

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON A
COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY
(A/60/825, CHAPTERS II AND III)**

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Co-Chair

My delegation made a few short remarks last week at the beginning of our discussion of the Secretary-General's proposals on a global counter-terrorism strategy (A/60/825). We are grateful for the opportunity to address in more detail chapters II and III of the report, which we do support in general terms.

Chapter II addresses the first "D", namely dissuading groups from resorting to terrorism or supporting it. We fully subscribe to the notion that terrorism is unacceptable under all circumstances, and that there can never be any justification for terrorist activities. The legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination must be conducted in conformity with applicable rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law. The deliberate targeting of civilians and non-combatants is thus under all circumstances unacceptable, and does never serve the cause of those who resort to such acts.

We agree with the Secretary-General that in our efforts to counter terrorism more attention must be given to the plight of the victims of terrorism. Such efforts will have to be made mainly at the national level, and the United Nations can support them through the provision of model legislation.

We also join the Secretary-General in his call for a global civil society campaign against terrorism. Civil society organizations have made great contributions in a number of areas of concern to the international community. Their potential in dissuading groups from resorting to violence as a political tool remains greatly underutilized.

The Secretary-General's report also addresses the issue of the so-called "root causes" of terrorism. We would like to reiterate our position that any such conditions, whatever their label, must be addressed in their own right, whether or not they lead

to terrorist activities. The fact that terrorist acts often occur in connection with such conditions is a political reality which we can acknowledge without giving terrorists a basis for legitimization. We have stated time and again that terrorism is unjustified under all circumstances; therefore referring to such circumstances in greater detail can never provide a cause for justification. Addressing real grievances and societal problems, such as those outlined in the report, may be seen as a *pragmatic* imperative which may deprive terrorist of the pretext for their violence. More than that, however, addressing real grievances is a *political* imperative for the international community despite the goals of terrorists. We must never allow terrorists to hijack entire communities and to prevent them from receiving due assistance, following the rationale that providing such assistance would only serve the goals of terrorists.

The conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as those outlined in the report, must be tackled using the full array of tools available to the United Nations. Capacity-building activities are the forefront of these efforts, in particular in the areas of conflict prevention and rule of law.

Chapter III explores ways of denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack, beginning with measures to deny financial support. In this context we would like to underline Liechtenstein's full commitment to international cooperation against the financing of terrorism. Liechtenstein has just finalized its fifth report to the Counter-terrorism Committee which outlines in greater detail the most recent developments in this area. The Government of Liechtenstein undertakes every effort to ensure that the Liechtenstein financial center is not abused for illegal activities such as the financing of terrorism. Various international conventions in the field of counter-terrorism and crime prevention are the backbone of such efforts. An effective United Nations strategy against terrorism must be based on such universal legal standards and their implementation. Greater emphasis and more resources must be directed towards capacity-building, since many States continue to lack the necessary tools for

implementation. Financial sanctions imposed by the Security Council complement these measures. We agree with the Secretary-General that more must be done to ensure that those sanctions target the right people and are fully enforced, and to improve the accountability and transparency of sanctions regimes, in particular when they target persons in more than just one country, such as in the case of the sanctions regime against Al Qaida and the Taliban. There is a continued need for action with respect to the procedures for delisting in particular, as called for by the World Summit, and effective application of due process is to our mind an indispensable element of an effective and credible sanctions regime.

The Secretary-Generals proposals regarding the non-proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction are very timely. Member States clearly need to step up their efforts at controlling the flow of firearms, small arms and light weapons as well as access to MAN-PADS. We also agree with the call for stricter implementation of arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council, while recognizing the need to assist States in improving their capacity to implement such embargoes, especially in conflict zones.

The possibility of a large-scale terrorist attack using nuclear, radiological, biological or chemical weapons continues to pose a realistic threat. We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his clear call for action, in particular in the area of biological terrorism. The lack of progress and political will in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, however, is clearly playing into the hands of terrorists. As the lines between State actors and non-State actors are increasingly blurring, the need to step up our efforts in respect of both categories becomes ever more evident. Progress in disarmament and non-proliferation are thus indispensable elements of our fight against terrorism. The United Nations counter-terrorism strategy must therefore send an unequivocal signal to this effect.

The last three parts of this chapter, regarding impeding terrorist use of the internet, denying access to travel and denying access to their target, highlight once again the importance of improving State capacity in these areas. In our view, the main role of the United Nations must be to coordinate and provide relevant assistance.

I thank you.