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“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

**Statement by Anastasia Carayanides
Minister-Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

on behalf of the CANZ group

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chairman

I have the honour of speaking today on behalf of New Zealand and Canada, as well as Australia, collectively known as ‘CANZ’.

Significant counter-terrorism successes in recent years have not defeated terrorism. Terrorism is a long-term global challenge which demands a consistent, comprehensive and coordinated international response based on common goals, values and institutions. The narrative of terrorist groups, including Al-Qai'da, continues to inspire a loose, geographically diverse and largely independent range of jihadist movements, insurgencies, cells and individuals.

Recent terrorist attacks underline the serious threat posed by terrorists to public safety and security in countries in Africa, the Middle East, South and South East Asia and other parts of the world. I would like, in particular, to extend our deepest condolences to the Governments of Kenya and Pakistan, and all other nations who suffered losses in September's attacks at a shopping centre in Nairobi and on a church in Peshawar. We condemn these senseless acts of violence in the strongest of terms. As we mourn the losses, we are reminded of terrorism's global reach. Unless we work together, we will remain vulnerable to threats, at home and abroad.

Mr Chairman

CANZ continues to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 in elaborating the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. A comprehensive convention would give further concrete expression to our global commitment to combat terrorism, and to enhance international cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and extradition of those who commit terrorist acts. We urge all Member States to redouble their efforts during the intersessional period to resolving the outstanding issues.

CANZ thanks the Secretary-General for his report on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and the many States and international organisations that provided information on their extensive counter-terrorism efforts over the last year. We particularly note with thanks the work of international organisations in providing workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism.

Mr Chairman

CANZ countries are concerned that the subversive reach of terrorism is impacting our communities and radicalising our youth. Using the internet today, people can locate and distribute graphic, violent, extremist material and remain largely invisible to law enforcement and intelligence authorities. Radicalised individuals and groups can then carry out terrorist attacks with little preparation, training or lead-times. Even failed attacks may be considered successful due to their disruptive effects, demonstration of vulnerability and generation of fear and uncertainty.

Individuals are also travelling to conflict zones in the Middle East and elsewhere to train, fight and gain experience. They are returning as radicalised individuals who may plan and conduct terrorist attacks. An effective response to the closely linked issues of violent extremism and foreign fighters requires international cooperation on efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism.

Mr Chairman

CANZ notes with grave concern that terrorist groups continue to develop their sources of financing. Today we are witnessing the rapid growth in kidnap for ransom and hostage-taking as financing and negotiating strategies for terrorist groups. The international community's success in cutting off other sources of funding for terrorist groups has made kidnap for ransom more attractive as a funding source. Today, kidnap for ransom is a significant source of revenue for terrorist groups. Terrorist groups operating in the Sahel, the Philippines, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and other regions are now involved in hostage-taking to collect ransoms. Terrorist groups use ransom payments to fund operations, recruitment and terrorist attacks.

CANZ governments maintain a strict policy of not paying ransoms. We do not want to encourage more kidnappings or finance criminal activity, terrorist acts and armed conflict. CANZ countries are committed to working closely with the international

community to prevent the proliferation of kidnap for ransom, deny terrorists the benefits of kidnap for ransom and bring those responsible to justice.

Mr Chairman

To combat the evolving terrorist threat, CANZ countries are committed to integrated, comprehensive cooperation within the international community. Our efforts must simultaneously address humanitarian, development and security needs. Democratic institutions, security sector reform, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and social and economic development are important factors in preventing and countering conflict and terrorism.

While cooperation between regional organisations and the United Nations system is growing, there is always room for more. CANZ encourages close cooperation and dialogue between the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and related international entities. CANZ supports the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and its focus on strategies to counter violent extremism, including challenging the terrorists' negative narrative and building community resilience. CANZ also supports the important work of the GCTF, in collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, on the management of terrorist detainees in prisons.

Mr Chairman

CANZ countries are active in providing capacity building assistance, including in the development of intelligence and law enforcement capabilities, working with partners in South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Sahel and beyond. We recognize the importance of assisting countries with countering violent extremism programs, which aim to counter the conditions which give rise to extremism and empower civic actors and communities to challenge the terrorist narrative as well as working in our countries to counter violent extremism at home.

Recent terrorist attacks in Kenya and Pakistan underline the need for the international community to work harder and with urgency to address terrorism. We must recognise and address the growing threat posed by kidnap for ransom. We must coordinate our efforts. We must respond to the threat of terrorism with practical and well-targeted initiatives.

Thank you.