

## **Statement on the terrorist attacks in the US**

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) condemns strongly the terrorist attacks in the United States and grieves with the American people, and the other nations, over the wanton deaths caused by the criminal acts.

The horrific nature, and magnitude of the acts of terrorism, strikes the conscience of all peace loving people of every persuasion.

The incidents bring to the fore the need for urgent international action to effectively deal with cross-border terrorism.

The CLA states that the time has come to unequivocally declare international terrorism targeted at the civilian population as a crime against humanity. Such crime should in law be triable on a universal jurisdiction basis in any domestic court and internationally before a criminal court established for that purpose.

The CLA observes that the International criminal tribunals set up for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia to try genocidal crime provide a useful foundation towards the development of an international criminal law that can be enforced by the law of nations.

The CLA accordingly calls on the United Nations and the international legal community to act swiftly to put in place an effective legal mechanism to deal with the growing menace of cross-border terrorism.