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# UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,  
SIXTY-NINTH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 108,  
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM  
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Check against delivery

Mr Chairman, I note the Secretary-General's report and welcome the successful completion of the Fourth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June of this year.

I would also like to align myself with the statement by the European Union.

As the Secretary-General has previously noted, the international community's response to terrorism must remain anchored upon preventative measures, respect for human rights, respect for the rule of law, and preventative measures. Countering violent extremism and supporting economic and social development are key elements of this. Let us remember that it is those who live in the face of political instability, conflict and economic strife who are most affected by the scourge of terrorism.

We must also remember that the international terrorist threat continues to evolve. Since June we have seen an alarming increase in the threat from ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant). The impact has been most severe in Iraq and Syria, whose people have borne witness to numerous atrocities. We have also witnessed the brutal murder of two American journalists and two British aid workers, almost certainly by a foreign terrorist fighter from the United Kingdom. This is stark evidence that ISIL and organisations such as the Al-Nusra Front (ANF) are recruiting new fighters from all over the world and, with that, the potential is increasing that it will seek to carry out atrocities all over the world. The international community must be agile, responsive and collaborative in the face of this threat.

We need the strongest possible international focus on tackling the poisonous ideologies of violent extremism spread by groups such as ISIL, ANF and their like. This is why my Prime Minister has called for a new United Nations Special Representative on extremism.

The international community must also remain focused on disruptive measures.

Firstly, there is disrupting the financing of terrorist groups. ISIL is sitting on extensive assets, yet it also relies heavily on income generation. UNSCR 2170 made clear that direct and indirect trade with ISIL, the ANF or other Al-Qaida groups constitutes financial support. The international community must work in concert to disrupt this income where possible – suppressing the market for stolen oil, tackling the illicit trade in antiquities, and sanctioning those who trade with such groups and raise funds for them.

Ransoms from kidnappings are also a significant source of finance for ISIL and many terrorist groups. There is a vicious cycle whereby ransom payments strengthen terrorist groups and incentivise future incidents of kidnappings. This needs to be broken.

Secondly, the international community must disrupt the unprecedented number of individuals travelling to conflict zones, such as Syria, to fight with terrorist groups. In the face of this threat UNSCR 2178 is particularly pertinent. It was sponsored by an overwhelming majority of UN members and urges States to disrupt travel by Foreign Terrorist Fighters and to prosecute and rehabilitate them on return. Simultaneously it recognises the impact of violent extremism and draws attention to the need to prevent the radicalisation of potential Foreign Terrorist Fighters and rehabilitate those who have travelled on return.

Mr Chairman, I conclude by noting that the United Nations system and instruments continue to have an important role to play in the face of these, and indeed all, terrorist threats. In order to fulfil that role, the United Nations' entities must coordinate and share information. There are excellent resources to draw upon: the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate is a centre of analytical expertise and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task-Force is a centre of capacity-building expertise. If these centres agree common priorities and action plans, the United Nations entities have the potential to deliver truly impactful support to the regions and countries most vulnerable to the threat of terrorism.

Mr Chairman, I thank you.