



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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NEW YORK, 28 JUNE 2012

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – ITEM 118: THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant UN bodies, and through the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We are pleased that this third review of the Strategy has resulted in its reaffirmation, thus underscoring that the international community is united in the fight against terrorism. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations to combat terrorism, along with the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

We would like to thank Canada for having steered the members of the General Assembly through the review process. In our view, the highlight of this year's review is the greater attention being given to the plight of the victims of terrorism. Supporting victims of terrorism, including through steps for their rehabilitation, must be one of our top priorities. And victims of terrorism must also be given a stronger voice in our efforts, as they are the ones who can send the most powerful message against the terrorists' message of violence.

The adoption of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a unique achievement that brought significant progress in our effort to enhance and streamline the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations and its Member States. We strongly support the work of CTED and the CTITF, which will be further benefited from the newly established UN Counter-Terrorism Centre. We furthermore support the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a system-wide Counter-Terrorism Coordinator as a step toward greater coherence and impact. At the same time, we remain keenly aware of the inherent limits of any effort to coordinate different UN entities with different mandates and reporting lines. In establishing this position, we will have to find the right balance between respecting mandates and eliminating the fragmentation to the extent possible.

A key aspect of the Strategy is the balance found among its four pillars: addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, capacity-building, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. All four pillars must be implemented evenly by States and by the United Nations. We all know that in practice this is often not the case. In particular, measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism are often just an afterthought, at best. At worst, counter-terrorist operations are undertaken without due regard for the rights of innocent civilians, or even targeting civilian populations for political reasons. This issue requires greater attention from the UN system, including by the Security Council in the most serious cases, but also in the context of responsible capacity-building.

Full respect for human rights while countering terrorism is not only an obligation under international law, but also part of an effective fight against terrorism, as systematic violations of human rights can be exploited by those who wish to promote terrorist movements. The importance of the human rights dimension also requires the UN to lead by example in areas where it undertakes concrete measures to prevent and combat terrorism. In this regard, the Security Council has made enormous progress by establishing and subsequently strengthening

the Office of the Ombudsperson for the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. We commend the work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost, who has managed within a short time and with limited resources to bring greater fairness to the regime. The gains remain fragile however, as the Ombudsperson system can only be effective with the cooperation of all States concerned. We call on the Security Council to consider this issue in particular when extending the Ombudsperson's mandate at the end of the year.

I thank you.