



and continues to evolve. "ISIL" still controls small pockets of territory in Syria and they are still present in Iraq. Their virtual caliphate remains intact. "ISIL" is not yet defeated. The returning foreign fighters remain a serious global challenge.

Out of approximately 1000 Norwegian foreign fighters who have traveled to Syria and Iraq, about 100 have been killed. Approximately 200 are still in the region and their status is unknown. About 500 foreign fighters have returned to Norway. National governments have the primary responsibility for countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. The complex nature of this threat underscores the need for partnerships. Moreover, the threat from terrorism and violent extremism must be met with a comprehensive, long-term, whole-of-society approach.

Chair,

The basis for Norway's approach is the National Action Plan for Preventing Radicalization and Violent Extremism. The Government reports on the measures set out in the Action Plan. Norway's policies are based on broad cooperation between authorities and civil society organizations, at national and local levels. For this to be successful, it has to be a genuine two-way dialogue.

The Norwegian Government has put counterterrorism and preventing violent extremism high on its agenda. We support the five lines of effort of the Global Coalition against "ISIL".

In 2015, Norway and the Kingdom of Jordan established a permanent UN Group of Friends of 12.

Chair,

Let me highlight four points of importance for the review of the Madrid Guidelines.

(Check against delivery)

First, the security risk associated with returning foreign fighters should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Effective investigation and prosecution of acts of terrorism and violent extremism is key.

We should keep in mind that returnees are not a homogeneous group, i.e. men, women and minors. The Guidelines should therefore effectively in

" thank you.

(Check against delivery)