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By: Ms Jamie Lowe
Attorney General's Department

Date: 24 May 2012

**U.S.-Australia Joint Statement
on Countering Transnational Crime, Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

Recognizing our shared interests in countering threats to the international system, the United States of America and Australia hereby affirm our intention to continue and enhance our close collaboration to share information to combat transnational crime and terrorism, and expand our cooperation on countering violent extremism.

The United States and Australia have a shared interest in ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. Our mutual interests have long benefited from close collaboration on border security and law enforcement issues. In keeping with this tradition, and mindful of the rapidly evolving international security environment, we share a belief that our law enforcement and border security officers should have the means to quickly and efficiently investigate crimes and defend our borders.

Transnational criminals and terrorists threaten not only our two nations, but also the transportation networks that underpin our global community. Together, we have taken steps to better prevent, detect and investigate transnational crime by sharing data through a timely and efficient mechanism, while adhering to stringent privacy standards.

We recognize that terrorists operate across national boundaries, and we recognize the threat posed by home grown extremists. As nations that have benefited greatly from generations of immigration, the United States and Australia seek to promote societies that value citizenship, appreciate cultural diversity and enable migrants to participate equitably.

We believe that local authorities and community leaders are best positioned to identify individuals at risk of radicalization to violence within their communities, and should be empowered to contest violent extremist messages and influences.

We hereby intend to expand information sharing to counter violent extremism and better understand the factors and influences that lead individuals down the path of radicalization to violence, with the aim of:

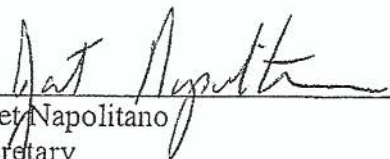
- **Assessing** the threat to our countries as a whole, and within specific local communities
- **Increasing our cooperation** to counter violent extremism in the online environment
- **Assisting our respective efforts** to reach out to communities in which individuals may be at risk of recruitment by terrorist organizations and violent extremists, including through developing with communities counter-narratives that challenge extremist ideologies, and
- **Expanding support** for information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts to prevent violent crime and extremism, including by intervening early to disrupt radicalization processes and providing appropriate support to at risk individuals and groups.

This statement of intent reaffirms and builds upon our commitment to the protection of our citizens and respect for their privacy. It reflects our mutual stake in a global environment that resists and rejects the criminals and terrorists who seek to threaten our way of life. It reflects our convergent interests in law enforcement cooperation, and our shared commitment to meet emerging security challenges. In keeping with this statement, Australia and the United States intend to share best practices and procedures; exchange information, research, and policy materials on our respective efforts to counter violent extremism; and promote future consultations on issues of concern to both Governments, including through senior official visits.


SIGNED at Canberra on 4 May 2012

For and on behalf of the
Government of the United States by:

For and on behalf of the Government of
Australia by:



Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security



The Hon Nicola Roxon
Attorney-General