



**The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya  
to the United Nations  
Security Council Elected Member - 2021-2022**

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI  
DURING OPEN VCT BRIEFING ON THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND  
SECURITY CAUSED BY TERRORIST ACTS**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (10.00 A.M)**

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1. Kenya appreciates the leadership of UK in organising this important Open Debate on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts.
2. We thank Under-Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov and CTED Executive Director ASG Michèle Coninx for briefing the Council on the Twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security, and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.
3. Kenya takes this opportunity to note a few of issues from the report that are of concern to the global threat posed by ISIL
  - 3.1. The impact of COVID-19 and the evolution of the threat of terrorism including increased activity by terrorist networks especially ISIL to continue their online/offline propaganda machinery will have grave repercussions.
  - 3.2. The economic crises caused by the pandemic are making economic conditions tougher on the population and offering more opportunities for disenchantment and division. We observe that terrorists can exploit such conditions to spread their toxic ideology for recruitment and radicalisation.
  - 3.3. In Africa, especially in conflict zones, Al Qaeda and ISIS and their affiliates, splinters or copycats are expanding recruitment and radicalisation into violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

- 3.4. We are concerned by a resurgent Al-Shabaab that is adapting to the Covid-19 crisis by establishing cover humanitarian facilities to recruit and radicalise in the guise of distributing foods and other aid items in Somalia.
- 3.5. Activities of terror group like AS have surged due to increased avenues of funding including illegal taxation, extortion and criminal activity, and remittances from abroad.
4. In light of these, and other, challenges identified in the report, Kenya would like to propose the following efforts drawn from our experience.
  - a) Address terrorism financing and radicalisation networks regionally/globally by tightening financial regulations and establishing strong public financial management systems.
  - b) Enhance national mechanisms of freezing assets of individuals accused of engaging in terrorist activities.
  - c) Ensure that this Council's efforts to support ceasefires, political negotiations, elections and reconciliation must show concern for the process being protected from these groups. Not only militarily but understanding that their violence advances an ideological and political view that can spread and destroy peace -- sometimes by pretending to go along with a peace process.
  - d) Countries need to learn from one another, particularly between countries that share many features. South-to-South cooperation is critical and can be advanced by the UNOCT office in Kenya, which we believe should receive every support.
  - e) Increase CT capacity building and funding to African states to address the spectre of expanding ISIL affiliates in the continent.
  - f) Promote the need for counter-narratives to stem the spread of terrorist ideology.
  - g) Amidst the COVID environment, security agencies need to stay alert to the continuing threat posed by ISIL and maintain constant monitoring of online and offline chatrooms. **We therefore call on more countries and companies to adopt the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.**

- h) Finally, Kenya urges the International Community to maintain vigilance against Al Qaeda and ISIL inspired terrorism. These groups are like a threatening shadow laying over the entire world and our collective aspiration to live under a rules-based order.
- i) They intend nothing less than the destruction of this order. Their ability to project their worldview, and their operational ability to exploit national and local rifts should never be underestimated.
- j) Any attempt to treat them as normal political actors is a dangerous misperception of their deep commitment to their cause, and their embrace of temporary ceasefires to advance their positions.
- k) Any such attempts, which Kenya considers very ill-advised, should be attempted when counter terrorism is ascendant, and there should be strict red lines that never allow ground on the equality and freedom of women, freedom of speech and media, freedom of religion between and within religions, and maintenance of tough sanctions until there is certainty that they have ceased their military and ideological operations.
- l) This Security Council led the world after 9/11, insisting that all countries adopt tough counter terrorism approaches. It should stick by that mission, which is nowhere near complete, and not inadvertently create dangerous grey areas where clarity on the global stance against terrorism can be in any doubt.

**I thank you**