



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

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

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Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to today's 'Interactive Dialogue on the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism.' At the outset, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office for supporting the organization of this event.

This Dialogue is being held against the backdrop of the Fourth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I welcome the productive consultations among Member States in the run up to the Review. These consultations have been well-received and have reinforced the UN's role in countering terrorism.

I am grateful to our Secretary-General for providing Member States with a useful basis for discussions in the report entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy" (A/68/841). I also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Turkey, H.E. Ambassador Y. Halit Çevik, for the valuable support he has provided to the Review process as facilitator.

Excellencies,

Today more than ever, the value of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as a strategic, comprehensive and universally-adopted policy framework, cannot be overstated. We have only to turn to the news to see images of terror that innocent civilians suffer. We share concerns presently for the civilians who have been affected by the deteriorating security situation in Iraq. As terrorists around the world continue to kill innocent civilians and spread anxiety and fear, our collective endorsement of this Strategy is a clear and unequivocal signal of our conviction and resolve to counter this menace.

In three successive reviews, Member States have highlighted the strategic importance of the Strategy's four pillars. Together, these pillars form the thrust of the Global Strategy's plan of action, with an emphasis on preventing and combating terrorism, building national capacities, and upholding human rights. Furthermore, they continue to provide the strategic and operational framework for a global and integrated approach to combating terrorism.

However, we need to ensure effective, balanced and sustainable implementation of the Global Strategy. While each of the pillars of the Global Strategy is important, more efforts are needed for the implementation of measures under Pillar I. This need has also been recognized in the Secretary-General's report and in Member States' discussions over the last several weeks.

In various meetings, States have highlighted the importance of suppressing intolerance and hate; building communities that are respectful of diversity, human rights and the rule of law; and generating better prospects for future generations. I hope that today's discussion and the Review process that commences tomorrow will enable us to better implement the Global Strategy on the ground.

Pillar I of the Global Strategy emphasizes the need to counter the appeal of terrorism. While terrorism cannot be justified for any reason or grievance, we know that in many parts of the world, the terrorists' hateful narrative capitalizes on poor socio-economic and political conditions to gain credence among the youth or the disaffected. Lack of employment and education, prolonged conflicts and the absence of good governance help terrorists gain sympathizers, find fresh recruits and raise funds. More and more, terrorists utilize advanced communications tools, including social media and other Internet-based platforms, to spread their message of violence and intolerance.

It is incumbent upon us to counter this narrative. We can begin by learning from each other's experiences. Member States, with support from the United Nations system, should collect and disseminate good practices on de-radicalization efforts; rehabilitation of former terrorists, including in prison settings; enhancing the reach and quality of education and upholding human rights and the rule of law. We should also work with civil society where possible on building public awareness, ending

social marginalization and discrimination, engendering trust among communities and law enforcement agencies, and reinforcing cultural diversity, so that our societies can grow resilient and immune to the terrorist narrative.

Measures under Pillar I also call upon Member States to promote international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism and to develop practical mechanisms to assist them. Victims remind us of the horror and pain inflicted by terrorism and why there is no place for such cruel acts in our world. In this regard, I gratefully recognize and appreciate the presence of Mr. Jason Pronyk and Mr. Mohammad Younus who both suffered from the terrible Canal Hotel terrorist attack in Baghdad in 2003.

In solidarity with victims, we must highlight their plight, provide support and contribute toward their rehabilitation. I welcome the Secretary-General's presence today for the launch of the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, a valuable resource that will make a concrete contribution to international efforts in the cause of supporting victims. I encourage all Member States to provide inputs, reference material and other useful information in order to build this resource further. I am confident that it will contribute significantly to international efforts on supporting the cause of victims of terrorism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The implementation of the Global Strategy rests with Member States. The interactive dialogue today provides us with a useful opportunity to share perspectives on addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and I invite you to actively participate in the discussions. Through closer cooperation and with mutual support, I believe we can surmount and suppress the scourge of terrorism that threatens our lives, our livelihood and our cherished values.

Thank you.
