



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

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

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. Chairman

A little bit over three months ago, the General Assembly debated the issue of counter-terrorism in the context of the biennial Strategy Review. During that recent debate, my delegation held a comprehensive statement on counter-terrorism, as did many others. To avoid duplication, I will therefore only address a few specific points on recent developments as well as on the work of the Sixth Committee:

- Liechtenstein was among the cosponsors of the recent UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) on **foreign terrorist fighters**. We believe that the measures decided therein are pertinent and necessary to reign in this phenomenon. We hope that the resolution will be fully implemented by all concerned. At the same time, we would have wished for a stronger and more detailed emphasis in the resolution on the need to **respect fundamental human rights, and in particular due process rights**. There is a real risk that the measures could be interpreted too broadly or otherwise used as a pretext for repressive action.

- The surge of cross-boundary terrorist activity should, at least in principle, boost the practical relevance of the various international conventions dealing with terrorist crimes. After all, one of their main purposes is to promote and facilitate cooperation between multiple jurisdictions. Many of these conventions require the State of nationality to establish jurisdiction over terrorist offenses committed by their nationals abroad. We have made great progress in promoting the universality of these treaties. Now would be a good time to start **taking stock of the actual impact of these conventions and the extent of their practical application**. Ideally, such a mapping exercise would be done by independent experts under the auspices of UNODC.
- Recent events should also motivate us to finally conclude our work on a **general convention on counter-terrorism**, which would fill the gaps between the various sectoral conventions. We have an excellent compromise proposal on the table that, after years of explanations, does not require to be explained again. It must be acted upon.
- Finally, I would like to reiterate our proposal that we should better align our work in the Sixth Committee with the plenary consideration of the Counter-terrorism Strategy. There is no need for us to have a general debate on the issue twice within a few months. Ideally, the **plenary consideration of the Strategy would take place biennially during the fall session** and replace the Sixth Committee debate and resolution on essentially the same topic. This would not necessarily affect our work in the Working Group or the Ad-hoc Committee, which deal with more specific issues and could still be held – as long as they are productive.

I thank you.