



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations

One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
(885 Second Avenue)
New York, NY 10017

Email: uk@un.int
http://twitter.com/UKUN_NewYork

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

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Delivered by Jonathan Hollis

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Madam Chair,

On behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, may I congratulate you on your election and wish you every success over this session. We look forward to working with you.

In the 20 years since the terrible attacks of September 11th, 2001, we have made huge strides to counter the global threat of terrorism. Al Qaeda has been degraded, Daesh has been defeated on the ground in Syria and Iraq. International coordination and cooperation have been vital to our success and have allowed us to focus our efforts where they are needed most. And with this in mind, we welcomed the consensual adoption of the seventh review of the global counter terrorism strategy earlier this year. However, despite these efforts, the threat from terrorism continues to evolve.

Two years ago, the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate conducted its second assessment visit to the UK. We were pleased to be able to share the report from that visit with the Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to encourage discussion and the sharing of best practices. No country can fight terrorism alone and we encourage other Member States to work with CTED to make our international counter terrorism efforts stronger.

Looking to the future, I would like to highlight the following points.

First, as we have seen with the horrific ISKP attack in Kabul, our work to counter the threat of terrorism is not done. We must never again allow Afghanistan to become a base for terrorism. We must also not overlook the spread of terrorism elsewhere in the world, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa, and must continue to tackle the root causes of terrorism.

Second, science and technology have brought new risks as well as opportunities and these risks include the use of the internet as a tool for terrorist recruitment, radicalisation, propaganda, financing and attack planning. We must therefore continue to use science and technology to shape our policies and actions, and remain agile in adapting to terrorism and violent extremism trends.

Third, inclusive international cooperation is vital. We must continue to work together through the UN, other international organisations and with civil society to use all the tools at our disposal. Effective coordination of our capacity building programmes will ensure we achieve the maximum impact.

And finally, when preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, we must protect human rights and fundamental freedoms so that our efforts are sustainable and effective, otherwise we risk undermining the very values that the UN was established to uphold.

I pledge the United Kingdom's continued and active support to the global fight against terrorism.

I thank you, Madam Chair.