1. We recognize that the terrorist threat, regardless of ideology, has not abated during the ongoing global health crisis, but rather that new challenges have also emerged requiring our attention, and that terrorism has continued to claim innocent lives in different parts of the world.

2. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted the possibility of convening in-person meetings, including the Eleventh GCTF Ministerial Plenary; we reaffirm our support for the GCTF and its work through this Declaration and look forward to our next Ministerial Plenary in September 2021.

3. We remain strongly committed to pursuing our goal of defeating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, as well as addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In remembrance of victims and survivors of terrorism, we reaffirm our commitment—undaunted during this global health crisis—to combat terrorism that continues to present a significant danger worldwide. We are dedicated to a comprehensive and sustained response to this threat, while ensuring compliance with our obligations under international law, in particular, international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions.

4. We commend the sustained engagement of all GCTF Members during these challenging times, and recognize their dedication to preserving the core values of the Forum, namely: nimbleness, inclusiveness, adaptability, anticipation and continuing dialogue. We further commend the GCTF Co-Chairs, the Working Group Co-Chairs, the Initiative Co-Leads, the GCTF Inspired Institutions and the Administrative Unit for their efforts to identify innovative solutions and to adopt new approaches that have contributed to maintaining the momentum from last year’s Ministerial Plenary. Together with the invaluable ongoing input of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and other GCTF partners, civil society and other experts, they have enabled the work of the GCTF to continue.

5. As emphasized in the Joint UN-GCTF Ministerial Statement of 26 September 2018, we remain committed to strengthening and reinforcing our existing partnership with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. We reaffirm that one of the main objectives of the GCTF is to support the UN System to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council Resolutions, which provide the basis for the multilateral response to the global and transnational threat posed by terrorism.

6. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that the GCTF’s action-oriented, nimble and informal structure has facilitated the advancement of its work and swift adaptation to this complex situation. We also acknowledge that robust multilateral forums are a critical component of an international order based on international law and are needed now more than ever, as the pandemic has highlighted the importance of credible and timely multilateral action.

7. Recognizing that our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism need to adapt to the evolving nature of these threats, including threats related to COVID-19, and reaffirming our full respect for the GCTF founding principles as reflected in the Political Declaration (2011), we emphasize the importance of the ongoing consultations on the GCTF Strategic Vision for the Next Decade, to be finalized and adopted next year.
8. While highlighting the GCTF’s core identity, this Strategic Vision seeks to provide new momentum to the Forum’s work, to build on its achievements and to strengthen its impact and relevance, including considering proposals on ways to support the implementation of GCTF Framework Documents. We, therefore, welcome the continuing engagement of all GCTF Members in the development of this Strategic Vision for the Forum and encourage their further contributions over the coming months.

9. We resolve to continue to provide non-binding guidance for effective responses to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism related threats that takes into account the principle of national sovereignty and varied history, cultures, resources, and legal systems, while ensuring compliance with our obligations under international law. We note the adoption of two new GCTF Framework Documents: the Memorandum on Good Practices on Strengthening National-Local Cooperation in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism; and, the Addendum to The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism: Focus on Criminal Justice. We take note of the ongoing GCTF Initiatives that are currently shaping future Framework Documents.

10. We underline the importance of research, monitoring and evaluation of GCTF activities, and focusing on the further dissemination to non-GCTF Members and regional bodies and enhanced implementation of Framework Documents adopted by the Forum. We encourage additional efforts to develop the GCTF as an impact-oriented Forum able to stay well ahead of the curve, address emerging threats, and provide practical solutions for counterterrorism professionals across the world to implement. The GCTF will continue to strive to coordinate and align its efforts with other international organizations, forums and partners.

11. As a Forum, we commit to staying close to the challenges on the ground and the evolving threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. We will explore how to increase support to regional and sub-regional efforts to address this threat, particularly in Africa, in partnership with and according to the particular needs of interested countries, while respecting their sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are committed to cooperate closely with regional security frameworks to strengthen regional cooperation and promote synergies at all levels.