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“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

**Statement by Julia O’Brien
First Secretary
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, together known as ‘CANZ’.

It has been thirteen years since the tragic events of September 11 and the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1373, yet today international terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to global peace and security. One need look no further than the barbarous actions of ISIL and terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida, who threaten to fuel conflict and destabilise some of the most fragile regions of the world. Civilian populations across the world face increasingly ruthless, well-armed and well-resourced terrorist organisations actively encouraging their supporters to commit acts of extreme violence wherever they

may be. These risks are compounded by rising numbers of ‘foreign terrorist fighters’ radicalised extremists returning home with the capacity – and perhaps intention – to commit acts of terror against their fellow citizens at the urging of the movements they’ve trained and fought with overseas. Preventing and responding to this borderless threat, and those that support it, is a global responsibility; a responsibility that demands a consistent, comprehensive and coordinated international response based on common goals.

Mr Chairman

CANZ continues to support the work of the Chair and Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 in elaborating the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We understand that differences remain between delegations, and while these difference relate to a relatively small number of issues, the positions are strongly held. In light of this, CANZ is eager to discuss which mode of consideration – the Working Group, the Ad Hoc Committee or something else – is the most appropriate, effective and efficient way to take this matter forward at future sessions.

Mr Chairman

The recent Security Council debate on Foreign Terrorist Fighters, chaired by President Obama, was a seminal event which focussed the international community’s attention on the broad dimensions of the challenge that foreign terrorist fighters pose to all countries.

CANZ delegations especially welcome the recent adoption of Security Council Resolution 2178, which provides a robust framework for States to use national measures to prevent and suppress the travel, recruitment and organisation of foreign terrorist fighters. We must turn our attention quickly to implementing it in full.

The Resolution also reinforces what most of us know – that Countering Violent Extremism is an essential element of an effective response. CANZ members are committed to working with our regional and international partners to combat the radicalisation of those at risk - including young, vulnerable people - to address the

foreign terrorist fighter threat. Our common approach is to work with communities, religious leaders, youth, and front-line professionals who are best placed to support individuals to disengage them from violence.

Resolution 2178 also requires Member States to have serious criminal offences in relation to those who travel overseas to participate in international terrorism, as well as those who provide financial assistance to those who travel, and those who organise, facilitate or recruit foreign terrorist fighters.

This requires enhanced cooperation and information exchange between our relevant domestic agencies to break the networks of fundraising, recruitment and travel. It also requires further cooperation to build relevant domestic capacities, particularly for those states most affected by this phenomenon.

Mr Chairman

The Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) is proving to be an important mechanism to complement the work of the UN by assisting states to meet these threats. The GCTF Hague-Marrakesh Memorandum, for example provides a comprehensive set of good practices to address the Foreign Terrorist Fighter phenomenon. These are much needed practical recommendations to help inform and guide States as they implement their new international obligations.

CANZ also urges States to take advantage of the other important work undertaken by the GCTF, including the Algiers Memorandum on ‘Good Practices in Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists’, and other framework documents and good practice guides on criminal justice, prisons, providing support to victims of terrorism, and community-oriented policing.

At least \$125 million in ransom has been paid to Al-Qaida-affiliated groups in the last five years. We must do more to stop this practice. It is being used to finance terrorism; it encourages further kidnappings; and ultimately undermines all our hard work to degrade these terrorist organisations.

Mr Chairman

Member States must act decisively to prevent terrorists' access to necessary funding and resources. The international community has established the means to suppress the financing of terrorism, including the measures in UNSC Resolution 1373 and the UNSC Al-Qaida sanctions regime. The effectiveness of these measures, however, depends on the commitment and capacity of Member States to implement them.

The Al-Qaida sanctions regime is a tool for all States to use in order to undermine the activities of individuals and entities linked to Al-Qaida. The listing of 14 individuals and 2 entities on 23 September demonstrates how the regime can also be used to tackle new and emerging threats, such as those posed by ISIL and those who recruit and facilitate foreign terrorist fighters.

In closing, Mr Chairman, allow me to reiterate our delegations' commitment to take decisive action to address the scourge of terrorism at home and wherever it may arise, and to work with all other delegations to promote cooperation so we can eliminate this threat once and for all.

Thank you.