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**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTER-
TERRORISM COMMITTEE, HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR EUGENE-RICHARD
GASANA**

(Delivered at the Inaugural Ceremony held on March 8, 2013)

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Your Excellency Ambassador Jose Rodrigo Vielmann. Chair of CICTE,
Your Excellency Ambassador Andres Gonzalez Diaz. Vice-Chair of CICTE,
Your Excellency Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS,
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations to the Thirteenth Regular Session of CICTE,
Honourable Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Government of the OAS member States,
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of the member States of the OAS,
Distinguished Representatives of the Permanent Observers to the OAS,
Mr. Neil Klopfenstein, Secretary of Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE),
Esteemed delegates and special guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour to have been invited here to speak to you today, a further mark of the strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS)/ Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). Please accept the apologies by the chair who was not able to attend due to other Security Council duties.

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

As you are all well aware, the United Nations strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose, believing that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Terrorism in all forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments. The international community must therefore take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.

I will take a few seconds to speak about the Mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), mainly Monitoring and promoting Member States' implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It should be remembered that this resolution was adopted unanimously pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the resolution is binding upon all Member States. It requests States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to combat terrorist activities at home, in their regions and around the world. Therefore, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee is charged with monitoring its implementation.

In this regard, in order to better monitor and promote implementation efforts, the Committee engages in tailored dialogue with each Member State aimed at ensuring enhanced implementation of the resolution. The Committee is permanently updating its working methods, partly to encourage a greater focus on States' implementation and a reduced emphasis on "reporting" as an end in itself.

A key tool in this regard has been the preliminary implementation assessment (PIA), which constitutes a thorough, consistent, transparent and even-handed analysis of States' implementation of the resolution.

In this regard, the directorate will continue its constructive dialogue with Member States in order to inform the Committee about Member States' implementation of the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions, as reflected in their responses to Detailed Implementation Survey (DIS) and the Overview of Implementation Assessment.

On technical assistance, the Committee recognizes that one of its most important functions is to help States obtain the technical assistance they need to implement the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001) and of other terrorism-related resolutions, and consistently reiterates its objective to achieve measurable, concrete results, in this regard.

As you already know, the Committee and Counterterrorism executive Directorate (CTED) do not *provide* technical assistance. Instead, they serve as a “matchmaker” or “switchboard” by facilitating the delivery of technical assistance by others, in accordance with the following procedure:

- First, by prioritizing the technical assistance requirements of recipient States;
- Second, by obtaining States’ commitment to address shortfalls;
- Third, by bringing these technical assistance needs to the attention of donors;
- And, lastly, by following-up on the delivery process.

Counterterrorism Directorate of course works very closely in this process with Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) which is among the world’s most important regional providers of technical assistance. Inter-American Committee against Terrorism is also working closely with UN Counterterrorism Directorate to implement some of its technical assistance programmes in other regions of the world.

We are of course fully aware, however, that there remain significant challenges to the facilitation and delivery of technical assistance, including, among others:

- the impact of the current economic slowdown and financial crisis on the facilitation process;
- the increased need for accompanying equipment to boost operational capacities;
- the need to increase the contribution of the private sector to counter-terrorism capacity-building, as a complement to Governments’ efforts;
- the need for continuous training and maintenance of facilities.

On the region of Americas, there is considerable potential for facilitating the delivery of counter-terrorism-related technical assistance in this region of the world. The Committee work with key donor States of the hemisphere, such as Canada and the United States, as well as with other States of the region and regional organizations combat terrorism.

In regards to enhancing cooperation and coordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, the Committee has recognized that strong, results-oriented cooperation with international, regional and sub-regional organizations is of paramount importance to its efforts to enhance States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). My presence here is a demonstration of this.

In this respect, the Committee expresses its continued engagement with the international and regional partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to contribute to an enhanced coordination of international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

On Human rights, the Committee considers human rights as an important element of counter-terrorism, and the Committee established clear guidelines in this regard, in 2005. The Committee consistently stresses to 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.

In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights, UN Counterterrorism Directorate continues to take account of relevant human rights concerns, including in the preparation of PIAs and in country visits conducted on behalf of the Committee.

As you may all know, the Committee, is tasked by the Security Council with maintaining dialogue with States regarding the prohibition of incitement to terrorism and promotion of dialogue among civilizations, as set forth in Security Council resolution 1624 (2001). This very resolution, addresses three main topics: (a) the adoption of domestic legislation to prohibit the incitement to terrorism; (b) the denial of safe haven to inciters and the

strengthening of border controls; and (c) enhancing dialogue and broadening understanding among civilizations.

On best practices, the Committee recognises International best practices of codes and standards as useful tools that can assist Member States in their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). As a result, the Committee and Counterterrorism Directorate continue to work with organizations in a coordinated manner in the identification, development and promotion processes. Accordingly, the Committee and Counterterrorism Directorate strongly promote these best practices, and will continue to work further with CICTE in this regard.

We are all aware of how terrorism has changed faces and modes of operation. They have taken of advantage of technology and in the way people use technology; therefore, 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.

To be more effective, States, need to build resilience within communities and within particular demographics (such as youth), 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 undermine the messages of terrorist recruiters. In this respect, testimonies 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.

The United Nations has created working groups, through initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations and It can bring together relevant Government players and academic and civil society experts to discuss the challenges in this field and identify good practices and it can

use its “dissemination” power to spread awareness of good examples to countries that face similar challenges and seek ways to address the problem.

I mention this renewed focus on addressing problems of incitement, radicalization, human rights and the conditions conducive to terrorism because I believe that these problems will increasingly populate global and regional counter-terrorism agendas. They are of course not new problems, but I believe that there is now a broader acceptance of their relevance.

Let me speak about Americas, particularly Central and South. As you know, the region of the Americas has a difficult recent history, and several States continue to experience problems with terrorism and other violent crimes. However, most States are making very important progress in most areas of counter-terrorism, the ratification of the international counter-terrorism instruments, the adoption of modern counter-terrorism legislation, and the strengthening of financial regulations and institutions are important steps. I would also recall that the Committee has been able to visit five Member States of the region to assess the situation at first hand, with noted progress; however, progress is still limited in some instances by weak institutions, which undermine the effectiveness of implementation.

On the Cooperation between the Committee and CICTE, the Committee will continue to work with CICTE to assist States of the Central America and Caribbean region to achieve the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

The Committee, Counterterrorism Directorate 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, Inter-American Committee against Terrorism is the pre-eminent organization in this area, within the Inter-American system. There is considerable potential for the Committee

and CICTE/OAS to continue such coordination and cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates for the same objective.

In conclusion, as the current Vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, 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. Also, on a personal note, I would like to express my profound sympathy and solidarity with all victims of terrorism. We pay tribute to those who continue to work to the well-being of the victims and speak against terrorism.

Thank you.