



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

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 Counter-Terrorism Committee

Statement delivered by Eduardo Ramos, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal

4 November 2021

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

In September, the world marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. For the past two decades, the world witnessed the most significant terrorist surge at a global scale and terrorism became a major concern in the international agenda, especially at the United Nations.

The adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee was a crucial moment for the recognition of the terrorist threat to peace and international security and a turning point in the fight against global terrorism through a firm and coordinated response, placing barriers on the movement, organization and financing of terrorist groups and imposing legislative, policy and reporting requirements on Member States.

Since 2001, the Security Council has adopted more than 30 resolutions to counter terrorism, as well as a substantive number of presidential statements and policy documents.

Portugal reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of all UN Resolutions on counterterrorism and we welcome and fully support the exhaustive work of the Committee and CTED supporting Member States in their implementation of all these resolutions.

Portugal implements UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) through the European Union's list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts and subject to restrictive measures, set down in Common Position 2001/931/CFSP, adopted on 27 December 2001. This EU decision lays down the criteria for listing persons, groups and entities and defines the restrictive measures related to freezing of funds and financial assets in full compliance with international law including human rights law.



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The adoption of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, last June, was, again, an important milestone which reaffirmed the efforts and progresses accomplished in the last 20 years.

Distinguished colleagues,

Recently, many terrorist organizations have successfully put our political institutions and security at stake, exploiting grievances caused by the COVID pandemic, while remaining hyperactive on social media, drawing in followers, radicalizing, recruiting, inciting, mainly through online platforms and social media.

Even though we have accomplished many important goals in this field, our authorities have not been able to eradicate the threat of lone wolf attackers, radicalized online, who strike with improvised weapons such as vehicles or knives.

The attacks claimed by ISIS-KP in the last two months in Kabul, deserved our vehement condemnation and have raised our concern. We must enhance all our efforts to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorism and a base from which Al Qaeda and ISIS can recruit, train, raise funds, plan and/or conduct attacks.

We need to better understand the root causes of terrorism and its underlying factors, and pay close attention to radicalization processes, namely among young persons and persons in situations of vulnerability.

Most radicalization processes are developed online. To counter this, we need to do several things: create a far-reaching and positive narrative to reinforce trust in institutions, adopt social inclusion policies, internet monitoring and foster dialogue with local communities and religious leaders.

Excellencies,

Portugal has recently become party to all 19 international legal instruments addressing the prevention of terrorism.

Also, in 2015, the Portuguese Government approved a new National Strategy on Counter Terrorism. An Anti-terrorism Coordination Unit has been established and several amendments of relevant Portuguese legislation were approved and enacted, such as the criminalization of traveling with the aim of committing terrorist acts, as well as the criminalization of public incitement to terrorism through the internet or other media.



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To conclude, let me reiterate Portugal's commitment continue to to play its part in the fight against terrorism.

I thank you.