



**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
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**Security Council Briefing on “Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by
Terrorist Acts: a Global Approach to Counter Terrorism - Challenges and the Way Forward”**

15 December 2022

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

I thank the Republic of India for organizing this briefing during its Presidency of the Security Council.

The persistent global threat posed by terrorism not only requires this Council’s continued attention, but also calls for a renewed collective approach, as laid out in the Secretary-General’s report on Our Common Agenda.

His New Agenda for Peace will outline a way forward to address converging risks and threats that include not only terrorism, but also armed conflict, a worsening climate emergency, poverty and inequality, the unregulated cyberspace and not easy recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The magnitude and the complexity of today’s threats to international peace and security require no less.

And in this regard, I reiterate the Secretary-General’s call for strengthening multilateralism as a matter of necessity and not of choice.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Despite continuing leadership losses by Al-Qaida and Da’esh, terrorism in general has become more prevalent and more geographically widespread, affecting the lives of millions worldwide.

In recent years, terrorist groups such as Da’esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates have continued to exploit instability, fragility and conflict to advance their agendas.

This has been the case particularly in West Africa and the Sahel, where the situation remains urgent, as terrorist groups strive to expand their area of operations.

The activities of such groups have also contributed to the deteriorating security situation in other parts of the continent, particularly in Central and Southern Africa.

In Afghanistan, the sustained presence of terrorist groups continues to pose serious threats to the region and beyond, as some groups maintain ambitions to conduct external operations.

Moreover, it is concerning that the de facto authorities have failed to sever long-standing ties with terrorist groups sheltering in the country, despite this Council's demands that they do so.

Terrorist groups in these and in other contexts often pursue diverse agendas through different strategies, adapting opportunistically. They do so in part by resorting to illicit financing methods and other criminal activities, posing difficult challenges for coordinated responses by Member States.

Others [have] morphed into or grafted themselves onto insurgencies that occupy territory and purport to assume state responsibilities.

The manner in which these groups misuse and abuse developments in technological innovation to advance their agendas is also concerning. This includes the use of online videogames and adjacent platforms to groom and recruit members, propagandize, communicate, and even train for terrorist acts.

In this regard, I welcome the adoption by consensus of the Delhi Declaration at the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee held by India in October.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to work closely with other United Nations entities, including CTED, to ensure that the misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists is addressed as a cross-cutting priority.

I am also concerned about a rise in terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief. While not a new phenomenon, a few Member States consider this as the fastest growing or even the most prominent domestic security threat that they face.

I underline the Secretary-General's view that this phenomenon requires further understanding, and reiterate his call for the development and implementation of national plans to address this threat.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Allow me to outline some suggested principles for guiding our collective action in countering terrorism going forward.

First, preventive action. There is no better and more efficient remedy to the threat posed by terrorism than prevention.

The international counter-terrorism experience over the past 20 years demonstrates the limits of focusing on the necessity of security forces responding to imminent or actual terrorist acts without also addressing the conditions that lead to terrorist acts.

Counter-terrorism measures should be employed in tandem with initiatives to address the drivers of marginalization, exclusion, inequality, injustice and lack of opportunity—the same sorts of issues needed to reinforce the social contract between citizens and their governments.

Second, addressing the complex conditions driving terrorism requires multi-faceted and integrated responses. “Whole-of-society” approaches should be community-based, conflict- and gender-sensitive.

Engaging a multitude of stakeholders is indispensable for devising such strategies.

This includes not only civil society organizations, religious leaders, youth and women's groups, and the private sector, but also victims and survivors of terrorist acts.

Third, in keeping with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, human rights must be at the centre of effective counter-terrorism responses.

Upholding the rule of law and respecting international law, including human rights law, is both a legal and moral obligation, and an operational requirement.

Well established principles, norms and standards should feature front and centre in our efforts to counter the threat posed by terrorist acts.

Finally, regional arrangements should be leveraged.

As the threat posed by terrorism is transnational, so too should be the responses. Regional-based approaches offer an opportunity for tailoring responses to specific contexts.

It is for this reason that the Office of Counter-Terrorism is co-organizing with Nigeria a summit on counter-terrorism in Africa. The summit presents an important opportunity to reconsider how the United Nations could further support counter-terrorism efforts in Africa.

I look forward to working closely with this Council as we strive to revitalize our multilateral action to counter and prevent terrorist acts.

I thank you for your attention.