



Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me join Assistant Secretary-General Gherman to acknowledge the role of the co-facilitators in the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I would like to thank the Global Center on Cooperative Security for inviting me to speak at the launch of the Sixth Blue Sky report as part of such a prestigious panel.

Today's event could not be more timely.

Member States are in the third and final round of negotiations of the eighth review of the Strategy – the Strategy for which they have the primary responsibility to implement.

And while Member States have been able to make some gains in the fight against terrorism, it still remains a major threat to international peace and security.

The threat posed by terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates based in and around conflict zones, particularly in Africa, have actually increased in some instances while in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan terrorists actually enjoy far more freedom than do women and girls.

Terrorists remain agile, adapting to new circumstances and utilizing technologies such as cryptocurrencies and unmanned aerial systems for terrorist purposes.

The ideologies driving terrorism are also diversifying, with many hateful ideologies resurging as part of the rise of terrorist attacks motivated by xenophobia, racism, and other forms of





We believe that while some progress has been made in adopting a comprehensive approach that includes all sectors of society, there is still work to be done to ensure civil society's regular and safe engagement with the UN system.

UNOCT continues to work with civil society partners to explore ways to implement its Civil Society Engagement Strategy, including recommendations articulated in the Malaga Outcome Document, alongside its ongoing engagements, such as the periodic Civil Society Roundtables which I moderate to facilitate regular exchange between civil society and UNOCT.

In addition, I'm pleased to announce that the Malaga Outcome Document of the High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism is now available on UNOCT's website.

To further facilitate civil society engagement, UNOCT continues to seek grant-making authority to improve cost-efficiency and allow strengthened partnership with civil society. We are working with relevant UN offices to secure necessary approvals.

