

Remarks by Mauro Miedico, Director
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First BSM Workshop on Integrating New Technologies and a Human Rights-Based Approach
into BSM
22 February 2024

Dear participants,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the First Workshop of the joint GCTF-UNCCT Border Security and Management initiative.

Today's meeting follows two very useful exploratory dialogues under this Initiative, devoted to updating the 2016 GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management. The fifteen non-binding good practices UNCCT and GCTF members developed back then, have stood the test of time and have been instrumental in providing effective technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States, including to ensure that counter-terrorism elements are included in the border security strategies, policies, guidelines, programs, and approaches for effective BSM.

At the same time, we have seen significant developments in the threats faced at borders and we have identified issues that were perhaps not included in the Good Practices to the extent that they should have been.

We are therefore very grateful for this opportunity to develop an Addendum to the Good Practices through the new BSM Initiative, implemented with the generous support of the United States, and in close cooperation with the Asser Institute and Jordan as the co-chair, with the US, of the GCTF FTF Working Group.

Key among the missing elements are recommendations relating to promoting human rights and ensuring gender mainstreaming, that we will discuss today. Several UN Security Council resolutions have addressed this since the Good Practices were adopted. For example, Security Council resolutions 2396 (2017) and 2482 (2019), both reaffirm that any measures to counter terrorist activity, including but not limited to the collection of travel data, should comply with international human rights law.

In today's workshop we will hear from a number of expert practitioners in the first panel who will discuss best practices and current developments in

practically implement these on the ground. The discussion will inform new Good Practices to be included in the Addendum.

Under the initiative, we will hold a second workshop in-person in Rome on 16 and 17 April, which will focus on other key developments