

Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and
Chairman, Counter-Terrorism Committee, OSCE Workshop on Public-Private
Partnership on Enhancing Tourism Security [8-9 September 2011], Vienna, on
September 8, 2011

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to the OSCE for organizing this Workshop on Public-Private Partnership on Enhancing Tourism Security in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in this magnificent and historic city.

I avail this opportunity to present before you some thoughts in my personal capacity as Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a global scourge and has emerged as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Terrorist attacks in different parts of the world, their lethality and their enhanced sophistication continue to serve as a constant and grim reminder of our collective vulnerability to the terrorist threat.

2011 marks an important milestone in the global counter-terrorism efforts as it marks the 10th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attacks, as well as the adoption of Resolution 1373 and the establishment of the Counter- Terrorism Committee (CTC).

The CTC will be organizing a Special Meeting open to the wider UN membership as well as international, regional and sub-regional organizations on September 28, 2011 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1373. The Committee will also adopt an Outcome Document highlighting the progress achieved in implementing Resolution 1373 during the last 10 years and providing a roadmap for the future. This will be a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of Member States in their counter terrorism efforts.

Over the last ten years, the CTC has maintained a regular dialogue with almost all Member States. We are assisted in this process by the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which has been conducting country visits in different

parts of the world to assess implementation, and identify areas for improvement and best practices that could be shared with others.

We have also strengthened our cooperation with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and have improved our coordination with other bodies within the UN system.

The CTC has a close and cooperative relationship with the OSCE and we hope to deepen this cooperation further in the coming years. This February, the Committee has had the opportunity to be briefed by the Secretary General of the OSCE.

The Global Implementation Survey prepared by CTED in 2008, 2009 and the latest one to be made public soon, provides a snapshot of where we stand in terms of our implementation efforts and provides useful recommendations for areas that need further improvement.

The international community has made good progress in countering terrorism during the last decade. However, much more needs to be done. Gaps continue to exist in the international legal framework against terrorism and the level of preparedness varies in different parts of the world.

We need concerted global efforts and the necessary political will of member states to squarely face the challenge of terrorism. While combating terrorism, it is also important that the counter terrorism measures must comply with all obligations of Member States under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman,

Tourism security is an important matter.

Tourism remains vital due to its economic potential, as well as a means for promoting greater understanding, dialogue and appreciation about different cultures and peoples. It is closely related to global travel industry and employment generation.

According to the World Tourism Organization, tourism is one of the top five export category for as many as 83% of countries and is the main source of foreign exchange earnings for at least 38% of the countries.

In 2010 itself, the international tourist arrivals were estimated at 940 million and contributed to US \$ 919 billion in export earnings. This is equivalent to 30% of the world's exports of commercial services and 6% of overall exports of goods and services.

The impact of terrorist attacks on any tourist destination therefore, cannot be underestimated.

For instance, the terrorist attacks in Bali in 2002 and 2005 ravaged the local Balinese economy that drew its sustenance and support from the tourism industry. Any decline

in tourism spending generates a magnified negative impact on economy and employment.

The tourism industry remains a vulnerable target for terrorists. I am glad that this workshop has offered us an opportunity to delve into this aspect in a holistic manner and would be helpful in identifying ways and means to protect this sector from the threat of terrorism.

It is worthwhile to point out here that the United Nations has been advocating the need for promoting dialogue and understanding among different civilizations.

The Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) recognizes the importance of the support of local communities, private sector, civil society and media for increasing awareness about the threats of terrorism and more effectively tackling them. Moreover, the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognizes the importance of developing public-private partnerships in protecting vulnerable targets. The UN Global Compact has also provided useful guidelines for the UN agencies to work with the private sector.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to these important discussions. I look forward to learn from your experiences and to explore, we at the Counter Terrorism Committee, can contribute to your efforts.

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