

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 March 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from H.E. Mohammed Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, the co-facilitators for the Seventh Review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

The co-facilitators, via the aforementioned letters, have requested circulation of the zero draft of the Seventh Review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, and the proposed work plan for the process in the upcoming weeks. I look forward to your continued support and engagement with the co-facilitators in this important process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the
United Nations

The United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy - 7th Review

ZERO DRAFT

The General Assembly,

PP1 Reaffirming the United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy, contained in its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, and the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy, convinced that it is the competent organ, with universal membership, to address the issue of international terrorism,

PP2 Recalling its resolution 72/284 of 26 June 2018, which called for, inter alia, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States and for consideration to be given to updating the Strategy to respond to changes, and its decision 74/556 postponing the review to its seventh session considering the unprecedented technical and 4(i)-13(t)-82(a)72 [(-)] TJ ET Q q 0.00000887 0 595.25 84

international law, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism, calling for the establishment and maintenance of such justice systems, and stressing the need for training of professionals in the criminal justice systems of Member States, including through bilateral and multilateral programmes and experience sharing, upon their request with a view to developing a common understanding of threats and providing an effective response,

PP23 Reiterating the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the willful provision of funds, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories, with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts, and expressing concern over the exploitation of new technologies, including virtual assets, for terrorism financing,

PP24 Recognizing the importance of preventing and combating terrorism, including the misuse of small arms and light weapons by terrorists,

PP25 Deeply concerned by the use of the Internet and other means of communication for terrorist purposes, including the continued spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and encouraging Member States to work together to ensure that terrorists do not find safe haven online, while recognizing an Internet that fosters efficiency, innovation, communication and economic prosperity, while respecting international law, including human rights law,

PP26 Expressing concern that terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure could significantly disrupt the functioning of government and the private sector alike and cause knock-on effects beyond the infrastructure sector, and therefore underlining the growing importance of protecting critical infrastructure and other vulnerable targets, including religious sites, from terrorist attacks and of fostering comprehensive preparedness for such attacks, including through public-private partnership,

PP28 Underlining the importance of strengthening international cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including information sharing, border security, investigations, judicial processes, extradition, improving prevention and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, preventing radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, developing and implementing risk assessments on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, consistent with applicable international law,

PP29 Expressing deep concern that terrorists may benefit from transnational organized crime, including from the trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, cultural property and from the illicit trade in natural resources as well as from kidnapping for

resolutions of the Security Council relating to international terrorism, and calls upon Member States to cooperate fully with the relevant bodies of the United Nations in the fulfilment of their tasks, recognizing that many States continue to require assistance implementing these resolutions;

7. Stresses the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, bearing in mind that terrorism will be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone;

8. Also stresses that when counterterrorism efforts neglect the rule of law at the national and international levels and violate international law, including Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and refugee law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, they not only betray the values that they seek to uphold, but they may also further fuel violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism;

9. Reaffirms that member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, underscores that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counterterrorism measures and are an essential part of a successful counterterrorism effort, and notes the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, and further notes that failure to comply with these and other international obligations, including under the Charter of the UN, is one of the factors contributing to increased radicalization to violence and fosters a sense of impunity

10. Encourages civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, to

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Pillar I: measures to address the conditions conducive to terrorism

12. Urges all Member States and the United Nations to unite against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, encourages the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to evolve strategies to address them, and underlines that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an

17. Emphasizes also the importance of education as a tool to help to prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the engagement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with Member States to implement strategies to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism through education;

18. Encourages Member States, United Nations entities, regional and subregional organizations and relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to involve youth in the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue and develop, as appropriate, an understanding of respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity, including, as appropriate, through education programmes, that could discourage their participation in acts of terrorism, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, violence, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination, also encourages Member States to empower youth through the promotion of media and information literacy by including youth in decision-making processes and considering practical ways to include youth in the development of relevant programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and urges Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people affected or exploited by terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

19. Stresses that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists and that, in this regard, the international community should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet and other means of communication, in compliance with international law, including international human rights law;

20. Notes that terrorists may craft distorted narratives that are based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence, and stresses that States should consider engaging, where appropriate, with religious authorities and community leaders with relevant expertise, including in crafting and delivering effective counter-narratives and in countering narratives used by terrorists and their supporters and also stresses that counter-narratives should not only aim to counter extremist messages but also to amplify positive narratives, provide credible alternatives and address issues of concern to vulnerable audiences who are subject to terrorist narratives;

21. Calls upon Member States to collaborate in the pursuit of developing and implementing effective counter-narrative strategies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) of 24 May 2017, and the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives, including those relating to foreign terrorist fighters, in a manner compliant with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

challenges created by such violent extremists and terrorists as they are difficult to detect, and recognizes the need to address these issues expeditiously on all Global Compact entities to continue to address the issue

28. Calls upon all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts, prevent such conduct and deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct;

29. Expresses concern at the increasing and rapidly evolving use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of

border security and customs agencies through their national central bureaux, requests Member States to help to build the capacity of other Member States, upon their request, to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, notes in this regard that some Member States may require technical assistance and capacity support, and encourages the provision of assistance to help to address such gaps, and the consideration of the use of United Nations instruments, such as sanctions regimes, as well as cooperation;

36. Takes note of the Key Principles for the Protection, Repatriation, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children with Links to United Nations-listed Terrorist Groups set out by the Secretary-General to enhance coordination and coherence of United Nations support in this regard, and encourages United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, including for the voluntary repatriation, with the consent of relevant Governments and in line with international law, international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of children with family links to United Nations designated terrorist groups, stranded in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic;

37. Expresses concern over incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups, for any purpose, including with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions, notes that ransoms paid to terrorists are used as one of the sources of funding for their activities, including further kidnappings, calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, and encourages Member States to cooperate, as appropriate, during incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups;

38. Recognizes the need to continue to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, and encourages Member States to further build the capacity of their financial oversight and regulatory systems around the world in order to deny terrorists the space to exploit and raise funds, including by cooperating with the private sector through public-private partnerships with financial institutions and by taking into account the assessments thereof by relevant entities such as the Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate;

39. Urges all

45. Encourages Member States and international and regional organizations to enhance knowledge of and support initiatives to address, in the design and implementation of global, regional and national counterterrorism strategies, the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime;

46. Recalls relevant United Nations resolutions, and reaffirms that Member States shall eliminate the supply of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, to terrorists, as well as prevent, combat and eradicate the traffic in said weapons, including their diversion, to terrorists;

47. Calls upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, urges all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, equipment and technologies related to their manufacture, and to take preparedness measures including effective responses to such attacks, as well as promoting better coordination in security as appropriate and consequence management and facilitating the effective interaction of all stakeholders involved, and encourages cooperation among and between Member States in preventing the acquisition, development, production, stockpiling, transfer, sale, use, maintenance, repair, and disposal of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

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entities, needed for the effective delivery of the projects mentioned in the appeal, in close consultation with Member States;

66. Calls for the enhanced engagement of Member States with the work of the Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact entities, requests the Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact entities to continue their positive efforts in interacting with Member States, and requests the Office of Counterterrorism to continue to provide quarterly briefings and to provide a periodic workplan, including the activities of the United Nations Counterterrorism Centre, and to continue providing full transparency to all Member States on its work and programmes, including on transparency in the selection and funding of projects and their impact, as well as on the efficiency of shared funding arrangements;

67. Recalls its resolution 74/17 of 7 January 2020, and notes with appreciation the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the crime prevention and criminal justice context;

68. Calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to further enhance, in close consultation with the Counterterrorism Committee a87 0 595.25 842 re W* n BT /F4 12 Tf 1 0 0 1 127.55 460.13 T

the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism;

76. Calls for increased attention and action at the national and international levels to ensure the full compliance of all counterterrorism measures with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and encourages in this regard Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact entities to strengthen their engagement with and, upon request, the provision of support to Member States, within their respective mandates, and further stresses the need to ensure to this end the provision of adequate financial and technical resources to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

77. Calls upon States, while countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, to review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, intercept and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with or restrictions on that right are not arbitrary or unlawful and are subject to effective oversight and to appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other legal means;

78. Urges

having or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with their rights, dignity and needs, including for psychosocial support, in accordance with applicable international law, particular obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration, and, bearing in mind relevant international standards on human rights in the administration of justice in this regard, urges Member States to take relevant measures to effectively reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups, including terrorist groups;

87. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventyseventh session, no later than February 2023, a report on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, containing suggestions for its future implementation by the United Nations system, as well as on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

88. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventyseventh session, in order to undertake, by June 2023, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 84 above, as well as of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States, and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.