

Conflict-affected regions have been particularly impacted, with terrorist groups exploiting power vacuums, conflict dynamics, and human suffering.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The international community's united front against terrorism, reaffirmed during the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June last year, has yielded positive results over the years.

But, a number of key priorities continue to require our collective action. Allow me to highlight some of those here:

First, we need to promote inclusive multilateralism.

This is indispensable to safeguard the values of the United Nations Charter that terrorism threatens.

It is also the driving force behind the Secretary-General's proposal for a New Agenda for Peace, contained in his landmark report "Our Common Agenda".

The Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is the primary institutional vehicle for the coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, will continue to play an important role in this regard.

Second, we must ensure accountability for international crimes committed by terrorist groups and urgently facilitate the repatriation of third country nationals in camps and other facilities in north-east Syria and Iraq.

Despite some progress, tens of thousands of individuals, including more than 27,000 children from Iraq and some 60 other countries, remain deprived of their basic rights and at growing risk of radicalization and recruitment.

My Office, together with the United Nations Children's Fund, leads the Global Framework of 15 United Nations entities established to provide requesting States with comprehensive support for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons returned from Syria and Iraq.

Third, we need to take urgent action to counter the spread of terrorism across Africa.

According to the 2022 Global Terrorism Index, nearly half of all deaths attributed to terrorism globally in the past year occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Da'esh, and their regional affiliates, have intensified their attacks and expanded their reach in Central, Southern, East and West Africa, most recently in littoral countries.

Strengthening the capacities of African countries in tackling terrorism is a key priority for my Office. We have established new Programme Offices in Rabat and Nairobi to provide critical support to national and regional partners in the continent.

My Office is also organizing a High-Level African Counter-Terrorism Summit next year in Nigeria to address some of these issues at a strategic level.

Fourth, we need to remain vigilant and to anticipate and adapt to the evolving threat posed by terrorists.

This is particularly relevant given the development of new technologies and capabilities

This requires strengthening the role of civil society as a key partner, including enabling women's leadership and full and effective participation.

My Office has taken concrete steps to integrate civil society across all areas of its work, including in our high-level conferences and capacity-building work.

We also hold regular round tables with civil society actors and host a dedicated online community on our Connect and Learn Platform to facilitate information sharing and coordination.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Addressing terrorism requires sustained political will as well as effective international and regional cooperation.

The eighth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy next year will offer another opportunity for the General Assembly to