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Swiss Confederation

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

Official Launch Event

Statement by

H.E. Micheline Calmy-Rey
President of the Swiss Confederation

New York, 22 September 2011

Madam Secretary of State Clinton
Foreign Minister Davutoglu
Excellencies
Dear Colleagues

It is with great pleasure that Switzerland participates in the launch of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and in its future activities. I applaud the leadership of the United States and Turkey in the establishment of this new promising institution.

Progress in the fight against terrorism can only be achieved in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, based on the rule of law and the respect for human rights. The Political Declaration which we, the members of the Forum, have adopted today enshrines these principles.

The Political Declaration also underlines the central role of the United Nations and the importance of a full, comprehensive, and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Forum strives for a role that complements and reinforces existing mechanisms. A close relationship with the United Nations and regional organizations is therefore critical for ensuring success. At the same time,

interaction with relevant actors on the ground is essential for creating the necessary sense of ownership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Transparency and mutual trust, legitimacy and efficiency. Those are the principles that should guide our work in the Global Counterterrorism Forum. I am convinced that the Forum will soon prove to be an indispensable element in the fight against terrorism.

Be assured, therefore, that Switzerland is determined to actively contribute to the success of the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

It is for this reason that Switzerland is organizing a meeting between the Members of the Forum, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations early in the coming year, in an effort to strengthen relations between the various actors and coordinate efforts in the fight against terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Global Counterterrorism Forum is a promising new force. It is result-oriented and geared to making practical contributions to the implementation of the four pillars of the UN Strategy.

I am convinced that by working together with other States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, the Global Counterterrorism Forum will succeed.

Thank you.