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Hungarian National Statement
on
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Intervention by
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- Mr President, Dear Colleagues!
- It is my honor to speak on behalf of Hungary. While we align ourselves with the Statement of the European Union, I wish to make a few observations in my national capacity.
- Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism was already taking place within an increasingly complex geopolitical environment. The COVID-19 pandemic, which was qualified by the UN Secretary General as “the most challenging crisis we have faced since the Second World War”, has imposed on Member States additional, multifaceted, and constantly evolving challenges that have affected almost every area of policy and practice.
- Additional challenges arising from pandemic-related social isolation and rising political and economic pressures could exacerbate existing grievances, undermine counter-terrorism measures and heighten terrorist threats especially in conflict zones where terrorism is most prevalent and where preexisting issues of lack of governance, unrest, and gaps in institutional capacity continue to hinder efforts to advance efficient response.
- In our view, the implementation of effective measures against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism is primarily a national responsibility, but the importance of international and regional cooperation has become obvious again despite the current challenging circumstances.
- Over the course of a year a lot can change, and the growing online presence of terrorists has become an even bigger security threat than it was before. Preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism online has been a strategic goal for all of us for many years, but the effects of COVID-19 opened new virtual platforms for terrorists and terrorist groups. But in spite of the elevated online threat level, terrorism still manifests itself in the real world causing tremendous suffering. This became clear again in Europe as the result of the terrorist attacks perpetrated in Paris, Nice and Vienna last October and November.
- Despite the enormous public health and economic challenges posed by COVID-19, Hungary continues to allocate adequate resources to safeguard its security, adapt to new challenges and protect itself against old ones. Besides being capable of protecting itself, fostering and strengthening international and regional cooperation against terrorism and violent extremism is still high on the agenda of the Hungarian Government, as it is one of the cornerstones of our foreign and security policy.
- Hungary’s overarching goal is to find viable solutions to address the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism. As a consequence, Hungary is present in international stabilization efforts, including numerous military missions, in the UN, EU, NATO and OSCE. Hungary is also an active member of the Global Coalition to defeat ISIS/Da’esh. Having understood the growing threat posed by the online presence of terrorist and violent extremist groups and their use of social media, Hungary joined the Christchurch Call in September 2019.
- Hungary also launched a comprehensive program called Hungary Helps having spent more than 43 million USD to provide direct humanitarian and development assistance to more than 70 000 people in the Middle East and Africa. Through this initiative, our country contributes significantly to local stabilization efforts in conflict-affected areas. Local stability will

undoubtedly play an important role in reducing illegal migration flows to Europe, thereby decreasing the amount of certain foreseeable risks threatening Hungary and Europe.

- Besides these efforts, Hungary is ready to support initiatives aimed at tackling the aforementioned challenges through understanding their ideological roots and finding practical solutions. Hungary was honored to co-host one of the high-level regional conferences leading up to the II. Counter-Terrorism Week of the UN in Budapest in November 2019. The event brought together over 200 participants from 61 Member States as well as other international, regional and civil society organizations to examine strategies addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism. The conference had a special focus on the Western Balkans, our immediate neighborhood facing many security challenges nowadays. The stability and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans is a strategic priority for the Hungarian government, and we do our utmost to contribute to this meaningful goal.
- As an essential part of our multilateral efforts, Hungary is also proud to host a Regional Program Support Office of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in Budapest, which is capable of offering significant contributions to the regional and global fight against terrorism. Understanding the importance of these offices, we were glad to financially support the establishment of the UNOCT Program Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa in Rabat. UNOCT is a hugely important global actor in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, therefore the financing of its activities needs to be put on a more solid footing than before. It is also a source of pride that the seventh review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy specifically names Hungary among the host countries of the regional offices of UNOCT.
- Finally yet importantly, let me thank Spain and Oman for their efforts in co-facilitating the 7th biannual review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a document of strategic importance. Both Member States have done an enormous and excellent job in coordinating the UN-wide work to adopt the respective General Assembly resolution by consensus. In our assessment, this document reflects well the current terrorism-related challenges the international community needs to face and tackle. Terrorism is both a local and global challenge, and upholding the spirit of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy and fostering international cooperation is going to greatly help us all in confronting a common enemy. Last, but not least I can assure you all that you can count on Hungary's steadfast commitment to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, which are one of the most complex security challenges of our time.
- I thank you Mr President.