



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA, MINISTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

AGENDA ITEM 105: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant UN bodies. Liechtenstein has ratified all 13 universal counter-terrorism treaties and the amendments thereto. We have submitted seven reports to the Security Council's Counter-terrorism Committee, and we continue to support the work of other relevant SC Committees, such as the Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. As a member of the Group of Like-minded Countries, Liechtenstein will continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of terrorism-related sanctions regimes. In this regard, we would like to highlight the crucial role of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost, whose independent advice has led to impressive improvements of the Al Qaida sanctions list. We call upon the Council to further enhance fair and clear procedures, and to apply them to other sanctions regimes as appropriate.

Mr. Chairman

The United Nations stands at the center of our global efforts to combat terrorism. The respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the UN Secretariat are to a

great degree complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Sixth Committee has also made important contributions in the past, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions in the field of counter-terrorism. Particular mention should be made of the 1997 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the 1999 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, and the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

As we begin a new session, we should consider the role of the Sixth Committee in the increasingly crowded field of counter-terrorism. Obviously, the greatest value added we could provide would be by finalizing the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention. In our assessment, this is mainly a question of political will and timing, and not one of further drafting and negotiating. The draft text before us will not get any better. Any attempts to insert major substantive changes will only take us further away from our common denominator. And it is clear that an overwhelming majority of delegations would be in a position to support the Coordinator's compromise proposal. So let us finally seal the deal.

Mr. Chairman

We continue to believe that the Sixth Committee should adapt its consideration of the agenda item "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", so that it fits better within the overall work of the General Assembly on counter-terrorism. Every other year we debate counter-terrorism in the GA plenary as part of the biennial review of the UN Counter-terrorism strategy, and then a few months later we hold what amounts to another general debate on the issue in the Sixth Committee, followed by another ritualistic negotiation of the Sixth Committee resolution. We would therefore like to reiterate our proposal that the Sixth Committee should consider this agenda item on a biennial basis, alternating with the GA plenary's consideration of counter-terrorism. If desired, we could move the biennial strategy review from summer to fall, so that it could benefit from the presence of capital experts who attend the work of the Sixth Committee. In our view, adapting the current duplicative work schedule would improve our output. Let us focus on the quality of our work, rather than its quantity.

I thank you.