



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 3 OCTOBER 2016

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY MR. JÖRN OLIVER EIERMANN, SENIOR ADVISER (LEGAL, POLITICAL)

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant UN bodies. Liechtenstein has ratified all UN counter-terrorism treaties and the amendments thereto, and we fully cooperate with and implement the decisions of relevant UN organs, such as the Security Council's Counter-terrorism Committee and the ISIL and Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. As a member of the Group of like-minded States, Liechtenstein will continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of terrorism-related sanctions regimes. We particularly value the work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Catherine Marchi-Uhel, and encourage the Council and the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure the full operational independence of her office. We call upon the Council to further enhance fair and clear procedures, and to apply them to other sanctions regimes, as appropriate.

Mr. Chairman

We also wish to stress that measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the basis for the fight against terrorism. Regrettably, they are at best often just an afterthought. Many times, counter-terrorist operations are undertaken without due regard for the rights of civilians. Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must ensure that

they do not unwittingly contribute to outcomes that betray the values that we all seek to uphold. Overly broad domestic definitions of terrorism may threaten the right to freedom of expression and association. Mass surveillance, both domestically and abroad, may undermine the right to privacy. Law enforcement and military operations often walk a fine line between legitimate targeting of terrorists on the one hand and unacceptable risks for innocent civilians on the other. Governments must scrupulously abide by the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in their actions – principles which underpin both human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman

The United Nations stands at the center of our global efforts to combat terrorism. The respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the UN Secretariat are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Sixth Committee has also made important contributions in the past, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions in the field of counter-terrorism. Particular mention should be made of the 1997 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the 1999 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, and the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Somewhat unfairly, though, this Committee is more famous for what it has not achieved: agreement on a general convention on counter-terrorism, which would fill the gaps between the various sectoral conventions.

In 2005, our Heads of State mandated us in the World Summit Outcome to conclude the negotiations, and to do so during the sixtieth session. By now, we have failed 11 times to complete this mandate. Last year, we encouraged States to give it one more try and we were again not successful. With the credibility of the Sixth Committee on the line, we should acknowledge that we are unable to fulfill this task and we should avoid a duplication of our discussions in various formats, including the discussion about the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in the plenary. Therefore, we suggest taking the item off the agenda of the Sixth Committee. Should this not be possible, we at least echo the suggestion of the European Union to bi-annualize the discussion on this item.

I thank you.