

**Security Council Open Debate
Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts
International Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism
November 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Ntwaagae Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations

Let me start by joining other delegations in congratulating Australia on its assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of November. I also wish to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this important debate on international cooperation in combating terrorism and violent extremism.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Botswana strongly condemns acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations and wishes to reiterate its unwavering support for the efforts of the international community towards the promotion and protection of international peace and security. Terrorism and violent extremism remain serious threats to national, regional and international peace and security. Acts of terrorism have shown that terrorism knows no boundaries and that no country is exempt from such heinous crimes.

My delegation has been following with horror and disbelief the emergence of violent extremist groups and foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East region who have no regard for human life. There is no doubt that the existence of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front in Iraq and Syria is a blatant challenge to international peace and security. During this year alone, they have committed atrocious acts against humanity ranging from bombing neighbourhoods to beheading innocent people.

The recent beheading of a United States humanitarian worker, Mr. Peter Kassig, has gripped the consciousness of humankind, while demonstrating how savage and senseless these terrorists are. My delegation condemns in the strongest possible terms this barbaric and grisly killing, which was captured on videotape and shamelessly broadcast for the entire world to watch. That just goes to show that no nation can single-handedly fight and root out organized terror. Therefore, a comprehensive and holistic approach is the only way to tackle this problem.

Poor governance, discrimination, political exclusion and inequitable economic development, among other things, are some of the factors that have been found to create social tension, which has the potential to precipitate terrorism. Governments should therefore guard against such conditions, as they provide a breeding ground for terrorism.

In that regard, we believe that developing strong institutions of governance, the promotion of the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights provide a useful foundation for countering terrorism. Needless to say, it is the duty and responsibility of States to ensure that citizens are protected from crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes and crimes of aggression.

We call on the international community to scale up its cooperation assistance to strengthen institutions that promote good governance and the rule of law. That can go a long way in

making the world a more secure and prosperous place for the benefit of both present and future generations of humankind.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Botswana's commitment to the fight against terrorism and impunity. We remain disheartened by the fact that the perpetrators of terrorist acts continue to wantonly undermine international humanitarian law and human rights law through their activities. Yet they still remain at large, frustrating the course of justice and continuing to endanger the lives of innocent women and children. That state of affairs must cease forthwith.