

**UNGA75: Sixth Committee: Measures to eliminate international terrorism
[DRAFT] Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ)**

Thank you, Chair.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Canada, New Zealand and my own country, Australia.

Let me reiterate our full condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations. Terrorism continues to threaten global peace and security, and many key drivers of radicalisation to violence have deepened through the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to reaffirm our support for the comprehensive approach of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We also want to acknowledge the Secretary-General's July 2020 report on 'Measures to eliminate international terrorism'.

We note, in particular, the importance of integrating gender considerations and the Women, Peace and Security agenda into our analysis and response, particularly given the ways gender is exploited by violent extremist and terrorist organizations to recruit and maintain members and their tactical use of gender and sexual-based violence. We also note women's significant and powerful role as buffers to violent extremism and terrorism and their forefront efforts to

protect their families and communities. We reiterate our commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and we will continue to support women's organizations and human rights defenders in their efforts to bring and maintain peace and security in their countries. It is critical that we seek to understand and respond to these causes of violence within a whole of society and human rights framework that ensures our efforts are trauma-informed, age and gender appropriate, and responsive to diverse needs and experiences of the individual and community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a great toll on lives and livelihoods, revealed and exacerbated inequality, its intersectional dimensions, and strained social and political stability. Terrorists and violent extremists are exploiting the pandemic, both by magnifying grievances in their propaganda and benefitting from more people being on the Internet given the lockdown. At the same time, the pandemic has diverted some attention from efforts to counter terrorism and promote social cohesion. The post-COVID world is likely to present a greater range of security challenges, but we can shape how the international community emerges from the crisis.

CANZ fully supports the work of UNOCT and commends the increasing alignment of effort between UN agencies through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

CANZ partners appreciate the significant progress made on commitments of the Christchurch Call to Action: working with online service providers to support the restructuring of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism into an independent organisation; and collaborating with Korea and the OECD to develop Voluntary Transparency Reporting Protocols on the prevention, detection and removal of terrorist and violent extremist content online. This shared work helps members live up to the Osaka G20 Leader's statement on preventing exploitation of the Internet for terrorism and violent extremism.

Denying terrorists access to resources is necessary for success in countering terrorism and UNSC Resolution 2462 was an important step in strengthening cooperation to stem terrorist financing. In this regard, Australia was pleased to host the 2019 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing.

Member States are also grappling with the challenges presented by the potential return of their citizens who travelled abroad to fight for terrorist groups, sometimes with their families. While there will be a range of national responses, these challenges demand a comprehensive approach, which includes preventive, security, criminal, and rehabilitative measures. Responses need to be tailored to the individual while ensuring laws are enforced, human rights are protected and society is kept safe.

CANZ reminds all Member States of our continuing commitments and obligations under UNSC Resolutions 1373, 2178, and their successor resolutions, pertaining to the effective investigation and prosecution of all acts of terrorism.

We have a collective responsibility to realise the rights of victims of terrorism.

CANZ members proudly support the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which promotes a comprehensive approach towards the promotion and protection of victims' rights and needs, giving them a voice internationally and promoting their role in countering and delegitimising terrorist narratives. We would like to thank Afghanistan and Spain for hosting the recent Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends, and we welcome efforts to continue ensuring that victims are at the heart of the planning and decision making process.

CANZ has also proudly contributed to the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh since 2014. Our goal remains a united and stable Iraq, and we are working on countering violent extremists and Daesh's support networks. CANZ will continue to support efforts to ensure the defeat of Daesh.

CANZ reiterates its steadfast commitment to support and work collaboratively with all others engaged in countering terrorism and violent extremism, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, which is Co-Chaired by Canada and Morocco.

Please allow me in conclusion to reiterate our commitment to working with United Nations bodies, governments, civil society, victims, and the private sector to respond to the threat of terrorism.

Thank you.