



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 May, 2014

Excellency,

It is my distinct honour to invite you to an interactive dialogue on *Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism* that I will be hosting on 11 June 2014 at United Nations Headquarters.

In 2006, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288), which has steadily emerged as the central plank of the global consensus in the fight against terrorism. The Strategy has been re-affirmed by Member States in the three subsequent review resolutions of the General Assembly in 2008 (A/RES/62/272), in 2010 (A/RES/64/297), and in 2012 (A/RES/66/282). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/282 of 29 June 2012, the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will take place on 12 June 2014. Member State representatives are encouraged during the Review, to focus, *inter alia*, on their national experiences in the implementation of the Global Strategy, especially with regard to addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The dialogue I am hosting on 11 June with support from the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office within the Department of Political Affairs will further complement the review process. The dialogue will feature the formal launch of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and a panel discussion on countering the appeal of terrorism. A background note and a draft programme are attached for your information and reference.

I look forward to your active participation during the interactive dialogue on 11 June as well as during the fourth biennial review on 12 June.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ashe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives  
and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York

## Background Note

### **PGA's Interactive Dialogue on '*Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism*'**

United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
11 June 2014

#### **Introduction**

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by consensus in September 2006 (A/RES/60/288) encapsulates the global consensus in the fight against terrorism. The Strategy takes a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism. In accordance with its Plan of Action, Member States resolve to take measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, to combat and prevent terrorism, to build national capacities to counter terrorism and to respect the principles of human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

Since its adoption, the General Assembly has conducted three biennial reviews of the Strategy; and, on each occasion, the Assembly has adopted a resolution by consensus.<sup>1</sup> In its resolution 66/282, the General Assembly decided to convene the fourth biennial review in 2014. The President of the General Assembly has scheduled the fourth review of the Strategy on 12 June 2014.

#### **Context**

The Strategy and its review resolutions have laid the foundation for a holistic and integrated response to counter-terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. In the third review resolution, the General Assembly called upon Member States, United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and sub-regional organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner and in all its aspects.<sup>2</sup>

As documented in the Report of the Secretary General "Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (A/68/841), Member States and the United Nations system, including, in particular, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) together with its partners, have been working to ensure effective implementation of the Strategy. At the same time, the Report documents new and emerging challenges in the current counter-terrorism landscape relating to how terrorists operate as well as to how terrorism can and has spread. At a very fundamental level, it concludes that there is universal acceptance of the need to address the factors that create discontent and tension within and between societies and which, in turn, make the resort to terrorism attractive, and a substitute for dialogue. While Member States

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<sup>1</sup> A/RES/62/272 (5 September 2008), A/RES/64/297 (8 September 2010), A/RES/66/282 (29 June 2012).

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/66/282.

have focused initially on combatting and preventing terrorism through the building of capacities of law enforcement, investigation and prosecution, the Report observes that longer-term success will depend on a more thorough implementation of Pillars One and Four.

Countering the appeal of terrorism is addressed under Pillar One of the Strategy whereby Member States recognize that a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism requires addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance.<sup>3</sup>

Seen in this context, countering the appeal of terrorism is relevant for purposes of preventing radicalization and violent extremism. It can further be understood to cover two aspects of radicalization: counter-radicalization and de-radicalization. While early intervention to prevent extremism is acknowledged as critical, the development and implementation of counter-radicalization and de-radicalization programmes is relatively recent and evidence of the effectiveness of such programmes is yet being evaluated. Nonetheless, multifaceted and horizontal cooperation between public and private sectors as well as civil society and non governmental organizations, with a dedicated focus on sharing best practices and promoting productive engagement is essential to these endeavours.

Pillar One identifies the “dehumanization of victims of terrorism” as a condition conducive to the spread of terrorism and proposes measures for supporting the needs of victims and their families for the promotion of international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism. The General Assembly in addition has recognized the role that victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation can play including in countering the appeal of terrorism.

In 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations held a Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism. One of the recommendations advanced during that Symposium was to provide a “virtual networking, communication and information hub for victims of terrorism, Government officials, experts, service providers and civil society.” The Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism have embarked on the creation of the first global Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

The CTITF Victims Support Portal is a broad-based apolitical multi-media platform to express international solidarity with victims of terrorism by contributing to national and international efforts and to raise awareness about victims’ issues. It also serves as a resource hub to gather information on the best practices and useful resources for the victims. This Support Portal will be the first international platform of its kind in support of victims of terrorism. The Portal has the following key objectives:

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<sup>3</sup> A/60/288.

1. Serve as a resource hub for information on issues related to victims of terrorism. This information from Governments, International and Regional organizations, civil society, and victims of terrorism, will be presented in a user-friendly and publicly accessible format to benefit victims, community actors and national policymakers;
2. Express international solidarity with victims of terrorism and raise awareness of national and international efforts undertaken to support them, in order to highlight importance of including victims in all areas of counter terrorism work; and
3. Contribute to the rehabilitation of victims of terrorism by sharing information about relevant resources with the victims and their families.

### **Objectives**

Against this backdrop, the President of the General Assembly will host an interactive dialogue focused on Pillar One. The purpose of the dialogue is twofold:

- First, to provide a platform for an exchange of experience on countering the appeal of terrorism; and,
- Second, to serve as a catalyst for action-oriented ideas to further promote the thorough implementation of Pillar One of the Strategy.

### **Questions for consideration**

Based on the foregoing, the dialogue will be guided by the following preliminary questions:

1. What experiences and lessons learned can contribute to and promote a culture of dialogue and understanding amongst peoples?
2. What approaches have been employed as a means of counter narratives to terrorism?
3. What has been the experience and lessons learned from programmes on disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration and de-radicalization?
4. How best can regional and international counter-terrorism efforts be integrated on the basis of the comprehensive structural framework provided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?

### **Format**

The Pillar One Dialogue will take place on 11 June and will feature the official launch of the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Web Portal, a brief panel presentation and a focused interactive dialogue.

## **Participants**

Member States, Permanent Observers and representatives of international and regional organisations are invited to participate at the highest possible level. Representatives of United Nations agencies as well as other relevant stakeholders are also invited to attend. Civil Society participation is by invitation through the CTITF Office (Haifa Jedea [jedea@un.org](mailto:jedea@un.org) , Fabrizio Trezza [trezza@un.org](mailto:trezza@un.org)).

**PGA's Interactive Dialogue on Addressing Conditions Conducive to the  
Spread of Terrorism**

11 June 2014

Trusteeship Council Chamber, New York

**Draft Programme**

0930-0955	<b>Brief presentation on the CTITF Web Portal on Victims of Terrorism: Jehangir Khan, Director, CTITF</b>
1000 – 1100	<p><b>Opening Session: Launch of the CTITF Web Portal on Victims of Terrorism</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> <i>H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe, President of the UN General Assembly (6-7 min)</i></p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> <i>H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (6-7 min) (TBC)</i></p> <p><b>Web Portal Introduction:</b> <i>Mr. Jeffery Feltman, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Political Affairs, Chairman Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. (6 min)</i></p> <p><b>Ministerial Representation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>H.E. Marty Natlagewa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia(TBC) (5-6 minutes)</i></li> <li>• <i>H.E. Bernard Membe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tanzania (TBC) (5-6 minutes)</i></li> <li>• <i>H.E. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey (TBC) (5-6 minutes)</i></li> <li>• <i>H.E. Jerome Bougouma, Minister of Territorial Administration, Security and Decentralization of Burkina Faso (5-6 minutes)</i></li> <li>• <i>H.E. Gonzalo de Benito, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain (5-6 minutes)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>UN Victims</b>  <i>Speaker: Ms. Laura Dolci, a victim of terrorism (2-3 minutes)</i>  <i>Speaker: Mr. Jason Pronyk, a victim of terrorism (2-3 minutes)</i></p>
1110 – 1245	<p><b>Pillar I Dialogue: Countering the Appeal of Terrorism</b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> <i>H.E. Nassir Abdulazziz Al-Naseer, High Representative of UN Alliance of Civilizations</i></p> <p><i>Minister of Territorial Administration, Security and Decentralization of</i></p>

	<p>Burkina Faso, Hon. Jerome Bougouma</p> <p>Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain, Hon. Gonzalo de Benito</p> <p>Coordinator for International Counter-Terrorism, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ambassador Stephan Husy</p> <p>CTITF Director, Jehangir Khan</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The dialogue could benefit from the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What experiences and lessons learned can contribute to and promote a culture of dialogue and understanding amongst peoples?</li> <li>2. What approaches have been employed as a means of counter narratives to terrorism?</li> <li>3. What has been the experience and lessons learned from programmes on disengagement, rehabilitation, reintegration and de-radicalization?</li> <li>4. How best can regional and international counter-terrorism efforts be integrated on the basis of the comprehensive structural framework provided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?</li> </ol>
1245-1300	<p><b>Closing Session:</b></p> <p><b>Remarks:</b> H.E. Mr. John W. Ashe, President of the UN General Assembly</p>