

Implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

On 8 September 2006 the United Nations General Assembly adopted unanimously the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288). The Strategy was formally launched at a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 19 September 2006. The Strategy reiterates strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the underscores the resolve of the international community to strengthen global response to terrorism.

For the first time, all member states agreed on comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses to counter terrorism at national, regional and international levels. The Strategy sets out a plan of action spelling out key areas action:

- Measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
- Measures to prevent and combat terrorism
- Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard, and
- Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

In his opening address to the 62nd Session of the General Assembly the President Srgjan Kerim told Member States that “reviewing the implementation of the Counter Terrorism Strategy is also a priority in this session. We need to ensure that as an organization, and within our national jurisdictions, that we are properly prepared.”

The Strategy envisioned that the General Assembly should assess the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy in two years' time. A mid-term stock-taking meeting was held on 4 December 2007, with briefings from Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and interventions from Member States.

On 21 May 2008, the CTITF gave an informal briefing on the activities of its working groups. The President appointed Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations as a facilitator to consult with Member States on the outcome of the General Assembly review meeting.

The General Assembly met on 4 and 5 September in order to review, for the first time, the two years' implementation efforts. The meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption of the resolution A/RES/62/272. The President's press conference on the meeting can be found [here](#).

More information on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as other activities of the General Assembly and the United Nations system can be found at the [United Nations Action to Counter Terrorism](#).



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 July 2008

Excellency,

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in September 2006. When adopting the Strategy, the General Assembly decided to review progress made in the implementation in two years. In this regard, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly under agenda item 118 will take place on 4 and, if needed, 5 September 2008, depending on the list of speakers.

The Facilitator, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations has started consultations with Member States on the outcome of the General Assembly meeting. I call on all delegations to work closely with the Facilitator to achieve a result that embodies our clear determination to strengthen the international cooperation to counter terrorism and to continue to undertake further implementation measures with respect to all parts of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy beyond the current session of the General Assembly.

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reflects the consensus and unity of all Member States and can be used as a means to build upon concrete collaborative projects. Since the Strategy does not provide for any formal reporting mechanism, I invite you to use the opportunity during this meeting to share your best practices identified and programmes undertaken in the implementation process that would be beneficial for all. Member States may also wish to discuss the ways the Strategy can be used to attune the global, regional and sub-regional efforts to counter terrorism.

I look forward to a fruitful and active debate and encourage you to include officials from your capital in your delegation to the meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 May 2008

Excellency,

As I announced at the informal briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force last week, the General Assembly plenary meeting on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will take place on 4 September 2008.

Member States have repeatedly underscored their primary ownership of the Strategy and role in its implementation. In preparation for the meeting in September, I invite you to bring forward your national, regional and global initiatives to put the Strategy's provisions into action.

I also encourage the Assembly in September to send a strong and unified message against terrorism, to build on the results achieved so far, to reinvigorate the commitment for further implementation efforts and to strengthen the co-operation between Member States and the United Nations.

Furthermore, I have the honour to inform you that H.E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, has agreed to serve as a facilitator for consultations with Member States on the outcome of the plenary meeting in September. On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Rosenthal for his willingness to undertake this important responsibility.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 May 2008

Excellency,

I welcome the interactive dialogue that took place between Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on 21 May. However, due to the time limitations not all questions from delegations received an answer. I am therefore pleased to inform you that the Chair of the Task Force, Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr will address the outstanding questions on 29 May 2008 from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm in Conference Room 4.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 May 2008

Excellency,

Further to my letter from 7 May 2008, announcing the briefing by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on 21 May 2008, I am pleased to transmit Working Group summaries prepared by the Task Force for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 May 2008

Excellency,

To facilitate preparations for the General Assembly meeting on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September, I am pleased to inform you that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force will give an informal briefing on the activities of its working groups on 21 May at 10 am in Conference Room 4. There will be time for a question and answer session after the briefing.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 November 2007

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 7 November 2007, I have the honour to update you on the preparations for the informal meeting of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that will take place on 4 December 2007.

The meeting will begin with brief openings by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, followed by two interactive sessions. I am pleased to inform you that H. E. Mr. Baki Ilkin, Permanent Representative of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Elbio O. Rosselli, Permanent Representative of Uruguay, Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, have agreed to chair the morning and afternoon sessions respectively. I thank them for accepting this responsibility.

For your information, please find attached the provisional program which also lists the speakers from the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Following their statements, I encourage Member States to use this opportunity to intervene in an interactive manner on a given cluster together with representatives of regional organisations and civil society.

I would also like to inform Member States that there will be no formal list of speakers. The floor will be given on a first-come first-serve basis in accordance with the usual General Assembly practice. I encourage you to make short and concise interventions focusing on concrete implementation measures to allow as many speakers as possible to participate at the discussions.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over the printed name.

**Informal meeting of the General Assembly on the
Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**
Conference Room 1, United Nations, Tuesday, 4 December 2007
Provisional program

10.00-10.30

**Opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Morning session (10.30-1 pm)

Chair: H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin, Vice-President of the General Assembly, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

1st cluster – Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (10.30-11.45)

Statements by

Mr. Sandro Calvani, Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Mr. Richard Barrett, Coordinator, Al Qaida/ Taliban Monitoring Team

Floor will be open for interventions.

2nd cluster – Measures to prevent and combat terrorism (11.45am-1pm)

Statement by Ms. Latifah Merican Cheong, Program Director, the World Bank

Floor will be open for interventions.

Afternoon session (3. pm – 5.30 pm)

Chair: H.E. Mr. Elbio O. Rosselli, Vice-President of the General Assembly, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations

3rd cluster: Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN system in this regard (3 - 4.15 pm)

Statements by

Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Mr. Ulrich Kersten, Special Representative to the United Nations, INTERPOL

Floor will be open for interventions.

4th cluster: Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism (4.15 – 5.30 pm)

Statement by Mr. Ngonlardje Mbaidjol, Director, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, New York

Floor will be open for interventions.

Closing session (5.30 – 6 pm)

Remarks by Mr. Robert C. Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Planning, Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

Remarks by the Chairs summarizing the discussion

Concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 November 2007

Excellency,

I intend to convene an informal meeting of the General Assembly on 4 December 2007 to discuss the ongoing and planned activities of Member States and the United Nations system to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Adopted unanimously by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006, the Strategy reflects a consensus of the United Nations Member States on wide-ranging counter-terrorism measures. Now, just over a year since the adoption of the Strategy and some 10 months before the formal review of the progress made in its implementation, there is a key opportunity to further our collective efforts to put the provisions of the Strategy into action.

Member States are invited at the meeting to bring forward concrete actions and initiatives they have undertaken to implement the Strategy, as well as to share best practices and experiences identified in the implementation process. Such interventions can also help to provide examples for Member States of successful efforts to implement the Strategy, identify gaps in implementation to be filled over the coming months, and serve as an impetus for Member States to join initiatives of particular interest. The meeting will also facilitate further partnerships and information sharing between Member States and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

With regard to the format of the meeting, the Secretary-General will join me for a brief opening, followed by morning and afternoon sessions that will be structured along the four pillars of the Strategy's Plan of Action. We will hear contributions from the Task Force followed by interventions from Member States, regional organisations and civil society on a given pillar. I will revert shortly to you on the detailed programme of the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on 4 December and to your active engagement. I am confident that this informal meeting will assist in achieving tangible results and in further directing our collective efforts before the formal examination of the implementation of Strategy.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written in a cursive style.

4 December 2007

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Informal Meeting of the Plenary on the Implementation of the
United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

Mr. Secretary-General
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen:

May I welcome all of you to this informal meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Strategy reflects the commitment of the whole United Nations membership to enhance the role of this organisation play in counter-terrorism. On many occasions I have reiterated the need for the implementation of the Strategy and made it one of the main priorities of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

I would like to express my gratitude to the two Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Turkey, H.E. Ambassador İlkin, and the Permanent Representative of Uruguay H.E. Ambassador Rosselli for agreeing to chair today's sessions and for summarising our discussions.

Terrorism represents one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It knows no borders and affects us all. The recent cowardly attacks serve as a terrible reminder of the threat posed by terrorism to all our societies and the values and principles on which this organisation was founded.

Countering terrorism is a daunting challenge that we can only overcome by working together in partnership. If we do not act now, the magnitude of the threat could grow and affect many more innocent people.

We must muster the full support of the international community to respond in unity and with determination. By doing so we honour the memory of the victims of such heinous acts and stand in solidarity with their loved ones.

Excellencies,

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously in September 2006, marks a historic achievement, fulfilling the recommendation of the world leaders at the

2005 summit. The General Assembly agreed a comprehensive and collective approach to countering terrorism at the national, regional and international levels.

The Strategy strongly and unequivocally condemns all terrorist acts, in all forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

This universal agreement of this Assembly to condemn and take all necessary actions to counter terrorism is crucial in our global struggle to preserve international stability around the world.

The Strategy is a unique document, which covers a wide range of issues relating to the fight against and protection from terrorist attacks. It represents the first truly global and truly integrated approach to counter terrorism.

The Strategy, for the first time, addresses the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. It sets out a broad range of preventive measures, areas where capacity building is required and the role of the United Nations system; it recognizes the importance of partnerships with regional organizations, civil society and private sector. Last, but not least, the Strategy reiterates the need to uphold the rule of law and to respect human rights in all our counter-terrorism activities.

Last week, I emphasised that together we could improve the international standing and authority of the Assembly by demonstrating our renewed leadership on priority issues. Today we have such an opportunity to reassert the role of the General Assembly in strengthening the United Nations system for the benefit of all.

I urge all Member States to make use of the opportunity to ensure the full and effective implementation of the General Assembly's will. This is an exercise that requires a sustained long-term commitment to have an impact, especially by you, the Member States the driving force of this Assembly.

Without putting the provisions into action, they remain only words. IN this regards, I welcome the meetings that have taken place during the past year in Vienna, Tunis and elsewhere that have discussed the substance of the Strategy.

Excellencies,

I would also like to highlight the important role that education and fostering greater dialogue among religions and cultures can play in countering terrorism.

The United Nations has a crucial role in promoting such a dialogue. The spirit of cooperation and mutual respect is something that the General Assembly promoted most recently during the High Level Dialogue on Inter-religious and Intercultural Understanding.

We must put a stop to the misuse of religion in contemporary society, and reject extremist ideologies that threaten peace and understanding among nations and peoples. As the Secretary-

General has noted, terrorists exploit these vulnerabilities and grievances to breed extremism at the local level.

This is why support for good governance, sustainable development human rights and the rule of law are such important aspects of the fight against terrorism.

Collectively we must strive to create a new culture of international relations based on these values to build greater mutual trust and understanding and counter the perception of injustice that has acted as a recruiting sergeant for many young extremists.

Excellencies,

When adopting the Strategy, you set a goal to examine progress made to implement it in September 2008. We must make every effort to ensure that when we reach the review point – that we can confidently say that real progress has been made. I am convinced that today’s meeting will help to achieve this goal.

In this regard, I would like to ask you to share with us, among other issues:

- the various measures you have undertaken to raise awareness in your country and your region of the Strategy;
- the initiatives and actions you have already embarked on;
- partnerships you have formed with other Member States, private sector and civil society and with the United Nations system;
- best practices you have developed that would be beneficial for the wider membership to know about; and,
- gaps you have identified to accelerate the implementation of the Strategy.

This information sharing and learning exercise will be valuable for further collaboration and cooperation.

I would like to commend Member States for engaging cooperatively with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which brings together 24 United Nations entities.

I would welcome any further initiatives that Member States may take to give further support to the Task Force and strengthen the specific areas of the Strategy. We – the Member States and the Organisation – also have to ensure that there are sufficient resources available for the Task Force to effectively coordinate the system.

Excellencies,

I would like to take this opportunity to recall the pivotal role the General Assembly has played in adopting international legal instruments to counter terrorism. And also note that the United Nations system has provided technical cooperation to member States to help implement these

important instruments. These instruments now need to be complemented by a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to send a clear message to those that seek to undermine our human security and freedom.

I was encouraged by the constructive spirit of the work in the 6th Committee of the General Assembly when this issue was discussed. I urge Member States to use this time before the Ad Hoc Committee meets at the end of February 2008 to continue consultations to find a compromise on the remaining outstanding issues in the Convention.

Excellencies,

Meetings such as we are holding today not only highlight the importance and our commitment to fully implement the Strategy, but also enhance our understanding of it. Through an interactive exchange of views and ideas we can identify priorities and areas where each of us can add value. By finding gaps and identify where further assistance is needed we can build closer cooperation between Member States and the United Nations system.

Let us use this opportunity to strengthen our collective resolve to counter terrorism. Let us all work together to ensure that can show progress and deliver results when we approach the review of implementation next September.

We must be determined in this to achieve a better and safer world for all.

Thank you.

4 December 2007

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Closing of the Informal Meeting of the Plenary on the
Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism
Strategy**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I thank you once again for your active participation in this informal meeting of the General Assembly dedicated to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I have also a high appreciation for the work of the Task Force and in particular of Assistant Secretary-General Orr! Very often I hear complains about lack of efficiency and other kind of remarks of the same nature on the account of the UN's work. I think this is one example of very good work, expertise and common sense. And it should be said!

I would like to thank the two Vice-Presidents – Permanent Representatives of Turkey and Uruguay for chairing the meeting and providing us with useful summaries on the discussion held.

The presence of Member States, members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and civil society highlights the determination to work together in this common effort to go forward with the implementation of all aspects of the Strategy.

We must continue to raise the awareness of the Strategy in order to ensure the effectiveness of its implementation. These discussions should not stay in New York but be translated into furthering integrated and coordinated actions in your capitals.

We must boost the visibility of the many capabilities of the United Nations system, especially through the coordinating function of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. I was pleased to note a number of initiatives that Member States have taken together with the Task Force. I call on you to consider further ways to strengthen this collaboration. I welcome also the partnerships of Governments with regional organisations and civil society in the implementation process.

Excellencies,

This was the first opportunity for the General Assembly to look into the developments in the process of implementing the Strategy.

As you know, when adopting the Strategy, the General Assembly agreed to come back to examine the progress achieved in the implementation of its provisions in two years time. I will consult with Member States during the coming months on the best ways to proceed towards this formal review that will take place in early September 2008.

For that, we must evaluate and take stock of what has been discussed today. However, our discussions here in New York should not divert our attention to what is primary: comprehensive and effective measures to put into practice so that globally we can all benefit from the Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Thank you.

21 May 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Briefing**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to welcome you today to an informal briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Last week's terrorist attacks in India serve as a distressingly stark reminder that terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, affecting us all. There can be no justification for this senseless and indiscriminate use of violence. It is our duty to counter it in a unified and concerted manner.

The Task Force was established three years ago by the Secretary-General to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the United Nations system's counter-terrorism efforts. It brings together 24 different entities with a view to advance the implementation of the Strategy.

Today, we will hear briefings from all working groups of the Task Force. During the past year and a half, the working groups have identified areas of specific interest where the UN can have added value. I am pleased to note that these collaborative efforts seek to provide results for Member States that are concrete and practical.

It is also essential that these efforts will be undertaken in close cooperation with member states, regional organisations and civil society. Therefore we need continuously to enhance interaction and transparency and I hope the meeting today will also serve that end.

One of the crucial issues is resources. The Task Force has no standing resources on its own; therefore the Secretariat and Member States must resolve this issue in a practical way. I commend the Governments for providing funding for various working groups, but it is also important to ensure a stable and sustainable central support for the Task Force. Indeed, there is a need to complete the institutionalisation of the Task Force, as supported by the General Assembly when it adopted the Strategy.

As President of the General Assembly I regard the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an important achievement of this Assembly and I have made the implementation of it as one of the priorities of this session. Last December we had a mid-term stocktaking of the implementation efforts and now I am pleased to announce that the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Strategy will take place on 4 September this year.

I call on you to use that occasion to elaborate and expand on your own initiatives taken either nationally, through regional partners or internationally to put the commitments of the Strategy into action.

It is my belief that the outcome of the meeting should send a strong and unified political message of this Assembly against terrorism. It is essential to maintain the integrity of the Strategy as all parts are indispensable to our counter-terrorism efforts. We must stay true to our commitments and build on the results achieved so far.

Member States must also decide how to proceed with the Strategy after the meeting of the General Assembly. When adopting the Strategy in 2006, the General Assembly decided on the follow-up for this session only and we must now determine the best way forward. These and other issues are at the core of preparations we must undertake before the meeting in September.

I intend to appoint a facilitator in the coming weeks to consult with Member States on the possible outcome of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly in September. I urge all Member States to work constructively towards a successful meeting in September.

I wish you an informative briefing and a lively dialogue.

4 September 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism
Strategy [118]**

Mister Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this meeting of the General Assembly to mark the first review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly two years ago, is a testament to the determination of Member States to strengthen the international front to counter terrorism and to increase the role of the United Nations in that regard.

The continued terrorist attacks serve as a stark reminder that terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Acts of terrorism are direct attacks against the values on which the United Nations is founded. They deny the virtues of humanity, dignity and mutual respect for others.

Terrorism knows no borders and affects us all. There can be no justification for this senseless and indiscriminate use of violence and it is our duty to counter it in a unified and resolute manner. Only then we shall honour the memory the victims of such heinous acts and show solidarity to their beloved ones.

Excellencies,

As you know, I have made the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as one of the priorities of the sixty-second session of General Assembly.

Throughout the session we have been engaged in finding ways how to best improve our efforts to carry out the commitments in the Strategy. Last December we had an informal mid-term stocktaking of the various measures undertaken by the United Nations as well as Member States. It was the first time since the adoption of the Strategy when Member States brought their actions to the attention of the General Assembly. The meeting sent a clear message that Member States want to take the lead on the implementation with action-oriented partnerships.

I would like to commend the Secretary-General for his continued leadership and express my gratitude for his comprehensive report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy. This report has served as an important and useful contribution to our deliberations before today's meeting.

I have sought to make sure that there are appropriate avenues of dialogue between the General Assembly and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in order to keep the membership informed of the developments the United Nations system has embarked on. I commend the Chair of the Task Force, Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr for his efforts in fulfilling this important function and I thank him for the continued cooperation during the session.

During this session our focus has also been on the various related challenges that have a place in the Global Strategy. Fostering dialogue among cultures and religions, advancing the Millennium Development Goals, promoting the notion of human security are means through which we can address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Last May I appointed the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal as a Facilitator to consult with Member States on the outcome of this meeting. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Ambassador Rosenthal for his skilful stewardship of the negotiations of the draft resolution and to all the delegations for their constructive and focused participation.

The resolution to be adopted sets out a strong condemnation of terrorism and reaffirmation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It stresses the need for international cooperation against this international threat. It underlines the need for sustained efforts by Member States, who bear the primary responsibility to carry out the necessary measures, as well as by the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations.

There is a clear need to work closely with regional and subregional organizations that have the special knowledge about the vulnerabilities and priorities of their regions. The United Nations should work with States to bolster those regional bodies that do not yet have sufficient counter-terrorism capacity.

The draft resolution also underlines the important part the civil society plays on how to enhance the efforts to implement the Strategy. The civil society is indeed a valuable partner for governments in ensuring the sustainability of their efforts on the ground.

The draft resolution calls upon the relevant United Nations entities to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and reminds that all measures to prevent and combat terrorism must be undertaken in compliance with international law, in particular human rights and refugee law as well as international humanitarian law.

The draft also reminds us of the pivotal role the General Assembly has played in adopting international legal instruments to counter terrorism. All Member States should strive to become parties to those instruments. In this regard, I am pleased to note that from the time of the adoption of the Strategy, International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism has entered into force.

These instruments now need to be complemented with a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to send a clear message to those who seek to undermine our human security and freedom. I have been encouraged by some of the progress made in the Ad Hoc committee during this session, but we need a true political will to resolve the outstanding issues.

The draft resolution also urges the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Task Force in accordance with the Strategy. I commend the Governments that have provided resources to the Task Force but it is still essential to ensure a stable and sustainable central support. I am confident that the Secretary-General will continue to address this issue in a resolute manner, as requested by the Member States.

One of the vital issues during this session has been the interaction between the Assembly and the Task Force. I have made efforts to approach this matter in a pragmatic manner, through informal briefings by the Task Force to the General Assembly and circulation of information. The draft resolution provides that the General Assembly will interact with the Task Force on a regular basis in order to receive briefings and reports, assess the work and offer policy guidance. I am confident that the dialogue between the General Assembly and the UN system will continue to improve during the coming sessions.

It is also my pleasure to note that the General Assembly will in two years, at its sixty-fourth session, examine the implementation of the Strategy as well as consider updating it to respond to changes. Indeed, this is an ongoing effort, we must keep finding means of cooperation and we can use the Strategy as a reference point to embark on those common efforts.

Excellencies,

I am convinced that this General Assembly meeting will serve as an opportunity to bring forward our national experiences and share best practices in countering terrorism in an integrated manner. Through exchange of these experiences we can identify priorities and areas where each of us can work together and add value. By finding gaps and identifying where further assistance is needed we can build closer cooperation between Member States and the United Nations system.

The General Assembly took the responsibility two years ago to strengthen this Organization's response to terrorism by giving us a platform to further our common efforts. By implementing the Global Strategy we will strengthen the United Nations and reassert the role of the General Assembly by making it capable to deliver not only on our ideals and expectations but also concrete results.

Throughout this session I have emphasized on the need for a new kind of internationalism that caters to a new kind of global society - based on principled pragmatism and shared responsibility: a new way of thinking about our shared fate in a way that reflects the complexities of contemporary human and economic relations, with the well-being of the individual and communities at its centre.

We need a more active and coherent United Nations system and stronger engagement from all members of the General Assembly. The legitimacy and relevance of this Assembly depends above all on its ability to translate its decisions and commitments into practical actions.

Let us all demonstrate that the Strategy has brought us closer together to counter this scourge. Only with a strong resolve we can achieve a safer world for all.
Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of Guatemala
to the United Nations*

UN/1.4 /968

July 29, 2008

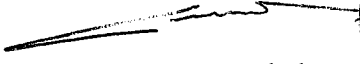
Excellency,

I wish to thank all delegations for their constructive and concrete interventions made yesterday afternoon during the third round of informal consultations for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. From those interventions, I gather that the draft resolution I have prepared constitutes an acceptable basis to initiate negotiations in the setting of an informal open-ended working group.

Furthermore, I have been informed that the official Secretary General's Report entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Activities of the United Nations System in Implementing the Strategy" will be circulated in the next day or so. Consequently, I intend to hold open-ended negotiations, for both morning and afternoon sessions, next Thursday 31, July and Friday 1, August. Please refer to the United Nations Journal for the exact venue.

I look forward to achieving progress in the upcoming days, and take the liberty of encouraging your delegation to participate actively during this process and contribute to this end.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Gert Rosenthal
Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations



All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



*Permanent Mission of Guatemala
to the United Nations*

UN/1.4/952

24 July, 2008

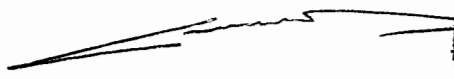
Dear Colleague,

As offered during our last informal consultation held on July 22, I am taking the liberty to circulate a very preliminary draft resolution on the United Nations Counter Terrorism Strategy. This text reflects what I interpret as convergent views on the structure and content of a resolution, and tries to address the different concerns that were raised in our informal consultations.

Since the elaboration of this text was delayed by a day, in order to reflect the outcome of some additional consultations, the next informal meeting, originally announced for Friday, 25 July, will now be held on Monday, 28 July at 3 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council. The purpose of this new meeting will be to receive general comments of Member States on the text being circulated, and, specifically if it meets the criteria to use it as a basis for an open-ended working group which could proceed, in the following days, to revise the text with an eye to its eventual adoption by consensus. Should the membership find that the text is not yet satisfactory, the Facilitator would elaborate a revised version, based on the comments received.

I take the opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in this process of consultations.

Cordially yours,


Gert Rosenthal
Permanent Representative of Guatemala



All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

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The General Assembly,

pp. 1 *Recalling* Resolution 60/288, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006, which contains the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and calls for, inter alia, an examination after two years on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy,

pp. 2 *Recalling further* the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and updating of the Strategy,

pp. 3 *Renewing* its unwavering commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

pp. 4 *Recognizing* that international cooperation to combat terrorism must be conducted in conformity with international law, including the Charter and relevant international conventions and protocols,

pp. 5 *Convinced* that the General Assembly is the competent universal organ to consider measures to eliminate international terrorism,

pp. 6 *Mindful* of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies in combating international terrorism, and of the proposals of the Secretary-General to achieve this end,

pp. 7 *Recognizing* the importance of institutionalizing the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) within the Secretariat in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence of the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system,

pp. 8 *Recognizing further* that the Task Force must carry out its activities under the general guidance and policy direction of Member States, which requires interfacing with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

1. Takes note, with appreciation, of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Activities of the United Nations System in Implementing the Strategy”; which reports back to the General Assembly on the actions taken by the United Nations System during the last two years to implement the Strategy in its four pillars;¹
2. *Further takes note* of the wealth of actions that numerous Member States have adopted at the national and regional level within the framework of the Strategy, as presented during the September 4 session, all of which constitutes a promising asset for strengthened cooperation based on the best practices reported;

¹ A/62/XXX.


3. *Reaffirms its unequivocal condemnation* of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation;
4. *Recognizes* the Member States' primary responsibility to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while further recognizing the important role the United Nations plays, in cooperation with other international, regional and subregional organizations, in introducing coherence to the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels, and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity building;
5. *Reaffirms* the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a comprehensive and living document, *and calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, and other appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy, in an integrated manner, and in all its aspects;
6. *Calls upon* states that have not done so to consider becoming parties without delay to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and implementing them, as well as to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism;
7. *Calls for* increased cooperation with the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies that deal with counterterrorism to support all relevant activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
8. *Also calls for* close cooperation between the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies that deal with counterterrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), to ensure a coherent System-wide response to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to undertake steps for the effective implementation of the Strategy, and in particular to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;
10. *Decides* to interface with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on a regular basis, in order to receive briefings on the work being undertaken and to determine the policy direction of Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force and its working groups, with a view to ensuring overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;
11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to closely follow up the implementation of the Strategy by the United Nations System, and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report thereon, relating, in particular, to progress made in the implementation of

Review implementation United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

DRAFT, July 24, 2008

(based on resolutions 60/1, 60/288, 62/71, 62/159 and 62/172 and the Advance copy of the Report of the SG)

the Strategy and any proposals deemed necessary for carrying out the Strategy in the future, as well as the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” in order to examine the report of the Secretary General requested in the previous paragraph as well as implementation on the part of Member States. 



*Permanent Mission of Guatemala
to the United Nations*

UN/1.4 /909

July 17, 2008

Excellency,

I wish to up-date you on my plans for the upcoming consultations that will take place in the last two weeks of July for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I have been reluctant to convene further informal meetings until the Secretariat document was made available. Although the document is still not ready in all languages, an advance copy has been made available to me, in English, and I have been advised by the Secretariat that there would be no objection in my sharing the document with you, on an informal basis. I am doing so today, because I am concerned that we have little time to prepare an outcome document of the September 4 meeting, and I feel that the document should form the basis of a new informal consultation among all member states before I attempt to elaborate a preliminary draft resolution which could form the basis of further consultations in the next weeks.

Under the assumption that this way forward is acceptable, I will hold the next round of informal consultations on Tuesday, July 22 at 10:00 am, bearing in mind that delegations need some time to examine the report I am sharing with you today. At that meeting delegations are expected to react to the Secretary General's report and offer general guidelines regarding the contents of an outcome document, which would presumably take the form of a GA Resolution. We could also discuss the format of the September 4 meeting. If necessary, an afternoon session can be held on July 22.

Depending on the results of our July 22 meeting, I would proceed to elaborate a draft outcome document and circulate it with an eye to convening a new informal consultation for consideration on Friday, July 25 at 3:00 pm. Subject to our progress in the two aforementioned consultations, it would be my hope to move on to open-ended negotiations during the last week of July so as to try and reach an agreement on a text before many delegates leave New York during August. Kindly check the Journal for the exact venue of our July 22 meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Gert Rosenthal
Permanent Representative of Guatemala



Enclosure: Draft Secretariat Document

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*Permanent Mission of Guatemala
to the United Nations*

UN/1.4 /774

June 16, 2008

Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your delegation's constructive and valuable inputs presented last Friday at the first informal consultation with Member States in preparation for the September 4, 2008 meeting on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In response to a request made during the informal consultation, please find enclosed a brief and general summary of the meeting containing the most recurring and common issues. The summary is obviously not intended to serve as a report or record of the meeting, but as a reminder of the matters discussed.

I will be in contact with you on upcoming meetings and would encourage you to share any additional thoughts you might have on this matter.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gert Rosenthal".

Ambassador Gert Rosenthal
Permanent Representative of Guatemala



All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

NOTE OF THE FACILITATOR

On June 13, 2008 Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, in his capacity as facilitator of the review process of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held an informal meeting in Conference Room 2. The meeting was open to all Member States and Observers, intended to be a preliminary exchange of views on the expected outcome of the September 4 meeting convened by the PGA in compliance with Resolution 60/288.

In his introductory remarks the facilitator sought views on any matter, but in order to better organize the discussion he enumerated four issue areas of particular relevance:

1. Whether delegations felt that the four substantive pillars of the Strategy merited further discussion or, rather, they were susceptible to a broad reaffirmation.
2. What further steps are required to improve implementation and to give the Strategy further impetus.
3. What institutional issues require further clarification, which includes the role of the Task Force, its budgetary implications, the manner in which it interacts with the General Assembly, and what further steps are required to marshal all the resources at the disposal of the United Nations to implement the Strategy.
4. As to process, delegates might want to address the type of outcome document that would presumably be adopted at the September 4 meeting.

As to the assessment of progress since 2006, which was the main item mandated for the 2008 meeting, the Facilitator added that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the note/report of the Secretary General concerning what has been done since the adoption of the Strategy would be available by the second half of July.

Preliminary comments, views and concerns were presented by the following delegations: Pakistan, who spoke on behalf of the OIC and also on behalf of its own delegation; Slovenia, on behalf of the EU; Egypt; Canada, on behalf of CANZ; Qatar, Japan, Panama, Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Cuba, Mexico, Indonesia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Colombia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, United States, Peru and Syrian Arab Republic.

Most delegations expressed that their comments were preliminary and that more concrete views would be forthcoming once the report of the Secretary General would be available. There was a clear pattern in the interventions. Virtually all speakers recognized the singular achievement that the 2006 Strategy represented, and the vast majority favored a general reaffirmation, rather than a new debate on the contents. Much concern was expressed, however, on two matters, and most speakers addressed them: the first was the importance of adopting further steps to implement the Strategy at the national, regional and global level; the second referred to the institutional aspects. On the latter, there were differing points of view on how to make the Secretariat's work more transparent and accountable, as well as regarding the mechanisms that should be implemented for interaction between the inter-governmental machinery and the Secretariat.

Regarding the matter of progress achieved in the past two years, delegations indicated they were looking forward to receiving the Secretary General's report. Some indicated that future review processes would be necessary.

Many comments were made on the matter of institutionalization of the Task Force. Although delegations commended the work of the Task Force, they constantly commented on the need to strengthen the relationship with Member States. Different ideas on mechanisms to meet more frequently to share information and provide guidance were mentioned. Furthermore, remarks on the need to implement the Strategy in an integrated, comprehensive and more balanced manner were raised. In the view of some delegations additional aspects of the Strategy required more attention such as root causes, development, cooperation, information sharing and capacity-building.

On the expected outcome, there was broad support to adopt a resolution, although some delegations found it too early to decide on such a matter. For those who supported the idea of a resolution, some of the recurrent and common elements that were mentioned were: having a short, substantive and focused document; reaffirming the Strategy, enhancing the Strategy to allow an effective and full implementation; outlining the future course of the Strategy, and clarifying the institutionalization of the Task Force regarding its interaction with Member States and resource requirements.

With regard to the resource requirements of the Task Force several delegations stressed the importance of resolving this matter before the September 4 meeting. In addition, comments were made concerning the need for more support and cooperation with the Security Council counter-terrorism bodies.

Some views on the format of the meeting of September 4 were also presented, indicating the wish to have an interactive debate to hear from missions and experts from capitals on the steps taken by Member States to implement the Strategy, including best practices.

Two delegations raised the question of the side event on victims of terrorism. In response, at the end of the meeting the Secretariat distributed a document containing information on such event.



*Permanent Mission of Guatemala
to the United Nations*

UN/1.4 /700

June 2, 2008

Excellency,

Reference is made to the letter circulated on May 28 by the President of the General Assembly regarding the General Assembly plenary meeting planned for September 4, 2008 to examine the progress made since the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the General Assembly two years ago (Resolution 60/288).

In my capacity as facilitator for consultations leading up to the aforementioned meeting, I am pleased to inform you of my intention to hold a first informal consultation with Member States on June 13, 2008 from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm., to be held in Conference Room 2. The purpose of this first meeting is to collect views from all Member States regarding the process, as well as the content, scope and format of a possible outcome document for the September plenary.

It is my hope that you will head your delegation in the informal consultation and share with us your thoughts on this matter.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gert Rosenthal'.

Ambassador Gert Rosenthal
Permanent Representative of Guatemala



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