, must be obeyed in all counter terrorism endeavours.

During this two-day conference, we have learned about many innovative approaches to counter terrorism that are designed and implemented in very different parts of the world. It is encouraging to see the wealth of information and experience that was exchanged on capacity building programmes. Even though many projects and programmes might be developed according to the specific needs of a region or national context, it was clear to me that synergies have already been identified and explored. One of the principle outcomes of this important conference, will I believe be the promotion of collaboration and cooperation between the most important counter-terrorism centres and institutions in different regions of the world, who have met together here for the very first time in this important forum. The initiative taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this regard is to be commended.

Finally, in regard to Pillar three, I wish to assure you that the UNCCT team stands ready to further nurture this nascent network that is initiated by this conference. Among other specific ideas, we will institute a web-based platform to exchange contact and other information in real-time to improve collaboration efforts between counter-terrorism centres worldwide. Potentially this will involve a roster of experts that allows for the improved sharing of knowledge and expertise on specific subjects and areas.

Now, I would like to highlight some important concluding observations:

1. It was stated that Terrorism stops the process of development in countries, and impedes the efforts of Governments to elevate and

enlighten their societies, and to provide the necessities of a safe and prosperous life.

2. The participants welcomed the collaboration between the specialized centres to counter terrorism and the UNCCT, when it comes to exchange of information, expertise, and best practices; as well as all manners of activities to coordinate between these centres to be updated on the new regional and international methods and strategies in the field of countering terrorism.
3. The participants condemned Terrorism in all its forms. And it ensures that Terrorism has no religion, nor nationality. International efforts must stand united to prosecute any individual involved with financing, planning, or implementing terror acts; and to foil the terrorist plans to ultimately put an end to terrorism.
4. The participants praised the role that Saudi Arabia plays in the field of Countering Terrorism and the measures it took on national, regional, and international levels, manifested in the establishment of the UNCCT, which is considered the primary tool for international cooperation in the field of Countering Terrorism, and through the targets and goals that the Advisory Board members approved in their meeting in Jeddah in June 2012.
5. The participants were eager to continue the coordination between the regional and international centres, and build on the outcomes of this conference, especially the ones calling on the exchange of views, information, and best practices.
6. The participants stressed on the importance of innovative methods in countering terrorism to complement the existing efforts. Intellectual, Economic, Development aspects are also important points to be tackled, as they are among the causes leading to terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We also require your input to strengthen the newly formed ties, so that it can respond to your needs and support long-lasting multilateral relationships. In due time, the UNCCT staff will follow-up with you and based on your feedback present a strategy to make this network a valuable tool for you and your organization in the international fight against terrorism.

On behalf of the United Nations, the CTITF and the UNCCT, I want to thank you for your participation and well-prepared and excellent contributions. May this be the beginning of many fruitful exchanges, joint projects and a long-lasting active network.

Thank you.