General Assembly
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SiHth Committee

Agenda item 108:
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Statement by Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik
First Secretary. Norway

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism continues to be a grave threat to international peace and security. The situation facing us today in Syria and Iraq should make this clear to everyone. Syria's bloody civil war has killed over 200 000 people, and set the region on fire. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are fleeing and looking for refuge, including in Norway.

The unprecedented brutality of ISIL, a group with both political and territorial ambitions, clearly demonstrates the ability of terrorist organisations to adapt and pose fundamental threats not only to the immediate region, but also to the international community

ISIL and other terrorists groups are attracting thousands of foreign terrorist fighters from all areas of the world, and Norway is not immune to this trend. Over the course of the last few years, close to one hundred Norwegians have joined various violent extremist groups that are engaged in mass atrocities.

Individuals joining terrorist groups abroad cause devastating damage to local populations. They also represent a serious threat when they return to their home countries. This means that we have to act both nationally and collectively.

As stated on numerous occasions, Norway opposes terrorism m all its forms and manifestations.

Preventing terrorism requires a comprehensive and long-term approach. We must make use of a broad range of measures, including political, legal, economic and - as a last resort - military means. Norway is fully committed to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We will continue to work for its full and effective implementation, and we urge others to do the same.

In order to put a stop to terrorism, violent extremism must be defeated. We must work together to eradicate the root causes of extremist attitudes. In June, Norway hosted one of the regional follow-on conferences to the Washington Summit on Countering Violent Extremism. The concrete deliverables from the conference include a network for European youth leaders, establishing a global alliance of women's organisations working on Countering Violent Extremism, and facilitating the Strong Cities initiative.

Mr. Chair,

Norway believes in multilateralism and a strong UN leadership in a broad range of areas. The unanimous adoption of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 gives the UN a strong and broad base to be a strategic leader on counterterrorism issues, both at the normative level and through the coordination of multilateral efforts.

However, if the UN is to fulfil this leadership role, all member states must give their full support. We also welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to draw up a new action plan on the prevention of violent extremism.

Norway supports the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in coordinating UN efforts to assist Member States in implementing all four pillars of the Global Strategy.

Mr. Chair,

Norway attaches great importance to countering terrorism while fully respecting human rights and the rule of law. We have implemented all 13 UN counter-terrorism conventions and related protocols, and we encourage all states to ratify and implement the UN counter-terrorism instruments.

However, the ratification and implementation of the existing sectoral conventions is not sufficient. An overarching and comprehensive instrument is needed to provide the necessary legal guidance and predictability

We were encouraged to see that the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2178 on foreign terrorist fighters with the co-sponsorship of more than 100 states, including Norway. In our view, this illustrates the joint resolve of the international community to
combat the threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups. We also believe that this
common resolve provides us with an opportunity to finally agree on an international
definition of terrorism.

A Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism would express the United Nation's
commitment and ability to combat terrorism, while fully upholding international law,
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Despite important efforts such as these, regional instruments will be unable to reach their full potential without an internationally agreed definition of terrorism. Only the United Nations with its status as universal creator of norms and legal standards can resolve