



GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting

25 September 2019

New York

Remarks by

Mr. Thomas Wuchte, Executive Secretary

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law

Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to begin by thanking the GCTF Co-Chairs – Morocco and the Netherlands – for the invitation to brief the Ministerial Plenary on the work of the IIJ.

2019 marks the fifth anniversary of the IIJ – an important milestone – not only for the IIJ but *also* for the GCTF.

The IIJ was established with a specific mission:

To serve as a platform through which to train and enhance the competencies of criminal justice practitioners to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities. This training is grounded in the rule of law and through the implementation and operationalisation of the GCTF good practices.

In the past five years we have made significant progress towards this mission:

- We have trained more than 5000 judges, prosecutors, police officers, corrections officials, and other stakeholders from across the Middle East, North, West and East Africa, with increasing engagement in South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- Through our tailored and innovative curriculum and practitioner tools, the IIJ has connected practitioners with ***more than 80% of the total library*** of GCTF good practices.

- And we are delivering this important work in partnership with 11 international donors who we wish to recognise in this forum –
 - We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Governments of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
 - I wish to further acknowledge Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States for their additional contributions and support through multiple secondments of senior practitioners who are playing key roles in curriculum development and training delivery.

We thank our donors – and those supporting our fellow GCTF-inspired institutions, GCERF and Hedayah. You are not just supporting the inspired institutions; you are supporting the crucial work these institutions are doing *to bring to operational reality* the GCTF good practices you have developed and endorsed in this forum.

At the Coordinating Meeting on Monday I briefed the Committee on the notable progress the IJJ has made across the eight IJJ Core Initiatives in the past year. The IJJ Core initiatives address pressing and evolving thematic challenges such as:

- Homegrown Terrorism, including a new upcoming scoping workshop on racially-and ethnically motivated terrorism
- the crucial functions performed by Central Authorities in facilitating mutual legal assistance and extradition
- intelligence-led investigations of terrorism
- judicial capacity building
- juvenile justice in a counterterrorism context
- the important role played by parliamentarians and their work with the criminal justice sector
- reducing further radicalisation in the prison context and promoting effective rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorist offenders
- addressing the myriad complex challenges posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

We are proud of what we are achieving under these Core Initiatives, as well as our standalone workstreams.

Today, however, I am going to focus my remarks on **the future of the IJJ**.

As we continue to deliver impactful training across the eight IJ core initiatives and additional workstreams, we have been making some significant investments in innovation and sustainability – including in the following three areas:

The first investment is in the establishment of a new multi-regional, multi-disciplinary **IJ Advisory Board** with deep subject matter and regional expertise to help guide the IJ's programmatic trajectory.

The second investment is in **Monitoring & Evaluation** – ensuring that IJ programs, content and training modalities are maximising learning objectives to achieve sustainable capacity building impact. The IJ's M&E framework will not only help us ensure that we are calibrating our training curriculum to the specific needs of practitioners, but also that we are demonstrating to our donors the effectiveness and sustainable impact of this training.

And, thirdly, in 2020, the IJ will launch a **new Academic Unit** to supplement our shorter thematic capacity-building courses with longer, foundational counter-terrorism courses for criminal justice practitioners, again grounded in the GCTF good practices. These more in-depth IJ Core Courses will support skills development and professional education that is often difficult to obtain at the national level but necessary to ensure foundational skills for practitioners across the IJ geographic region.

With the launch of a new Academic Unit delivering long-form training – combined with the work of our Programmatic Unit delivering innovative shorter courses on evolving thematic priorities – the IJ is entering an exciting new era: *one in which the IJ is serving as an international centre of excellence for educating criminal justice practitioners on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and transnational crime.*

We strongly encourage GCTF members and partners to support the IJ in this new phase – and in turn – support the implementation and sustainable impact of the GCTF good practices.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity – on behalf of the IJ team – to thank:

- the GCTF Co-Chairs – Morocco and outgoing Co-Chair the Netherlands for their leadership;
- incoming Co-Chair Canada for taking up the mantle;
- and the GCTF members who are supporting the work of the IJ. Without your financial support, our efforts to implement and operationalise the GCTF memoranda would not be possible. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with you and – we hope – many more GCTF members in the months and years to come.

The IJ is proud to be an active partner in support of the broader GCTF mission. Thank you.