

- At first I would like to thank The Kingdom of Morocco and CTED for inviting me to address this very important and timely meeting. This initiative to discuss the issue of “Countering Incitement to Commit Terrorist Acts Motivated by Extremism and Intolerance”, is indeed of serious importance to the maintenance of International Peace and Security.
- Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen, today, I speak before you at a very important moment in the history of multilateral efforts at countering terrorism. As many of you are aware, five days ago on September 24, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a historic resolution aimed at stopping the flow of foreign extremists

to battlefields around the world, in the context of

of **Countering Violent Extremism or CVE** as a key element in effective responses to the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon.

- Specifically, the resolution “calls upon States to enhance CVE efforts and take steps to decrease the risk of

on prevention and places increased emphasis on social contexts that may be conducive to the spread of terrorism.

- In Security Council resolution 1624, the Council specifically calls upon all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, building bridges between nations and to take all measures as may be necessary and appropriate in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

- The two tracks of combating **FTF recruitment**, **Combating Violent Extremism** and incitement to hatred are so essential for the mandate of the UNAOC.
- Critical to observe here is that both these resolutions emphasize that any action that Member States and the international community take in this area must be **firmly guarded** by respect for fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief, expression, opinion and association. If we are to stop those who would seek to undermine our freedoms, we must always begin from the moral higher ground of first honoring and protecting those freedoms.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- From my perspective, counter terrorism efforts generally have two dimensions. The first is the **operational**. This refers to efforts made by states and the international community at **disrupting** the planning and execution of potential attacks, primarily through law enforcement methods.
- The second is **strategic**. This refers to addressing the root causes through which terrorist organizations and networks may be able to build support and sympathy for their causes, and even recruit individuals into such causes. And as you

- While I believe that law enforcement, as a means of combating terrorism, must remain a priority, long-term success depends largely on

➤ It is thus no surprise that extremists for their own political ends seize religion—or the very frameworks that human beings use, to make sense of their vision and mission on this planet and to justify their actions. Extremist organizations work in sophisticated manner and under organized pattern, so lets not undermine their organizational abilities.



- The fact is that in many societies around the world, young people **constitute** a majority of the population, but have very little influence on local, regional, and national policies that affect their lives. This is especially true of many

working across different communities, to come together to work on a shared need—whether that is youth unemployment, access to water, or the need to mediate and resolve local conflicts.

➤ When we model effective cooperation in a society around a shared need—including by bringing religious leaders into the conversation—we believe that we create the most effective counter narrative to the radical ideologies.

➤ In summary, to be truly successful in countering the incitement and ap92388(o)0.aomaap92388(o)0.67(y)-5.82363 0 Td 4

populations that extremists prey on. While reducing the space in which terrorists can mobilize support for their activities, this approach also leads to better and more integrated communities that are more **resilient** and better able to meet the development challenges they face.

- As the international community, I firmly believe that it is **incumbent** on us to provide viable, meaningful **exposition** to the **falsifications** of religion that terrorists propagate.
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causes for this, some of which I aim to touch upon momentarily. But I want to take this opportunity to recognize how crucial it is that we, as Muslims and non-Muslims, furnish our young with interpretations of this religion that speak to their reality in a way that is ultimately viable and universal.

- In other words, for young Muslims, their personal practice of Islam should be a source of inspiration for being in the world in a way that both recognizes the **interdependence** at the heart of human existence, and position them to serve to improve th.5339(h)0.831.533.83144.831947(e)-1.92388()Tu42M

- In putting forward such an interpretation, I must praise the efforts of the Kingdom of Morocco under its responsible and wise leadership, which since 2004, has embarked upon an ambitious program to engage religious leaders—male and female—in working with young Moroccans. I look forward to hearing more about these efforts from the following speakers.

- The UN Alliance of Civilizations has a long record, through its many civil society, youth, and media engagement programs, of working with the grassroots around the world. Much of our work is dedicated to creating viable and effective alternatives to radicalization.

- Having considered the recent development around the world, I hope that I get the chance to interact with the Security Council on so many preventive and cultural activities the Alliance can contribute with. It is time for this important organ to use the service we are providing. I count on our cooperative agreement with the CTED to do so as well. My participation in this very event is clear message of my role as High Representative of the Alliance in combating violent extremism.
- Finally, while I welcome all of you to visit the website of the Alliance to learn more about some of our projects that adopt this approach, I want to end by saying that as an organization, we are constantly seeking partnership among all sectors—Member States, International Organizations,

civil society, and others—to help us run more projects in which we can effectively and more holistically counter the appeal of extremist organizations.

- I thank you and looking forward for good interaction with all of you.