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**Statement by Mr. Sandro Calvani, UNICRI Director
Counter Terrorism Action Group (CTAG)
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Presentation on CT activities of UNICRI

Distinguished colleagues, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is my pleasure to present to you some of the main activities developed by UNICRI in the field of Counter-Terrorism, delivering to you a sense of our work and illustrating our approach.

To meet the demands of the international security environment and provide security solutions to deal with the new challenges and emerging threats, UNICRI launched in May 2008 the United Nations Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory.

The Laboratory is based on 6 years of experience in the Security Governance and Counter-Terrorism field. It is a UN facility that develops initiatives to counter emerging security threats by directly involving security and law enforcement agencies, as well as a broad cross-section of civil society, local, regional and national governments and the private sector.

The Laboratory develops and implements initiatives with the aim of promoting wider collaboration and participation among different security stakeholders. Its main objective is to make a meaningful contribution in the development of a sustainable platform for information exchange and effective policies in the fields of security and counter terrorism.

UNICRI's Lab works efficiently in the midst of sensitive political issues by maintaining a technical focus on problems such as illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, and radicalisation leading to terrorism. The Laboratory also

focuses its activities on non-traditional areas of the international agenda, such as major event security, public-private partnerships and urban security.

As a part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) of the United Nations, UNICRI, through the Laboratory, is contributing to the implementation of the international agenda to ensure coordinated and coherent efforts across the UN system to prevent terrorism.

UNICRI is currently co-leader of two CTITF Working Groups; one on the Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets and the other on Preventing and Responding to WMD¹ terrorist attacks. UNICRI was also co-leader of a CTITF Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism and is proud to have supervised the drafting of the “First report of the Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism”, which has been issued in the context of the General Assembly’s review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 4 September 2008.

Building on the initial work undertaken by the Working Group on Addressing Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism, UNICRI will start implementing a pilot programme devoted to establish a Center on Policies to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism the main objective of which will be to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among governments on their respective projects and programmes aimed at countering the appeal of terrorism and violent extremism.

UNICRI’s efforts, within the Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets concentrated on enhancement of cooperation between the public and private sectors in the field of vulnerable target protection by assisting them to establish new or re-inforce existing partnerships at national and local levels. The priority was given to the protection of ‘soft targets’, that is, places where groups of people routinely gather or reside.

As part of its initiative, UNICRI has produced a report, reviewing some of its activities and findings and identifying some basic Public-Private Partnership (PPP) principles and practices which should be taken into account when designing, developing and implementing PPP policies. The report further offers suggestions as to how such an innovative and challenging form of cooperation as PPPs can be expanded and how

¹ Weapons of Mass Destruction

UNICRI through the Working Group on Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets can play a role in this development.

We have conducted field research to test the identified principles and practices and to further encourage the development of new PPP approaches. Two testing events have been held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2008 and the third one took place in Mexico in March 2009. The conducted research and testing events have partly been designed on the feedback received from three 'brainstorming' meetings held in 2008, bringing together public authority and private sector representatives and experts from around the world.

Furthermore, UNICRI, through its IPO International Permanent Observatory on Major Events Security programme, is officially mandated by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (E/2006/28) to provide security-planning assistance to Member States.

Since the launch of the programme in 2003, IPO has assisted a significant number of countries in security planning terms. The latest event at which our comprehensive range of security planning services was offered were the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Within this framework we are organizing a conference on Security Measures and Technical Solutions for Major Events and Expanding Cities, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, in Abu Dhabi, on 18-20 May.

Two regional initiatives had been launched within the IPO framework, one done in cooperation with EUROPOL, connected to Coordinating National Research Programmes to Major Events Security in Europe (EU-SEC) which assembled a broad coalition of 22 EU Member States, and the other titled IPO Americas, gathering 27 countries, in cooperation with Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, the goal of which is to facilitate mutual assistance among countries in the Americas.

Another major project undertaken by the UNICRI's Lab in the counter-terrorism field is the Knowledge Management System (KMS) on the prevention of illicit trafficking of CBRN material. The project was developed in cooperation with the European Commission and with the technical support of IAEA, OPCW, EUROPOL and the SECI Center, and it has two initiatives, one in South East Europe and the Caucasus (KMS I) and the other in North Africa and some countries in the Middle East (KMS II). The aim is to assist states in establishing clear channels of communication, improving information sharing and identifying and disseminating best practices on incidents related to

chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and accessing relevant information.

As a part of its 'Host an Idea' approach, and in line with UNICRI's strategy to grow in horizontal manner rather than vertical, keeping in that way its rapid response quality, UNICRI's Laboratory launched three new offices in Boston, Lisbon and Lucca. The opening of these offices marks the Laboratory's commitment to spread pluralism and to bring the work of the UN closer to the wider community.

The goal of this expansion is to get closer to people, bringing a sense of UN policy closer to the wider community; and making the Laboratory more dynamic and proactive.

The new office on Dialogue and innovation based in Lucca, Italy, aims to serve communication and dialogue as privileged instruments to counter every form of radicalization and violent extremism. Through its various initiatives, it will pursue and further enhance the Lab's activities in the field of dialogue and innovation.

This Lucca office will also act to enhance the framework of regional cooperation and install a mechanism that supplements the Lab's direct assistance to Member States on major event security.

The Public-Private Security Policies Office in Lisbon, Portugal, has been launched within the Laboratory's worldwide Public/Private Partnerships (PPP) initiative to protect vulnerable targets from terrorist attacks, to promote the enhancement of vulnerable targets globally, to facilitate international dialogue and to promote technical projects on PPPs. The Technical Centre is initially being funded by the Government of Portugal and a group of Portuguese private companies. It will be based in a former post office and will work towards improving the level of mutual understanding between private and public sectors worldwide and will assist Member States in defining the role of the private sector in the field of security.

In Boston, UNICRI and the M.I.T (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) SENSEable City Laboratory came together to form the Boston Office in a collaborative effort to assist cities in the development of strategies to improve urban security and to tackle the perception of security.

At the end, I would like to highlight that UNICRI will continue working in the spirit of collaboration and in full synergy with other UN entities, benefiting from the CTITF

framework. Laboratory's plans to continue to promote the optimisation of resources and increased effectiveness through the testing of new ideas in new sectors, the management of knowledge and the improvement of cooperation at the regional and international levels.

Thank you for your attention