



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

**Statement at the 79th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 110: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
Dorothy Patton, Attorney-Adviser
United States Mission to the United Nations
October 2, 2024**

Thank you, Chair.

The United Nations has long recognized terrorism as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Each and every terrorist attack causes catastrophic damage to victims, families, communities, nations, and the world at large. The United States recognizes and expresses its deepest sympathies to victims of terrorism in the past year alone in Israel, Mali, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, and sadly more. We come here today to express our ongoing commitment to working together to pursue measures to eliminate international terrorism.

The United Nations plays a critical role in the global efforts to counter terrorism, including through strengthening the capacity of Member States to prevent and counter terrorism. The United States is proud to provide donor support to UNOCT and other UN Global CT Compact Entities. We support a full range of counterterrorism assistance to help Member States implement their global obligations, including through our support of the Global Counter Terrorist Travel Program for which we just signed a memorandum of understanding during UNGA High Level Week. Reflecting on the current terrorism landscape, it is critical that we remain engaged to address evolving terrorist threats and tactics, including the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. As we mark the tenth anniversary of adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 that criminalized the travel, financing, and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, we urge all countries to take the necessary steps to repatriate, rehabilitate, reintegrate, and, where appropriate, prosecute their nationals.

We should also rigorously prevent and counter the threat posed by Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists, or “REMVEs.” REMVE actors target religious and racial minorities, immigrants, women and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and other perceived enemies. The REMVE threat has rapidly grown due to transnational and online connections.

In that vein, it is of utmost importance that we collaborate, along with civil society and the private sector, to address the use of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. We should utilize innovative ways to address these threats and to build community resilience to facilitate people’s ability to recognize terrorist narratives for what they are – misleading and

dangerous. We should also prioritize monitoring and evaluation to strengthen our collective evidence-based efforts and ensure meaningful and sustainable impact.

It is critical that all efforts to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism respect human rights, including freedoms of expression and religion or belief, and the rule-of-law. In fact, efforts to stifle fundamental freedoms under the guise of counterterrorism are counterproductive and can even provide fuel for terrorist narratives. The international community must recommit to multilateral efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, utilizing whole-of-society approaches that incorporate a broad range of actors.

Concerning a “Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism,” we will listen carefully to delegates’ statements. However, it is critical that the United Nations send united, unambiguous signals when it comes to terrorism; otherwise, we risk some of the progress that we have made.

To close, the United States reiterates its firm condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and reiterates its commitment to work with the international community to counter terrorism and violent extremism.