



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 May 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”
(A/74/L.61)

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 15 May 2020, in accordance with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020 entitled “Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic”, placing draft decision A/74/L.61 entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” under silence procedure until 20 May 2020, at 4 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, the decision is considered adopted by the Assembly as decision 74/556 and is in effect from 4:01p.m. today, Wednesday, 20 May 2020. The General Assembly will take note of decision 74/556 at its next plenary meeting to be held at the United Nations Headquarters.

Also find enclosed the general statement received regarding this decision.

I avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NV/2020/049

The Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the United Nations General Assembly and has the honour to inform that the European Union would like to make a statement in explanation of position regarding the draft decision entitled “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy” (A/74/L.61).

As per instructions in your letter dated 15 May 2020, you will find the explanation of position in annex.

The Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the United Nations General Assembly the assurance of its highest consideration.



New York, 20 May 2020

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President
General Assembly
United Nations

General Statement

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

For the European Union and its Member States, ensuring a **substantive and inclusive review** of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (hereafter GCTS) is a priority. We consider that the best way to proceed would be to ensure that this revised strategy focuses on the evolution of the terrorist threat since the last review in June 2018, while reaffirming the principles at the core of our collective action.

We **agree to the postponement** of the process, in order to ensure a meaningful and inclusive negotiation with engagement of all relevant stakeholders, while preserving and updating the work that has been done so far. The postponement of the review process should be to the soonest reasonable time, and in any case the adoption of the reviewed strategy should not be scheduled later than June 2021.

The European Union and its Members States would like to highlight that the GCTS is the document that establishes the strategy for the UN's counter-terrorism efforts. The postponement of its review cannot and should **not lead to parallel negotiations** in the General Assembly on substantive counter-terrorism issues before the actual review takes place.

The **update of the Secretary General's report** to cover the period of postponement should also take into account any effects related to the COVID-19- pandemic.

We take this opportunity to thank the **co-facilitators**, Spain and Egypt, for taking up the important task of facilitating the review of the GCTS and look forward to continuing our joint efforts with them to ensure continuity and a successful review of the strategy. We remain ready to fully engage in this process in the most constructive manner.

* *The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*