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REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTER- TERRORISM COMMITTEE

(Delivered by Ambassador H.S. Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and
Chairman of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, at the Fourth Plenary Session, held
on March 17, 2011)

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador H.S. Puri,
Permanent Representative of India and the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism
Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
(CICTE) of the Organization of American States
(17 March 2011)**

The Honourable I. J. Karl Hood, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development of Grenada, Chair of CICTE,

The Honourable Orville "Tommy" Turnquest, former Chair of CICTE, Minister of National Security of the Bahamas,

Your Excellency Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee. Vice-Chair of CICTE ,

Your Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS,

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations to the Eleventh Regular Session of CICTE,

Honourable Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Government of the OAS member States,

Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the Member States to the OAS,

Distinguished Representatives of the Permanent Observers to the OAS,

Distinguished National Points of Contact of the OAS Member States to CICTE,

Mr. Gordon Duguid, Secretary of CICTE,

Esteemed delegates and special guests,

Ladies and gentlemen;

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be invited here to speak to you today on behalf of the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC). It is a further mark of the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and CICTE.

Terrorism is a global scourge and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The United Nations strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. It is an attack on human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. We must strengthen and enhance international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Allow me to begin with a brief overview of the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee which I, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to the United Nations, currently have the honour to Chair.

The Security Council adopted the landmark resolution 1373 (2001) shortly after the horrendous terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. This year is an important milestone in the global counter-terrorism efforts as it marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1373. Adopted unanimously under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the resolution is binding upon all Member States. It requires States to put in place a number of measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional capabilities to combat terrorist activities at home, in their region and around the world.

The Committee has recently updated its working methods, with a view to have a greater focus on States' implementation of Resolution rather than on "reporting" as an end in itself. A key tool in this regard is the Preliminary Implementation Assessment (PIA), which constitutes a thorough, consistent, transparent and even-handed analysis of States' implementation of the resolution. All Member States have been provided PIAs, and most of them have established a fruitful dialogue with the Committee/CTED in order to enhance their efforts in the implementation of their obligations.

The Committee's visits to Member States are among the most effective tools available to monitor the implementation of the resolution. The Committee, through the Executive Directorate, has conducted some 60 on-site visits since 2005. Over the last two years, the

Committee's approach to these visits has become rather more flexible, taking into account the circumstances of the State and the region concerned.

As many of you may be aware, CICTE participated actively in the Committee's 2009 visit to the Republic of Panama and the 2010 visit to the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The Committee recognizes that one of its most important functions is to facilitate the provision of technical assistance that States need to implement their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001) by enhancing their counter-terrorism capacities and capabilities.

In the performance of this function, the Committee and CTED *per se* do not provide the required technical assistance. Instead, they serve as a "matchmaker" or "switchboard" by facilitating the delivery of technical assistance by other donors, in accordance with a well established methodology.

In the region of the Americas, there is considerable potential for facilitating the delivery of counter-terrorism related technical assistance. The Committee and CTED work with key donors such as the members of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight (or "CTAG"); with two key States of the hemisphere (Canada and the United States); and also with regional organizations, including CICTE, CFATF, GAFISUD and CARICOM. However, there still remain challenges and we should continue our efforts to address them.

Another area where the Committee has focussed its attention is enhancing cooperation and coordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. Since its creation, the Committee has recognized that strong, result-oriented cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations is of paramount importance to its efforts to enhance States' implementation of their obligations pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001).

Identification and promotion of international best practices, codes and standards are useful tools in the Committee and CTED's work and international, regional and sub-regional organizations are their prime originators. The Committee and CTED would continue to work

with these organizations including CICTE in a coordinated manner for identification, development and promotion of best practices.

The Committee has adopted a very constructive and well coordinated approach to working with other Security Council Committees on terrorism. The three expert groups of the Security Council subsidiary bodies -- CTED, the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) continue to strive to complement each other's work and in exchange of information.

CTED also participates actively in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) of the United Nations, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as mandated by the Security Council.

In its work, the Committee gives due regard to respect for human rights, which is an important element of all UN counter-terrorism efforts. The Committee has also established clear guidelines in 2005 in this regard. The Committee consistently stresses upon States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Under the guidance of the Committee, the CTED also continues to liaise with OHCHR, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, and other human rights entities.

Let me also focus on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which was another milestone in strengthening the Security Council's counter terrorism framework. The resolution addressed three key aspects: (a) the adoption of domestic legislation to prohibit the incitement to terrorism; (b) the denial of safe haven to inciters and strengthening of border controls; and (c) enhancing dialogue and broadening understanding among civilizations.

In accordance with Resolution 1624, the Committee is also tasked with maintaining dialogue with States regarding the prohibition of incitement to terrorism and promotion of dialogue among civilizations.

I would also like to briefly touch upon the Security Council resolution 1963 adopted in 2010. The Resolution has extended the mandate of CTED for another three years, and effectively expanded the focus of its activities beyond traditional counter-terrorism fields (law enforcement, border control, etc) towards promoting a comprehensive counter-terrorism approach that is respectful of international human rights norms.

The resolution recognizes that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures, and intelligence operations alone, and that there is also the need to promote the rule of law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, tolerance and inclusiveness to offer a viable alternative to those who could be susceptible to terrorist recruitment and to radicalization leading to violence.

The resolution has also directed CTED to provide an updated Global Implementation Survey of resolution 1373 (2001) by 30 June 2011 and a Global Implementation Survey of resolution 1624 (2005) by 31 December 2011.

The new terrorism is agile and techno-savvy. Today, the terrorists exploit the advances in technology to incite terrorism to recruit new members, and to spread their ideologies. It is incumbent on us to effectively counter their ideological propaganda. UN has rightly emphasized this renewed focus on addressing problems of incitement, radicalization and human rights in view of their significance in an overall counter-terrorism strategy framework.

The international community needs to enhance its outreach efforts and to build resilience within communities and within particular demographics, such as youth, so that they are not attracted to the terrorists' propaganda. Governments and United Nations entities could play an important role in this regard.

The United Nations – through the Committee and activities of CTED, the CTITF working groups, and through other initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations has a certain comparative advantage. It can use its “convening” power to bring together relevant Government players and academic and civil society experts to discuss the challenges in this field and identify good practices. It can then use its “dissemination” power to spread awareness of good examples to countries that face similar challenges and seek ways to address the problem.

Now, I briefly turn to the situation in the region of the Americas. Several States in Central and South America continue to suffer from terrorism and other violent crimes. However, most States seem to be making progress in counter-terrorism efforts including the ratification of the international counter-terrorism instruments, the adoption of modern counter-terrorism legislation, and the strengthening of financial regulations and institutions.

Though the progress has also been made in establishing mechanisms for cooperation at all levels and for regional cooperation, it is still limited in some instances by weak institutions, which undermine the effectiveness of implementation. Combating transnational crime is considered to be among the top priorities for this hemisphere because organized crime and trafficking in drugs and arms are the continuing concerns, which will require further strengthening of border and maritime controls.

Challenges remain particularly in 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.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that most States have taken an active approach to ensuring that counter-terrorism measures take due accounts of human rights obligations.

I would encourage States of the region to report on policies and operational measures, including on regional mechanisms for law enforcement cooperation such as early-warning and cooperation, which would be helpful to the work of the Committee and CTED.

I am happy to note that the Committee, CTED and CICTE work 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, within the Inter-American system, for the coordination of efforts to protect the citizens of its member States from domestic, regional and international terrorism.

There is considerable potential for the Committee and CICTE/OAS to continue such coordination and cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates.

As the current Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I welcome this important cooperation, and hope that it will continue to strengthen and expand further in our shared resolve to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in the Americas and around the world.

Thank you.
