



– The first high-level international conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism, jointly organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Spain, concluded today in Málaga. More than 430 participants, among them member states, regional and international organizations, United Nations entities and 44 Civil Society organizations, came together to exchange ideas and experiences and urged better integration of human rights, the rule of law and civil society voices in counter-terrorism efforts, in line with the 7<sup>th</sup> review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Presenting the co-chairs summary for the conference during the closing session,

*\_\_\_\_\_*, stressed that *“our collective efforts against terrorism cannot succeed if they neglect or abuse the rule of law and human rights, if they undermine civic space and principled humanitarian action, and if they fail to advance the rights of the child, women, and victims.”* He further highlighted the need to bring perpetrators of terrorist offences to justice while ensuring accountability for human right violations and abuses committed by state or non-state actors in the name of counter-terrorism.

In his concluding remarks, *\_\_\_\_\_* said *“Spain is a country that can bear witness to the harshness with which terrorism strikes democratic societies, but it can also prove that democratic values offer us useful tools to defeat terrorist organisations.”*

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adverse impact of many counter-terrorism laws, policies, and practices on the rule of law and human rights, stressing that vague or overly broad definitions of terrorism often oppress civil society actors and human rights defenders. The need for transformative approaches to civil society inclusion, as well as for consolidated support to victims of terrorism was also raised. A dedicated segment on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on principled humanitarian action highlighted crucial challenges faced by aid agencies in reaching people in need in armed conflict-settings where terrorist groups are active.

The high-level conference will culminate in an outcome document reflecting key conclusions from the discussions at the conference. It will be developed by UNOCT and Spain, in consultation with civil society.