

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are concluding today the Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, including a rich and productive High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

The Conference featured 13 interactive sessions. I am grateful to our 85 session chairs and panellists, as well as to the co-organizers of 36 side events.

I am impressed by this number. This is because of the activities of Member States. This is because of the activities of UN entities. We had a big number of and very important side events. Despite the technical glitches that happened from time to time, I think it was a successful story. I think the majority of you participated in many side events, and it was really very interesting and very constructive exchange of views on the counter-terrorism agenda. Speaking about side events, almost 5,000 participants attended these side events. 5,000 participants. So I think it is a very good number.

I would like to use this opportunity to say words of gratitude to United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism team and our colleagues from the United Nations Global Compact entities for enormous efforts to organize successfully the Second Counter-Terrorism Week in the United Nations.

Participants mentioned four strategic challenges for international counter-terrorism efforts:

First, how to urgently deal with the complex legacies from ISIL and bring foreign terrorist fighters to justice to break the cycle of violence, as well as address the situation of tens of thousands of children and other individuals stranded in camps, in dire need of protection and repatriation.

Second, how to urgently address the increasing terrorist threat in some parts of Africa, where the security situation is rapidly deteriorating in a complex interplay of conflict, development challenges, and human rights abuses, fuelling grievances and instability.

Third, how to take concerted action to tackle the growing, transnational terrorist threat from small groups and lone actors motivated by xenophobia, racism, misogyny and other forms of intolerance, which has been boosted by the surge in online hate, conspiracy theories, and anti-government sentiment during the pandemic.

And fourth, how to upgrade our technological awareness, capabilities, and preparedness to counter terrorism.

Dear Colleagues,

Throughout the Conference, we looked at the impact of new and emerging technologies on counter-terrorism, from harnessing their old

As part of these efforts, my Office will finalize the organizational arrangements of gender and human rights policies needed to further mainstream these issues into all our programming.

I am grateful for the expressions of support to the leadership, capacity-building and advocacy work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

During the pandemic, we were able to upgrade our capacity-building systems and
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I would like to express my special thanks and gratitude to the two co-facilitators of the review process, Ambassador Al-Hassan of Oman and Ambassador Santos of Spain, and Member States for their preliminary agreement on such a valuable draft resolution. It is really a very significant step forward in the counter-terrorism agenda.

Dear Participants,

I am profoundly grateful to you for your support to and engagement with the United Nations