



Remarks

by

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulazziz Al-Nasser

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

on behalf of

H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe

President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Interactive Dialogue on “Addressing Conditions Conducive
to the Spread of Terrorism”

Closing Session

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentleman,

The President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Ambassador John W. Ashe, has entrusted me to deliver these remarks on his behalf.

We are now at the close of the interactive dialogue on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General for his participation, and to Member States and our panellists for their active and meaningful engagement.

Today's interactive dialogue has been an important occasion for the international community. The Secretary-General launched the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, the world's first such web portal. And we heard many interesting views on effective methods for countering the appeal of terrorism.

As this interactive dialogue was held on the eve of the General Assembly's Fourth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, I am confident that the ideas expressed today will contribute positively to the review process.

The threat of terrorism is pervasive and its impact deep. Our UN family itself has been tragically affected by terrorism. Mr. Pronyk and Mr. Younis's heart wrenching stories are powerful reminders of why we should spare no effort to support the countless victims of terrorism, their families and their communities.

Indeed as highlighted in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, our solidarity with victims is itself a persuasive counter narrative to the rhetoric of terrorism. The UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal is a significant step in that direction.

The Web-Portal serves as a central apolitical platform that will strengthen work on issues related to victims of terrorism, improve awareness of their plight and put victims and their families within easy reach of essential resources. The Web-Portal is also a resource for UN Member States to share their own experiences on how they

have provided support to victims, and to benefit from the best practices available in this vital area from around the world.

I believe I speak for all of us that by launching the Web-Portal today, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has underscored the UN's unrelenting commitment to the victims of terrorism, and has also shown the path to Member States to generate further support for victims. On behalf of the President of the General Assembly, I urge all Member States to contribute to its success by providing it with the necessary and relevant information.

Excellencies,

During the interactive dialogue today, we also heard some experiences in counter-terrorism. The common thread among all those presentations was the need to confront the terrorist threat by implementing a comprehensive and balanced approach to counter-terrorism. A balanced approach to counter-terrorism necessarily requires addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as set out in Pillar I of the Strategy.

In this regard, I should note that the United Nations, through its CTITF framework that groups together 34 UN entities including INTERPOL, has been playing a strong role in addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, as well as in the other areas of the Global Strategy. I commend the efforts of the CTITF for its role in ensuring strong coordination and coherence in the provision of UN assistance to Member States in the area of counter-terrorism.

Many participants recalled for us that no one is immune from terrorist attacks, which require a resolute and collective response from all States.

Several mentioned intercultural dialogue and dialogue among civilizations as an essential avenue to promote tolerance and respect for pluralism and diversity. Such dialogue should include all sectors of society, including local and religious leaders, public authorities, law enforcement, young people and civil society. In this regard, the role of education and training in fostering intercultural dialogue was underscored.

We also heard about the linkages between development and security. It was noted that terrorists capitalise on poor socio-economic and political conditions, including lack of employment and education, prolonged conflicts and lack of good governance. Several highlighted the need to ensure social integration and basic well being for all members of society, including youth and marginalised populations most at risk for radicalisation.

We heard about experiences and best practices on deradicalisation and rehabilitation of radicalised populations. In this respect, it was noted that victims can contribute to developing counter-radical narratives to neutralize terrorist narratives.

Several noted the need for increased cooperation and support for counter terrorism initiatives at the regional and international levels, to strengthen the regional implementation of the strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, please allow me to reaffirm our mutual belief that the conditions conducive to terrorism must be addressed through stronger and sustained efforts in the areas outlined in Pillar I of the Strategy. Through our determination and collective resolve, we can build a future free from the scourge of terrorism.

Before I conclude my remarks, I have one announcement to make: Please note that the next session, an open briefing to Member States on Protection of Critical Tourism Infrastructure organized by the CTC and the CTITF Office, will begin at 2 PM in this same room. The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization will be making a presentation. I hope you can attend the event.

Thank you.
