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Director's Welcoming Address
at the Second Brainstorming meeting
on "Strengthening Public/Private Partnerships
for the Protection of Vulnerable Targets
against Terrorist Attacks"

UNICRI's HQ, Turin, 17th and 18th March

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the second event the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has convened to enhance Public/Private Cooperation on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets from terrorist attacks.

On behalf of UNICRI, I renew my welcome to those of you who I recognize from the first session. I'm gratified by your commitment to this initiative and hope you find this discussion fruitful, particularly in terms of expanding knowledge on improved synergies between Public and Private actors in the security field.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely welcome the distinguished representatives that visit UNICRI's Headquarters or take part in the PPPs works for the first time. I thank you for having graciously accepted our invitation and truly hope that you feel stimulated by this exchange of ideas.

I look forward to your contributions, as I'm confident they will move this ambitious programme further along, and I believe that, together, we can develop a common language in order to overcome any legal, technical and cultural barriers standing in the way of effective cooperation.

It is a great pleasure to see our community expanding. Our intention is to consolidate and maintain this group of pioneers of UNICRI's initiative, leaving it open, at the same time, to the participation of other representatives from private or public sectors willing to join our endeavours and share knowledge with us.

The issue of private/public partnerships is becoming more and more important for UNICRI and the work of the United Nations at large, as witnessed by this initiative carried out within the framework of the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in particular by Working Group led by UNICRI together with Interpol, today represented, and the UN Department for Safety and Security.

In the European Union, UNICRI started looking at PPPs, together with 22 EU Member States and EUROPOL, while implementing the programme Coordinating National Research Programmes on Major Events in Europe. In particular, UNICRI and its partners are considering the issue of PPPs in terms of cooperation between technology producers and end users with a view to promote innovation without forgetting the importance of the human factor.

PPPs will also be one of the main discussion points of the Regional Seminar on Major Events Security that UNICRI will convene in May this year in Cartagena de Indias, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of Spain, the generosity of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the cooperation of CICTE, the Anti Terrorism Committee of the Organization of the American States.

I am very delighted to see that representatives of the European Union, CICTE and Spain are present today, and I thank them for the great cooperation ensured so far to UNICRI's activities in the field of security governance and counter terrorism.

UNICRI considers the cooperation with regional organizations or networks as one of the pillars of its action in the security field.

UNICRI is considering the development, in the near future, of regional PPPs centres with specific thematic focuses and particular regional or sub regional orientations. We favour the adoption of differentiated and customized regional approaches, by finding, in full cooperation with relevant regional organizations, innovative solutions tailored to address specific challenges.

We hope, in this way, to be closer to the needs of the different contexts and to be able to promote positive economic impacts at regional levels through the implementation of UNICRI's Security Governance Approach.

Before starting this second brainstorming, I would like to give the floor to my colleague Francesco Cappe', Head of UNICRI's Laboratory on Security Governance, who, I am sure will be very delighted to brief you about our Security Governance approach and the latest development of the related Unit, today called The Laboratory.

Once again, dear colleagues, thank you for your participation and your support to the work of my Institute.