

Excellencies, Dear distinguished speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to echo Mr. Raffi Gregorian in thanking all our speakers for their insightful contributions, as well as our partners, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Institute for Economics and Peace for the successful collaboration in organizing this side event.

We are also particularly grateful to the Government of Canada, the Government of Mozambique, and the Government of Norway for co-sponsoring this event.

Throughout the discussions today one thing that has been evident is the devastating impact of climate change on local livelihoods and how the increased competition for natural resources is leading to heightened tensions between communities. The subsequent erosion of social cohesion that can easily increase the vulnerabilities to radicalization and violent extremism is another consequence and worrying trend that has clearly emerged from the different interventions.

As a specialized research and training institute of the United Nations, UNICRI supports Member States in addressing crime-related challenges, including the prevention and countering of violent extremism. As active participants in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, we also contribute to the coordinated and cohesive efforts of the UN system in preventing and countering terrorism. Through action-oriented research, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building initiatives, we work with national authorities and civil society organizations to promote effective strategies.

It is as part of these efforts that we have started our work aimed at improving the knowledge on the interlinkages between climate insecurity and violent extremism. UNICRI stands ready to continue this critical work, in particular working to translate the theory into practice through the activities we envisage as part of the next phase of our climate insecurity related work, in particular with UN entities such as UNOCT, UNOWAS and our Member State partners.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for having joined this important side event and for the inspiring discussion. Thank you.