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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTY FIRST SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 109
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I first wish to align myself with the statement made by the European Union.

The United Kingdom wishes to highlight three further issues.

First, to draw the attention of all UN members to a new partnership with industry to counter terrorist use of the internet.

The announcement by Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter of a new Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism earlier this year was a game changer.

It marks a stepping up of industry efforts to address the potential exploitation of their services by terrorists to incite, recruit or fund-raise online, while respecting vital freedoms. It includes a strong dialogue with governments.

Prime Minister Theresa May, together with her counterparts from France and Italy, hosted the UN's first high-level event with these companies on 21 September. I wish to thank all states who attended.

The co-chairs' statement from that event, containing commitments and targets with industry for addressing terrorism online, has now been published. I urge members to review it.

We also encourage members to consider how they might engage this industry forum, including through new and existing regional mechanisms, to help turn these commitments into a reality.

Second, the UN faces a pivotal moment in the advancement of the preventing violent extremism agenda.

We wish to thank the many states in this room that have joined the United Kingdom in pushing for a UN approach to counter terrorism that puts prevention at its core.

The historic creation of the Office of Counter Terrorism, with Preventing Violent Extremism in its mandate, is a huge milestone.

Just last week, the Security Council welcomed the new Under-Secretary General for Counter Terrorism to its chamber for the first time. He told the Council that PVE was the 2nd most-common counter terrorism issue raised by heads of government at this year's UNGA, highlighting the strong demand from states for action.

These developments have created a strong foundation. Now it is time to implement, drawing on the UN's unique resources to support states.

The United Kingdom has funded several UN projects on PVE, in peacekeeping and strategic communications respectively, and will shortly instigate more. We urge states to join us.

Finally, the global mission to raise aviation security standards must continue. The past year has sadly illustrated that terrorist plots to bring down aircraft continue.

It has been one year since the land-mark UN Security Council resolution on this topic, and since then work in the International Civil Aviation Organisation and elsewhere has intensified.

We encourage states to continue to implement new measures to improve aviation security, to protect this lifeline of the global economy.

Thank you,

(436 words)