

Mr. President, we thank you for convening this meeting.

Mr. Secretary-General,

This meeting is an important opportunity to discuss your critical proposal. We commend you for taking up this matter promptly, as well as for your commitment to the restructuring of the counter-terrorism architecture in an open and inclusive manner. I would also like to thank Mr. Feltman for his comprehensive briefing.

This is a topic of paramount importance for all member states, and in particular for my country, which has been a constant victim of heinous terrorist acts.

Mr. President,

While we will all be consulting further these upcoming days, we need to keep in mind that our objective is to direct us towards more efficiency, through better coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism activities, at all levels.

Indeed, an office entirely dedicated to counter-terrorism is most welcome. It will help ensure better assistance in the implementation, by member states, of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

As the four pillars of the Strategy have to be implemented in a balanced manner, prevention remains key, as we are hopeful that the new office will strengthen this aspect of the fight against terrorism.

In this regard, preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, within the four pillars of the Strategy, is important to address the root causes of terrorism. It should therefore be a clear component of the mandate of the new counter-terrorism office.

Let me add that in this context, Lebanon has been engaged in a multi-stakeholders negotiation, involving national ministries and agencies, civil society organizations and the Office of the UN Special Coordinator in Lebanon, to develop a national agenda to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Thank you.