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**“A new path toward enhanced citizen security”  
by Sandro Calvani, UNICRI Director**

**Opening Remarks at the First Symposium on  
“Security Measures and Technical Solutions for Major Events and  
Expanding Cities”**

18 May 2009, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- Excellencies, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you here this morning in my capacity as UNICRI's Director, to the First International Symposium “Security Measures and Technical Solutions for Major Events and Expanding Cities”.
- I am gratified by your interest in this initiative and hope you find this Symposium fruitful- particularly in terms of improving synergies among public and private actors to develop enhanced technical solutions for security, applicable to Major Events and expanding cities.
- We are grateful for the kind patronage of His Highness Lt. Gen. Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates in making this event possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to pass my sincere congratulations to His Highness on his recent appointment to the position of Deputy Prime Minister.
- Further thanks must also go to the UAE Police College for their efforts in all aspects of the organisation of this Symposium.
- I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives of both public and private sectors here today supporting our activities. In particular I wish to extend thanks to those members of our IPO Group of Friends, the policy making body of our Major Events Programme, who are here today.
  - the representatives from the United States- particularly from the Department of State and the Department of Energy. The latter also for being one of the donors to IPO activities;

- to our Australian representative, and recent appointment to the UNICRI Board of Trustees, whose good offices has facilitated the initial dialogue with the UAE;
  - the representative of Portugal- where we will soon be opening our new office on Public-Private Partnerships and Major Events Security;
  - thanks also to the UAE Embassy in Australia for their facilitating role which helped make this event possible, and finally;
  - thank you to the representatives of other international organisations who are participating today, including INTERPOL and the UN DSS, from where David Veness, who despite being unable to be here, has provided us with a video message and remarks of support.
- Throughout your stay I am sure you will all enjoy the warm hospitality that has been overwhelmingly evident in all our dealings with the Ministry.
  - This Symposium is the result of months of cooperation and it is thanks to the Ministry that we have this marvellous venue at our disposal and that we are able to welcome you today, here in the United Arab Emirates- a country familiar with the challenges of rapid growth cities.
  - I truly hope you will feel encouraged to participate fully, share your expertise and exchange ideas during this conference.
  - We are facing a challenging era for security planning and decision-making. While terrorism is not a new phenomenon, the string of mass casualty attacks against soft targets, as recently as the Mumbai attacks in 2008, clearly illustrates the immense challenge facing security planners today.
  - These incidents have impacted on every corner of the globe; all occurring without warning, against “soft targets” such as public spaces, trains, hotels, bars, restaurants and even commercial centres and places of business. The impact of these attacks resonates across all segments of society without discrimination.
  - Their impact is felt globally - impinging on economic concerns, tourism and depriving individuals of a sense of safety and security.

- As noted by former Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan (NY 9 October 2005) “Collective Security today depends on accepting that the threats, which each region of the world perceives as most urgent, are in fact equally so for all.”
- In this context, initiatives such as this Symposium are of immense importance. It is via forums such as these that we can begin to build connections and relationships to bridge the divisions that exist as a result of our envelopment within separate spheres of employment.
- Too often we see those engaged in the provision of security, and those who develop the tools they apply, existing in non-intersecting realms. There are so many advantages to bringing together these seemingly disparate groups- the public and the private sectors.
- At first glance- like the public sector and private technology companies- Major Events and Rapid Growth Cities may seem like strange partners. However, they present strikingly similar challenges to security planners. Both Major Events and Rapid Growth Cities present a multitude of vulnerable and soft targets and they are linked through the challenges of public spaces, mass gatherings of people and the need to protect multiple locations.
- How will we overcome such challenges? Firstly, we can begin to develop a shared understanding and a common language by which we can communicate with each other more effectively. We are always more comfortable speaking with those with whom we have a common understanding, background or language.
- The use of jargon, or of technical or bureaucratic language, forms barriers to communication and understanding: a common language enables the opening of channels of effective communication, which will result in greater opportunities for cooperation. A common language enables a fuller understanding of each other’s needs, abilities and potential. The development of a common language is an enabling factor leading to results oriented innovation. With better understanding and communication we can begin to build better security.
- To overcome these challenges we need cooperation. Great deeds are not achieved in isolation. In the words of Alexander Graham Bell (1847 – 1922) “Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds. I may be given credit for having blazed the trail, but when I look at the subsequent developments I feel the credit is due to others rather than to myself.”

- The power of partnerships represents one of the central instruments of UNICRI's work. UNICRI is dedicated to efforts to strengthen partnerships through its Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory. UNICRI provides full support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism framework through the provision of security-planning assistance to Member States, in particular in the pursuit of improving the security of vulnerable targets within the context of major events and rapidly expanding cities.
- UNICRI operates in selected niches as a 'laboratory of ideas', testing ideas to find proactive solutions to the many global security issues and searching internationally for good practices and adapting them to different national situations. The Lab seeks to strengthen security through the management of new ideas in the field of counter-terrorism, via a creative multi-level and intersectorial approach and through incorporating training to develop relevant technical and managerial skills.
- Gathered here today we have a wealth of collective experience. By looking at what we have done in the past and critically examining, with the benefit of hindsight, what we could have done differently, and moreover, what we would liked to have been able to do, we can set the ground work for future innovation.
- This does not mean that we need to focus on our mistakes or oversights- though of course it is important to recognise and remedy these- but what is truly important is the recognition of what we wished we could have achieved.
- With these wishes and visions effectively communicated, we can build solutions that we can apply, not only to future major events, but which we can extend to meet challenges in other vulnerable and soft target spheres.
- With the massive challenges currently facing security providers and planners, responding to challenges is not enough. We need to be able to anticipate and predict new threats, we need to be able to project our solutions into the future and develop flexible and long-term resolutions.
- Furthermore, we need to do this together and we must act amongst mounting pressures such as financial considerations and the high expectations levied upon us by the public we protect.

- Major Events are big business, which can offer big rewards. For example, research undertaken following the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games illustrated that hosting the games delivered substantial benefits to the city of Sydney, and Australia overall, including:
  - US\$600 million: in new business investment;
  - US\$288 million: in new business within the Australian Technology Showcase;
  - US\$2 billion: in post-Games sports infrastructure and service contracts.
- More recently, a study of six UK sporting events between 2005 and 2007 showed that against event funding of £2.2 million, the return in total revenue income terms was £7.1 million.
- With such large financial amounts comes an increased weight of expectation and pressure to ensure security.
- Ad- hoc solutions are no longer an option. Planning foresight, cooperation and communication are the keys to any chance at success in our endeavours.
- With this in mind I encourage you all to make the most of your time at this Symposium to engage with each other, to move beyond what is comfortable and known and to develop new connections and new understandings; to use this opportunity to find inspiration and to direct you in new ways as we seek to enhance security for soft targets.