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Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Agenda Item 109)

**Sixth Committee: Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and
New Zealand (CANZ)**

2 October 2017

Statement by Dr Carrie McDougall, Legal Adviser

(Check against delivery)

Mr Chair,

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

Despite our collective efforts, the threat posed by violent extremist groups and ideologies continues to evolve. Real progress has been made in combatting Daesh in Iraq and Syria but sustained commitment will be needed. Over the past year, we have seen Daesh expanding its influence in Southeast Asia, with the siege of Marawi city in the Southern Philippines. Around the world, we have seen a rise in individuals willing to undertake low-sophistication attacks on home soil, and we remain concerned about the travel of foreign terrorist fighters.

Under the auspices of the UN, we have set valuable international norms and adopted legal instruments to combat international terrorism.

CANZ countries continue to support the finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. But in the absence of agreement on a draft text, the focus should be on implementing existing counter-terrorism conventions and relevant Security Council resolutions. We urge Member States to accede to these conventions and implement their obligations into domestic law. We must also continue to work to strengthen law enforcement and international crime cooperation so that our international responses are effective and coordinated.

UN sanctions regimes are another vital enforcement tool, particularly in disrupting sources of terrorist financing. We need to ensure that our domestic criminal laws are able to hold to account those who commit terrorist acts, in line with Security Council Resolution 1373 on terrorist financing and Resolution 2178 on the recruitment and travel of foreign terrorist fighters. We welcome the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2322 on international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in countering terrorism, which highlights the importance of Member States to exchanging information, and investigating and prosecuting terrorist acts.

Daesh's continued ability to attract supporters underscores the need for the international community to strengthen efforts to counter violent extremist messages.

CANZ countries firmly support the UN's role on counter-terrorism, and the implementation of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We look forward to working with the new Under Secretary-General for the Office of Counter Terrorism, Mr Vladimir Voronkov.

We have found counter-terrorism partnerships a valuable way to develop comprehensive responses and share best practices. We commend the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in developing guidance to prevent extremism online, and protect soft targets.

Community groups and civil society organisations have a critical role to play in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. CANZ countries have worked with local partners in Bangladesh, Mali, Nigeria, Kenya and Kosovo to strengthen community resilience and address drivers of violent extremism, through the Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund.

Mr Chair,

CANZ countries remain committed to working closely with other Member States to develop international responses to terrorism that are coordinated and effective. We must continue to counter extremist messaging, and, in doing so, we must ensure all actions taken comply with the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law and other obligations under international law, as applicable.