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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTIETH SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 108
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to begin by aligning this statement with the statement of the European Union and its Member States on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

The United Kingdom welcomes the international focus on countering violent extremism during the 70th UN General Assembly and the momentum created by White House Summit process, especially in the context of the international fight against ISIL. While emphasising the need for inclusive political settlements in both Syria and Iraq, we encourage support for the Global Coalition to counter ISIL in Syria and Iraq and our work with partners to contain ISIL's spread.

Recalling the remarks by the United Kingdom Prime Minister at the General Assembly Leaders Summit, our collective international efforts to counter violent extremism must go further; to consider the extremist ideologies that lie behind violent extremism.

We must recognise the "life-cycle of radicalisation", addressing both the drivers and the symptoms of violent extremism. We must counter poisonous extremist propaganda before it takes root; promote mainstream voices and build more integrated societies so that young people feel they truly belong.

The United Kingdom asserts that a comprehensive counter terrorism and counter violent extremism strategy requires a whole of government approach, involving police, prosecutors, mental health and social services, and the education sector. It also requires a whole of society approach: partnerships of families and communities who will expose the hateful beliefs of extremists and deny them the space in which they can operate; and private sector partnerships, including with internet service providers who can - in accordance with their own independent regulations - reduce online material which incites terrorism.

We encourage fellow Member States to take specific domestic measures to confront violent extremism, adopting a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach as best practice.

Internationally, we call on the UN to lead a robust international response to the increased threat from violent extremism. This response must include a powerful counter-narrative to extremist ideology and propaganda. It must include efforts to increase our understanding of what drives radicalisation, while building up the evidence base of 'what works' through capacity-building interventions. It should address the root causes of extremism, including through conflict resolution and stabilisation activity across the Middle East and Africa.

We look forward to the launch of the UN Secretary General's Preventing Violent Extremism Action Plan and hope that it will be both ambitious and seek to mobilise a whole-of-UN approach to counter violent extremism,

including counter terrorism, security, law enforcement and humanitarian Agencies and Funds. This is not about securitisation of aid. It is about adapting to the strategic drivers that create instability and frustrate development. It is about mutually reinforcing objectives and complementary interventions, so that counter violent extremism programmes help to build the blocks for peaceful and stable societies.

Finally, as Member States turn the Sustainable Development Goals into action, we note the particular relevance of Goal 16, and encourage international partners to view these two generational challenges as mutually reinforcing. In advance of the launch of the Preventing Violent Extremism Action Plan, we have an opportunity formally to recognise this interconnectedness. As UN Member States, it is our duty to demonstrate that we can defeat violent extremism with robust measures that respect the fundamental values and peace-building goals which unite us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.