

Dear Co-Chairs, Dear Colleagues,

—It is my **pleasure to address another Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Ministerial Meeting.**

-Allow me first to **congratulate Canada** on its new role as the **incoming Co-Chair**. I wish them success.

-I would like to **thank the Netherlands, as the outgoing Co-Chair**, for its invaluable contributions over the course of last four years.

-Likewise, **Morocco has our full support in steering the Forum** in the coming years.

-The Forum was established to find **practical, result-oriented and sustainable solutions** in the struggle against terrorism.

-The **Forum proved itself to be highly beneficial** for all stakeholders (*governments, international institutions and civil society*) in many ways.

-It **acted as a facilitator** to involve governments, societies, and international community on uniting around a common goal.

-The **addition of four new good practices documents** today to the Forum's existing body of recommendations is important.

Distinguished colleagues,

- **My country has been attacked by multiple terrorist organizations** with different ideologies, including DEASH, Al Qaida, PKK-PYD, and FETO.

-One lesson we learned is that **we cannot defeat terrorism unless we address the root causes.**

-To win this battle, we **must do better than fighting the groups and individuals**, which are in fact **symptoms of a wider problem.**

-We need to **make sure that terrorist ideologies become meaningless.** The best way to do so is to focus our efforts to build a **just, tolerant and equitable international order.**

-To stop the terrorist threat from PYD/YPG and DEASH, **Turkey plays an active role in bringing about peace and stability** in Syria. We **will continue our efforts within Astana Process.** The recent formation of the Constitution Committee is an important achievement.

-On the other hand, **the issue of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) remaining in Syria cannot be resolved by few countries.**

-**We need burden-sharing, and not over-burdening** the already overwhelmed partners.

-In this respect, I would like **to reiterate our appeal to the countries of origin to take back the FTFs** and put them on trial in their courts.

-Resorting to such measures as **revoking citizenship or applying temporary exclusion orders** (*cancelling residency permits*) only lead to new gaps in our counterterrorism cooperation.

—Let me also highlight the **need to address the plight of children** under the control of the terrorist organizations.

-Recently, the families, mothers and fathers of the children abducted by the PKK **started a silent protest** in Diyarbakır, Turkey. **These mothers simply want their children back.**

-Unlike the sensitivity shown to terror suspects, **international media and community have so far disregarded that protest.**

-**We need to show empathy and consistency** against all sorts of terrorism regardless of its form and manifestation.

Dear Colleagues,

-We are **deeply alarmed on the surge of attacks** coming from anti-Islamic and anti-Semitic worldview of **right-wing extremism.**

-Over the course of last nine months, a number of places of worship, including mosques in Christchurch (*New Zealand*) and Baerum (*Norway*) as well as synagogues in Pittsburg and Poway (*U.S.*) were targeted.

—With the new challenges ahead, we need this Forum more than ever.

-Turkey will continue to provide financial and in-kind support to the Forum's Administrative Unit and the inspired institutions.

-That's why **we will be hosting another workshop** with the IJJ (*International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law*) in Istanbul later this year (*11-13 December 2019*).

-The workshop aims to **strengthen the judicial capacity of Eastern African countries** on collection, use and sharing of evidence for purposes of criminal prosecution of terrorist suspects.

- Before I conclude, **let me once again share my best wishes to the Forum's Co-Chairs.**

-As a founding-member and a long-time leading partner of the Forum, you **can count on Turkey's support and contributions. Thank you.**