



Joint Statement

Thursday, 4 November 2021, from 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

I am speaking on behalf of **Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Uruguay**, and my own country, **Costa Rica**. We offer the following reflections for this timely occasion and special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee.

In December of last year, the Counter-Terrorism Committee hosted an informative briefing that recognized the strength of progress made in Latin American and the Caribbean in efforts to counter-terrorism while protecting human rights and the rule of law. The virtual open briefing on “the Threat of Terrorism in Latin America and the Caribbean” highlighted the high levels of implementation in Latin American and the Caribbean of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 and other counter-terrorism obligations. Over two thirds of countries in the region had adopted compliant legislation.

Our countries are among those Member States committed to ensuring that all counter-terrorism obligations are met to ensure that the region continue to be in a position to prevent rather than respond to terrorism.

We welcome this special, open session of the Committee and the continued and growing commitment of the Committee to engage with civil society, to solidify the methods and reporting on human rights and gender mainstreaming throughout its work. We welcome such efforts out of respect for the fundamental principles of international human rights law, as well as with a view that such efforts will only continue to increase the transparency and trust among diverse stakeholders, leading to ultimately more effective counter-terrorism measures. Ensuring effective, human rights and rule of law compliant counter-terrorism measures at the national and regional level require even greater modeling of best practices at the international level.

We regret to highlight however that examples of human rights abuses and violations to international humanitarian law continue to be justified through the lens of counter-terrorism. Although the Committee and Member States have made progress in this work, the continuation of

such violations risks undermining progress by contributing to cycles of conflict, lack of accountability, and failures to address real terrorism threats.

As we collectively enter the next 20 years of countering terrorism, our countries make the following recommendations in line with the request for “forward-looking” next steps that will enable us all to *effectively respond* to the ever present global terrorist threat by ensuring compliance with international law not only in rhetoric, but also in practice.

Recognizing the existing efforts to streamline references to negative human rights impact of counter-terrorism measures, we recommend the Committee explore the following:

1. The status of efforts to mainstream findings of human rights bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures, and other treaty body mechanisms in all reporting, monitoring, and evaluation. Good practice is already evidenced by some references in the *Global Survey*.
2. Include further criteria in reporting on Member States implementation as it relates to the use and practice of independent oversight of counter-terrorism initiatives at the national level.
3. Consider how to consistently engage civil society in all efforts to monitor Member States’ implementation of its provisions. Civil society is on the frontlines of the misuse of counter-terrorism measures and is a frontline partner in measuring human rights and rule of law complaint progress.
4. Seek regular briefings from UNCTED to the Committee dedicated to their progress on human rights mainstreaming and the inclusion of civil society in their work.
5. We call on Member States to ensure that all capacity building and technical assistance integrates meaningful human rights risk assessment and mitigation measures. Failure to do so can have detrimental effects at home and abroad in the countries where such support is provided. Therefore, we must measure our progress on integrating such measures as part and parcel of our success in implementing UNSCR 1373 and other Security Council obligations. Thus, we call on Member States and the CTC to assess how integration of such safeguards may be integrated into Member States reporting to the Committee.

I thank you.