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# VIRTUAL COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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6-10 JULY 2020



## THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

### STATEMENT

by H.E. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy

Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

*at the Interactive Closing Session of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week: Member States' Counter-Terrorism Priorities in the Post COVID-19 Environment – Synergies and Complementarities between the COVID-19 and the Counter-Terrorism Agenda*

*New York, Friday 10 July 2020 at 11:30AM*

*Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov,*

In the time of pandemic, people are spending more time online than ever before, being exposed to disinformation and terrorist ideologies and propaganda. The multitude of misinformation, increased expressions of discrimination and xenophobia, as well as the socio-economic consequences if unresolved can contribute to conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism.

Understanding the interaction between the pandemic and the threats of global terrorism will provide insights into how to better combat terrorism in the post-pandemic environment and prepare ourselves for future threats.

I take this opportunity to commend the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) for organising this timely event.

I echo several panelists that at all times we must remain vigilant to the scourge of terrorism. And we must prevent and fight terrorism together. Like the pandemic, international terrorism respects no border. No country is safe until all is safe. An essential



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part of our joint response is a strong multilateralism with the United Nations at the centre. Further coordination and coherence among the United Nations entities and other stakeholders must be ensured. We must heed new and emerging forms of terrorism, including cyber attacks, bio-terrorism and terrorist use of the internet for propaganda, inciting violent extremism, spreading fake news, sowing hatred and division. It should be noted that any measures to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with the relevant obligations under international law, in particular the United Nations Charter, including its purposes and principles, as well as obligations under human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Member States bear the main responsibility to protect their people. In recovering from the crisis and building back, we must not reduce our commitment and resources to counter terrorism. International cooperation and capacity building is ever more critical to effectively detect, identify, investigate and prosecute terrorists and serious criminals. Sharing of information and intelligence on terrorist travel, exchange of experience and technical assistance in border management and countering terrorist financing should be maintained and adapted to the new reality. We must enhance the capacity of States to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in countering terrorist use of digital technologies. Programmes and activities by several United Nations entities, including the UNOCT, UNODC and INTERPOL to assist member states in building capacity along this path should be furthered.

Regional and sub-regional organizations have an important role to play in promoting intra- and inter-regional cooperation. In order to fulfill this role, they must be provided with necessary support by Member States and the United Nations system.

Countering terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism, including new forms of terrorism, has always been a high priority for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism 2018-2025 has been effectively implemented, complementing international efforts under the United Nations framework.



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Finally, the strong focus must always be on prevention. The key to prevent and counter the threats of terrorism lies in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including unemployment, injustices, inequities, discrimination, marginalization and unresolved conflicts. We must remain firmly committed to resolving conflicts, eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth and development and ensuring respect for human rights for all. We must ensure a whole-of-society approach. I would like to acknowledge the role and potential of women in preventing and countering terrorism. We must not lose sight of the vulnerabilities of young people in the digital environment. They should be involved in the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance through education, job generation and empowerment.

*Mr. Under-Secretary-General,*

Let me conclude by reiterating the firm position of our Government to reject and condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you./.