



Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
19 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017
www.ghanamissionun.org



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STATEMENT BY

CAROLYN OPPONG-NTIRI

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL OPENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMPACT RETREAT**

- MEMBER STATES PERSPECTIVES -

Wednesday, 25th June 2025
CR 8 10:am
United Nations Headquarters
New York

Mr. Moderator
Excellencies
USG Voronkov and ASG Gherman
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I would like to begin by thanking the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism for organizing this inaugural UNGCT Coordination Compact Retreat.
2. Ghana welcomes the focus that is being given in this retreat to the strategic priority of strengthening partnerships with regional organisations.
3. While today's major headlines are dominated by concerns of elevated strategic competition as well as intense and large-scale conflicts in places such as Ukraine, Gaza, and now between Israel and Iran, the impact of terrorism and violent extremism on the lives of many has not diminished.
4. As the Global Terrorism Index reports, deaths caused by terrorism increased by 22 percent in 2024 to more than 8,350 casualties, the highest since 2017.
5. The trends in terrorism being witnessed indicate a territorial concentration in the central Sahel, where numerous areas of ungoverned space exist. The Sahel's hold-in-place status as the epicenter of terrorism, the localization of international terrorist groups, and the consolidation of the methods of operation of such groups are a growing concern for Ghana.
6. Equally worrying is the clear linkage between conflict and terrorism in recent years. With more than 90 percent of the terrorist attacks and deaths occurring in conflict zones, ideological terrorism is being

replaced by criminal enterprises to control territory, illegally exploit natural resources, and engage in illicit cross-border activities.

7. In proceeding with the efforts to strengthen the partnership between a coordinated United Nations system and regional organisations, therefore, it is important to underscore that such efforts must be rooted in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other major international responses to terrorism and must address the common expectation that to succeed, we must work across national, regional and global levels, in a manner that fosters collaboration and which reinforces the impact of our coherent actions.
8. I would like to share four brief points before concluding.
9. *First*, it is imperative that we work towards improving coordination, integrating efforts, and deepening UN responses at the field and country level in support of national and regional counter-terrorism measures. Differences in approaches must be urgently harmonized, knowledge deficits must be bridged, and gaps in responses must be addressed by the UN system to reinforce the implementation of regional strategies and national actions.
10. *Secondly*, in recognition of the importance of facilitative global support to address inadequacies in threat analysis, threat prevention, and threat response, new approaches of support, beyond domestic intelligence gathering and law enforcement, are required to build and sustain capacity for mapping and profiling terrorist groups and violent extremist and their involvement in cross-border criminal activities.
11. *Thirdly*, a strong convergence is needed in the area of prevention activities and efforts to create societal resilience. In this regard, efforts to create whole-of-society approaches towards the prevention, pre-emption, protection and response to terrorist activities should be deepened and must also include a deliberate effort to create space for

the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, who constitute a significant segment of society and, often, have large base relationships with different societal actors.

12. Lastly, in relation to the continent of Africa, the partnership should build on the outcome of the high-level conference held in Abuja, Nigeria in April 2024 and aim at supporting the African Union's effort to implement the Equatorial Guinea *Declaration on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Change of Government in Africa* and the mandate to develop a continental strategic counter-terrorism plan of action.
13. In this regard, taking into account the adoption of Security Council resolution 2719 and need for rapid, robust and decisive military response to these highly equipped groups, it is important to coincide the stabilization objectives of peacekeeping with the enforcement action required to deal with terrorist groups who seek no interest in finding political solutions.
14. In conclusion, Ghana remains supportive of the efforts to find workable and effective partnerships with regional organisations, with a view to reshaping the international community's collective response to terrorism, especially on the African continent. Ghana continues to prioritize the implementation of its National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism within its jurisdiction and would also continue to anchor the Accra Initiative for sharing intelligence and coordinating joint actions against regional terrorist groups.

I thank you.