**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**

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I would like to start by thanking the Australian presidency of the Security Council for organizing this highly pertinent debate.

A few days ago, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant carried out yet another beheading of a humanitarian worker, Abdul-Rahman, or Peter, Kassig, which was a disgusting, barbaric act and has been condemned by the Council. Terrorism brings devastation and suffering to the countries and people affected by it by killing, raping, enslaving, displacing, and denying the most basic of rights to those who are in the terrorists' way. The threat of terrorism knows no boundaries as it spreads and mutates, affecting entire regions.

The fact that terrorism and violent extremism have been high on the Security Council's agenda and that we meet here today in this high-level open debate demonstrates the importance and urgency that this body attaches to such threats. We appreciate the intent of the Australian presidency to seize the momentum and take stock of the progress made in implementing recent decisions of the Council, while also discussing a practical way forward. Presidential statement S/PRST/2014/23, adopted today, is another important step in that regard.

The constantly evolving nature and intensity of the threat of terrorism and violent extremism have put existing counter-terrorism measures to an unprecedented test. Frameworks to tackle the threat existed long before resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) were adopted, yet, as we heard from the briefers today, the actual response still lags behind. Significant implementation gaps persist, because of a lack of capacity, resources or political will, and efforts to bridge those gaps need to be stepped up. At the same time, concrete means and measures need to be updated and adapted in order to at least match the level of innovation and dynamics on the part of the terrorists themselves.

Addressing the radicalization process that leads individuals to accept terrorist violence as an action of choice is key to preventing new terrorists from emerging and to dissuading and rehabilitating former terrorists. We have already had several occasions to hear States sharing their national experiences, which increasingly encompass education, greater public engagement and community outreach, in order to push back the terrorist narratives and provide positive alternatives to their schemes. ==Communities, traditional and religious leaders, women, and surviving victims of terrorism, education, community policing and mobilization can contribute significantly to such efforts.==

On the other hand, the use of social media and modern communication technologies merits special attention, as it poses significant new challenges when used by terrorists. It also provides significant new opportunities for spreading positive messaging to counter the terrorist narrative. The United Nations itself needs to step up its efforts to address violent extremism and raise its visibility in that area, including through strategic communications.

Mobility and flexibility, as highlighted by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, exacerbate the threat of terrorism by providing it with a potentially global reach. Identifying and interdicting individuals as they travel to engage in fighting is often the last chance to prevent them from turning into actual terrorists, as well as a first step towards effective mitigation of potential threats upon their return. Countries need to step up their efforts to improve information-sharing and their analytical capability at border crossings. Wider and better use of INTERPOL databases must be encouraged. Moreover, the capacities of States, especially those neighbouring conflict zones, to control their land borders need to be further strengthened.

It is also essential to step up efforts aimed at disrupting terrorist financing. Terrorist organizations increasingly rely on looting, illicit trade in antiquities and protected species, poaching, kidnapping for ransom, human trafficking and drug trafficking. Many of those activities have links with international organized crime networks. The ability of States to detect and prevent terrorism financing in all its varieties is a crucial component of counter-terrorism efforts. It is especially relevant with regard to the non-profit sector, alternative remittance systems, cross-border movements of cash and the ability to freeze funds and assets linked to terrorism.

The foregoing are just a few of the many interrelated areas where progress could contribute to the suppression of terrorism, both tangibly and durably. In that regard, preventive measures are a long-term investment, as reducing the vulnerability of States and strengthening the resilience of societies to terrorist threats often prove to be more effective, also in the areas of conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

The United Nations system as a whole plays a central role in leading international efforts aimed at suppressing terrorism and ensuring the coherence of responses. We recognize linkages with the recently revised United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the benefits of closer and more coherent coordination among the various United Nations bodies tasked with its implementation. Moreover, we see great potential in the cooperation with and among various international, regional and subregional organizations, such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

However, the essential element of all those efforts remains the long-term commitment of States. While various multilateral bodies are in a position to monitor States' implementation of relevant international obligations and help them identify and overcome existing gaps, effective measures to counter terrorism must correspond to national circumstances, be nationally led, but also remain open to genuine international cooperation.