



THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

Dear Colleague:

I would like to express again my appreciation for the work that President Ping and his team have done to prepare the draft Outcome Document for next month's High-Level Event. We share a desire and commitment that the Outcome Document set forth measures that can support our common agenda to counter the threat of terrorism. We have been interested to see the proposals of other delegations. Our own views on some of the remaining terrorism issues are described below.

**Paragraph 65**

With respect to the second sentence of paragraph 65, while we strongly support the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, we believe that the appropriate occasion to address the Secretary General's counterterrorism strategy will be after it has been discussed by the General Assembly. We do not believe that it would be appropriate for the present document to prejudice the General Assembly's consideration of this topic.

In the following sentence of the same paragraph, we have suggested two changes that are intended to make clear that this paragraph addresses only actions taken by terrorists. We consider these changes of critical importance to ensure that the scope of this paragraph is limited to terrorist actions, and does not address military activities that are appropriately governed by international humanitarian law. We also note that the two changes we propose to this paragraph were in a previous draft of the Outcome Document, but later removed.

**Paragraph 66**

With respect to paragraph 66, our changes are intended to more accurately reflect the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention against international terrorism, which would provide a non-exclusive list of certain actions which would amount to terrorist acts. We have changed the text of the paragraph to reflect this.

**Paragraph 70**


With respect to paragraph 70, as we have noted in the past, we believe it both appropriate and important for individual States to be the focus of efforts to assist victims of terrorism. The amendments that we have proposed are consistent with this focus on efforts at the national level.

**Paragraph 72**

With respect to paragraph 72, our proposed changes are intended to take into account that the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism will not become open for signature until September, and that it is therefore not meaningful to distinguish between States that have become parties and States that have not yet become parties.

A clear, strong declaration on terrorism will bolster our common efforts to preserve peace and security. A statement that will contribute to the timely adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism would represent a significant achievement in the UN's global effort to counter terrorism. I look forward to working with member states in reaching consensus on such a declaration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Bolton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John R. Bolton  
Ambassador

enclosure

## Proposals of the United States

### Terrorism

65. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We welcome the Secretary-General's counter-terrorism strategy and will consider it in the General Assembly ~~with a view to adopting it~~. We affirm that the targeting and deliberate killing by terrorists of civilians and non-combatants cannot be justified or legitimized by any cause or grievance, and we declare that any such action intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a Government or an international organization to carry out or to abstain from any act cannot be justified on any grounds and constitutes an act of terrorism.

66. We resolve to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, ~~including a legal definition of terrorist acts~~, during the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

67. We recognize that international cooperation to fight terrorism should be conducted in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Charter and relevant international conventions and protocols. States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

68. We acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism and also stress the vital contribution of regional and bilateral cooperation, particularly at the practical level of law enforcement cooperation and technical exchange.

69. We urge the international community, including the United Nations to assist States in building regional and national capacity to fight terrorism. We further invite the Secretary-General to strengthen continuously, in consultation with the General Assembly and the Security Council, the capacities of the United Nations, its relevant funds, programmes and specialized and related agencies, to assist States in these endeavours.

70. We support ~~support national effort~~ commit to assist victims of terrorism ~~around the world~~ and to provide them and their families with support to cope with their loss and their grief.

71. We call on the Security Council to consider ways to strengthen the verification, monitoring and enforcement by the Council in its role in counter-terrorism, including by consolidating States' reporting requirements.

72. We support efforts for the early entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and strongly encourage States to expeditiously consider becoming parties ~~which have not yet become a party to it, to do so and~~ and if they have not done so to accede to the 12 other international conventions and protocols against terrorism without further delay and fully implement them.