

Canada 

**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
CANZ Statement – UNGA 77 (October 2022)**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

As my delegation speaks for the first time to this Committee, let me congratulate you on your election as well as for the Bureau. We look forward to work with you.

In this particular Committee, UN Member States understand that our work must be fully consistent with international law, in particular the UN Charter, as well as international human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law. We also agreed that human rights and the rule of law are complementary, mutually reinforcing, and essential.

Today, however, we regrettably note that one United Nations Member State is clearly acting outside of these accepted rules. CANZ countries have consistently called on the Russian Federation to end its unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation must immediately withdraw its troops from within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and respect Ukraine's territory and sovereignty. We repeat that call here today.

As we focus on the item under discussion today, let me reiterate CANZ absolute condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, wherever it takes place and in whatever form. This year, once again, there have been too many examples of terrorist acts and the devastating impact they can have on victims, communities and societies at large.

I also would like to reconfirm our full support for the holistic and preventative approach of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as the efforts of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact. Only through joint actions – taken with conviction and in compliance with the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as other obligations under international law – can the international community and UN Member States credibly respond to the global terrorist threat.

As founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, we believe in the central role of the United Nations in global efforts to counter terrorism and value the close cooperation and mutually reinforcing partnerships that underpin the Forum's relationship with the United Nations.

In September 2022, the GCTF finalized its Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Policy Toolkit. The involvement of UN Global CT Compact members in the development of this toolkit, which includes a variety of resources, such as case studies and an overview of existing UN resolutions and international framework documents, is a good example of this cooperation. Canada and the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism look forward to lead consultations later this year and early next to help shape the next phases of and enhancements to UNOCT's Gender and Identities Factors Platform.

We do not work in a vacuum. Violent extremism and terrorism continue to be one of the foremost threats to international peace and security. Our credibility depends upon all member states living up to obligations under international law to which we continually recommit ourselves.

The rise of ideologically motivated violent extremism represents a particular challenge that requires increased attention from the international

community. Ideologically motivated extremist threats are constantly evolving, and emerge from all socio-economic backgrounds and far-reaching networks.

Violent extremist groups have taken advantage of the isolation associated with the pandemic – especially among vulnerable populations – to increase the dissemination of online misinformation, conspiracy theories, and hateful propaganda and rhetoric to recruit individuals for the commission of acts of hate, intolerance and violence.

National and international cooperation are essential to ensure our effectiveness in addressing the underlying drivers of violent extremism. Such efforts to prevent and counter extremism and terrorism must be evidence-based. They must be gender-sensitive, responsive to local needs, and build on local strengths and capacities. They must promote inclusion and resilience. They must also include genuine partnerships with independent civil society advocates and organizations.

CANZ countries believe that collaborative efforts between governments, online service providers, civil society and non-governmental organizations, focused on protecting a free, open and secure internet, are crucial to addressing terrorist and violent extremist use of the internet, and in combatting online hate and abuse.

Monsieur le Président,

Nous encourageons les plateformes en ligne à accélérer leurs efforts visant à prévenir et à retirer le contenu extrémiste de l'internet. Afin d'en arriver à des résultats durables à long terme, nous devons identifier et mettre en œuvre de meilleures façons de combattre la diffusion de contenu haineux en ligne, tout en maintenant notre engagement envers les droits humains, la primauté du droit, les principes démocratiques, l'inclusion et la diversité.

Les pays du CANZ appelons les États membres à pleinement mettre en œuvre les Résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité deux-mille-trois-cent-quatre-

vingt-seize (2396) et deux-mille-dix-sept (2017). Une meilleure coordination entre les États sur le contrôle des frontières, le partage d'information, et la détection des éléments extrémistes rendent de plus en plus difficiles les voyages des combattants terroristes vers les zones de combat.

Nous encourageons également les États membres à mettre en œuvre toutes les résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité et les instruments relatifs au terrorisme international.

Nous rappelons aux États membres notre engagement et nos obligations en vertu des Résolutions mille-trois-cent-soixante-treize (1373) et deux-mille-cent-soixante-dix-huit (2178) et les résolutions qui en découlent, concernant les enquêtes et les poursuites de tous les actes de terrorisme.

Monsieur le Président,

Les États membres continuent aussi à faire face aux défis posés par le retour chez eux des combattants terroristes partis à l'étranger. Ceux qui retournent dans leur pays d'origine depuis une zone de conflit peuvent parfois faire l'objet d'une arrestation et de poursuites criminelles. Pour ceux qui ne font pas face à de telles conséquences, la réhabilitation et la réintégration dans leur société nécessitent le développement de solutions durables pour lesquelles les gouvernements mais aussi la société civile ont des rôles à jouer.

Mr President,

To be effective, our approaches must be trauma-informed, age and gender appropriate, and address the many complex needs that stem from experiencing or witnessing violence. Children taken to a conflict zone or

born there are particularly at risk of trauma-impact. CANZ countries applaud the many women's organizations working on the front lines in prevention, early warning, and responses to international terrorism. They are key partners in building resilience within local communities.

The international community also has a responsibility to aid the victims of terrorism. CANZ countries are proud to support the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, including in its focus on victims' rights and needs, on giving them a voice internationally, and on promoting their role in countering terrorist and violent extremist ideologies.

We also recognize our collective obligation to bring terrorists to justice, and support calls for coordinated action by governments, civil society and the private sector to share best practices and lessons learned in the areas of prosecution and correction – for those who can be successfully charged and tried – and in monitoring, rehabilitation and reintegration, for those who cannot.

In conclusion, CANZ countries wish to reiterate their unwavering commitment to support and work with all UN Member States that are actively engaged in countering terrorism and violent extremism, whether nationally, regionally or globally, through the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum and other key partner groups.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.