

**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. Petersen Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and my own country, Denmark.

The Nordic countries stand firmly behind the United Nations fight against terrorism. We welcome today's discussion and the Security Council's focus on countering violent extremism and terrorism through resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).

International terrorism, such as that practised by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida and their affiliates, is a serious threat to international peace and security. The horrendous crimes committed by those groups continue to cause immense human suffering in Syria and Iraq. As underlined by many previous speakers, other terrorist groups are causing similar suffering in other countries and regions.

We need a broad approach in order to defeat ISIL and other terrorist groups. We need to support an inclusive political process in Iraq, and we need a strong political engagement to solve the conflict in Syria. We must also continue to contribute extensively with humanitarian assistance to the millions in desperate need of food, shelter and medical care. The Nordic countries fully support the crucial work being carried out by United Nations entities on the ground, not least by the United Nations Special Representative, Staffan de Mistura. Our common fight against terrorism must always comply with international law, including human rights law and, as applicable, humanitarian law. Terrorists' use of social media as a means of communication is of great concern and must be countered without infringing on freedom of expression. Censorship is not a solution.

Young people from many different countries, including the Nordic countries — some of them only teenagers — are being attracted by ISIL's effective propaganda. The Nordic countries therefore strongly support enhanced international cooperation to strengthen existing border controls and information-sharing aimed at stopping the recruitment and flow of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as terrorist financing, into Syria and Iraq. Relevant legislation needs to be adopted and fully applied. Information must be shared effectively. Likewise, we must address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters returning to their country of origin or traveling to other areas of conflict. We are convinced that terrorism and the problem of foreign terrorist fighters can be defeated only through deradicalization efforts — that is, by addressing the complex and diverse motivations for radicalization and violent extremism.

Preventing the spread of terrorism requires local efforts on a global scale. The role of women as agents for conflict prevention needs to be fully acknowledged and further explored. Early preventive efforts are essential to understand the motivations for radicalization and recruitment to terrorist organizations. Civil society organizations, religious leaders, social workers and teachers are examples of those who can make a difference on the

ground.

The narrative of terrorism is that of hate and intolerance. Countering that narrative and creating resilience is essential. The Nordic countries believe that our strongest counter-narrative is a firm commitment to democracy, human rights and equality. We consider those values end goals in themselves, as well as key drivers of economic development. They are the cornerstones of inclusive societies in which no one should feel marginalized or be attracted to violent extremism.

The Nordic countries place great value on United Nations efforts to facilitate information-sharing and the exchange of best practices. We strongly support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other efforts to enhance the capacity of States to counter terrorism within the rule of law. We support United Nations efforts to explore additional ways to counter violent extremism and terrorism.

Finally, on behalf of the Nordic countries, I wish to express our appreciation to Australia for taking the initiative to arrange this timely debate.