



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ICELAND TO THE UN

**Statement by  
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**GA71 / Item 108 – Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism  
Sixth Committee**

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Mr. Chair

As this is the first time I take the floor in this Committee, allow me to join others in congratulating you and the members of the bureau on your election. My delegation assures you of our full cooperation and support for the work of the Committee.

Terrorism continues to be a grave threat to international peace and security. Vicious terrorist attacks around the world remind us all too frequently of the scale and relevance of our work on this topic. All our societies potentially harbor individuals who instigate and nurture extremism that can be fuelled into violence and terrorism. Drivers of such extremism are of all sorts, where both internal and external factors come into play. No country is left untouched and it is our common responsibility to address these issues firmly and in unity.

It is therefore significant that the Member States by consensus adopted the fifth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in July this year. The review brought about substantial development in response to the ever-changing challenges we face. Increased focus on women and youth, criminal justice and cooperation, recruitment strategies and particular methods of financing are a few examples of important updates in this regard.

This review particularly focused on the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Resolution A/70/291 includes recommendations regarding the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, an important vision that now needs national, regional and global implementation. My delegation would like to use this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his leadership on this issue and encourage his successor to carry the vision out by its implementation throughout the UN-system.

Mr. Chair

Iceland condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We further attach great importance to ensuring that all counter-terrorism measures are in line with international law, including international human rights instruments. Rule of law is the very foundation of our society and key to all international relations. My delegation is therefore of the firm belief, that measures to eliminate terrorism will never succeed if we entertain the illusion of increased security at the cost of our liberties and human rights. We must all lead by example in our national and regional capacity. Of equal importance, the UN must lead by example by strict adherence to these principles in all its organs, agencies and missions around the world.

Iceland believes in a strong multilateral system and commends all relevant UN entities for their hard work in this field. We nonetheless believe that there is room for improvement when it comes to coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts at the UN. My delegation therefore looks forward to concrete suggestions in this regard from the Secretary-General, by May 2017, as requested by the Member States in their fifth Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review. We further await the important discussion on this topic among the whole membership during the current session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chair

The global scale of the terrorist threat calls for unified action. Widespread ratification and implementation of universal and regional treaties relating to various aspects of terrorism are a testament to our common commitment to denying safe havens to terrorist groups. However, efforts to show such commitment with a comprehensive convention on international terrorism have not yet succeeded. My delegation is of the view that such a convention would strengthen our shared endeavor to eliminate terrorism, while fully upholding international law. As importantly, it would send a strong signal of unity and leadership of the UN in responding to this global challenge. We therefore encourage further efforts to bridge different positions on this important matter.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.