

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. Shin Dong-ik Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

My delegation wishes to thank you, Madam, for presiding over this timely debate on international cooperation in counter-terrorism. I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban; Ambassador Quinlan, Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; and Ambassador Murrakhait, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, for their informative briefings.

I also wish to extend my deepest condolences to the families of those who were executed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), most recently American aid worker Abdul-Rahman Kassig, also known as Peter Kassig. The Republic of Korea strongly condemns these barbaric acts. These are tragic reminders of the brutality of ISIL and the need for the international community to strengthen efforts to put an end to terrorism. In this regard, my delegation strongly supports the adoption of the draft presidential statement before us today, which lays out steps for Member States and the United Nations to implement counter-terrorism measures in a comprehensive and practical manner. In particular, we note its emphasis on curbing the financing of terrorist entities.

At the Security Council summit in September (see S/PV.7272), the Council demonstrated its resolve to tackle the challenge of terrorist entities, such as ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front (ANF), as well as foreign terrorist fighters, by unanimously adopting resolution 2178 (2014). ISIL and ANF terrorize, extort and sexually enslave innocent civilians. They also embroil regions with violence and terrorism, while fanning the flames of sectarianism. This clearly goes against the very values of Islam they claim to represent.

In particular, the security implications arising from the increase of foreign terrorist fighters affect not only Iraq and Syria, but resonate far beyond the Middle East. Radicalized and disaffected foreign terrorist fighters can return to their home countries with advanced terrorist tactics acquired on the battlefield. The less restrictive border controls spurred by globalization are enabling foreign terrorist fighters to move around the world with relative ease. At the same time, the terrorists' increased and adept use of the Internet has made their recruitment and propaganda more pervasive and toxic.

Against this backdrop, at the Security Council summit in September President Park Geun-Hye expressed her strong commitment to thoroughly implementing resolution 2178 (2014). Accordingly, the Korean Government has been making efforts to meet this commitment. First, Korea has launched an interagency process to review relevant laws and systems to identify gaps in border control, financing and information-sharing. We look forward to sharing each others' best practices with other countries in this area.

Secondly, we have strengthened measures to monitor the travel of foreign terrorist fighters. In addition to restricting the entry of individuals designated by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, we are tightly monitoring those who are traveling to or through the Republic of Korea by making use of INTERPOL databases and the Advance Passenger Information System. We are also increasing efforts to share information on suspected individuals with other countries. Such efforts helped

Korea to successfully host the 17th Asian Games and the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in recent months. In fact, it was encouraging to note that relevant authorities in other countries of Asia and elsewhere have recently become more proactive in sharing information.

Thirdly, Korea is actively engaging in regional counter-terrorism initiatives. We supported the recent adoption of the East Asia Summit statement on terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq. We support the initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to hold a regional counter-terrorism workshop in North-East Asia next year, where judges, prosecutors and police officers will discuss ways to strengthen law enforcement in combating terrorism.

Fourthly, as the host of the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and the forthcoming workshop with the International Atomic Energy Agency on cybersecurity, we are endeavouring to contribute to global efforts to end the malicious use of information and communications technology by terrorists. Our authorities are strengthening measures to prevent terrorists from inciting violent extremism through the Internet, while keeping the Internet open, free and secure. In this regard, we look forward to working with the United Nations, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and CTED to address these threats. Lastly, a more fundamental approach to addressing the conditions that lead to violent extremism is critical. We should explore socioeconomic strategies to address the root causes of terrorism. To this end, Korea will continue to expand our official development assistance by providing training and increasing employment of young people in developing countries.

The United Nations is well positioned to play a central role in countering global terrorism by providing analysis and strategic direction. Korea hopes that the United Nations system will continue to strengthen its counter-terrorism capacity by improving coordination among relevant United Nations agencies, most notably CTITF and CTED, while strengthening cooperation with other international organizations such as INTERPOL. In addition, the capacity gap of Member States to address terrorism, as illustrated by the 1373 Committee Chair today, underscores the need for the United Nations to make efforts to provide increased technical assistance and coordination to Member States.

Finally, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Korea would like to point out that we should remain vigilant in deterring terrorists' access to weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, Korea hopes that the United Nations will also come up with a more comprehensive analysis and recommend ways to adopt a sustained and holistic approach to countering violent extremism. We look forward to the Council's further deliberations on this significant topic.

In closing, we wish to express our appreciation to Australia for its hard work in reinforcing cooperation to counter terrorism in its capacity as Chair of the 1267 Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) during the past two years.

