



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. Chairman,

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. Liechtenstein has ratified all UN counter-terrorism treaties and amendments thereto, and we fully cooperate with and implement the decisions of relevant UN bodies, such as the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee and the ISIL and Al Qaida Sanctions Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

As a member of the Like-Minded Group on Sanctions, Liechtenstein will continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of terrorism-related sanctions regimes. We particularly value the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson to the ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and look forward to the early appointment of a new Ombudsperson. We continue to advocate for the mandate of the Ombudsperson to extend to other sanctions regimes and to ensure the necessary resources and support for the office. Avoiding conflicts between provisions of sanctions regimes and other obligations that States have under international law, including

human rights law, is of direct relevance to the effectiveness of the Council's work on sanctions. The work of the Ombudsperson has made a positive contribution to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

Respect for human rights and international humanitarian law must be a part of the fight against terrorism. Regrettably in practice, it is often just an afterthought. Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must avoid contributing to outcomes that betray the values that we all seek to uphold and that are often attacked by terrorists themselves. Overly broad domestic definitions of terrorism may threaten the right to freedom of expression and association. Mass surveillance, both domestically and abroad, may undermine the right to privacy. We continue to witness a blatant disrespect for international humanitarian law by various parties to armed conflicts, including non-State actors. Governments should lead by example and must scrupulously abide by the basic principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in their actions. The erosion of the respect for international humanitarian law can encourage perceptions of injustice that may eventually facilitate radicalization and the recruitment of terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to express our deep sympathy and solidarity to all victims of terrorist attacks around the globe. We need to strengthen the international response to terrorism with the United Nations at its centre. The respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the UN Secretariat are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Liechtenstein welcomes the creation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office. It is a good attempt to streamline the counter-terrorism architecture of the United Nations and provides an opportunity to a more balanced implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars. By focussing on preventing violent extremism the Office can make an important contribution to the Secretary-General's prevention agenda and to bringing human rights to the forefront of the United Nations response to terrorism. This Committee has made important contributions to our collective response to terrorism in the past, in particular by drafting numerous international

conventions in the field of counter-terrorism. Particular mention should be made of the 1997 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the 1999 Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, and the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Following these efforts, we should also streamline our work accordingly and avoid a duplication of our discussions in various formats. Therefore, we repeat our call to only debate a general convention on counter-terrorism in one forum, namely in the plenary, and to take the item off the agenda of the Sixth Committee. Should this not be possible, we at least echo the suggestion of the European Union and others to bi-annualize the discussion on this item.

I thank you.