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**REMARKS BY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – MR. JEAN-PAUL LABORDE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTER-TERRORISM
COMMITTEE**

(Delivered at the Inaugural Session held on February 20, 2014)

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Mr Chairman, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meeting today marks an important step, not only in recognizing the work that the CICTE Secretariat has carried out, but also in examining how terrorism-related issues have evolved, changed, and grown in importance and visibility in the last decade.

Recent developments

Let me take few examples

1. Terrorism is expanding in new geographical areas

- The recently adopted SC Resolution 2129 extended CTED's mandate, directing us to identify emerging issues, trends and developments related to resolutions 1373 and to advise the CTC on practical ways for States to implement resolutions 1373 and 1624 on CVE. Indeed terrorist trends are evolving and we should counter these new evolutions. For example, 10 years ago who would have talked about terrorism in West Africa? Everyone was talking about development. Now we can find an objective link between terrorist groups in Africa and organized crime. In the Sahel, for example, there is a strategic alliance between them in kidnapping for ransom. And drugs are going there from Latin America.. In this regard, we have to prevent terrorism to come to close to the Americas and indeed our coalition with CICTE is critical in that endeavor.

2. The traditional measures to counter terrorism are indispensable but not sufficient

- We have to recognize that the measures set forth in resolution 1373 alone would not resolve the problem of terrorism as well as the military or intelligence actions. Of course, we should strongly reaffirm our repudiation of terrorism which has been recognized as one of the major violations of Human Rights, the Right of Life. But, terrorists are agile and are able to adjust their methods and approaches in response to counter-measures put in place by Governments. We can certainly tighten security at airports and aboard aircraft in response to particular attacks or attempted attacks.

However, they will watch us closely and work to devise new ways to get around our defences. We have to establish comprehensive strategies to counter them

3. The use of technology by terrorists

- As you all know, terrorist groups are indeed able to take quick advantage of advances in technology. Mobile telephones, the Internet, satellite communications, internet social networks and more, can all be used by terrorist groups to plan attacks, to scout targets, to recruit new members, to finance their activities, and to spread their ideologies. It is incumbent upon us to find – as part of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy – new ways not only to disrupt their operational use of the Internet and other technologies, but also to prevent them from increasing their ranks (in short, to counter their ideological message and outreach more effectively).
- **Responses**

Role of the victims

- We need to build resilience within communities and within particular demographics (such as young people), so that they are not attracted to, or drawn in by the terrorists' propaganda. We have to find new and clever ways to convey messages that counter the narrative of terrorist recruiters. The testimony of victims can be a powerful instrument to delegitimize terrorist messages. These counter-radicalization messages can be especially effective among young people, who tend to be more vulnerable to radicalization processes. We have to be able to convince people that terrorism is fundamentally wrong – that terrorism damages the fabric of our societies and can never be justified under any circumstances.

1) Human rights are a crucial component of all counter-terrorism strategies. Terrorism must be fought within the rule of law and with respect for human rights. Moreover, measures to help the victims of terrorism should receive international recognition, and reparations should be paid. In this sense, Colombia has introduced legislation in support of victims that is a best practice at the global level.

2) It is important to bridge the security and development agendas and facilitate responses to immediate crises, as well as longer-term programming to address priority areas. Greater interaction between security and development actors can help ensure that interventions do no harm, are not duplicated, and deliver the greatest possible synergies for common objectives. Violent extremism can create an inhospitable environment for effective development, but real development can make it more difficult for extremists to convince people, especially young people, of the validity of their cause.

- This is enormously difficult and demanding work, and very few, if any States are fully effective. However, many are experimenting in various ways, and the identification of measures that work is of fundamental importance over the long term. One approach that seems to hold particular promise is simply to promote greater dialogue, at both the national and the international levels, in order to better understand the views of various communities concerning the threats they face and the best ways to address them.
- Just as resolutions 1624 and 1963 recognize the value of dialogue, they also recognize the importance of freedom of expression. Here, the concern is not the mere expression of controversial ideas, but rather unlawful incitement that may lead to violence. In this respect, it is essential that people of different backgrounds and experiences listen to one another.

4. What about your region now? Situation in the region of the Americas (in particular Central and South America)

Combating transnational crime is among the top priorities for this region because organized crime and trafficking in drugs and arms are continuing concerns. The response requires the strengthening of border and maritime controls. Shortfalls remain, with respect, in particular, to the development of effective freezing mechanisms, the regulation and monitoring of alternative remittance systems and cash couriers, the monitoring of non-profit organizations, and the capacities of financial intelligence units. In connection with those amenities, we should not ignore possible links between organized crime and terrorism such as in Afghanistan or the Sahel Region. The problem is not a single country in the World can pretend to be immune of those connections in the future and we have to work together to prevent that.

Despite challenges, most States are making progress in most areas of counter-terrorism, for example throughout the ratification of the international instruments, the adoption of modern legislation, and the strengthening of financial regulations.

- Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism is one of CTED's key areas of work. Financial investigations are a very important tool for preventing, deterring and prosecuting terrorism offences. The argument of the low-cost nature of terrorism should be interpreted with caution. There are as many varieties of terrorism as there are cases. Although small-scale attacks carried out by lone wolves may not require a great deal of money, the situation may be quite different when offenders work to support and maintain a terrorist organization over the years. I am also glad to say that the Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force under the mandate given to it by the GA and which is the capacity building face of the UN counter terrorism work is also ready to support you in this area

- The lack of feedback from States in many areas of law enforcement and border control has hampered our assessment of whether counter-terrorism measures are being effectively implemented. States are urged to report on policies and operational measures being developed and utilized in these areas, including on regional mechanisms for law enforcement cooperation, such as early-warning and intelligence cooperation. This is an area which should be of interest for the Region which obviously, according to our assessments, requires more actions in this sector.

5. Cooperation between the Committee/CTED and CICTE

- Now, I would like to come to the cooperation between the Committee/CTED and CICTE and would like to assure you that the Committee will continue to work with CICTE to assist States of the Central America and Caribbean region to achieve full implementation of resolution 1373.
- The Committee, CTED and CICTE are increasingly working closely together, through continuous exchange of information, best practices, and technical assistance needs, through workshops, the Committee's country visits and many other activities.
- Indeed, CICTE is the pre-eminent organization in this area, within the Inter-American system. In 2012, through a formal exchange of letters, CTED and CICTE recognized that enhanced cooperation and coordination would have a multiplier effect on their ability to effectively carry out their respective mandates, avoid duplicative efforts, and optimize the use of resources to help States of the Western Hemisphere implement the relevant resolutions and the conventions and decisions of the OAS.
- A notable example of this cooperation is CICTE's creation, in 2009, of a programme to strengthen tourism-security capacities. The programme, whose principal donor is the Government of Canada, is part of the overall critical infrastructure-protection framework of CICTE. Based on public and private sector partnerships, it provides training to public and private sector personnel involved in tourism and recreational activities to prevent terrorist and criminal attacks. CICTE is currently working with the Tourism Department of OAS to maximize the benefit and impact of the programme and is exploring ways to collaborate with UNWTO. The Committee first took up the issue of tourism security during a thematic briefing conducted by CTED, UNWTO and OAS/CICTE in July 2013. Further consultations were held in Madrid last week and UNWTO intends to launch this programme in this region, together with CICTE, and in other regions of the world.
- There is considerable potential for the Committee and CICTE/OAS to continue their coordination and cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates.

- Let me also add that my excellent colleague, Jehangir Khan Director of the CTITF Office is present today to reinforce the UN collaboration with CICTE on technical assistance projects related the use of Internet by terrorists or terrorism financing. Let`s work all together to face this threat.

As the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, but also as the senior official of the UN fully dedicated to counter terrorism, I welcome this important cooperation and hope that it will continue to strengthen and broaden as we each work to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in the Americas and around the world.

Thank you.