

Statement by Ambassador Mari Miyoshi, Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for
Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime (Japan)

New York, 25 September 2019
Tenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting
(As delivered)

His Excellency Mr. Stef Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands,
His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of
Kingdom of Morocco,
Incoming Chair, Ambassador Drake, of Canada,
Honorable Ministers and distinguished delegates,

Followed by the success of the G20 Osaka meeting and TICAD 7 (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) this year, Japan is welcoming VIPs from many countries - the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Ahead of it, prevention of terrorist attacks and organized crimes is one of the most important issues in Japan. In particular, terrorist attack caused by abuse of new technologies is serious. The attack towards oil facilities in Saudi Arabia utilizing unmanned aerial systems on September 14th should be a typical example. Other than that, illicit drug transactions inside dark web and procurement of terrorism finance exploiting cryptocurrency are similar issues.

In dealing with the subjects related to returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), it is vital to completely implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396. Thus, we welcome that the result of “GCTF’s initiative on improving capabilities for detecting and interdicting terrorist travel” is going to be shared. Japan has financially supported ASEAN’s law-enforcement officials to participate the workshop held in Malaysia in May this year. Moreover, focusing on the issues concerning return of FTFs and their families, Japan has been also exercising multifaceted supports through international organizations such as UNODC, UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNESCO, GCERF and UNOCT.

We have released a leaders’ statement on preventing exploitation of the internet for terrorism at G20 Osaka summit meeting. What is most important is not to enforce obligations or burdens unilaterally on Internet-related enterprises. Collaboration and cooperation among enterprises, civil society, the government and international organizations is essential. What’s more, regulations as measures for counter-terrorism should be properly balanced with fundamental human rights such as freedom of the expression and the press. We must manage both “freedom” and “safety”.

Japan has been funding projects conducted by Hedayah and the GCERF. Japan will take steps forward its commitment to the GCTF. We would like to contribute in forming global standards on counter-terrorism based on our knowledge and experiences.

Before concluding my statement, allow me to remind you of the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Kyoto, Japan in April 2020. As counter-terrorism is going to be one of the issues, we welcome your participation and positive engagement.

Thank you very much for your attention.