

**Open briefing of the Chair of the Security Council Committee
established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001)
concerning counter-terrorism on
“New initiatives to address the Foreign Terrorist Fighters challenge”
*New York, 19 June 2015***

Remarks of

**H.E. Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė
Chair
Counter-Terrorism Committee**

Excellencies, members of the Committee, ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you all to the Committee’s open briefing on new initiatives to address the threat of foreign terrorist fighters.

I wish to welcome His Excellency Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for being with us here today.

I also wish to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for joining our discussions.

One of the essential components of a successful endeavour of the United Nations in fighting terrorism is to work together and closely with regional organizations and arrangements. Such collaboration and cooperation would only serve the mutually reinforcing and complimentary purposes.

The initiatives of the Council of Europe are a vital component of the international community’s effort to develop coordinated, effective responses to terrorism and violent extremism.

In this regard, we look forward to learning about the Council’s Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, the Committee of Ministers’ Declaration on countering violent extremism, and the adoption of a three-year action plan against violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

As we are all aware, the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism criminalizes public provocation to commit terrorist acts in its article 5.

The Convention was adopted in 2005, just three months before the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1624. The discussions of European leaders in Strasbourg were in many ways instrumental in building consensus in the Security Council.

It was therefore quite natural that the Committee subsequently identified article 5 of the Convention as a good practice for the implementation of resolution 1624.

Indeed, the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Council of Europe are inextricably and necessarily linked.

The cooperation between the Committee and the Council has continued to strengthen.

In 2011, following the adoption of resolution 1963, the Committee held a special meeting in Strasbourg that directed the attention of international and regional organizations to the need to adopt a broader, prevention-based approach to counter-terrorism.

Since then, the Council, in cooperation with the Committee's Executive Directorate, has hosted numerous discussions on policies, comprehensive and integrated strategies, and the role of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, including in the application of special investigative techniques.

Dear Colleagues,

Stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters is of course one of the core requirements of Security Council resolution 2178, adopted in September of last year.

The Council of Europe's Additional Protocol, adopted on 19 May 2015, addresses those requirements.

In providing for the development of a 24/7 network for cooperation on FTF matters, the Protocol will also serve to strengthen international cooperation in preventing FTFs from travelling.

We also look forward to learning more about the action plan on countering violent extremism adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Council's 47 member States last month.

Criminalization, law enforcement, international cooperation and countering violent extremism are the core elements of resolution 2178, and the Council's rule-of-law based approach to the resolution's implementation provide its member States with a consistent, comprehensive platform for action. I was pleased to learn about the efforts CTED and its Executive Director have put in supporting the elaboration of these instruments.

Mr. Secretary General, allow me to welcome you, on behalf of the Committee, and to congratulate you, both for successfully leading the negotiations in Strasbourg.

The Committee welcomes the Council's insistence on a rule-of-law based response to the FTF threat, and congratulates the Council for the speed with which it considered and adopted the Additional Protocol. It is my understanding that the negotiations, held with the full support and engagement of the Committee's Executive Directorate, facilitated the adoption of the Protocol within less than three months.

This is a further illustration of how important our close partnership could contribute to the global counter-terrorism effort.

Dear Colleagues,

The Committee, with the support of CTED, has a unique role in the counter-terrorism endeavours, which includes in particular the assessment of global, regional and national counter-terrorism profiles, wherever there are progress, shortfalls, needs and good practices.

The Committee welcomes the tangible outcome of the Council of Europe and wish to see others to double their efforts in bringing their legislative framework, institutional mechanism and operational apparatus up to standards, and sooner the better.

I shall now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.

Thank you.