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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE,
SEVENTY FIRST SESSION, AGENDA ITEM 108
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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Check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to begin by aligning myself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States.

I will also raise two issues – preventing violent extremism and aviation security.

As the nature of the global terrorist threat evolves, the international community must adapt its response. We are seeing dangerous new trends.

The continued spread of Daesh, and their use of the internet to recruit and radicalise individuals; the threat from those travelling to and returning from Syria and Iraq; and recent attacks by lone actors, in Europe and elsewhere.

Faced with these terrorist challenges, our work to prevent extremism is even more vital.

As our Prime Minister said in her remarks to the General Assembly two weeks ago, the global challenge of extremism requires a new type of response, with governments and societies adapting together to tackle root causes.

We must all work to stop violent extremism that undermines social and political inclusion, spreads fear and hate, and threatens lives.

That means redoubled efforts and cooperation on countering violent extremism – in our national policies; in our regional strategies; and at the international level.

This requires strong UN leadership.

The United Kingdom wants to build on the momentum from the June review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, and the recommendations of the Secretary General's Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism.

That is why we have proposed a national joint statement, which outlines a number of principles for UN Global Leadership on Preventing Violent Extremism.

We have conveyed this draft to all of you, inviting member states to join by 7 October. We would welcome your support.

Mr Chairman,

The United Kingdom also welcomes international attention on countering the terrorist threat to civil aviation.

There is a clear and ongoing threat to aviation, against both flights, and also to airports and public spaces. The world has recently witnessed the tragic consequences of this threat.

The attacks on airports in Brussels and Istanbul; the destruction of the Russian Metrojet aircraft over Sinai last year; and the explosion on board a Daallo Airways flight from Mogadishu in February.

That is why the United Kingdom proposed an unprecedented Security Council resolution on this issue, adopted unanimously on 22 September.

We encourage states to take up this call to action with measures to improve aviation security. We must work together, including through the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Together, we can raise aviation security standards globally.

Lastly, I would like to echo the call from others to consider rescheduling this agenda item, to avoid any repetition from the biennial review of the Global CT Strategy.

Thank you,

(437 words)