



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

---

NEW YORK, 12 JUNE 2014

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – ITEM 119: THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant UN bodies, and through the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We would like to commend Ambassador Çevik of Turkey and his team for ably steering us toward a consensus resolution on the review of the UN's Global Counter-terrorism Strategy. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations to combat terrorism, along with the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

We appreciate that this biennial review again puts strong emphasis on the perspective of victims. We hope that the new UN online portal will make a contribution to support victims of terrorism. In addition, victims of terrorism must be given a stronger voice in our efforts. They are the ones who can send the most powerful message against the terrorist's message of violence.

Mr. President,

Eight years after the adoption of the Strategy, the toll of death, injury and destruction caused by terrorism continues to rise. Most recently, we received news of the brazen kidnapping at the Turkish Consulate in Mosul. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families, and we hope for their speedy and safe release.

The phenomenon of terrorism is rapidly evolving at the local, regional and international levels. The international community must act with greater resolve to fight this scourge. We note with satisfaction the increased capacity within the various parts of the UN system to assist Member States in this regard. Ultimately though, it is primarily States who must fully commit themselves to implementing all four pillars of the Strategy.

Our greatest challenge remains Pillar I, measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Many of these conditions are at the very core of what the United Nations is supposed to address, whether in a counter-terrorism context or not: unresolved conflicts, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, discrimination and exclusion, socio-economic marginalization, etc. The state of our response to global terrorism therefore also reflects more generally on the state of the United Nations as a whole. If we want to do more than just fight the symptoms of terrorism, then we need true commitment by all Member States to cooperate fully in all relevant United Nations organs. It requires in particular greater cooperation in the Security Council, which has been unable to effectively address a number of violent conflicts, partly due to the threat or use of the veto. It also requires a greater sense of urgency and willingness to take bold decisions in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution on the review of the Strategy reaffirms that terrorism is aimed *inter alia* at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must ensure that they do not unwittingly contribute to the

same outcome. Overly broad domestic definitions of terrorism may threaten the right to freedom of expression and association. Mass surveillance, both domestically and abroad, may undermine the right to privacy. Law enforcement and military operations often walk a fine line between legitimate targeting of terrorists and unacceptable risks for innocent civilians. Governments must therefore scrupulously abide by the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in their actions – principles which underpin both human rights law and international humanitarian law.

This is also an important responsibility for the United Nations. As we move toward more effective assistance and capacity-building for States – thanks in part to the efforts of CTITF and the Counter-terrorism Center – assistance providers must pay utmost attention to ensure that human rights are fully integrated into their activities.

Mr. President,

The importance of the human rights dimension also requires the UN to lead by example in areas where it undertakes concrete measures to prevent and combat terrorism. In this regard, we commend the progress made by the Security Council in improving fair and clear procedures for the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, thanks in particular to the valuable work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost. Given the positive experience made in this particular context, it is now time for the Council to further improve listing and delisting procedures in other sanctions regimes as well.

I thank you.