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## **‘Strengthening Partnerships Between States and Business to Counter Terrorism’**

New York, 4 September 2008

### ***Remarks from UNICRI Director Sandro Calvani***

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow first of all to express my gratitude to H.E. Amb A. Zmeyerovskiy and H.E. Amb. Churkin for having invited UNICRI to take part in this important side event on the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting on the counter-terrorism strategy.

The subject of public/private partnerships in the security and counter-terrorism field is indeed one of the priority areas for the work of UNICRI, and, in particular, of our Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory.

UNICRI is a lead agency in several working groups of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; amongst them, the Working Group on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets.

In this framework and as a first step of our cooperation with the other lead agencies of the Working Group, the UN Department for Safety and Security and INTERPOL, UNICRI has finalized an action-oriented analysis on public/private partnerships to prevent terrorist attacks against soft targets, such as main financial areas, tourist and historical places, commercial centers and other crowded areas which could be targeted by terrorist groups.

The idea to address the issue of public/private partnerships to protect vulnerable targets, particularly those belonging to the ‘soft target’ category, was developed within the Working Group in consideration that many possible targets for terrorist attacks, are owned or managed by the private sector and that, due to their multitude, no country possesses sufficient human, physical and technological resources to ensure their total protection.

Talking about public/private partnerships without tackling the issue of 'who should pay for security costs' might not bring to concrete decision and action.

For this reason, If we want to encourage private participation in initiatives in the security field, we need to promote the concept of 'security as an investment and not a cost', and emphasize that improving the protection of an infrastructure means both protecting the overall business that the infrastructure might produce and ensuring a longer life for the infrastructure itself.

We also need to study methods of facilitating private sector involvement in the protection of vulnerable targets, such as incentives that States might offer without distorting the market or diminishing the opportunities of private entities not participating in partnership initiatives.

Otherwise, the costs related to the adoption of measures protecting vulnerable targets managed by the private sector, such as the provision of necessary human and technical resources, will always represent a deterrent element from the private sector perspective.

In parallel, we will need to define which type of information the public sector can share with private stakeholders, if we really want to enable them to have a role in preventing attacks, and not just to contribute in managing crisis once attacks have been perpetrated. To this end, it is essential to promote a common language and facilitate the coordination of efforts to bridge two sectors, which still have different priorities.

With a view of assessing which types of cooperation can be best implemented in different contexts, we have identified PPP practices worldwide and we have tested them through 'field events' individually tailored to the local setting in which they took place. Locations selected range from Nairobi, Kenya, to different cities in Mexico.

Building on the results produced by the action-oriented analysis and the testing events, we have also developed the idea to establish a broader PPP capacity building programme to further promote, with the full engagement of national and local partners, as well as with the possible involvement of regional organizations, the creation or enhancement of public-private partnership initiatives around the world.

In addition to our work with the CTITF, we are currently in the final steps on negotiation in the field of PPPs together with the Norilsk Nickel for the implementation of a project on the Illicit trafficking of precious metal. The initiative will also envisage the participation of UNODC and we have tentatively plan start in October 2008.

Together with our partners we will perform a risk assessment (analyse threats, and identify vulnerabilities in national responses); and design a “red flag” software system to assist governments and inspectors, customs and police services to identify weak links during shipment. The first component will be led by UNICRI while the second one by the colleagues of UNODC.

The cooperation between the Russian public authorities and Norilsk Nickel to tackle illicit trafficking activities has been widely regarded by UNICRI as a good PP practice in terms of information exchange and implementation of advance detection mechanisms.

We are confident that such an effective cooperation model will be implemented with the same success also in other regions and countries.

Before concluding this short briefing on our work on PPPs, allow me to inform you that our next PPPs activity will take place in Oporto, Portugal from 28 to 30 October 2008, where will convene, in cooperation with the Portuguese National Intelligence Service, the third ‘brainstorming meeting’ on PPPs. You are of course all warmly invited to attend.

I feel these can all be precious occasions to re-evaluate our understanding of the role of the private sector in the security field, develop a common language and culture on security issues, and in particular, help define how this role can support the efforts of public authorities in preventing terrorist attacks.

Thank you very much for your attention.