



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

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM 117 – THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

**STATEMENT BY MR. STEFAN BARRIGA**

MINISTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, CHARGE D’AFFAIRES A.I.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express our sincere condolences to all those affected by the recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul. Indeed, hardly a day passes without news about another atrocious terrorist attack somewhere in the world, from areas affected by armed conflict to major cities thought to be peaceful. We declare our solidarity with the victims of terrorism everywhere, and strongly condemn 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 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.

Mr. President,

An important aspect of the Strategy is the balance among its four pillars: addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, capacity-building, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. All four pillars must be implemented evenly by States and by the United Nations. In practice, however, this is often not the case. In particular, measures to ensure respect for

human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism are often just an afterthought, at best. At worst, counter-terrorist operations are undertaken without due regard for the rights of innocent civilians, and in some cases civilian populations are even targeted for political reasons.

Mr. President,

Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must ensure that they do not unwittingly contribute to outcomes that betray the values that we all seek to uphold. 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 on the one hand, and unacceptable risks for innocent civilians on the other. Governments must 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, assistance providers must pay utmost attention to ensure that human rights are fully integrated into their activities.

Mr. President,

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 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 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 ISIL and Al-Qaida sanctions regime, thanks in particular to the valuable work of the Ombudsperson. We encourage the Council and the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to ensure the full operational independence of her Office. Furthermore, the Council should consider extending the Ombudsperson process to other appropriate sanctions regimes – especially in light of the recent final judgment in the case of Al-Dulimi vs. Switzerland at the European Court of Human Rights. Such a step will help allow Member States to live up to due process standards they are bound by under regional and international human rights law, and thereby ensure the effective implementation of sanctions in the long run.

I thank you.