

**UN General Assembly Sixth Committee  
Counter-Terrorism Statement on Behalf of CANZ**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour of speaking today on behalf of New Zealand and Australia, as well as Canada.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We are reminded far too often that while our capacity to counter threats on all fronts has increased significantly since these attacks, tragically, the threat of terrorism persists and evolves.

Today, violent extremist groups such as Daesh as others inspired by extremist ideologies pose serious threats to international peace and security. While the international community has made real progress in combating Daesh, the persistence of this group and its continued ability to attract supporters underscores the ongoing need for the international community to advance our counter terrorism efforts - in particular, to do more to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism.

Mr. Chairman,

CANZ countries are strongly committed to the fight against international terrorism in all its forms and are firm supporters of the United Nations' involvement on this issue. We commend, in particular, the leadership of Secretary-General Ban in elaborating his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism

This past June, the General Assembly conducted its fifth biennial review of the 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. All UN Members states reaffirmed that the Strategy's four pillar approach is fundamentally sound and that an effective response to terrorism must be global in scope.

This year's review also marked an important step through its recognition of the need to ensure balance amongst the four pillars of the Strategy -- notably through its recommendations that Member States take up the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

However, CANZ countries were among those who were disappointed that the debate at the review proved so divisive and that recognizing the importance of taking action to address the spread of violent extremism proved so difficult. We would have wished to see stronger language in promoting the role and rights of women and youth in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Let me emphasize that it is our countries' firm conviction and experience that violent extremism is not particular to any specific religion, nationality, culture or ethnic group, or other factor. Manifestations of violent extremism occur across all cultures and regions. And there can never be any excuse or justification for any act of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

CANZ countries commend the Member States that have taken steps in the past year to ratify and implement the various instruments dealing with terrorism and we urge all States to demonstrate their commitment by becoming a party to existing counter-terrorism instruments.

At the same time, it is unfortunate that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism continues to elude the international community.

Effective action at the global level requires strong leadership, both from Member States and from the UN as an institution. We look forward to having the new Secretary-General examine proposals for changes to the UN's architecture on CT issues, as called for in the Strategy review resolution. Effective global action also means leveraging our regional and other institutions to move forward with solutions tailored to local contexts.

That being the case, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of coordinating our efforts, both within the UN and elsewhere, to make it absolutely clear that we stand united in the fight against international terrorism.

We note in this regard the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), which held its Seventh Ministerial Plenary Meeting in September. Together, CANZ countries have helped develop comprehensive and robust international responses to terrorism through this important forum.

We are also gratified with the recent unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2309 on Terrorist Threats to Civil Aviation which sends a strong political message about the resolve of member states to prioritize efforts in aviation security and complements other UN Security Council Resolutions that address counter-terrorism efforts. The resolution underscores the fact that the international community needs enhanced collaboration including through the International Civil Aviation Organization and UN Counter Terrorism bodies in order to address the threats, risks and vulnerability to terrorist attacks against civil aviation.

Mr. Chairman,

CANZ countries will continue playing an active role in planning, developing and implementing approaches that can address the poison of violent extremist ideology, counter its narratives, and strengthen the capacity of the global community to respond to terrorist threats. These measures must be undertaken collectively and in the fullest respect of international law to ensure their effectiveness and legitimacy.

In this context, we remain mindful of states' continuing obligations under Security Council Resolution 1373 to suppress the financing of terrorism and Security Council Resolution 2178 on recruitment and travel of foreign terrorist fighters. These resolutions continue to provide a framework for the international community to ensure that terrorists are held to account. We must all remain vigilant in ensuring that our respective domestic laws have serious criminal offences that enable the prosecution of those who participate in terrorism wherever they may be.

CANZ countries are committed to working with other Member States at and with the United Nations to fight the scourge of international terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.