



2021 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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PRESS RELEASE

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Seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, welcomes the adoption today by consensus of the General Assembly of resolution 75/291 for the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which marks its 15th anniversary.

Since its adoption in 2006, the Strategy has provided a common blueprint for national, regional, and international efforts to fight terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, through a consistent, comprehensive, and coordinated approach, anchored in the United Nations Charter and international law.

“The enduring consensus behind the Strategy is testament to the international community’s firm resolve to work together in tackling the scourge of terrorism, at a time when many countries have faced an increase in terrorist violence and online activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. I salute the role played by the Permanent Representatives of Oman and Spain in facilitating a successful review process, under the leadership of the President of the General Assembly”, said Mr. Voronkov.

Today’s resolution not only reaffirms the Strategy but also includes several substantive updates to guide the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and the broader international community, until its next biennial review in 2023.

The General Assembly notably calls on Member States to take appropriate measures to address the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief.

It further stresses the need to prevent and counter terrorists’ use of information and communications technologies and other new and emerging technologies, including through cooperative approaches with the private sector and civil society. It also calls for strengthening national capacities to protect vulnerable targets, civil aviation and maritime security, while underscoring the need to build national capacities and address the underlying conditions which terrorist exploit.

The General Assembly calls for increased attention and action to ensure that all counter-terrorism measures, including those using new technologies, comply with the rule of law and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and strengthens the focus on non-discrimination and gender-equality, as well as on the rights of children and victims of terrorism.

The resolution also takes note of the assistance provided by the United Nations system to requesting Member States for the gender- and age-sensitive rehabilitation and reintegration of children with family links to United Nations designated terrorist groups, including for the voluntary repatriation, on a case-by-case, of these children in a manner that is in their best interests.

“This resolution sets out a strong roadmap for reinvigorated and inclusive multilateral efforts against terrorism, based on unity, solidarity and international law. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre looks forward to working with all our partners to advance its implementation and support Member States as we strive for a world free from terrorism,” said Mr. Voronkov.

Recalling, the need to ensure that the Office of Counter-Terrorism is provided with adequate capacity and other resources for the implementation of its mandate, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to assess the financing of the Office, which receives 97 percent of its resources from Member State voluntary contributions, and to provide budgetary recommendations, if necessary, in 2022.

The General Assembly had postponed review of the Strategy, initially due to take place in June 2020, to its seventy-fifth session because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The process was informed by two reports submitted by the Secretary-General (A/74/677 and A/75/729).

Today’s General Assembly meeting also marked the end of the second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, including the Second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General from 28-30 June 2021.

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