



SLOVENIA

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STATEMENT

BY

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Agenda item 109

Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

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Mr Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the sixth Committee for the 72nd session of the General Assembly and let me assure you that Slovenia stands ready to work resolutely to enhance the progress and to assist your efforts for successful conclusion of this session.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to inform you about our national activities in this regard.

Mr Chairman,

Terrorism is a direct attack on the values of democracy, human rights, tolerance, solidarity, humanity and peace. Our action against the threat of terrorism should be united and coherent – this is the only way we will achieve long-term results.

We are focused primarily on addressing conditions conducive to, and the root causes of, radicalisation and violent extremism, which lead to terrorism. Slovenia believes that **prevention programmes** are of utmost importance, they discourage people (especially youth) from extremism and related activities and establish long-term sustainable social, political and economic environment. **Young people** are especially susceptible to radicalisation, but are at the same time drivers of positive transformation of societies. Education is an important element of those programmes. Let me quote the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai: "The extremists are afraid of books and pens, the power of education frightens them."

Allow me to highlight also the importance of **regional cooperation** which is the most effective way of coping with this pressing and demanding issue. **Western Balkans** is of particular interest to Slovenia. Da'esh is looking beyond the MENA region to establish further areas for recruitment and logistical bases. The Western Balkans will stay in Daesh' sight as regards radicalisation and extremism processes and due to its geographic position as a possible transit route between Europe and Syria/Iraq.

Links between terrorism and organised crime are well established and rightfully put among priorities of our fight against terrorism. That is why Slovenia proposed the development of the **Western Balkans Counter terrorism Initiative (WBCTi)** into the **Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG)** concept, which includes other prominent areas in national security cooperation: prevention of violent extremism and fight against terrorism (WBCTi), fight against serious and organised crime and border security. Both initiatives were endorsed by the Council of the European Union.

Slovenia successfully submitted a project entitled "**FIRST LINE Practitioners Dealing with Radicalization Issues - Awareness Raising and Encouraging Capacity Building in the Western Balkan Region**", that was launched in January 2016. The aim of this project is to improve the early exchange of intelligence at the regional level, to introduce unified international standards for the investigation and prosecution of the

criminal offence of terrorism, and to guarantee secure and lawful exchange of personal data.

Let me also inform you that Slovenia amended Criminal Code in which we introduced stricter provisions regarding terrorism. We also adopted a new **Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Act.**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reiterate my delegation`s support to the newly established **UN Office of Counter Terrorism** led by Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vladimir Voronkov. We are convinced that the new counter terrorism architecture will contribute to a stronger and more efficient UN that drives the important global counter-terrorism agenda, taking a balanced approach across the four pillars of the **UN Global CT Strategy**.

Last but not least Slovenia would like to express its support to efforts towards the progress on the work on the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism**. We truly hope this year the working group on international terrorism will be able to conclude its work and come to its final conclusions.

Thank you.