

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
under a.i. 108 “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”  
to be delivered by Mr. Oleksiy Shapoval  
at the third meeting of the UNGA Sixth Committee  
13 October 2015  
United Nations, New York**

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**Mr. President,**

Let me begin by expressing our strong solidarity with the Government and people of Turkey as they grieve for the victims of the horrific terrorist attacks committed on 10 October in Ankara. We offer our deepest sympathy to those who lost their relatives and loved ones. Our thoughts remain with those injured in this senseless violence.

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine fully aligns itself with the statement by the Delegation of the European Union and would like to make an intervention in its national capacity.

We condemn international terrorism unreservedly in all its forms and manifestations and share the approach addressing this challenge globally on the basis of criminal justice and the rule of law while protecting human rights. Ukraine has become a party to all United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. We urge all Member States that have not done so to consider this matter without delay.

Ukraine is closely engaged with many international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Financial Action Task Force, as well as the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM). Ukraine has taken a leading role in efforts aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism and promoting non-proliferation by implementing its pledge to eliminate its national stocks of highly enriched uranium.

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine supports the central role of the United Nations in the global efforts to suppress international terrorism as well as to promote international cooperation in this field. Our joint efforts in the framework of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be redoubled as it continues to be central to address the evolving trends of international terrorism.

ISIL, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Al Shabaab and others is not just a regional threat but a global challenge. Our country strongly condemns the crimes and acts of mass violence that ISIL is committing against civilians, including the most vulnerable minorities, in particular in Syria and Iraq. We commend the international coalition's efforts towards the complete removal of the terrorist threats from the region.

At the same time combatting activities of individual terrorists and terrorist groups is insufficient if the problem of sponsor states is not properly addressed. This is true in the cases of both the Middle East and the Donbas region of Ukraine.

**Mr. President,**

International terrorism has proven to have better flexibility than the political will of nations. It is taking hybrid forms; State and non-state actors have become interlinked.

Terrorist groups claim their criminal acts are in the name of 'national self-determination', resistance to 'oppressive political regimes' or struggle for one's rights. Any justification or motivation of terrorism, especially through twisting and arbitrarily interpreting the UN Charter and fundamental principles enshrined therein, first and foremost the right to self-determination and state sovereignty and territorial integrity, is completely wrongful and unacceptable.

The foreign terrorist fighters' phenomenon is posing a serious challenge to the fight against terrorism worldwide. It dramatically increases the intensity and duration of conflicts. This threat requires a comprehensive approach taking into account the factors underlying this phenomenon. Ukraine stands ready to contribute to the global and regional efforts aimed at addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. We are speaking from our own bitter experience as foreign militants and terrorists backed by a foreign country are currently present in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

**Mr. President,**

The need for a universal international instrument able to counteract this crime in a comprehensive and consistent manner is not only urgent but long overdue. The negotiation process on the draft UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism should be kept high on the agenda and become one of the top priorities for this seventieth session of the General Assembly.

The role of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court in the fight against international terrorism should be increased as the broad scope of their jurisdiction can considerably contribute to overcoming the impunity of the perpetrators and instigators of acts of terrorism, including certain political leaders who have taken to instigating, supporting and financing acts of terrorism in pursuance of their ill-motivated ambitions and narrow political interests.

One of Ukraine's neighbors has blatantly violated its international obligations. Acting through various State institutions, including secret service and army, as well as other entities under its direct control, this country has been sponsoring terrorism in Ukraine. Its unlawful actions have already led to the occupation of Crimea and certain parts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, and clearly shown that terrorism can be used for the purposes of hidden aggression and hybrid wars against sovereign States. Ukraine calls on the international community to continue to take decisive actions against State or State-sponsored terrorism targeting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent States.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, Ukraine strongly believes that one of the most important facets in countering international terrorism is to commemorate the memory of its victims. Without remembering the lessons of the past and educating about them the generations to come the mankind will be doomed to repeat the dark chapters of its history.

In this light, Ukraine has put forward an initiative of the establishment of the International Day of Commemoration of Terrorist Acts Victims' Memory. We hope that this idea will enjoy a broad support of the UN Member States and constitute a meaningful contribution to the prevention of and fight against international terrorism.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**