

**MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF THE INTERIOR HELD IN
MADRID ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNTER-TERRORISM
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, JULY 28 2015**

The States and organizations participating at the High Level Meeting on the occasion of the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council have agreed as follows:

1. We reiterate our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and reaffirm our solidarity with the countries facing the plague of terrorism and pledge our continued cooperation and support for their efforts.
2. We reaffirm our determination to continue to fight terrorism, fully complying with the Charter of the UN, and with all our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, and resolve to counter this threat through a global comprehensive strategy, which implements and develops the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions of the Security Council.
3. We express concern that foreign terrorist fighters increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts, and also may pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens, note that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and States, even those far from conflict zones, and express grave concern that foreign terrorist fighters are using their extremist ideology to promote terrorism.

We reaffirm the principles of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 and relevant Presidential Statements (PRST), which call upon UN Member States to develop legislative, judicial, law enforcement and other relevant measures to establish efficient and effective international cooperation efforts against the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

We reaffirm the principles contained in UNSCR 1373 regarding criminal investigation, prosecution and international cooperation on procedural matters regarding the financing and support of terrorist groups.

We call upon States to propose creative ideas and new approaches for developing legal tools to further counter terrorism, including the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, in line with obligations under international law.

4. We call upon the international community to implement and reinforce the measures contained in UNSCR 2178.

We underscore the importance for all the States of the International Community to develop, as a matter of priority, without delay, adequate, swift and effective measures to fight the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. We encourage all States to keep up the momentum in strengthening their national legislations against foreign terrorist fighters, speeding up prosecutions of foreign terrorist fighters and other individuals who cooperate in their recruitment, organization and financing of travel and related activities, and strengthening the mechanisms for international assistance in the area of criminal justice.

5. We call upon States to take effective measures to prevent individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of terrorist acts, including by increased international cooperation through timely information exchange, including through multilateral fora, and through the implementation of good practices, agreed upon as appropriate, as well as through measures to increase the use of Advance Passenger Information data, improve security at border crossings and to ensure effective co-ordination between national border, police and intelligence authorities, as well as with private sector organisations, to tackle foreign terrorist fighter travel

6. We also call upon the international community, in the framework of the fight against terrorism financing, to pay specific attention to the financing, facilitation, and travel tradecraft used by foreign terrorist fighters.

7. We urge all States to consider listing, pursuant to UNSCR 1267/1989/2161, individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities associated with Al-Qaida who are financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for them, including ISIL/Da'esh, Boko Haram, Al Nusrah Front, and Ansar Al Sharia.

8. The International Community must also continue to more effectively carry out efficiently coordinated actions to prevent the spread of violent extremism, by promoting, inter alia, interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

We note with concern that terrorist groups, in particular the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), Al-Nusra Front (ANF), Ansar Al Sharia, Boko Haram, all the other cells, affiliates, splinter groups, or derivatives of Al-Qaeda, and groups that have pledged allegiance to ISIL/Da'esh, are exploiting information and communications technology to spread their violent ideology, to conduct incitement to violence, and to attempt to attract our citizens, especially the youth. We are determined to counter radicalization to violence and violent extremism by spreading the values of peaceful coexistence and pluralism upon which the international society is based, and supporting relevant local communities and civil society leaders, notably through paying special attention to women and youth in schools and prisons.

Together with the promotion of universal values, we underline the need to stop the criminal propaganda of the terrorist groups, the spread of the messages of incitement to violence and recruitment in social media networks and the internet, including the glorification of their cruel acts which causes tremendous suffering to victims, and highlight that a closer dialogue with internet service providers is crucial in this regard.

9. We pay tribute to all the victims of terrorism. Victims who have survived terrorist attacks and relatives of victims are among the most powerful and persuasive voices to delegitimize terrorism and to reveal its radical inhumanity. We call upon states to promote and highlight credible voices who can speak powerfully against the destructive propaganda of terrorist groups, including those who have chosen to leave or have been rehabilitated.

10. We strongly urge States, if they are able, to assist in the delivery of impactful capacity building and other technical assistance needed by the most affected states, especially those burdened with the need to commit extraordinary resources to counter the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, including states neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active.

11. While we value the progress achieved by States in taking the necessary measures to counter foreign terrorist fighters since the adoption of Resolution 2178, there is an urgent need to redouble efforts. We urge all States to significantly increase coordinated international action to create more obstacles in order to reduce the travel of foreign terrorist fighters and dramatically reduce the pace of their arrivals to conflict zones, in particular Syria, Iraq, and Libya.

In this context, we note the fact that various international regional and sub-regional organizations have decided to include in their activities and Plans of Action measures to counter violent extremism and to fight the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

12. We welcome recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional, and subregional levels to prevent and suppress the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, note the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), in particular its adoption of a comprehensive set of good practices to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and the establishment of its Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters, and the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union, the Council of Europe, the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organizations, the Arab League, and INTERPOL.

13. We fully support the central role that the United Nations plays in the fight against terrorism and in the preparation and implementation of measures to counter the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), created by UNSCR 1373 and its supporting body the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the 1267 Al Qaida Sanctions Committee, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office have played an important role to strengthen global actions against foreign terrorist fighters.

We specifically commend and appreciate the CTC and CTED for its commitment in implementing pertinent UNSCRs, and in particular UNSCR 2178 and relevant PRSTs. We underline the importance of their analysis of emerging trends and challenges, as well as their identification of good practices in the implementation of UNSCRs related to the fight against terrorism, and we welcome their cooperation with civil society and academic institutions, including the recent launching of the Global Research Network.

14. We welcome the Conclusions reported by the CTC at its Special Meeting to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters on July 28, 2015, on the basis of the work carried out by the experts during the CTED-led technical sessions on July 27, 2015. We believe that these Conclusions of the CTC will enable States to more effectively implement relevant counterterrorism UNSC resolutions, in particular UNSCR 2178, to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters.

15. We congratulate Spain for its leadership on counterterrorism and successful hosting of the Ministerial Session to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and express our gratitude for its generous hospitality.