



Statement

by

**H.E. Dr. Nawaf Salam
Permanent Representative of Lebanon
to the United Nations**

at the
General Assembly

**“The Fifth Review of the United Nations
Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”**

New York, July 7, 2016

Check against delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Mr. President,

In the face of terrorism, it is our duty to stand together and united, it is our duty to send a strong and positive signal to the world.

Terrorists strike all over the world; they strike indiscriminately and blindly.

This past year, these past weeks have been an edifying reminder of the cruelty of terrorist acts. We are all shaken by the horrifying attacks that took place recently around the world, including in my country.

Let me seize this opportunity to convey my condolences to all those affected by all heinous terrorist attacks.

We can never, Mr. President, overstate enough that terrorism should not and cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It has no identity but the one of barbarity and hatred.

We reaffirm once again our unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. President,

We welcome the adoption, by consensus, of the review resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I would like, in this regard, to pay tribute to the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Iceland, as well as their respective teams, for their tremendous efforts in facilitating the fifth review process of the Strategy.

The adoption of this consensus resolution, in particular on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Strategy, is an opportunity to reaffirm our relentless efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and our commitment in the continued implementation of the Strategy.

Mr. President,

The review resolution that was adopted reaffirms the central role of the General Assembly in combating terrorism and underscores once again the importance of an integrated, comprehensive and balanced approach of its four complementary pillars.

This is critical, as terrorism is a multifaceted and global threat that cannot be addressed without strong international cooperation, as no country can eliminate it alone, and as no country is immune from it.

However, if no country is immune from terrorism, some countries happen to be more affected than others.

In Lebanon, tragically and continuously stricken by terrorism, our people are still mourning the loss of families and friends after the two consecutive attacks in Qaa last week.

Here, I wish to reiterate that Lebanon, which is party to most of the counter terrorism conventions, and consistent with its 2014 government's policy declaration, continues to remain at the front line to defeat terrorism.

Mr. President,

We remain convinced that prevention is fundamental to eradicate once and for all the plague of terrorism.

In this context, we welcome the reference in the resolution to youth empowerment, as they have a significant role to play in the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to it. Youth communities play a key role in my country, where the vibrant civil society offers platforms for inclusive dialogue for its youth with full respect of their intellectual diversity.

The attention given to education is also highly important in addressing the drivers of terrorism. Education should disseminate values of openness, understanding of the other, critical thinking, dialogue as well as the ability to foster solutions together.

Let me also highlight the positive contribution of women, as they undeniably contribute to stable and peaceful societies.

Another instrumental element is the protection of cultural heritage. Indeed, when terrorists pillage, destroy, burn to ashes cultural heritage preserved throughout centuries, they wipe out evidence of our common humanity and our immutable memory.

Mr. President,

We cannot let terrorists groups exploit the growing frustrations of individuals to lure them into this dark path.

We therefore need to be aware of the crucial need to uproot the causes that lead to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to it, such as protracted conflicts, foreign occupation, poverty, marginalization, xenophobia, and double standards in the application of international law. If not all of these causes necessarily lead to terrorist radicalization of individuals, those groups use these injustices and grievances to fuel their hate speech and justify their narratives.

Mr. President,

When dealing with counter terrorism, we must also keep in mind that it should not be associated with other principles recognized under international law, such as the right to self-determination and to resist foreign occupation.

In this regard, my delegation would like to denounce the attempts from one delegation to label the legitimate right to resist foreign occupation as terrorism. This same delegation turns a blind eye to terrorist acts committed by its citizens in territories it continues to occupy in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and principles and rules of International Law.

In concluding,

Our ability to uphold human rights standards while countering terrorism, which are convergent objectives, has been severely tested during these times of turmoil. We must be up to this challenge.

Thank you.