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## **UNICRI Private and Public Cooperation OPENING SPEECH**

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**Sandro Calvani, Director**

Your Excellency, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning, I would like to extend to you a warm welcome to the first event the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has convened to enhance Public/Private Cooperation in the Protection of Vulnerable Targets.

What is UNICRI? UNICRI is a full-fledged United Nations agency which sees itself as 'the first response broker'. It became known for its dynamic, fresh and innovative approach in action-oriented analysis and 'technical cooperation' fields. It operates in selected niches as a 'laboratory of ideas' and its activities help the integration of national and international efforts to advance security and serve justice. It is in this spirit that we have gathered here in Turin to discuss with you the launching, under the umbrella of the United Nations, a programme on Private/Public Partnership with the goal to strengthen the protection of vulnerable targets.

On behalf of UNICRI, I want to extend my most sincere gratitude to Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Department for Safety and Security,

Sir David Veness, for having agreed to participate in and Chair this event, and for his constant, gracious support to UNICRI's activities on security matters. We look forward to his contribution in the opening session, and his leadership in the upcoming discussions.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely welcome and thank the many distinguished representatives from both the private and public sectors from across the world who have graciously accepted our invitation to attend this important meeting here at UNICRI Headquarters in Turin – home of the United Nations Training Capital. Their contributions will no doubt be invaluable to our objectives.

UNICRI and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security together with Interpol, which is also represented in this meeting, are leading within the framework of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (UN CTITF), the Working Group on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets. It is also in this connection that UNICRI has convened this event.

The Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was established by UN Secretary-General to assist Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Strategy adopted by the UN General Assembly on

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2006. This Strategy calls for an improved cooperation between private and public sectors.

Stepping forward in this field, UNICRI, in particular its Security Governance and Counter-Terrorism Unit, sees itself as a favorable platform to share objectives and develop a common language between these two worlds– the private and public – in order to identify and overcome legal, technical and cultural barriers that might hinder cooperation.

This initiative that UNICRI has launched highlights the importance of private/public partnership, and it gives me great pleasure to see before me the participation of many prominent private companies, as well as well-respected public institutions. This is indicative that there is a strong will to reach a common goal, and this is the first step to success.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express my gratitude to all of the international, regional and national institutions, both public and private, who have agreed to work with UNICRI to enhance public and private cooperation in the protection of vulnerable targets.

Sir David Veness, I now give you the floor, and I renew my gratitude to you.

THANK YOU