



## United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee: Plenary debate on measures to eliminate international terrorism

2 October 2023

### Statement by Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ)

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Thank you, Chair.

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

As this is the first time our delegations are taking the floor during this session of the Sixth Committee, we wish to first congratulate you and all other members of the Bureau for your appointments. CANZ assures you of our full support.

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

CANZ reaffirms its absolute condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, wherever it takes place and in whatever form.

We recognise that acts of terrorism remain a significant threat to communities around the world, as well as a threat to international peace and security.



That threat is persistent and dynamic. The methods and tactics of terrorist groups continue to evolve and present new challenges, including their expanded global reach through exploitation of the internet.

Of course, terrorist groups do not restrain themselves within national borders. CANZ therefore remains convinced that our shared battle against terrorism can only be fought through global solutions.

The recurring root causes of terrorism and violent extremism are better understood, identified, mitigated and reduced when we work collaboratively with our international and local partners.

The effectiveness of this international cooperation is enhanced by ensuring that all efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism are underpinned by the rule of law and comply with international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

CANZ similarly urges the full implementation by all States of all UN Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism.

We have seen, for example, that the ability of terrorist fighters to travel to combat zones has been constrained by better coordination between States on border control, information sharing and detection of extremist elements consistent with Security Council resolutions 2396 and 2017.



Resolutions 1373 and 2178, and others arising from them, concerning the investigation and prosecution of all acts of terrorism, are also equally important to deter and prevent terrorist acts.

CANZ believes that the Security Council's 1267 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al Qaida sanctions regime remains an integral instrument in mitigating the potentially deadly impact of terrorist activities.

We welcome the adoption of resolution 2664 to improve humanitarian access, and thank the Secretary General for his recent report on its implementation.

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

CANZ is equally committed to ensuring that our approach to countering terrorism and countering violent extremism engages all levels of society and government. This will bolster the resilience of our communities to messages of hate, discord and disunity that can lead to violence.

In this regard, we recognise the vital role played by civil society in providing critical insights into local dynamics and solutions tailored to local communities. We are concerned about the narrowing of civil society space as a result of counter-terrorism measures.



CANZ is also resolute in its conviction that we cannot counter violent extremism and terrorism without embedding gender-responsive approaches. Understanding the differentiated drivers and impacts of terrorism enhances the effectiveness of measures to eliminate international terrorism.

In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Gender and Human Rights Unit in the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, and look forward to its facilitation of a gender-responsive approach across the UN's counter-terrorism work.

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

Our work in the Sixth Committee must remain integrated and aligned with broader UN efforts in the global fight against terrorism.

CANZ welcomes the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) undertaken by the General Assembly this year. We continue to fully support the holistic and preventative approach of the GCTS and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as the efforts of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact.

CANZ continues to listen to views and concerns raised by others and values the dialogue of the Sixth Committee in that regard.



To ensure the work of this Committee remains relevant and productive, consistent with the broader General Assembly revitalisation agenda, CANZ is of the view that we should consider aligning this Committee's work on international terrorism with the new three-year cycle for GCTS reviews.

As founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, we also welcome the General Assembly's policy-setting role for our collective counter-terrorism efforts. We value the close cooperation and mutually reinforcing partnerships that underpin the Forum's relationship with the UN.

[Mr/Madam] Chair,

CANZ will continue to work with the international community to support a peaceful and stable international environment that prevents violent extremism and inhibits the resurgence and spread of terrorism.

Terrorist groups and the support networks upon which they depend must not be allowed to find a safe haven anywhere in the world.

Thank you.