



General Assembly Sixth Committee  
7 October 2013  
Item 110:  
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism  
Statement delivered by  
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Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Recent events in Kenya are the most immediate reminder, if any were needed, that terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. And it is a threat to which none of us is immune: many countries lost nationals at the Westgate Shopping Centre.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We must work together, in the framework of the UN Global CT Strategy, to ensure that those responsible are prosecuted and punished.

Countering terrorism remains at the top of the international agenda. The EU has developed its own CT strategy in 2005 which addresses internal and external CT issues. We work hand in hand with the UN to make our counter-terrorism efforts mutually reinforcing. The support in particular to the international efforts for the stability in Somalia and the whole Horn of Africa region is of the utmost importance, as it was underlined during the recent Somalia conference in Brussels on 16 September.

Mr Chairman,

Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains central to the efforts of the EU and its Member States. As the terrorist threat continues to evolve, and manifests itself in different parts

of the world, we must also constantly adapt our response. The upcoming fourth biennial review of the implementation of the Strategy is therefore a good opportunity to update and strengthen the framework for its international implementation combining capacity building with the fullest respect of human rights and the Rule of Law on a sustainable basis.

We stress the importance of respecting the rights of victims of terrorism and call upon Member States and relevant UN entities to promote measures to ensure solidarity and assistance. In this regard, we highlight the important work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

There is also a need for an holistic approach to confronting terrorism. A true multi-layer approach is required that involves all sectors of society. Efforts to stop people becoming terrorists and supporting terrorism, and to counter violent extremism, are crucial. In that respect, and considering that the key objective of the GCTF is to assist in the implementation of the UN Strategy, the EU welcomes the launch during the fourth ministerial meeting of the GCTF, of a new global fund to support local efforts to counter violent extremism.

With regard to the 'foreign fighters' phenomenon, there is a need for greater cooperation among UN Member States and, in particular, for greater share of information and best practices.

Countering the financing of terrorism is a core component of the EU's CT strategy. As terrorists and their supporters constantly modify their ways to raise, move and gain access to funds, we need to adapt instruments and measures to deprive them of the possibility to engage in criminal activity. This includes taking a proactive stance against the increasingly prominent and lucrative concept of conducting kidnaps for ransom payments, and also identifying best practices with the aim of integrally tracking financial flows.

The EU has developed a range of measures that aim at cutting off terrorists' access to funding, and we are committed to the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards. We actively contribute to the work of the Task Force as well as to the implementation of the FATF Recommendations in the EU. In addition, we highlight that relevant UN Resolutions, the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and Council of Europe instruments play an important role in countering terrorist financing.

Mr Chairman,

We are committed to the full implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on counter-terrorism. We continue to support the work of Committees established pursuant to Resolutions 1267/1989, 1373 and 1540 which provide a fundamental framework for international efforts to prevent and fight terrorism and to develop national and regional counter-terrorism capacities.

The EU continues to believe that sanctions are an important tool in the international fight against terrorism and that prompt and effective implementation of relevant sanction measures by all UN Member States is of utmost importance. Regarding targeted sanctions regimes, we acknowledge the importance of the recent case law in the European Court of Justice. We remain convinced that fair and clear procedures and respect for the Rule of Law are necessary to uphold the legitimacy and efficiency of such regimes. In this context, we welcome the significant steps taken by the UNSC to further reinforce fair and clear procedures for UN sanctions, including through enhancing the role of the Office of the AQ Ombudsperson and publishing delisting procedures online, and we commend the work of the Ombudsperson; we welcome in this regard the renewal of the mandate of the Ombudsperson last December with further enhancement to her Office, including its effectiveness and transparency.

Mr Chairman,

The EU has established excellent cooperation with the UN in all its actions in countering the terrorism threat, in particular through a regular specific political dialogue. We will continue to support the activities of CTITF and CTED and, with regard to the latter, the EU is very much looking forward to continue a fruitful cooperation with its new Executive Director, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde.

Mr Chairman,

The EU supports and promotes multilateral and regional CT cooperation. In its cooperation with other countries and regions, the EU has started to develop comprehensive CT strategies, in particular in the Sahel, in the Horn of Africa and Yemen and in Pakistan. These strategies reflect our long-term engagement building on national and regional CT approaches and therefore ensuring ownership and participation. We have been financially supporting CTED, UNODC, CTITF and INTERPOL in this regard, and we will continue to do so.

Finally, we repeat our call for all Member States to ratify and implement all UN counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, which form the legal basis for international efforts to fight terrorism, and we recognize Member States efforts towards making progress on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We also commend the activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC in assisting Member States in their efforts to fight terrorism.

Mr Chairman, let me conclude by stressing that we need to remain united in our efforts to create a strong front against all forms and manifestations of terrorism and violent extremism.

Thank you.