



(Check upon delivery)

It is my honor to be here today to address you on behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on this important occasion and I would like to thank the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for organizing this timely and necessary Special Meeting.

.....

The OAS has been instrumental in building a regional framework for the effective implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in the Hemisphere, ensuring cohesiveness between universal and regional instruments, specifically Security Council resolutions 1373, 2178, 2322 and 2396, as well as the Madrid Guiding Principles, to support Member States' efforts in complying with their obligations under these resolutions.

For its part, OAS Member States, during CICTE's 18th Regular Period of Sessions held in May of this year, adopted the Declaration on "Strengthening Hemispheric Efforts to Address and Counter Violent Extremism that is Conducive to Terrorism" to express their concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, as well as by those who perpetrate, organize, incite or facilitate terrorist acts and use their violent extremist ideology to promote radicalization that leads to terrorism when they return to

