



Statement on behalf of the European Union

By

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**at the Sixth Committee
on agenda item 107
on**

"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The current uprising of ISIL underlines once again that we are not free from the scourge of terrorism. ISIL poses a threat to peace and security that goes beyond Syria, Iraq and the Middle East region and to which no country is immune.

The European Union is appalled by, and firmly condemns, the indiscriminate killings and human rights abuses perpetrated by this and other terrorist organizations, in particular against religious and ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups. The EU is convinced that those responsible for such crimes shall be held to account.

More than ever, the international community must respond jointly by condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We must redouble our efforts to work together in the framework of the UN Global CT Strategy (GCTS), which we came to review in June 2014. The GCTS continues to be central to address the evolving trends of the terrorist phenomena, and to do so in an integrated and balanced way.

The EU and its Member States pursue a criminal justice based approach to tackling terrorism while protecting human rights. We firmly believe that the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential components of the fight against terrorism. Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.. Particularly commendable, in this respect, is the recent foundation of the Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta. Only through abidance by the rule of law can we ensure a legitimacy of our actions, a standing long-term solution to the phenomena, as well as justice to the victims and their families. We also call upon Member States and relevant UN entities to promote measures to ensure solidarity and assistance to the victims and we welcome the recently launched UN Web Portal for Victims, which has been financed by Spain.

Mr Chairman,

Given the evolution of the terrorist threat that we all face, efforts to prevent radicalization and recruitment to terrorism should be further enhanced. The EU recently revised its own strategy on this subject, which we are putting into effect, including through establishing a Knowledge Hub to collate and disseminate best practices.

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spreading of terrorism and defeating the ideology of extremism also remains crucial. It will require greater cooperation among states and with international and regional organisations in sharing information and best practices. We need to also

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

look beyond government and involve civil society. Progress in this area requires local efforts on a global scale.

The foreign terrorist fighters' phenomenon poses particular challenges that require as well global and multidisciplinary efforts. We have witnessed and welcomed several initiatives such as the UNSC resolutions 2170 and 2178(2014) that emphasise the strong commitment of the international community to act jointly and responsibly to address this challenge. In particular we note with appreciation the strong message in resolution 2178 that Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) is an essential element of responding to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter threat in a long-term and sustainable manner. We also commend recent GCTF initiatives including the adoption of The Hague-Marrakesh Memorandum for a more effective response to the FTF phenomenon, the launch of a GCTF working group dedicated to foreign terrorist fighters, the Hedayah Center and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to which the EU will contribute. In the course of 2014, the EU held a number of meetings with the Mediterranean countries to deal with the problem of foreign fighters and prevent the spill over from the Iraq/Syria coordinate actions. On 25-27 November 2014, the EU, together with CTED and Switzerland, will also organize a Regional Conference on "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" that will bring together experts and practitioners from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The European Union is committed to tackle the Foreign Terrorist Fighters threat with the utmost determination and with a comprehensive strategic approach.

Mr. Chairman,

Another key component of the CT strategy is countering the financing of terrorism. The EU has developed a comprehensive strategy to tackle the multiple aspects from analysis on changing threats, trends and methods to developing best practices on implementing counterterrorism financing and anti money laundering standards, including the FATF, and targeted sanctions regimes. Cooperation with the private sector, sharing of financial intelligence and information on investigations are areas where the EU and its member States concentrated efforts.

Kidnapping for ransom is an increasingly common tactic for some terrorist groups to raise funds for their activities. Following the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 2133(2014) calling to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments, the European Union adopted, for the first time, Council Conclusions on Kidnapping for Ransom on 23 June 2014 which aim to build upon and facilitate the implementation of UNSCR 2133. We need to ensure that these commitments have practical effect, and take a proactive stance against this lucrative method to raise funds by identifying best practices and integrally tracking the financial flows, including those from offshore jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman,

We are committed to develop a holistic and multidisciplinary approach, at home and abroad. We will continue to engage in capacity building projects bilaterally and with regional and international partners, involving civil society and enhancing the local ownership of this process.

We have long-established cooperation with the UN at the political dialogue level as well as in the field. We will continue to support CTITF, CTED and UNODC in their work and we hope for a

transparent and cooperative work in the area of CT, while avoiding duplicating efforts. As regard UN sanctions regimes, we once more commend the work of the 1267 Committee Ombudsperson and reiterate our support to her unwavering efforts. We promote the strengthening of due process and fair and clear procedures in the sanctions regimes.

At the regional level, we are pursuing comprehensive CT strategies with its partners, in particular in Sahel, Horn of Africa/Yemen, and Pakistan reflecting our long-term engagement and ensuring ownership and participation to all concerned actors. The potential of religious and traditional leaders is being increasingly recognized in combatting radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism at early stages.

We are also addressing the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria with its entailing spillover effects to neighboring countries with a program intended to support the Nigerian authorities in their CT efforts, while fostering approaches that respect human rights and international law in a criminal justice response to terrorism.

We reiterate our call for all Member States to ratify and implement all UN legal instruments to counter terrorism and we recognize Member States efforts towards making progress on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. We remain committed to its successful conclusion.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by stressing that we more than ever need to remain united in our efforts to create a strong front against all forms and manifestations of terrorism and violent extremism. In these efforts we must ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

Thank you.