



Second United Nations
**HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE
ON COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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Government
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du Canada

**Remarks by Ms. Jennifer Loten, Director General, International Crime and Terrorism Bureau,
Canada**

**Second United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of
Member States**

**Plenary Wrap-up of SESSION II: Preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in
the age of transformative technologies**

30 June 2021, 11 a.m.

Thank you Chair.

It's my pleasure to provide a few brief summary remarks from Monday's panel on the critical roles of civil society and local actors in building partnerships for prevention.

Our rich dialogue was informed by a diverse set of panelists who shared their thoughts and brought forward their innovative ideas on the value of not just listening to civil society voices, but opening the door to meaningfully incorporating these perspectives and acting on their lessons learned.

In Canada, we follow the principle that diversity is our strength. We have a committed engagement and partnership with civil society in our peace and security efforts, and we believe in the importance of bringing their perspectives forward so we can build community resilience that is inclusive, gender informed, and adopts an intersectional lens.

2021 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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There were a few lessons from the speakers that caught my attention:

The first is the value of this undertaking. The issue of CSO inclusion in CT and P/CVE efforts continues to be a sticking point. It is critical that the UN and Member States work to benchmark their CSO engagement to ensure that our measures are implemented in a way that promotes local ownership, which will allow for more sustainable and effective responses.

The second lesson is our need to be bolder and braver in our processes - both at the Member State and at the UN level. This is a call for courage. We, as Member States, need to take to heart the lessons from civil society and build partnerships for peace that are based on listening to their perspectives, and also, more importantly, acting on these lessons. It is time we step into new territory and match resources with rhetoric. CSOs have solutions, and we need their perspectives, particularly from youth, to strategically inform our strategies. While we are very comfortable with consultation, we need to challenge ourselves to move beyond consultation to work with civil society in innovative ways to leverage local knowledge, community trust and engagement, and new avenues of access to make interventions locally meaningful, impactful and sustainable.

I was also pleased to see that the session had a gender balanced panel. In a CT field dominated by males, it is encouraging to see diverse perspectives, backgrounds and gender perspectives being brought to the table.

Particularly in light of the forthcoming adoption of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy, Canada is pleased with the modest but significant gains we have made to recognize the importance of civil society participation and inclusion in our counter-terrorism efforts. However, as our panel reinforced, true partnership with a diverse range of civil society actors help us respond to new opportunities and challenges in this area. With the successful adoption of the consensus Strategy behind us, our next step is to continue working to ensure implementation that is reflective of these priorities.

We have much work ahead of us, but Canada looks forward to continuing to move the needle on this issue.

Thank you.

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