



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT BY DR A. KORIR SING'OEI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND
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DURING THE
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY CAUSED
BY TERRORIST ACTS: GLOBAL APPROACH TO COUNTER
TERRORISM - CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD
15 DECEMBER 2022

Thank you, Mr. President

1. I congratulate you, Your Excellency **Dr S. Jaishankar**, for convening this important event.
2. We convey our deepest condolences to Ireland on the unfortunate killing of their peacekeeper in Lebanon. This underscores the need to work together to ensure the protection of all peacekeepers as they carry out their mandate.

3. I commend India's stewardship of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for the last twelve months. The historic adoption by the Committee of the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes this October reflects this leadership.

4. I also thank **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov** and **Mr. Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)** for their briefings. **Mrs. Anjali Vijay Kulthe**; your story as a survivor of terrorism is one of courage and resilience. You are an inspiration to many around the world who have suffered from this heinous act.

Mr. President,

5. Terrorism and violent extremism constitute grave threats to international peace and security. The bulk of the Security Council's counter-terrorism measures are responses to the prominent targeting of Member States by Al Qaeda and its affiliates; for example attacks of September 11 2001 here in New York. Unfortunately, despite the many counter-measures that have been instituted since then, this threat is persisting and also spreading dangerously.

6. In several parts of Africa, terrorist groups, with the support of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and inspired by Al-Qaeda and Da'esh ideologies, are destabilising and even holding governments at ransom. They are exploiting inter-communal tensions to increase their recruitment and radicalisation, and to intensify attacks across the continent.

Mr. President,

7. Kenya's counter-terrorism is multi-agency and multi-sectoral. The lessons we have learned in building it may serve as a useful example to others. In the last five years, we have developed some of the most advanced disengagement and reintegration capabilities in the world.
8. Operational decision-making is undertaken from the national to the local level and includes multiple security and non-security institutions. The intelligence, criminal justice and administrative government structures work hand in hand. Every one of Kenya's forty-seven sub-national counties has developed prevention strategies, and they are at different stages of implementation.
9. Civil society is involved, reflecting the Kenyan peoples' commitment to the national priority to prevent and defeat terrorists. Over time, this has contributed to a marked reduction in the number of attacks, and, critically, has blocked off any public legitimacy, in any section of our citizenry, for terrorist groups.
10. With this example in mind, and bearing in mind the need for a unified front to ensure effective and sustained counterterrorism, I wish to make **FIVE** recommendations:
11. **First:** Counter-terrorism against Al Qaeda and ISIS groups should never cede ground to their extreme political demands and should offer no path to legitimacy. Too much counter terrorism is too kinetic and narrowly technical. It misses the essentially political, social and even cultural dimensions of the threat. As such, counter terrorism measures that serve to minimise the worst excesses of the terrorists without being adequate enough to realise sustained victory can be deployed. The United Nations and states

- must add political, economic, and social tools to their counter terrorism efforts.
12. They must also make it clear that terrorism will not offer a path to political legitimacy or power to terrorist groups or militants who employ this form of violence. Campaigns to negotiate with Al Qaeda and ISIS affiliated militant groups should differentiate between factions that are willing and able to renounce transnational terrorism and aims opposed to the UN Charter and its articulation in national constitutional and legal regimes.
 13. **Second:** Counter-terrorism must be linked to broader state and civil efforts to deal with its root causes. Political exclusion and marginalization; lack of economic opportunities; weak governance; persistent armed conflicts; and, serious historical grievances create conditions for militancy that escalates into terrorism. In addition, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, returning foreign fighters, and natural resource conflicts, particularly in populations dealing with climate change effects, are compounding agents.
 14. In short, fundamental changes in development and improved governance, reflected in inclusive and competent government, are requirements to overcoming the spread and entrenching of Al Qaeda and ISIS groups.
 15. **Third:** The full weight of the Security Council's counter-terrorism measures must be brought to bear in equal measure and without discrimination. Kenya has consistently called for the application of the Resolution 1267 sanctions regime on all affiliates of Al Qaeda particularly Al Shabaab, but a few members of this Council have resisted this resolution even as they

unilaterally sanction the group for the reasons, we seek its inclusion in UN sanctions.

16. Last December, we negotiated for humanitarian carveouts in resolution 1267. We are glad to see that our aim then is being realized in a humanitarian carveouts resolution. We hope this will clear the way for listing of all groups that are formally and operationally linked to Al Qaeda and ISIS. We agree with India that the de facto practice in the Security Council of classifying terrorists in inconsistent and opaque ways must be brought to an end if our counter terrorism efforts are to succeed.
17. **Fourth:** At the technical level, **cooperation for information sharing and capacity building** is critical. We encourage enhanced collaboration at regional and global levels, including on capacity building initiatives by States who have advanced the prevention and countering of terrorism and violent extremism. We commend continued efforts of United Nations Counter-Terrorism entities, in coordinating technical assistance and capacity building in support to Member States in this regard.
18. **Fifth:** In view of the current technological trends, we need to build **partnerships on digital space and new technologies**. Partnerships with internet providers and social media organisations can buttress the ability and efforts of national authorities to detect and disrupt online terrorism activities including modes of terrorism resource mobilisation and financing. We must also support States to develop measures and capabilities to regulate new technologies such as drones and counter use of improvised explosive devices by terrorists.

Mr. President,

19. **In conclusion,** I reaffirm Kenya's unreserved commitment to the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Thank you for your attention.