

**Agenda Item 114 – Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
United Nations Sixth Committee – UN75**

Statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross

Delivered by Mr. Christopher Harland, Deputy Permanent Observer to the United Nations

12 October 2020

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism runs counter to the fundamental principle of humanity. It is contrary to many underlying principles and core objectives of international humanitarian law (IHL). The ICRC condemns acts of terrorism and does not challenge the legitimacy of States to take measures necessary to better ensure their security and eliminate terrorism. Nevertheless, Member States must be clear and firm about the need for counter-terrorism activities to be conducted with full

Failure to exclude these activities from CT measures, notably relevant criminal laws, would lead to the negation of the notion of neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action, particularly in areas where non-State armed groups designated as terrorist are active. These are areas in which the needs of the population are often more acute.

Last year, we welcomed the inclusion of paragraphs regarding humanitarian activities in counter-terrorism Security Council Resolution 2462, in particular elements found in paragraphs 5, 6 and 24, and similar provisions in Resolution 2482. For example, States are urged to "take into account" the potential effect of counter-terrorism measures on exclusively humanitarian activities carried out by impartial humanitarian actors in a manner consistent with IHL.

This year, we also welcome the June 2020 report by CTED on CT financing, which includes answers by UN Member States to questions relating to humanitarian impact. According to this CTED report, "only a few States have developed a specific response to the potential impact of the counter-financing of terrorism on exclusively humanitarian activities." This is a strong indication that more work remains to be done.

Mr. Chair,

Counter-terrorism measures can have an impact not only on humanitarian assistance, but also in other areas such as training on IHL, and, importantly, on other protection activities such as ICRC visits to persons detained in connection with terrorism.

