

## **Sixth Committee – UNGA 80th session: Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

### **Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ) – delivered by Tim Witten-Sage, Legal Adviser**

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

We continue to underscore our concern with rising terrorism and violent extremism globally and reiterate our full condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism. Canada, Australia and New Zealand remain committed to the fight against international terrorism and support the United Nations' role in addressing this shared challenge.

The terrorism landscape continues to evolve in complex and challenging ways – something as apparent in our countries' own regions, as it is globally.

Terrorist groups continue their efforts to undermine the security and stability of our communities. We are faced with an ever-changing spectrum of diverse ideologies and grievances. Malign actors, who would seek to exploit societal vulnerabilities, are finding new ways to recruit and radicalise, including online radicalisation. They seek to exploit the vulnerable, and more increasingly youth, to tragic effect.

We underscore the importance of implementing and enforcing policies that meaningfully address the proliferation of terrorist and violent extremist content. We must also endeavour to create the means for technical capabilities to be developed, tested, updated, and shared across industry. By sharing best practice internationally, we can all combat violent extremism content.

Violent extremism and terrorism remain pernicious and multi-faceted threats to our regions, our partners and ourselves. In recent years, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have experienced terrorist attacks that sought to bring division and discord to our societies. Tragic events such as these remind us of the importance of diplomacy and collaboration in global fora.

Our countries remain committed to working with all Member States to develop coordinated and effective measures to counter terrorism and all forms of violent extremism. We urge all Member States to ensure that our actions taken to counter terrorism are underpinned by the rule of law and

comply with international law, so as to further enhance the effectiveness of international cooperation.

We remind all Member States of the need to ensure that all actions taken to counter international terrorism comply with international law, including the United Nations Charter, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international refugee law and other international obligations. CANZ countries urge the full implementation by all States of all UN Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism.

CANZ countries, as founding members, continue to support the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and its work in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the wider UN framework. We look forward to the review of the Strategy in 2026, which will ensure that human rights, gender equality and victim-centric language remains integrated.

We remain committed to supporting the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and its efforts to ensure a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims of terrorism, and advocate for the diverse needs of victims. Victims of terrorism are not just victims, but also actors of change.

Our countries' counter-terrorism work programmes aim to build resilience across society. We have learnt that the success of our vision for a safe Canada, Australia, and New Zealand relies on our ability to walk alongside our communities, to listen and learn from their experiences, and to keep their voices at the centre of our work.

We recognise terrorism and violent extremism against specific groups can leave communities feeling targeted, threatened, and vulnerable. We must intensify our efforts to foster mutual understanding, and counter intolerance and hatred, and addressing potential sources of tension among diverse communities. Our countries are firmly committed to countering all forms of religious intolerance.

CANZ countries acknowledge too the importance of upholding human rights in all of our counter-terrorism policies. We commend OHCHR's work in providing practical recommendations to Member States on integrating human rights in Member States' counter-terrorism strategies and policy. Australia, New Zealand and Canada work closely with our national human

rights bodies and civil society groups on our national approaches to these issues.

We recognise that our work to prevent and counter violent extremism is an ongoing and iterative journey. It requires more than just the capabilities of an individual government or entity. It requires technical capability, commitment at a leadership level, and a whole community of organisations and people, including those with lived-experience, to make meaningful positive change.

To deliver collaborative solutions to the complex, global challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism, we remain committed to working closely with our international partners, alongside the private sector and civil society.

To conclude, we reiterate our commitment to working with United Nations bodies, governments, civil society, victims, and the private sector to counter terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms. We will continue to work with others bilaterally, regionally and internationally towards this goal.

Thank you.