



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 April 2017

Excellency,

In my letter dated 21 April 2017, I informed Member States that I had instructed my office to work with delegations to achieve the broadest possible agreement on the consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the strengthening of the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner as requested in General Assembly resolution 70/291.

I have been informed by my office that those consultations have been fruitful and that a broad agreement has been reached on the elements of a draft resolution on this matter. As of 12.00 p.m. on Monday 1 May 2017, I will consider the attached draft resolution agreed ad ref at which point it will be processed for consideration of its budgetary implications in line with Rule 153 of the General Assembly Rules of Procedure. Thereafter, I intend to table the draft resolution for action by the General Assembly at a forthcoming plenary meeting.

I would like to thank delegations for their constructive engagement with my office on this important matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

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

Seventy-first session

Agenda item 118

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 60/288 of 8 September 2006, 62/272 of 5 September 2008, 64/297 of 8 September 2010, and 66/282 of 29 June 2012, 68/276 of 13 June 2014,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/10 of 18 November 2011,

Recalling its resolution 70/254 of 12 February 2016,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016, and in particular its paragraph 70,

Recognizing the importance of countering-terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and in this regard *stressing* the importance of an integrated and balanced implementation of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy across its four pillars, reaffirming the principal responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy,

Recognizing that due priority shall be given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations System,

Reaffirming that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

1. *Welcomes* the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General *Capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* and decides to establish the Office of Counter-terrorism, in accordance with the competencies and functions set out in the report;
2. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to transfer the current Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office and the United

Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with their existing staff, as well as all associated regular and extra budgetary resources out of the Department of Political Affairs, into the Office of Counter-terrorism,

3. *Recognizes* the important work carried out by the United Nations Counter - Terrorism Centre and emphasizes that the existing contribution agreements and the functions, chairmanship and composition of the Centre's Advisory Board shall be maintained and that the budget and financial resources of the Counter-Terrorism Centre shall only be used for its programme of work;
4. *Emphasises* the need to ensure that the Office for Counter-terrorism, headed by an Under-Secretary General, is provided with adequate capacity and other resources for the implementation of its mandated activities.