

**INTERVENTION BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, MARTA
LUCIA RAMÍREZ, ON THE 11TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF
THE COUNTER-TERRORISM FORUM - GCTF-**

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Dear Colleagues,

Serving as Vice president and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia, it is an honor to address this Committee meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Today, we reaffirm our ongoing commitment to defeating terrorism and violent extremism.

As the GCTF welcomes its tenth anniversary, the considerations about the Strategic Vision for the next decade is an opportunity for the Forum and its members to review its successes and to determine the path it will follow for the next ten years.

The GCTF is an informal, apolitical, and action-oriented platform to complement and reinforce the work of the United Nations and regional bodies. This innovative approach has made the Forum a suitable framework to achieve a harmonious work between Member States and diverse stakeholders, which is fundamental to answer comprehensively to the multi-disciplinary threats pose by terrorism worldwide.

For the next decade it is necessary to keep working on the nature of the global terrorist threat, violent extremism due to political or religious reason, the importance of international cooperation arises as a cross-cutting issue, to tackle the emerging risks from the actions of terrorists in association with transnational networks of organized crime, which includes activities such as money laundering and transnational financial sources.

To face these threats, we endorse the documents adopted today, which will allow us to respond and anticipate the continuous evolution of this threat, through an action-oriented approach. We must commit to implement concrete measures and good practices.

Dear all,

For Colombia as the only Latin American country with permanent membership in this Forum, I would like to highlight the need to place a new emphasis on the region, especially due to current threats to our security. We need to deepen the holistic approach to counter-terrorism strategies in the region, which considers the associated nature of terrorism with transnational organized crime networks.

For Colombia, it is worthwhile that the Forum includes the consideration of focusing deeply on the needs of developing countries to enhance their Counter Terrorism capacity. To that effect, developed countries could provide with substantial support in capacity building, information exchange, and the promotion of good practices and recommendations to guide governments in need.

On another note, we need to increase the technical assistance for strengthening Financial Intelligence and to identify the links between terrorism, illegal economies, and other types of crimes, which will lead to a more effective counter-terrorism strategies.

My country has been a direct victim of terrorism linked to other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking. We look forward to continuing working with all of you in the framework of this important Forum. We remain hopeful that, as a result, we will make tangible progress in the fight against terrorism.

Thank you.