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at the United Nations**

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## **PERFORMANCE**

**Representative of the Russian Federation Oleg Mikhailov in the Sixth  
Committee of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly under the agenda  
item  
"Measures to eliminate international terrorism"**

October 2, 2023

Mr. President,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your election to this post and wish you and the members of the Bureau successful and fruitful work during the 78th session of the General Assembly.

This year, the eighth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCS) took place. Russia supported its results, as set out in the relevant General Assembly resolution. It is important that States have been able to maintain consensus on the Strategy and its four sections, which are complementary and inextricably linked. The international community needs to continue to work together on the comprehensive practical implementation of all the key elements and guidelines laid down in the GCS.

We see ample opportunities for building up international counter-terrorism cooperation using the potential of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. Russia actively supports the activities of the Office and acts as a donor for a number of projects implemented by the UCT in the interests of developing countries. We express our gratitude to its head, UN Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, for the high level of preparation and holding of the Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Structures of the UN Member States this year.

We would like to emphasise that the most important condition for the success of UN projects to assist states in the field of counterterrorism is strict consideration of their national characteristics and specific needs, as well as the recommendations of the relevant bodies of the Security Council, primarily its Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Mr. President,

Russia is in favour of consistently strengthening the UN's central coordinating role on the basis of international law and through the effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions without politicisation or double standards.

We intend to continue to oppose attempts to replace the UN anti-terrorist mechanisms, in particular, by delegating their functions to non-governmental organizations. We oppose initiatives that erode the intergovernmental nature of the UN. We are convinced that States and their competent authorities should play a leading role in the planning and implementation of measures to combat terrorism. Cooperation with civil society, academic and religious actors, and the media can complement, but should not be a substitute for, intergovernmental processes.

Civil society should be more actively involved in preventive work to prevent the spread of terrorist and extremist ideology. It is important to create an atmosphere of categorical rejection of terrorism and extremism in our societies. There can be no justification for their manifestations, no matter what ideological, religious or national slogans are invented for this. Particular attention should be paid to countering the use of modern information and communication technologies for terrorist and extremist purposes.

We consider the fight against the ideology of terrorism, including the use of law enforcement tools, countering its financial and material support, as well as bringing terrorists to justice and improving mechanisms for cooperation in the criminal law sphere.

Mr. President,

We cannot fail to note the growing threat of terrorist attacks motivated by xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief. In this regard, the Russian side fully shares concerns about the growing popularity of

ultra-right extremist movements, including those inspired by Nazi ideology. This phenomenon is peculiar to individual Western states, including some European countries. For the most part, it stems from systematic propaganda outright lies, distortion of history, culture and religious foundations. It is important to understand in detail the origins of this phenomenon. What has led to the fact that radicalization and extremism, which serve as a breeding ground for terrorism, have become so popular in Western countries?

In our collective efforts to combat terrorism and extremism, it is crucial to address the troubling links between terrorism and ideologies such as Nazism and neo-Nazism. Terrorism in its various forms is often intertwined with extremist ideologies, including those inspired by Nazi principles.

We heard the speech of the representatives of the Baltic states, filled with hatred and outright lies. At the same time, in these countries (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) there is a glorification of Nazism - Nazi collaborators and criminals, henchmen of the Nazis, even former SS members are revered. Regular commemorative events are held in their honor.

Nazism, previously universally recognized as an absolute evil, has long been used by them as a tool in achieving political goals. By the way, the same approaches are beginning to be traced in the West in relation to the methods of terrorism.

Such manifestations are not only profoundly immoral, they run counter to the values of tolerance, diversity and respect for human rights, which underpin the international community's resolve to combat terrorism. It is imperative that we remain vigilant against the spread of such ideologies and work together to confront them at the international level. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to abide by the principles of existing General Assembly resolutions, including those aimed at combating the glorification of Nazism. Those resolutions provide the international community with the necessary guidance to counter the spread of ideologies that can breed hatred and violence, ultimately undermining our common goal of eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We stand for strengthening the legal basis for international anti-terrorist cooperation, for strict compliance with the existing norms and principles of international law, primarily the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

We consider the insinuations made against the Russian Federation related to the current situation in Ukraine to be irresponsible. We cannot see them in any other way than the politicization of the work of the Sixth Committee.

The Russian Federation defends its interests based on international law, including the UN Charter and its inalienable right to self-defense.

Anti-Russian accusations were made by countries that turn a blind eye to the criminal actions of the Kiev regime, which has long turned into a terrorist cell and actively resorts to terrorist methods in its practice.

Thank you.