

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the UN GA Sixth Committee meeting under agenda item 114 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

Madame Chair,

Since this is the first time that Ukrainian delegation takes the floor under your Chairmanship, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on the assumption of this position and wish every success in your work.

Terrorism remains one of the major contemporary challenges to international peace and security, threatening core values and principles of our societies, including human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equal opportunities and freedom. It is becoming more sophisticated and multifaceted in its nature.

Throughout the decades the international community has been exposed to the constantly evolving terrorism threat. ISIL/Da'esh, Al-Qaida, Taliban, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and other groups have grown from being regional menace to global threats to international peace and security.

Regrettably, up to date, unceasing terrorist attacks in different parts of the world are still causing huge number of deaths and casualties, increase number of displaced people, wreak havoc and fear in our societies. We are affected by more sophisticated and circumvented methods and tactics by terrorists, their mentors and sponsors are becoming crueler and more ambitious.

Ukraine recognizes the important role of the UN in the global efforts to suppress international terrorism and to promote international cooperation in this field. Setting of international norms through the adoption of international legal instruments should remain priority of the United Nations' efforts in consolidating the international community in combating terrorism.

During the past decades a number of important achievements were made with a view to advance new counter-terrorism standards as well as to further amplify international response to both existing and emerging terrorist threats. The momentum was taken to focus additionally and to introduce more specific and focused approach in the areas of combating financing of terrorism, depriving terrorists of weapons supplies, preventing violent extremism etc.

The UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy (GCTS) remains a milestone framework for the Member States to follow in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, including its emerging manifestations. Ukraine welcomes the consensus adoption of UN General Assembly resolution on the Seventh Review of the GCTS, which, inter alia, reconfirms respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, focuses on tackling the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism as well as strengthening states' capacity to counter this phenomenon.

Ukraine remains fully committed to fighting against terrorism and violent extremism. In this regard, we are proud to be among contributors in advancing the fight against terrorism. On our initiative the Council adopted resolution 2341 (2017), the first ever resolution on protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks.

Madame Chair,

On August 21st the world marked International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism and on September 11th the 20th anniversary of the horrific attacks in the United States of America, which claimed lives of almost three thousands of people.

Ukraine, as a co-sponsor of the UN General Assembly resolution 72/165, as well as a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism remains in solidarity with victims of terrorism and continues to advocate full and comprehensive respect of their human rights and freedoms as well as their recovery and resilience.

Their voices are heard. No life fallen to the acts of terrorism is forgotten. All perpetrators, organizers, mentors and sponsors of reprehensible acts of terrorism, whoever they might be, must be brought to justice.

Madame Chair,

Unfortunately, some countries have integrated terrorism into their state policy that consequently has already led to flagrant violations of international law. Attempted annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the ongoing armed conflict in the Donbas region and related occupation of Ukrainian sovereign territory by Russia have already caused irreparable damage to the Ukrainian people, including thousands of civilian casualties and nearly two million internally displaced persons.

The Russian Federation, using terrorism as one of the tools of its hybrid aggression against Ukraine, has violated most of fundamental obligations under CT related international conventions and SC resolutions.

First, obligation to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists – Russia failed to comply by creating puppet terrorist organizations of the DPR and LPR, allowing its nationals, left-wing political parties and even state organs to make funds, financial assets and services available for the benefit of terrorists. What would normally be qualified as a serious crime under the Russian legislation, prompting full-scale responses of Russian authorities, remains unnoticed by them;

Second, obligation to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists - blatantly failed by purposefully transferring conventional arms, small arms and light weapons and ammunition to the east of Ukraine through the uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian state border. These military assets are delivered either openly, or under the guise of so-called “humanitarian convoys”.

Third, obligation to suppress recruitment of FTFs and their movement – flagrantly failed by facilitating the process of Russian and foreign citizens’ enrolment into terrorist ranks, their training in camps located in various regions of Russia, their unimpeded travel to Ukraine and return to Russia. It is evident that this country, possessing powerful law enforcement machine, deliberately makes no effort to stop the inflow of fighters into the occupied areas of Ukraine and encourages instead manpower recruitment and transfer into the territory of Ukraine through state-controlled channels;

Fourth, obligation to prohibit terrorist incitement – ostentatiously failed by launching a massive media campaign to whitewash the image of terrorists, who, together with the Russian military, continue to intimidate and kill local population in Donbas, and destroy what’s left of its infrastructure.

To conclude, Madame Chair, combatting activities of individual terrorists and terrorist groups will not be sufficient if the problem of state-sponsored terrorism is not addressed in a robust and comprehensive way.

I thank you.