

**OPEN DEBATE OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL:**

**THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED BY
TERRORIST ACTS**

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President

I would like to thank you for convening today's open debate, which comes at a highly opportune moment. On behalf of the Government and People of Liechtenstein, I would like to express our solidarity with and sincere condolences to all those victimized by the recent terrorist attacks in India. Liechtenstein unequivocally condemns such heinous acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. I would also like to reiterate our full commitment to continuing international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, in particular in the framework of the United Nations.

Mr. President

We are grateful for the concept paper submitted by your delegation for today's debate, which contains numerous pertinent observations with a view to a stronger and more coherent international response to terrorism. Given the limited time, our statement will be focused on a few specific points. We strongly agree with the notion contained in the paper that the use of armed force cannot be the only answer to the scourge of terrorism. In this context, we note that terms such as "war on terrorism" have brought about more problems than solutions, in particular with respect to the uniform application of international humanitarian law. We believe that today's debate provides us with a good opportunity to foster international solidarity in countering terrorism on the basis of a comprehensive approach, as reflected in the United Nations Counter-terrorism Strategy of September 2006. Merely reaffirming these commitments, however, will not by itself improve our response to terrorism. It is a sobering fact that during the seven years following the attacks of September 11th, 2001, the United Nations has massively scaled up its global counter-terrorism toolbox, and Member States as well as other international and regional organizations have taken numerous steps to that effect, but still the threat of terrorism seems more pervasive than ever. This simple fact underlines the limitations of "traditional" counter-terrorist measures and the need to systematically address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorist activities. The Security

Council has a particular role to play in this regard with respect to the need to address a number of long-term conflict situations whose repercussions are being felt all over the world and that are directly related to violent extremism. Other parts of the UN system, including the General Assembly, are called upon to redouble their efforts within their respective mandates that contribute to the prevention of terrorism. In this regard, we would like to recall that the General Assembly has a particular responsibility that it needs to address urgently: the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We sincerely hope that renewed vigor in global counter-terrorism cooperation will bring about a political climate in which the outstanding issues with respect to what has been termed the “definition” of terrorism can be solved.

Mr. President

The UN Counter-terrorism Strategy identifies the absence of the rule of law, human rights violations, as well as a lack of good governance among the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. It is equally true that the fight against terrorism can have a negative impact on the rule of law, human rights and good governance, as States and international organizations take sometimes urgent and forceful counter-terrorist measures without allowing for appropriate checks and balances on executive action. The UN Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism has given numerous relevant examples of such measures where public and individual security interests are not always properly balanced against the human rights of affected individuals. Given the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including with respect to the fight against international terrorism, we are convinced that the Council should lead by example when dealing with the difficult question of balancing security interests and human rights. We are therefore pleased that further improvements have been made to the Council’s counter-terrorist sanctions regime, and we urge the Council to take further necessary steps in this regard.

I thank you.