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REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTER TERRORISM  
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL,  
HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR NEVEN JURICA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(Delivered at the Inaugural Ceremony held on March 4, 2009)

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Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Assistant Secretary General,  
Dear Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, in my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism for inviting me to address the Ninth Regular Session.

As you all know, the CTC was established in 2001 by the Security Council resolution 1373, which was unanimously adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter in the wake of devastating terrorist attacks against the United States on 11 September. That milestone resolution requested States to take a number of measures to prevent terrorist activities, criminalize various forms of terrorist actions, suppress terrorist financing, and build state capacity to fight terrorism.

Several years after its establishment, the mandate of the CTC was expanded by resolution 1624, which directs the Committee to assist Member States in preventing the spread of terrorist ideologies, increasing tolerance and promoting the dialogue and understanding among cultures and civilizations. The resolution also reaffirms the importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures comply with States' obligations under international law.

In 2004, the Security Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), a group of some 35 experts pooled together to assist the Committee in its work. Let me state that we have found excellent cooperation from Mr. Mike Smith, the Executive Director of CTED, who, I understand, will join you here tomorrow.

Croatia took over the responsibility of the Chair of the Committee at the beginning of last year, and we have strived to ensure that the work of the Committee moves forward smoothly and that we achieve concrete objectives. Let me just briefly inform you of the main ongoing initiatives in the Committee.

Monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 has been significantly improved through the process of adopting the Preliminary Implementation Assessments (PIAs). We are pleased to see that during our chairmanship virtually every country in the world has received its preliminary assessment. Moreover, these assessments formed the basis for developing a document entitled "Survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States", which examines the implementation of counter-terrorism efforts in all regions and sub-regions and identifies shortfalls and vulnerabilities that need to be addressed. It is a useful tool for the Committee to define its priorities in the future and could have relevance for the cooperation between CTC and regional organizations as well.

The Committee is also organizing visits to Member States in order to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373 more effectively. Visits typically include experts from CTED and other international and regional organizations, and result in a comprehensive assessment of all counter-terrorism measures in the visited country. Furthermore, the Committee, and CTED in particular, are engaged in continuous dialogue with Member States on the issue of facilitation of technical assistance, especially to ensure that measures that States have already introduced to implement legislation and carry out their counter-terrorism actions are efficient and effective.

The work of the Committee should not be seen in isolation. It cooperates with other relevant parts of the UN system and specialized bodies, and in particular with the two other Security Council committees established by resolutions 1267 and 1540. The Committee also continues to play its part in the implementation of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by assisting States in implementing parts of the Strategy that fall within its mandate, while CTED is participating actively in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and several of its working groups.

Admittedly, the implementation of both the resolution 1373 and the Global Strategy rests primarily with Member States, and requires long-term and sustainable commitment. However, regional and subregional organizations play a very important role in this regard. They are instrumental in developing tailor-made implementation initiatives, including coordinating with other stakeholders in the region and relevant United Nations entities. They provide capacity-building assistance, in partnership with the United Nations and international organizations, with special attention to the needs and priorities of the region. They also promote the ratification and implementation of regional and subregional counter-terrorism instruments in support of the universal legal framework and related counter-terrorism initiatives.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations and the Organization of American States are two organizations whose respective strengths and advantages complement each other. In the counter-terrorism field, CICTE has for years been considered a model for regional integration. It provides capacity-building training and technical assistance and promotes international cooperation. CICTE has also given excellent example of how strong coordination between the United Nations and regional organizations can benefit the Member States. In reverse, the CTC can draw on the regional expertise and the already existing logistical structures to achieve concrete and measurable results in the fight against terrorism. Here are some examples of past and on-going cooperation between the Committee and its Executive Directorate and CICTE/OAS:

- In October 2003, upon request of the CTC, CICTE/OAS hosted the Second Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations. Five such Special Meetings have been held so far, providing participants the opportunity to establish a framework for their activities and maximizing cooperation and consistency in their joint efforts to help Member States implement resolution 1373.
- CTED co-sponsored a Best Practices Workshop on Travel Document Security organized by CICTE in Bogota, Colombia, in November 2008.

- Under facilitation of CTED, CICTE is providing financial support for the provision of technical assistance by Colombia to Jamaica in early March. Two Colombian experts will travel to Jamaica at the expense of CICTE for that purpose.
- CTED participated in a Sub-Regional workshop on Terrorism Financing organized by CICTE and CICAD in collaboration with UNODC last February in San Jose, Costa Rica, during which the host country's Counter-Terrorism Act was approved by Parliament. CICTE, UNODC and CTED had all the opportunity to separately address the Parliamentary Commissions highlighting the importance of the approval of the law.

It is thus clear how much the Committee and Member States can benefit from such a partnership and the expertise of a regional organization and how regional organizations like CICTE/OAS can leverage greater resources and draw on the global expertise of the United Nations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as part of its cooperation and exchange of information with counter-terrorism partners during its meetings in New York, the CTC regularly hosts representatives of relevant organizations and United Nations' bodies. The previous Executive Secretary of CICTE briefed the CTC in 2006 on your organization's counter-terrorism programmes and projects. It would indeed be my honor to welcome the CICTE representative during my tenure as the Chairman, and I believe it would be interesting to all members of this Committee of the Security Council to hear the views and experiences from the organization which encompasses nations from the Western Hemisphere.

Global counter-terrorism efforts still face grave challenges and important obstacles to overcome. The positive outcome can be achieved only if we all work together. I appreciate the serious commitment with which you approach counter-terrorism, and I can assure you that the Counter-Terrorism Committee shall remain a true partner to CICTE and member states of the OAS in their efforts to meet the challenge of fighting terrorism and fulfilling their international obligations in this regard.

Thank you.