

Global Counterterrorism Forum

Tenth Ministerial Plenary Meeting

New York, 25 September 2019

Remarks by H.E. Jeppe Kofod

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

- please check against delivery –

Co-Chairs, Ministers, Under-Secretary General, distinguished participants,

The threat from terrorism and violent extremism is inherently global and the only way of countering it is through international cooperation.

The more we are threatened by those who seek to instigate hate and discord, the closer we will stand together. When the threat materializes, we will show resolve and act swiftly and relentlessly as we have done in our global coalition to defeat ISIL.

In the long run, the most effective, sustainable way of reducing the threat is through long-term, civilian-led efforts. For Denmark, the Global Counterterrorism Forum is one of the most effective fora for transforming strategies, resolutions and common principles into action.

The Danish government stands ready to support this message both politically and financially: In East Africa we have recently launched new bilateral engagements of nearly 3.5 million US dollars in support of Global Counterterrorism Forum priorities through partnerships with Ethiopia and IGAD on countering terrorist financing and promoting regional cooperation.

I fully endorse the growing focus on the need to mobilize local actors, including civil society and youth, as our first line of defense against those who preach hate. We believe the Global Community Engagement & Resilience Fund presents an obvious vehicle for putting grassroots level responses to radicalization into action. Today, I am pleased also to announce a multi-year, core contribution of 2 million dollars from Denmark to the Fund.

I applaud the United States' and Turkey's visionary leadership in establishing our global alliance back in 2011 and I thank our outgoing co-chair from the Netherlands. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation with our Moroccan friends and I thank Canada for picking up the baton. You can count on Denmark's full support during the next two years.

Finally, I personally look forward to welcoming the Coordination Committee to Copenhagen for its meeting in 2020. At this time of transition, we must all remind ourselves that the Global Counterterrorism Forum means very little without a forward-looking membership prepared to play an active role in shaping our Forum.

We must take this upon ourselves because we have a moral obligation to ensure that every one of our fellow citizens is able to live in a world free from the fear of terrorism and intimidation – and because it is in the interest of our own national security. Thank you.

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