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Security Council

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Wednesday, 24 September 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	President Obama/Mr. Kerry/Ms. Power	(United States of America)
Members:	Argentina	President Fernández
	Australia	Mr. Abbott
	Chad	President Deby Itno
	Chile	President Bachelet Jeria
	China	Mr. Wang Yi
	France	President Hollande
	Jordan	King Abdullah II
	Lithuania	President Grybauskaitė
	Luxembourg	Mr. Bettel
	Nigeria	President Jonathan
	Republic of Korea	President Park Geun-Hye
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Rwanda	President Kagama
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Cameron

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Foreign terrorist fighters

Letter dated 3 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/648)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Foreign terrorist fighters

Letter dated 3 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/648)

The President: I wish to warmly welcome the Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General, the Ministers and other representatives present in the Security Council Chamber. Their presence today underscores the importance of the subject matter under discussion.

Members of the Council have before them a list of speakers who have requested to participate in accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, as well as with previous practice of the Council in this regard. We propose that they be invited to participate in this meeting.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/688, which contains the text of a draft resolution sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Yemen.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2014/648, which contains a letter dated 3 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item under consideration.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2178 (2014).

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your country's presidency of the Security Council this month. I thank you for your leadership in convening this Security Council summit. This is the second time that you have presided over this Council on a matter with grave implications for international peace and security.

The world is witnessing a dramatic evolution in the nature of the terrorist threat. In the last year, terrorist attacks have killed, maimed and displaced many thousands of civilians — the vast majority of them Muslims — from Afghanistan to Somalia to Nigeria, from Iraq to Libya to Mali. Those attacks have been carried out by violent extremists who thrive in conditions of insecurity and injustice, fragility and failed leadership. Those groups ruthlessly hijack religion to control territory and vital economic resources. They brutalize women and girls. They target and slaughter minorities. They are the enemies of faith.

As Muslim leaders around the world have said, groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) — or Daesh — have nothing to do with Islam, and they certainly do not represent a State. They should more fittingly be called the Un-Islamic Non-State. Yet those groups have become a magnet for foreign terrorist fighters who are easy prey to simplistic appeals and siren songs.

The United Nations Al-Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team estimates that more than 13,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 80 Member States have joined ISIL and the al-Nusra Front. The growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is a consequence, not a cause, of the conflict in Syria. A long period of upheaval and, until recently, unresponsive leadership in Iraq, coupled with outrageous human rights abuses in Syria, have created a hothouse of horrors. There can be no genuine protection of civilians if extremist groups are permitted to act with impunity and the Syrian Government continues its assault on its own people.

For more than a year, I have sounded the alarm about the vicious and unjustifiable actions of those groups and the danger they pose to Iraq, Syria, the wider region and international peace and security. We need a creative and comprehensive political strategy in Syria and beyond to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. Terrorists must be defeated, but we must do so in a way that avoids the deliberate acts of provocation that they set for us: victimization, further radicalization and more civilian deaths. Eliminating terrorism requires international solidarity and a multifaceted approach, among the many tools we must use. We must also tackle the underlying conditions that provide violent extremist groups the opportunity to take root. Immediate security issues must be addressed.

Over the longer term, the biggest threat to terrorists is not the power of missiles. It is the politics of inclusion. It is peaceful societies and respect for human rights. It is education, jobs and real opportunity. It is leaders who listen to their people and uphold the rule of law. Missiles may kill terrorists, but good governance kills terrorism. Free and independent societies, free from suffering, oppression and occupation — that is what will kill terrorism.

I welcome resolution 2178 (2014), which was just adopted, and its call for strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, we are stepping up efforts in support of Member States and regions seriously affected by terrorism. Through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, we are working with Member States to enhance understanding of the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and to develop and implement policies to combat their flows.

Through our collective efforts, we must ensure that all counter-terrorism actions and policies are consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law. As the custodian of the Charter of the United Nations, I want to emphasize that all measures must be fully in line with the goals and values and principles of the United Nations. I once again welcome the unity of purpose of the Council on that issue, under the leadership of President Obama. I hope that that spirit will carry over to other pressing issues, particularly finally bringing peace to the people of Syria.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I will now make a statement in my capacity as President of the United States of America.

In the nearly 70 years of the United Nations, this is only the sixth time that the Security Council has met at a level like this. We convene such sessions to address the most urgent threats to peace and security. I called this meeting because we must come together as nations and an international community to confront the real and growing threat of foreign terrorist fighters.

As I said earlier today, the tactic of terrorism is not new. So many nations represented here today, including my own, have seen our citizens killed by terrorists who target innocents. Today, the people of the world have been horrified by another brutal murder — of Hervé Gourdel — by terrorists in Algeria. We stand with President Hollande and the French people, not only as they grieve that terrible loss but as they show resolve against terror and in defence of liberty.

What brings us together today — what is new — is the unprecedented flow of fighters in recent years to and from conflict zones, including Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, Yemen, Libya and, most recently, Syria and Iraq. Our intelligence agencies estimate that more than 15,000 foreign fighters from more than 80 nations have travelled to Syria in recent years. Many have joined terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida's affiliate, the Nusra Front, and the Islamic State of Iraq

and the Levant (ISIL), which now threatens people across Syria and Iraq. I want to acknowledge and thank Prime Minister Al-Abadi of Iraq for being here today.

In the Middle East and elsewhere, those terrorists exacerbate conflicts. They pose an immediate threat to people in those regions. As we have already seen in several cases, they may try to return to their home countries to carry out deadly attacks. In the face of that threat, many of our nations, working together and through the United Nations, have increased our cooperation. Around the world, foreign terrorist fighters have been arrested, plots have been disrupted and lives have been saved. Earlier this year, at West Point, I called for a new partnership to help nations build their capacity to meet the evolving threat of terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters. Preventing those individuals from reaching Syria and then slipping back across our borders is a critical element of our strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL.

The historic resolution 2178 (2014) that we have just adopted enshrines our commitment to meeting this challenge. It is legally binding. It establishes new obligations that nations must meet. Specifically, nations are required to prevent and suppress the recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of foreign terrorist fighters as well as the financing of their travel or activities. Nations must prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups through their territory and ensure that their domestic laws allow for the prosecution of those who attempt to do so.

The resolution we have adopted today calls on nations to help build the capacity of States on the front lines of this fight, including with the best practices many of our nations approved yesterday, which the United States will work to advance through our counter-terrorism partnerships fund. The resolution will strengthen cooperation between nations, including sharing more information about the travel and activities of foreign terrorist fighters, and it makes clear that respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is not optional — it is an essential part of successful counter-terrorism efforts. Indeed, history teaches us that the failure to uphold those rights and freedoms can actual fuel violent extremism.

Finally, the resolution recognizes that there is no military solution to the problem of misguided individuals seeking to join terrorist organizations. It therefore calls on nations to work together to counter the violent extremism that can radicalize, recruit and mobilize individuals to engage in terrorism. Potential recruits must hear the words of former terrorist fighters who have seen the truth — that groups like ISIL betray Islam by killing innocent men, women and children, the majority of whom are Muslim. Often it is local communities — families, friends, neighbours and faith leaders — that are best able to identify and help disillusioned individuals before they succumb to extremist ideologies and engage in violence. That is why the Government of the United States is committed to working with communities in America and around the world to build partnerships of trust, respect and cooperation.

Likewise, even as we are unrelenting against terrorists who threaten our people, we must redouble our work to address the conditions — the repression, the lack of opportunity, too often the hopelessness — that can make some individuals more susceptible than others to appeals to extremism and violence. This includes continuing to pursue a political solution in Syria that allows all Syrians to live in security, dignity and peace. This is the work that we must do together as nations. These are the partnerships that we must forge as an international community. These are the standards that we now must meet.

Yet even as we are guided by the commitments that we make here today, let me close by stating the obvious. Resolutions alone will not be enough. Promises on paper cannot keep us safe. Lofty rhetoric and good intentions will not stop a single terrorist attack. The words spoken here today must be matched and translated into action, into deeds. There must be concrete action within nations and between them, not just in the days ahead but for years to come. For if there was ever a challenge in our interconnected world that cannot be met by one nation alone, it is this one — terrorists crossing borders and threatening to unleash unspeakable violence.

These terrorists believe our countries will be unable to stop them. The safety of our citizens demands that we do. I am here today to say that all who are committed to this urgent work will find a strong and steady partner in the United States of America.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now give the floor to the other members of the Security Council. I begin by giving the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

President Jonathan: I would like to commence by appreciating the vision of the President in convening this timely and crucial meeting. It underpins the long-standing commitment of the United States of America to the high aims of international peace and security. Our appreciation also goes to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the clarity and depth of his briefing.

The people of Nigeria and indeed the entire peace-loving world were horrified at the gruesome murder of two American journalists and a British aid worker by elements linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and, of course, only today, as the President mentioned, at the incident where a French citizen was killed, Those murders typify a new phase of global terrorism marked by executions, acts of brutality and impunity.

Unfortunately, ISIL is not alone in this despicable campaign against humanity. Al-Qaida in the Maghreb, Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram share this common agenda: to unleash terror, mayhem, destruction and instability around the world. Boko Haram has perpetrated more heinous, barbaric acts than any other known terrorist group.

There is no doubt that foreign fighters have added a troubling dimension to this emerging phase of terrorism. From targeted attacks by Al-Qaida a few years ago, we now have mobile bands — thousands of terrorists sweeping across vast areas, destroying lives and even attempting to hold territory. This is unacceptable; we must act now.

Nigeria knows all too well the destructive effects of terrorist activities. Over the past five years, we have been, and are still, confronting the threats posed by Boko Haram to peace and stability, predominantly in the north-eastern part of our country. The costs are high. Thousands of innocent people have been killed, whole communities razed and hundreds of peasants kidnapped, the most prominent being the mindless kidnapping of innocent daughters from Chibok secondary school in Borno state, in north-east Nigeria.

As daunting as the challenge may be, we are facing it with unrelenting determination, mobilizing all the resources at our disposal to ensure that the scourge of terrorism is rooted out of our nation. In addition to our counter-terrorism efforts, we have evolved initiatives to alleviate the plight of the populations of the communities affected. These include a holistic effort, through the presidential initiative for the north-east, which is aimed at providing immediate relief and fast-tracking the infrastructure redevelopment of the region. It also has as a core goal an integrated effort to achieve the de-radicalization of potential terrorist recruits.

In partnership with the private sector, we have also launched a victim-support fund, which has already raised about $500 million in cash and pledges out of the expected minimum of $1 billion in direct support of the victims of acts of terrorism. This is in addition to the Safe Schools Initiative championed by Mr. Gordon Brown, former British Prime Minister and current the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education. That initiative is being rigorously supported by Nigeria's federal Government.

Let me thank President Obama and the United States Government for the security governance initiative following the United States-Africa summit last August. I believe that the initiative, if expeditiously implemented, will enhance security on the continent.

We must now capitalize on the commitment and evident determination of the Security Council to seek more innovative responses to the threat of terrorism, and in particular to the growing menace of foreign fighters. The Council should be concerned about the existence of sources of the arming and funding of terrorism. Evidence has shown that Boko Haram, for instance, is resourced largely from outside our country. We must also commit to ensuring that countries that are in the front line of this challenge receive adequate support from the international community.

The resolution that we have adopted here today is a critical first step in mobilizing international action. Only by united action and firm resolve can we check this urgent threat to humanity and also build the enduring structures that will resist their re-emergence.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. François Hollande, President of the French Republic.

President Hollande (*spoke in French*): I should like to begin by thanking President Obama and all of the members of the Security Council for having expressed their sympathy with the French people concerning the suffering that they are experiencing. Hervé Gourdel was a French national engaging in his favourite pastime — mountaineering — in Algeria when he was taken hostage on Sunday. His was an appalling murder; he was beheaded.

This is not the first time that France has been affected by terrorist acts. We have never given in. Every time we have emerged stronger and with greater solidarity. Other countries, too, have been affected by this barbarism. Recently two Americans and a British citizen were executed in the same cruel manner. Nationality in this respect is irrelevant. All victims of terrorism deserve respect and deserve that tribute be paid to them and to their memory. Religion is immaterial here; all victims are equal, unfortunately, in the face of the brutality of terrorism.

Terrorism is nothing new; we have been facing it for years. But it has taken on another dimension; it is now looking to conquer territory, to set up States, to subjugate peoples. It is attacking civilian populations — women, children. It has new names; it is no longer called just Al-Qaida or Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, but Boko Haram or Daesh. Daesh is the most recent incarnation of this terrorist madness. It is a new phenomenon in the sense that it aims to conquer and also to recruit a growing number of our citizens, wherever they may be, into its ranks. It is attracting people, often young people, of all nationalities, and not just, as it is often said, those of Muslim origin — even though Islam has nothing to do with this fight.

None of our countries is safe from this threat. Distance is irrelevant: there are temptations, and there is the Internet, meaning that networks can organize. Every day men, women and even children — whole families — are leaving their homes to join Daesh's fight. That is a threat to our own security. Earlier President Obama referred to 15,000 foreign fighters. Among them are 1,000 French nationals or residents who are now in Syria or Iraq. That figure has gone up 50 per cent since the beginning of the year, and what is true for France is true for the whole of Europe. Our response must therefore be comprehensive, rapid and lasting.

First, we must take measures in each of our countries. France has in this respect has adapted its legislation, and a bill is being discussed in Parliament aiming to prevent, even prohibit, the departure of individuals when we have serious grounds to believe that they are travelling for terrorist purposes. There is also a resolve to call into question terrorism propaganda on the Internet, and hate sites will be shut down. Finally, our legislation will aim to fight networks, because these foreign fighters do not leave alone; they go because they are part of a network, and other organizations deliver them to the combat zone.

Today marks a milestone with the adoption by the Security Council of a new Chapter VII resolution. What we have defined is a global strategy for combating terrorism, embracing not merely the phenomenon of foreign fighters but all the paths that lead young people — sometimes not so young, but often very young indeed — to go where they have no real reason to go. We must strengthen our international legal instruments, and today's resolution also sends the message that the entire international community is resolute and united. We are facing a shared threat and we have a shared, multiple and military response. We must all take on our responsibilities in that regard. France has done that in response to the request of the new Iraqi authorities, and I welcome the presence here today of the Prime Minister of Iraq.

Our response must also be political, economic and humanitarian. But our meeting is also a demonstration of our willingness to fight every kind of trafficking, because it is trafficking that finances terrorism, and these groups have never been so powerful, so wealthy, so well supplied and armed. So we need a response capable of fighting not only the influences and the recruiters but also terrorism's financial sources.

Finally, we must execute this strategy while respecting law and liberty. We must do it while respecting religions, including Islam. We must do it by fighting the causes of terrorism — despair, poverty, inequality and everything that breeds fanaticism. We must do it without displaying weakness of any kind, but at the same time with the intelligence that democracy brings. When one is fighting barbarousness, force is not only necessary, it is legitimate. But at the same time, it is not enough. We must come up with political solutions that can cut off the sources supplying those who spread terrorism, and France will do its full part.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad.

President Deby Itno (*spoke in French*): I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on taking the initiative to bring us together on the margins of the general debate of the General Assembly for this high-level meeting. We also commend the comprehensiveness of resolution 2178 (2014), just adopted, of which my country was a sponsor. It represents a new step, one that will enable us to more effectively combat a phenomenon that the entire world is confronting today.

Terrorism and violent extremism are unquestionably one of the worst scourges of our time. The phenomenon of foreign fighters, the international jihadists of the twenty-first century, is spreading and growing alarmingly; hence the Council's adoption of resolution 2178 (2014), proposed by the United States of America. In relating the resolution to the four points that the concept note of 3 September (S/2014/648) asks us to consider, I would like to make three observations concerning the threat presented by foreign fighters, the situation as it concerns Chad and, finally, violent extremism and the solutions designed to eradicate it.

This threat is a global one and is constantly evolving, since foreign fighters, particularly in terrorist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front, come from all over the globe, and their numbers are growing exponentially. In Africa we are now dealing with such groups south of the Sahara. Mali was their first victim; Al-Shabaab is in the Horn of Africa, while today Boko Haram is operating in Nigeria and Cameroon. It is currently estimated that there are several thousand foreign fighters from more than 80 countries, most of them from the Middle East, but also from non-Muslim countries, including Western nations. The majority of them are young people, recruited through the Internet, among other means, and especially through social networks. Africa is also dealing with the problem of foreign fighters. Terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and Al-Shabaab, which have proved highly dangerous in recent years, include them in their ranks. Twenty-two African countries have been the target of terrorist violence to date.

For that reason, on 2 September in Nairobi, I chaired a summit of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union that resulted in some important decisions about how to deal with the dual phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism across the continent. In that regard, the Peace and Security Council asked the Commission of the African Union to consider such measures as, first, strengthening the legal framework for the fight against terrorism by developing inter-police cooperation in Africa, introducing an African arrest warrant for perpetrators and accomplices of terrorist acts, and establishing a mechanism for blocking sources of terrorism financing; secondly, creating a special counter-terrorism fund; and thirdly, establishing special units at the subregional and regional level. In that regard, it is essential that Africa's partners provide it with thorough technical and logistical support so that those units can carry out their mission effectively.

Despite its huge territory, Chad is working to ensure security within its borders. Together with neighbouring countries, we have established joint forces operating joint patrols in order to deter criminals and bandits of every kind. Despite the absence of violent extremism in Chad, the Government, working with the religious authorities, is deeply involved in preventing terrorism by conducting awareness campaigns. Beyond our borders, we are focusing specifically on regional security, with the Chadian army involved on a number of fronts, particularly in Mali, where during the past two weeks we lost 10 of our peacekeepers, who were killed in a cowardly way, not in combat, in the north of the country, where we are paying a heavy price with more than 70 casualties.

If we are to eradicate the phenomenon of foreign fighters, we must address its underlying causes. In Africa, the emergence of terrorism and violent extremism is fuelled by people's poverty and misery in general and by youth unemployment in particular. Indeed, young people are easy prey for the terrorist groups, which derive significant resources from drug trafficking and other illicit trade. In order to stem such practices, which are a dangerous threat to the security of the continent, it is vital that the international community support development projects and programmes for African youth.

The Security Council, whose very purpose is maintaining international peace and security, is called on to find ways and means that can enable us to resolve the armed conflicts that are rocking the world, especially in Syria and Iraq. Besides the internal causes of these countries' conflicts, we have regretfully seen that outside interference has not only led to conflict, with incalculable consequences, but also, and more especially, has prepared fertile ground for the emergence and development of extremism and violent terrorism.

The phenomenon of foreign combatants, whether yesterday in Afghanistan or today in Syria and Iraq, is sometimes exacerbated by outside interference. We might wonder why countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, to name but a few, were suddenly transformed into fertile terrain for terrorist groups and foreign combatants. How did we move from a situation of relative political stability to the current situation

of war and violence? A process of deep reflection on those matters at the global level, taking into account the diversity and complexity of today's societies, would help to better identify the root causes of the threat and to prevent violent extremism. Therefore, even as we reaffirm the need to wage an unwavering war against terrorism in all its forms, we would also recall the importance of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the need to ensure that any recourse to force is solidly rooted in the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

We hope that resolution 2178 (2014) just adopted and the measures it contains will allow us to respond to such concerns and to the challenges posed by terrorism in general and by the phenomenon of foreign combatants in particular.

The President: I think I speak for the entire Council in expressing our condolences regarding the loss of the peacekeepers from Chad. Chad has made enormous contributions to peacekeeping at considerable sacrifice and it is greatly appreciated.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania.

President Grybauskaitė: During the past month we have witnessed shocking developments in the world, including virtually open warfare in various parts of the planet. It is sad, but we must speak not only of simple military actions but also of a collision of ideologies and sometimes even of civilizations. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is led by an ideology of hatred and madness that includes ethnic and religious cleansing and disrespect for all minorities and different people.

Today we are dealing with a phenomenon that crosses State boundaries and even destroys States. Moreover, fighters from other countries are becoming ever more involved. Unfortunately, foreign terrorist fighters can be found not only in ISIL. Recently, Europe has also faced violations of State borders, broad civilian casualties and the destruction of democratic institutions. If we want to stop that global trend, we must truly act together.

Today, in adopting resolution 2178 (2014), we have not only condemned foreign terrorist fighters, but also called upon all States to take measures to stop them. Additionally, we must understand that to keep ISIL's ideology from spreading even further, we must ensure viable Iraqi State institutions, tackle the humanitarian situation and help regional States to fight terrorism themselves.

Finally, Lithuania reaffirms its full commitment to support all efforts in the fight against terrorism throughout the world.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Cristina Fernández, President of the Argentine Republic.

President Fernández (*spoke in Spanish*): I have come with several certainties and several doubts to participate in this meeting of the Council. I came of course to vote in favour of resolution 2178 (2014), which we have just discussed, but also to decisively and definitively condemn terrorism. My country, the Argentine Republic, and the United States of America are the only two countries on the American continent to have been the object of savage terrorist attacks. In 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was blown up, and in 1994 we had the bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) headquarters.

That leads me to raise a number of questions. With everything that is taking place, this phenomenon that has just appeared, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham (ISIS), was unknown last year. In 1994, it was said in my country and the world that Hizbullah had been responsible for bombing AMIA, yet today Hizbullah is a political party in Lebanon. In 2006, a special prosecutorial unit was created at the initiative of former President Néstor Kirchner to investigate the 1994 attack. I repeat, the 1994 attack. In other words, this year marks 20 years since the AMIA attack and the perpetrators still have not been brought to justice.

After the investigation was conducted, the trial judge decided to indict eight Iranian citizens who live in Tehran. After that, between 2007 and 2012, first former President Néstor Kirchner and then I repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran, at every meeting of the United Nations, to allow us to question the accused. We even offered alternatives sites, as in the Lockerbie case, such as a third country where they could be questioned. Finally, in 2012, the Iranian chancery proposed a bilateral meeting, and in 2013 a memorandum of understanding was drawn up to establish judicial cooperation between both countries on the condition that the Iranian citizens could be questioned directly by our judge, because there is no provision in the Argentine legal system for trial in absentia. The accused must be questioned and tried in conformity with our Constitution and with

respect for their basic rights. Once that agreement had been signed, community organizations that had always insisted that we reach an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran accused us of collaborating with the Iranians. That led me to wonder whether, when they sought our help in securing the cooperation of the Iranian State, they really wanted our assistance or were looking for a casus belli.

The same holds true in this country, where the so-called vulture funds undertook an extraordinary lobbying effort before the American Congress. That can be verified on the web, where the vulture funds posted photographs of me and Mr. Ahmadinejad, the President of a so-called Islamist terrorist State until last year, and condemned us for signing a memorandum of understanding on legal cooperation.

With surprise — not disgust, because nothing that leads to dialogue can be bad — we learned that, over the weekend, the Secretary of State of this country met with his Iranian counterpart in a well-known hotel in this city to discuss the problem of ISIS and to see what level of cooperation or progress could be made on the nuclear issue. Now we know that ISIS is Sunni and those who govern Iran are Shia. And suddenly I observe a far friendlier discourse between the two countries, one of which had been, as recently as last year, accusing us of consorting with terrorists.

There is nothing wrong with dialogue. We welcome it. Dialogue among nations is always good. But I still have certain questions regarding the 1994 attack and the Al-Qaida attack on the Twin Towers, which was conceived and carried out by Osama bin Laden, who did not exactly appear like a mushroom after rain. Osama Bin Laden was trained by the Taliban to confront Russia during the Cold War. As I like to say, Afghanistan is the one country from which no one but Alexander the Great has gotten out alive. Later there was the emergence of the famous Arab Spring, in which everyone was apparently a freedom fighter and following which new democracies were going to arise. As it turns out, many of those freedom fighters were fundamentalists who had received military training, and who today are fighting under ISIS and recruiting young people.

I should like to highlight for the Council that I also have been threatened by ISIS personally, and my country's law-enforcement authorities are investigating. I do not really believe that ISIS is very concerned about the President of the Argentine Republic — I honestly believe that. The reasons they have given for threatening me are because of my friendship with Pope Francis and the fact that I recognize and advocate for two States, the State of Palestine and the State of Israel, living peaceably side by side.

I have jotted down some questions that have occurred to me. In the midst of all this, along came Saddam Hussein with chemical weapons in Iraq, and a war was waged against him. We were eventually rid of Saddam Hussein, but then the situation in Iraq became increasingly complicated. It seems the world is itself getting more and more complicated. Although under the scenario we faced last year it seemed that the most important thing was Iran and its nuclear threat, that now seems not to be the case — with ISIS seemingly having taken its place. We do not know who buys the oil from these new terrorists, nor who sells them weapons or trains them. But they obviously have financial resources. They have weapons. They have means of dissemination that are really cinematographic. That leads me to wonder about what is happening, and basically about what we must do to effectively combat terrorism. As to a military response, no one doubts that one has to defend oneself in the face of aggression. But it is also clear that the way in which we have been fighting terrorism has been inadequate. The situation is becoming more complicated all the time, and there are ever more increasingly violent and powerful groups.

Logic dictates that if I were looking into a given methodology to address a problem and, rather than disappearing or diminishing, the problem grew and became worse, then I at least would need to revise my approach because something was not working well. I am not saying that I have the revealed truth about what we need to do, nor that I have any absolute certainty about how we have to do it. What I do know, however, is that there is an old saying in my country: "The only thing that one cannot do with cannibals is to eat them up".

It seems to me that it is more important that we understand that in the logic of terrorism the aim is to achieve a reaction equivalent in violence and in attack to justify this continuous blood debt: for every one killed, they kill two, for every two, three, and for every three, four. Moreover, this is taking place in the context of the Middle East, where the State of Palestine is still not recognized, where we have seen the disproportionate use of force against the civilian population in Palestine and where we have not seen fall any of the leaders who launched rockets at the other side. On the contrary, we

have seen innocent children, women and the elderly die. That continues to increasingly fuel these groups.

Frankly speaking, beyond resolution 2178 (2014), which we agree with, voted for and want to help implement, I think it would be false and cynical of me to tell the Council that we have the right methods. I think the situation in the Middle East absolutely tends towards becoming more complicated.

Last November in St. Petersburg — less than a year ago — as a member of the Group of 20 we were contemplating the possibility that the great enemy was in fact the Government of Syria, and that those who were fighting Syria were freedom fighters. We have now found out that many of those same freedom fighters are now part of ISIS. Who was it, then, who were nurturing the opposition, giving them weapons and resources as freedom fighters? I therefore think we — and certainly those who have much more information available to them than I do as President of Argentina — need to reconsider a lot of things.

Members will know that my country does not produce or sell weapons. We have to buy oil, as we lack energy resources — although we have a large deposit that in the future will turn us into major producers. I do not know whether that is a good thing or not, as countries that do have oil and gas also seem to have major problems. But the truth is that we are a country that does not produce weapons, we are a country that buys energy, and we are a country that does not have all the intelligence that the great Powers have. But I often think that, in addition to having information, it is necessary to understand what is happening in each society and in each population, to try to see what the most appropriate tools are to seriously combat terrorism. It would not be unusual at all if in the coming year ISIS disappeared and some other group with another strange name and with still more virulent and violent propensities came into being — and, ultimately, we did nothing but expound on it.

In conclusion, I believe that respect for human rights is a key issue in this struggle. I say that from the perspective of a country that suffered from a genocidal dictatorship unprecedented in history. But also unprecedented was the justice carried out. There was no need for a Nuremberg tribunal or to judge the dictators at the Court in The Hague. Argentina's own judicial system tried and convicted those who had been responsible — including for the deaths of French citizens, such as the French nuns, and the Swedish women who were also disappeared. I therefore think we have some precedent to be able to talk about the need for this struggle to be carried out within a legal framework that includes respect for human rights, so that we do not continue feeding the beast in a perpetual cycle.

The President: I would just observe that this meeting will need to end at 5 p.m., and we have a long list of speakers, including members of the Council. I would ask speakers to remain respectful of the time constraints.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

President Kagame: I would like to thank you, President Obama, for calling and presiding over this very important meeting.

For decades terrorism has been, and continues to be, a reality in Africa and across the world. In some regions, it has even been getting worse. Another reality is that we can and must defeat those violent extremists and terrorists through concrete actions and cooperation. This week we commemorated the attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, which claimed dozens of lives.

Resolution 2178 (2014), which we have just adopted, is therefore an unfortunate necessity. Additional measures to disrupt terrorist travel and financing are important, and we will continue to do our part. Above and beyond that, wherever atrocities are being committed, the first priority is to halt them. Only then can efforts to address the root causes be effective. Terrorism is not caused by religion, ethnicity or even poverty, but by misguided politics and false beliefs. In order to build resilience to extremist narratives, people, especially youth, must feel that they have a stake in their country. We therefore fully endorse the call for a broad-based approach to combating violent extremism.

In Rwanda, we still face acts of terrorism driven by the ideology of genocide. When necessary, we have responded with force, but more importantly, we have remained committed to building inclusive and accountable institutions and systems. In particular, it is essential that those who renounce violence can be accommodated. The Rwandan demobilization and reintegration programme, carried out in partnership with the United Nations and the World Bank, has provided tens of thousands with a pathway out of extremism.

Resolution 2178 (2014) reflects a consensus that terrorism is an urgent problem for the entire world. We stand ready to work together to make sure that we address that challenge with others.

The President: I now give the floor to His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

King Abdullah: First, let me thank President Obama for his leadership on this issue. Jordan can be counted on to play its part. We need to shut down the sources of extremist support and push back and defeat such groups. That demands a coalition of the determined, one that can combat the threat with consistency and resolve. Allow me to salute the partnership that is gearing up.

Three principles are important as we proceed. The first is global reach and commitment. The threat is not only in Syria and Iraq, but also in Sinai, Nigeria, Libya, Yemen, Mali, the Horn of Africa and more. It is not an Arab or Muslim fight any more. It affects every delegate here and beyond. It is the fight of our times. Success requires a united struggle backed up by strong resources. Success also requires a holistic approach. Transnational terror grows on the back of crises, grievances and sectarian conflict. Winning hearts and minds requires a strong stand against marginalization, poverty and exclusion. In parallel with security measures there must be diplomacy, development, job creation, education and more.

A second key principle is immediate action. The new breed of extremism is recruiting world-wide through social media and covert partnerships. The more resource-rich territory they hold, the more self-perpetuating they become. Time is of the essence. We have started taking action, and the coalition must see this through. The third requirement is transparency. These groups rely on international transactions and support for their survival.

There has to be a policy of zero tolerance towards any country, organization or individual that facilitates, supports or finances terror groups, provides weapons or promotes propaganda, whether through media outlets or by misusing religious clerics to incite and help recruit fighters for such terrorist groups. Compliance must also be absolute. Countries cannot comply in one theatre while shifting their policy in another. Senior figures in every religion and country must speak out against intolerance and distortion. I and others have made clear that the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and related ideologies are in no way related to Islam.

Nor should we permit any form of Islamophobia. Jordan has taken the lead in inter-faith initiatives, and we are working on introducing a Security Council resolution that will address the systematic targeting of religious communities. The world must also act as one to help solve global injustices. We cannot underestimate the recruitment power emanating from a sense of exclusion from the enjoyment of basic human rights. First and foremost, we must have a just resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

A united global voice is equally vital in supporting an inclusive political solution in Syria. In Iraq, we are encouraged to see a solid start for an inclusive new Government that will fight terrorist efforts to exploit sectarianism. Finally, I hope there will be a global call to action to support countries like my own at the forefront of the fight. Jordan is a critical lynchpin of stability. Our borders stand secure with terror threats on two fronts. Just this week we foiled yet another terrorist operation against our country, and of course we remain a major shock absorber for massive refugee flights from Syria. But we are bearing those critical responsibilities under enormous economic pressures. Global support will play a key role in keeping our country resilient and moving forward. Jordan also seeks a renewed push to get promised refugee assistance flowing for all host countries and communities, as well as inside Syria itself.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile.

President Bachelet Jeria (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the United States for its initiative in organizing this Security Council debate on foreign terrorist fighters. This growing and alarming phenomenon is linked to one of the most serious threats to international peace and security — terrorism, a phenomenon that cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, ethnicity or civilization.

Because of the atrocities committed by terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Al-Nusra Front, which include in their ranks a large number of foreign terrorist fighters, we must take both urgent and preventative measures in the long term to deal with this international threat. The participation of such fighters on an unprecedented scale is aggravating the conflicts, the humanitarian, social and economic crises and human rights violations.

The response of the Members of the United Nations, and in particular the members of the Security Council, must be timely and effective, devising suitable strategies and mechanisms to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from leaving their countries, crossing their borders and preventing their access to financial resources for their activities. The adoption of resolution 2178 (2014) today responds to that need.

It is vital that we act on many fronts at the same time. The role of international cooperation at all levels is decisive. Without it, any strictly national effort will be in vain. Actions are also required at the regional and global levels between our various financial and intelligence services, as well as good practices in preventing terrorism. We also feel that international cooperation is key to preventing impunity for those responsible for terrorist acts. In that regard, we call on Member States to strengthen the mechanisms for cooperation. We also support the work being done by the Security Council Sanctions Committees and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and we urge those committees to continue working closely with all Member States.

The democratic development of our countries requires us to deal with terrorist threats decisively and to be alert to new manifestations of this phenomenon. In order to ensure permanent and legitimate achievements we must deal with the problem in all its social complexity, taking into account the three United Nations pillars, peace and international security, sustainable development and the strict respect for human rights. Only in that way we will achieve lasting and legitimate results, which will be fully supported by our societies.

The counter-terrorism measures adopted by States must rigorously respect the rule of law and comply with the obligations derived from human rights law, refugee and international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations. We need to apply timely and effective coercive measures carried out in accordance with international law, but that is not enough. As many previous speakers have said, the underlying causes must also be addressed. The most effective tools include strengthening democratic culture, education, eliminating inequalities and working with the most disadvantaged groups of society — in other words, greater integration and inclusion in our societies. That is undoubtedly a long-term task, on which we must embark without delay.

Chile has ratified the 14 international agreements that make up the United Nations legal framework for efforts to combat terrorism. We have supported key Security Council resolutions on that topic. In addition, our country has reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, supporting efforts to combat and to prevent that scourge, because we believe that no grounds or situation can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

We must deal with situations that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, including unresolved protracted conflicts, the absence of the rule of law, human rights violations, discrimination on national, religious or ethnic grounds, political exclusion, social and economic marginalization and a lack of good governance.

Chile is and will continue to be a safe and stable country. But we have also faced isolated acts of terrorism that we will defeat, because we will act with decision and because the entire united society condemns and opposes such acts. Our longing for peace, progress and democracy are infinitely stronger than the acts of small groups that do not understand the fundamental meaning of democratic coexistence or the transcendent and universal value of human life.

In conclusion, I would like to express my country's solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families, in particular women and children. Chile will continue to support the fight against international terrorism and to promote the human rights of all individuals, thereby contributing to the peace, stability and development of our peoples.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea.

President Park Geun-Hye: We are here today to tap into our collective wisdom as we take on an emerging challenge to peace and security in our world. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and terrorist fighters from around the globe are endangering Iraq. That is not simply a threat to one country or one region. It affects us all. Today's meeting, coming as it does soon after President Obama's ISIL strategy and the most recent action, could not have come at a better time. The events of 9/11 brought the fight against terrorism to the top of the global agenda — a cause that the Council has been key to advancing.

For Koreans, ISIL's brutal slaughter of innocent people is an appalling reminder of a similar fate that

befell one of our own citizens 10 years ago. There can never be any excuse for trampling the norms of humanity and for the random killing of women and children. They go against what Islam stands for, what civilization stands for, and what humanity stands for. Foreign terrorist fighters serve as their minions. They slip across borders to spread terror. They are a scourge to humankind.

Today's milestone resolution 2178 (2014) highlights the need for greater cooperation to better roll back the threat. That includes information-sharing, border control, tackling violent extremism and law enforcement. Korea will thoroughly implement such measures. Those involved will be brought sternly to justice and their funding blocked.

Nor can we neglect the more fundamental approach of dealing with conditions that are conducive to terrorism. Eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development are essential if we are to address the root causes of terrorism. Korea is a partner in this campaign. We are increasing our official development assistance to the least developed countries and are providing humanitarian aid to countries threatened by ISIL and foreign fighters.

We must go further. We must remain ever vigilant against cyberterrorism and nuclear terrorism and the utter chaos and destruction that they could unleash. All too often cyberspace is used to finance, recruit for and incite radical violence. We must prevent cyberspace from becoming not only the target of terror but also a tool of terror.

Nuclear terrorism, however unthinkable, is also a possibility. The post-9/11 world has already seen terrorist groups seeking nuclear materials. That is why international efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism must be stepped up. In that regard, I wish to acknowledge President Obama's leadership in proposing a summit on nuclear security five years ago in this very Chamber (see S/PV.6191). Today, the global regime for nuclear security is becoming stronger, thanks to summit meetings in Washington, Seoul and The Hague.

In the same vein, may this meeting today help to rally our collective resolve, and may it kick-start concrete international actions against the new scourge of foreign fighters. The fight against faceless and nameless terrorists without borders will not be easy. But we also know that terrorizing human dignity and humankind is a strategy that is doomed to fail. Seven decades ago, the founders of the United Nations defeated the totalitarian threat and envisioned a world of peace that puts humanity first.

The Council is a guardian of our rights and dignity as humans. It must meet head on the challenge of violent extremism and the foreign fighters who spread it. In the effort to stem the threat, it will always find in Korea a committed partner.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Cameron (United Kingdom): The conflict in Iraq and Syria is shocking the world with its barbarity. The cruelty that is being meted out — beheadings, eyes being gouged out, rape — is horrific. It is literally medieval in its character. The appalling murder of the French citizen Hervé Gourdel is the latest horror. The French President and people have our fullest sympathy. But one of the most disturbing aspects is how this conflict is sucking in our own young people from modern, prosperous societies, and the threat to our security from foreign fighters is far greater today than it has ever been in previous conflicts.

I pay tribute to President Obama for his personal leadership on this critical issue. It is one that affects us all. The overall figures have been given, but let me say that from my own country, 500 of those fanatics have gone to Syria and Iraq. The shocking murders of James Foley, Stephen Sotloff and David Haines by a fighter with an apparent British accent underlines the sinister and direct nature of the threat. The British people are sickened that a British citizen could be involved in murdering people in this way, including a fellow British citizen who had gone to Syria to help people. It is the very opposite of what our peaceful and tolerant country stands for. We therefore need a response that involves every part of the Government and society and every country involved in the broadest possible international coalition.

There are no easy answers or quick fixes, and I believe that we will be dealing with the effects of this threat for years, because, as has been said, this is not just about the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). It is about Al-Shabaab. It is about Boko Haram. It is about Al-Qaida. Everywhere there is conflict and everywhere there is poor governance, the poisonous narrative of Islamist extremism has taken hold.

However, I believe there are three things we can do.

First, we must reinforce our counter-terrorist efforts to prevent attacks and hunt down those who are planning them. For our part, in the United Kingdom, we are introducing new powers to strengthen our ability to seize passports and stop suspects from travelling; to allow us temporarily to prevent some British nationals from getting back into the country; to ensure that airlines comply with our no-fly lists and security screening arrangements; and to enable our police and security services to apply for stronger location constraints on those remaining in the United Kingdom but who pose a risk.

Secondly, and I believe crucially, we must defeat the poisonous ideology of extremism that is the root cause of this terrorist threat. Yes, there are the websites and the preachers of violence and violent extremism, and of course those must be taken down. However, as the evidence emerges about the backgrounds of those convicted of terrorist offences, it is clear that many of them were initially influenced by preachers who claim not to encourage violence, but whose world view can be used as a justification for it.

We know what this world view is: the peddling of lies that the attacks of 11 September were a Jewish plot or the 7 July London attacks were staged; the idea that Muslims are persecuted all over the world as a deliberate act of Western policy; and the concept of an inevitable clash of civilizations. We must be clear that to defeat the ideology of extremism, we need to deal with all forms of extremism, not just violent extremism. That means banning preachers of hate from coming to our countries. It means proscribing organizations that incite terrorism against people at home and abroad. It means stopping extremists, whether violent or non-violent, from inciting hatred and intolerance in our schools, in our universities and even sometimes in our prisons. In other words, it means firm, decisive action to protect and uphold the values of our free and democratic societies.

As has been said, we need to provide an alternative narrative, particularly for these young people. I was particularly struck by what the Secretary-General said: that missiles can kill terrorists but governance can kill terrorism. We have to say again and again that this has nothing to do with the religion of Islam, which is a religion of peace. We need Muslim country after Muslim country and Muslim leader after Muslim leader to speak out, as the King of Jordan did so clearly today, condemning the people who say they speak in the name of Islam when they do no such thing.

Thirdly and finally, in addition to the action we each take individually in our own countries, we must do much more, working together, to defeat this threat. The defeat of ISIL will only come about if we use all of the weapons at our disposal. Yes, we should impose sanctions against ISIL and Jabhat al-Nusra, and I believe we should do more, but we must use our aid to feed and help the afflicted. We must use our diplomacy and political settlements to strengthen the countries of the region. We need Governments that represent all of their people and, yes, deal with their grievances.

The United Kingdom is committed to meeting this challenge. Only a coherent, coordinated response can tackle what is truly a global and indiscriminate threat. It is one part of a comprehensive strategy we have to dismantle and destroy ISIL. Our strategy must work in tandem with Arab States, always in support of local people, in line with our legal obligations and as part of a plan that involves our aid, our diplomacy and, yes, our military. We need to act, and we need to act now.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr. Abbott (Australia): While I am happy to be here at your urging, Mr. President, it is the weightiest of matters that brings us together today.

Right now, thousands of misguided people from around the world are joining terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq because they claim Islam is under threat and because they are excited by the prospect of battle, but whatever they think or say, those terrorists are not fighting for God or for religious faith. At the heart of every terrorist group is an infatuation with death. What else can explain the beheadings, crucifixions, mass executions, rapes and sexual slavery in every town and city that has fallen to the terrorist movement now entrenched in eastern Syria and northern Iraq?

A terrorist movement calling itself the Islamic State insults Islam and mocks the duties of a legitimate State towards its citizens. To use this term is to dignify a death cult — a death cult that, in declaring itself a caliphate, has declared war on the world. Countries do need to work together to defeat it, because approximately 80 countries have citizens fighting with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and every country is a potential target.

Last week, an Australian operative in Syria instructed his local network to conduct demonstration

killings, and this week, an Australian terror suspect savagely attacked two policemen. It is hard to imagine that citizens of a pluralist democracy could have succumbed to such delusions, yet clearly they have. The Australian Government will be utterly unflinching towards anything that threatens our future as a free, fair and multicultural society, a beacon of hope and exemplar of unity in diversity. Already, more than 60 Australians are fighting with ISIL and Jabhat al-Nusra. More than 60 Australians have had their passports suspended to prevent them from joining terrorist groups in the Middle East. Our laws are changing to ensure that foreign fighters returning home can be arrested, prosecuted and jailed for a very long time indeed.

However, we are not just dealing with potential terrorists at home. We are tackling their inspiration abroad. Our combat aircraft and special forces are now in the Middle East preparing to join the international coalition to disrupt and degrade ISIL at the request of the Iraqi Government. I congratulate you, Mr. President, on the leadership you have shown in assembling a broad coalition. The participation of Middle Eastern countries in this week's strike on ISIL in Syria is the clearest possible demonstration that the West cannot solve this problem alone and will not have to.

Our goal is not to change people, but to protect them. It is not to change Governments, but to combat terrorism. Governments that do not commit genocide against their own people nor permit terrorism against ours — that is all we seek. Even in what seem to be darkening times, there are grounds for hope. The ISIL horror has generated all-but-universal revulsion. Muslim leaders, from Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia and President Yudhoyono of Indonesia to the Grand Mufti of Australia have declared that the ISIL movement is against God, against Islam and against our common humanity. Perhaps the realization is now dawning for all peoples, all cultures and all faiths that it can never be right to kill in the name of God. That would be a moral victory far surpassing any military success.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Mr. Bettel (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, as our colleague, the President of France, stated, we offer our most sincere condolences for what happened today. We express our condolences to all of the families and victims, regardless of their nationality, who have been attacked by terrorists using religion to justify their barbarous acts. I would echo what the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Australia and the King of Jordan just said: using religion to commit such barbarous acts is the worst thing one can do.

I would also like to thank, you, Sir, for having taken the initiative of convening this Security Council debate. We take this opportunity to recall the commitment undertaken by my country, Luxembourg, to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters. That threat has gotten worse over the past few months, and is of concern to us all, as the Secretary-General explained just a little while ago.

I think the speakers before me described the problem well. For Europe and for my own country, the threat of foreign terrorist fighters is a matter of growing concern. At present, it is estimated that thousands of foreign fighters have joined terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusra Front and Al-Qaida and its affiliates, particularly in Syria and in Iraq. When they return to their countries of origin, those terrorist fighters continue to present a danger. The arrests of numerous fighters in the Middle East and in Europe, the recent atrocities committed in Arsal in Lebanon and the terrorist attack perpetrated against the Jewish Museum of Brussels on 24 May are examples that attest to the fact that the threat is real.

There is no magic formula for combatting this threat. Since we are all affected by it, it is obvious that we must all act together. The response of the international community and the Security Council needs to be commensurate with the challenge. In that regard, I welcome resolution 2178 (2014), which we have just adopted unanimously on the initiative of the United States, and which Luxembourg has been honoured to co-sponsor.

As for the actions we should undertake, I see three priorities. First, we must intensify our efforts to prevent radicalization, which could lead to terrorism, and to counter violent extremism. Why and how does a young person with a clean record yesterday become a terrorist tomorrow? In Europe, a Radicalisation Awareness Network has been put in place by the European Commission, following an approach based on support to local communities. The Network connects those who are in direct contact with targeted individuals or vulnerable groups in order to facilitate an exchange of experiences and best practices. The Network is part of the preventive component of the European Union's

counter-terrorism strategy and should be strengthened. That is a long-term effort that we intend to pursue, in particular when Luxembourg assumes the presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2015.

Secondly, we must make every effort to prevent those who want to leave to fight with terrorist groups from travelling to conflict zones. To that end, we need to strengthen the exchange of information and cooperation among Member States. The European Union is actively working on that. We also need to put in place sufficiently robust legislation to ensure that foreign terrorist fighters can be effectively prosecuted and brought to justice upon their return. In Luxembourg, the incitement to commit a terrorist act, terrorist recruitment, the creation of a terrorist group and terrorist training constitute criminal offences. My Government is already working on updating the criminal code in order to fully take into account the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution we have just adopted.

Thirdly, we must redouble our efforts to cut off the sources of financing of foreign terrorist fighters. As an international financial centre, Luxembourg is aware of its special responsibilities in that regard. My country has adopted a full and consistent arsenal of legislative and regulatory measures in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, and it is paying particular attention to their effective implementation. Those measures fully take into account the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

I would like to conclude by stressing an essential point. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law need to be an integral part of our counter-terrorism strategy if we want it to achieve its aim. All the measures we take to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters must respect international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. Otherwise, we shall only heighten the sense of injustice and impunity, which fuels radicalization and the spread of terrorism.

(*spoke in English*)

This morning, before the General Assembly, you, Mr. President, asked the world to join in the fight against the Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant. Faced with those killers, who have no regard for our human values and do not hesitate to recruit children for their dark cause, we must be steadfast in upholding the values upon which the United Nations was founded.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Terrorism, which has been strengthened ideologically and logistically and through its ties to transnational organized crime, is fuelled by drug trafficking, seized oil fields and extremist ideas, including those based on religion and ethnicity. Terrorism penetrates the fabric of regional conflicts.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups have long existed in the Middle East. They have acquired additional capacity for their criminal activities in the context of weakening of State institutions owing to foreign support. With their increased power, extremist groups jeopardize the future of entire States, as is clearly seen in the examples of Iraq, Syria and Libya, which are under attack, as well as Lebanon, Yemen, Mali and the Central African Republic.

Russia has consistently advocated the expansion of international cooperation to curb terrorism in all its forms and abandoning double standards and the dividing of terrorists into good and bad terrorists. It is essential that all States faithfully implement the Security Council resolutions and decisions that call for ending the incitement to terrorism, cutting off all channels of illegal oil trafficking, adopting sanctions against the Taliban and Al-Qaida and preventing the transfer of weapons from Libya. We supported resolution 2170 (2014) aimed at ratcheting up the sanctions pressure on terrorists operating in Syria and Iraq.

Those examples reaffirm the Council's ability to agree on fundamentally important issues and to take decisions on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations. After the intervention in Iraq, the bombing of Libya and the providing of foreign support to extremists opposed to Al-Assad in Syria, the problem of foreign terrorist fighters has been seriously exacerbated. They are also fighting in the ranks of terrorist organizations of many countries in the Middle East, Africa and the Afghanistan/Pakistan boundary area. In that regard, we need a comprehensive approach that would encompass the financial, administrative, social and ideological components of the issue and that would ensure respect for the sovereignty of all States. We support the initiative

of the United States presidency of the Security Council in sponsoring resolution 2178 (2014) aimed at stamping out foreign terrorist fighter activity.

At the same time, we would like to caution against the temptation to narrow our perception of the problem, because the Islamic State, with its inhuman ideology and revolting executions of journalists, is not by any means the only threat to the region. There is a need to comprehensively consider the problem of terrorism in all its dimensions, in the Middle East and North Africa. We propose the convening, under the auspices of the United Nations, a forum of representatives of countries of the region, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the five permanent members of the Security Council and other stakeholders. The forum's agenda should also address long-standing conflicts, the most important of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is specifically the failure to resolve the Palestinian issue for many decades, that is, according to a widely-held viewpoint, one of the primary reasons terrorists receive moral support and are able to continuously recruit new members into their ranks. We call for an analysis of the deep-rooted causes of the region's problems and for avoiding responding solely to their symptoms.

We stand ready to cooperate on an equitable basis, beginning with an honest joint analysis of how this problem developed and how we can work our way out of this chaos.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Wang Yi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China supports the convening, on the initiative of the United States, of this Security Council summit on terrorism and the adoption today of resolution 2178 (2014). The resolution, which reflects the common will of the international community, should be implemented effectively and in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Terrorists defy the fundamental human rights and challenge the foundations of human civilization. As such, they are humankind's common enemy. Al-Qaida launched, 13 years ago, on 11 September, attacks in this very city. That incident shocked the entire world and claimed over 3,000 innocent lives. Since the end of 2013, terrorists have instigated, orchestrated and carried out numerous violent attacks inside China and caused numerous casualties. Today, a new terrorist incident took place. We wish to express our condolences to France for the French victim and show our solidarity with France.

At the moment, we are witnessing a resurgence of terrorism that deserves serious international attention and vigilance. Wars breed anger. Killings yield hatred. Conflicts in the Middle East attract terrorists and extremists into the region from all over the world, like a magnet, to join in the fighting. Once they return home, they will pose a serious threat to the security and stability of many countries, regions and indeed the world as a whole. In this era of rising interconnectedness, terrorist financing has become easier and more covert. International corridors have taken shape for terrorists and extremists to move around across the world.

In the meantime, social media have become a battlefield for terrorist and extremist groups to spread their ideology, a tool to plot terrorist attacks and a platform to recruit terrorists. With the progress of information technologies, some young people are susceptible to extremist ideas and demagogy by terrorist forces. We must stay alert, for terrorist organizations and extremist ideologies are competing with us for our future generations. It is indeed a battle bearing on the future of our world.

With terrorism raising its ugly head once again, we must adhere to the practices that have proven effective and abide by international law and norms governing international relations. First, we must ensure sound coordination. The United Nations and the Security Council have to play the leading role in a global war on terrorism. That is the only way to maintain unity, achieve effective coordination and take concerted actions.

Secondly, we must adopt a multipronged approach. The global war on terrorism should be fought in an integrated manner, adopting measures in the political, security, economic, financial, intelligence and ideological fields, inter alia, with a view to addressing both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism, especially removing its root causes and breeding grounds. Military actions must comply with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions.

Thirdly, we must follow a consistent standard. Any act of terrorism in whatever form, whenever and wherever it is committed, and whomever or whatever it is targeted against, must be fought. No double standards

should be adopted. Still less should terrorism be identified with any particular ethnic group or religion. Faced with the new trends and new developments in terrorism, we must come up with new thinking and new steps in response. In that regard, China wishes to propose the following.

First, we should step up information-gathering and sharing. Full scope should be given to the advantages of the United Nations and relevant international institutions on such matters as establishing a counter-terrorism database and information exchange platform so as to step up sharing of information resources and intelligence analysis.

Secondly, we should strengthen counter-terrorism on the Internet. Resolute measures should be taken to stop the use of social media to spread extremist ideas, especially the release of audio and video materials of violence and terror. Internet companies and operators should exercise self-discipline. To that end, it is imperative to formulate as soon as possible a code of conduct for the global cyberindustry. China will host a symposium on countering cyberterrorism within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in Beijing later this year.

Thirdly, we must block the channels of terrorist movement and financing of terrorism. All countries, particularly those adjacent to ongoing conflicts, ought to fulfil international obligations for effective border control. We must enhance cooperation in financial regulation, crack down on such illegal activities as underground banking, and block terrorist financing.

Fourthly, we should promote deradicalization. While taking actions in accordance with law to crack down on and outlaw venues and personnel that are engaged in, advocating and spreading extremist ideology, we should protect normal religious activities, promote public awareness and give greater play to the role of local communities, thus injecting more positive energy into society. The United Nations should sum up useful experiences without delay and promote best practices from around the world.

The countries of the Middle East are on the front line of the war on terrorism. It is extremely important for those countries to work in unity and coordination and put aside their differences. China firmly supports the countries of the region in their efforts to counter terrorism. We support Iraq in enhancing its counter-terrorism capacity-building and we stand ready to strengthen our cooperation with the various parties, in such areas as intelligence sharing and personnel training. In this context, we will provide ¥60 million of emergency humanitarian assistance to Iraq, including to its Kurdish region.

Confronted with terrorist threats, all countries have found their destinies bound together. We have no choice but to work together to address the common threat. China has always resolutely opposed all forms of terrorism and will continue to stand firm and participate in international cooperation against terrorism. In the face of justice and unity, terrorism has no place to hide and it will be thoroughly defeated.

The President: There are two matters I want to mention before we go to our next speaker. First, I said earlier that we had 101 sponsors for resolution 2178 (2014). I have just received an update that we now have 104 sponsors. I think that it is worth noting the overwhelming interest and support on this issue.

Consistent with our earlier agreement and past precedent, as I mentioned, we have opened this forum to leaders of countries that are not currently on the Council, but obviously have an extraordinary, deep interest, not only in the problem that we are discussing today — the issue of foreign fighters — but also are critical to our ability to solve the problem. I would therefore now welcome and give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Haider Al-Abadi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

Mr. Al-Abadi (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Mr. President, for holding this high-level meeting, which reflects the attention you are giving to the question of terrorism, and for inviting Iraq to participate. I also wish to thank you personally for the support you have provided to Iraq as it strives to confront terrorism.

Iraq stands today in the vanguard of the fight against terrorism and against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has attacked my country and displaced thousands of our citizens in Mosul, in the north, occupied our territory, killed hundreds of Iraqi citizens on sectarian grounds in Tal Afar and other places, and targeted religious minorities including the Shabak, Yazidis, Christians and others. Those areas have suffered from sectarian and religious cleansing that has changed their demographics and destroyed their cultural and religious heritage. Moreover, car bombs are exploding in the streets of Baghdad, Babylon, Tuz Khurmatu and various other cities and towns in Iraq, targeting and killing dozens of people every day.

ISIL, which is a combination and mixture of extremists and the remains of the Al-Ba'ath fascist party, falsely claims allegiance to Islam. It is actually causing more damage to Islam by adopting specific sectarian rhetoric while threatening all sects and religious groups in Iraq. Furthermore, the organization is not an Iraqi organization; it is a transnational organization that derives its strength from the following sources.

First, it exploits Takfiri religious philosophy as ideological cover that foments hatred for the Other and takes pleasure in bloodshed and beheadings. Secondly, financial networks present in several States provide great financial liquidity, as well as from oil smuggling networks in Iraq and the cities and territories under its control. Thirdly, it enjoys the support of recruitment networks throughout the world that draw in members and facilitate recruits' entry into Iraq. Fourthly, media and propaganda networks spread news about the so-called success of the organization, which helps to recruit members. Fifthly, it derives strength from the remains of the Al-Ba'ath fascist party and the supporters of former president Saddam.

Because the threat posed by the organization is not limited to Iraq, international support is required to confront it. We will not allow regional or international disagreements to affect the priority and primacy of the threat or to break up the international alliance against terrorism. I reaffirm that in Iraq our only allegiance is to Iraq and its people. While we express our gratitude to all the States that have stood beside us in the military, humanitarian and political fields, locally and internationally, we also affirm that the defeat of terrorism in Iraq is the cornerstone for its defeat throughout the world. We therefore call on the Security Council and all peace-loving nations to do the following.

First, they must provide all forms of support and assistance, military and security assistance to the Government of Iraq in order to enable it to defeat terrorism and protect the unity, independence and sovereignty of Iraq with respect to its land, air and water, and, secondly, they must block all sources of financing and financial networks, including the purchase of oil from areas under the control of ISIL.

The third goal is stopping extremists from entering Iraq and putting an end to all forms of logistical support, including the pursuit of and the dismantling and criminalization of recruitment networks that bring in terrorists from throughout the world. Fourthly, they must prevent ISIL from using technology to promote its ideology, including through the Internet, and from spreading its horrifying propaganda throughout the media.

Fifthly, support is required from the entire world for refugees and for the reconstruction of cities destroyed by ISIL, whether through occupation or through the use of car bombs that explode in cities and neighbourhoods.

Iraq has been successful in halting the progress of ISIL with the help of our heroic security forces and our courageous people, who have responded to the call of the religious and spiritual leaders in Najaf and the political leadership. Iraq has also succeeded in achieving a peaceful transition of power and the creation of a national alliance according to a specific time table; this is a priority in the combat against terrorism.

Our Government looks forward not only to an urgent effort to end the terrorist threat but also to constructive relations with all countries of the world, especially in the region of Iraq, with the neighbouring States that stand together with us in this confrontation. This relationship will be based on political and military cooperation and common interests.

The President: We recognize that Iraq is on the front lines of the fight against extremism and terrorism, and we are heartened by the numerous countries that have pledged assistance and aid to Iraq in support of this fight.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey. Turkey, obviously, has been deeply affected by both the flow of foreigh fighters and the displacement that has resulted from the conflict in neighbouring States, and so we thank the President for being here today.

President Erdoğan (*spoke in Turkish; interpretation provided by the delegation*): I should like to start by thanking my friend Barack for enabling such an important discussion to take place at the highest level. The issue of foreign terrorist fighters is no doubt a very important issue, one that is the reflection and a symptom of a bigger problem. The collapse of State structures in our southern neighbourhood and the resulting atmosphere of chaos and instability has created today a field of operations for terrorist organizations and, unfortunately, the region has become a magnet for terrorist fighters.

Turkey, given the emergence of instability in Syria, has repeatedly issued all necessary warnings to the

international community about this threat. The inertia of the international community, despite the policies of violence towards the Syrian population by the regime, has prepared the ground for Al-Qaida to re-emerge in Syria and grow stronger under the name of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), with the support of the regime.

The spread of the ISIL threat towards Iraq is the result of conditions on the ground and has been nurtured by the earlier sectarian policies of the previous Government.

Under these circumstances, the international community has to work together, because all problems can be overcome if it does. We have to take a comprehensive, realistic, long-term approach in order to overcome this threat. Turkey has been taking a leading role in this direction and has been working to prevent the flow of foreign fighters towards the region for quite a long time.

But this fight cannot be carried out solely by Turkey. The threat of foreign terrorist fighters starts the moment such individuals depart from their countries of origin. Thus the combat against those individuals should start in the source countries, and our initial goal is therefore to prevent their entry into Turkey. For a long time we have been calling on the countries concerned to cooperate with us on this issue. Unfortunately, a timely reaction has not been shown on this issue either; with the deterioration of the situation, we have finally witnessed in recent times an increased flow of information from the source countries. Thanks to this, and within the scope of our struggle against foreign terrorist fighters, around 6,300 individuals have been included in the no-entry list and close to 1,000 foreigners have been deported. We have also established risk-analysis groups at the airports.

I should like to stress once again that we can stop this flow of foreign terrorist fighters only if our friends and partners who await our cooperation themselves show a spirit of cooperation. Another important issue we must touch upon is that neither exploitation of these measures by Islamophobic circles or damage to our common civilized values should be allowed.

Turkey has suffered for years from the scourge of terrorism, which has claimed the lives of thousands of its children. We are among the best-placed to know the pain that terrorism brings and therefore would be among the first to try to ensure that we can prevent young people throughout the world from falling into the hands of terrorists. With that understanding, in 2011 Turkey, together with the United States, launched the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

Turkey is taking all possible national, regional and international steps to counter this threat and is committed to taking enhanced measures in this regard.

ISIL is a terrorist organization with blood on its hands. Since the very beginning, our Government has taken all necessary legal measures in this respect. In our fight against terrorism, all measures necessitated by our national interests will be taken with due regard for regional stability and humanitarian needs. There is tremendous pressure on Turkey's borders; since the beginning of the conflict in Syria we have taken in 1,300,000 Syrians from every ethnic and sectarian group. Only last week, more than 140,000 Syrian Kurdish refugees fleeing ISIL found shelter in our country, and we are also temporarily housing 70,000 Yazidis from Iraq.

Despite our sacrifices and our expectation of solidarity, we have not received the kind of support that we have been looking for from the international community and have also been the target of unjust criticism in this context. This is really very sad for us. Turkey's determination in this regard cannot be questioned; the international community is going through a historical test of sincerity. If we go deep to the roots of the conflict and ensure the desired solidarity and cooperation, we can get results.

Our goal should be to create an atmosphere of peace, democracy and stability in which millions of our Syrian brothers can safely return home and our Iraqi brothers can feel that they are part of Iraq. That should continue to be our goal, and Turkey will continue to carry out its efforts in that regard.

The President: I now give the floor to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar.

Sheikh Al-Thani (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank President Obama for convening this important meeting, whose significance, I hope, will strengthen our collective effort in combating the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, and in fact all manifestations of international terrorism, the reason for our meeting today.

The international community agrees with the diagnosis of terrorism. It is an imminent threat and

we must therefore make combating it a priority. The peoples of our region have unfortunately paid a heavy price because of this phenomenon. Innocent citizens and civil institutions have been targeted and terror reigns for political reasons. As I said this morning in the General Assembly (see A/69/PV.6), there is no civilization in the modern era that has not had to confront terrorism, whether right-wing, left-wing or religious. It would be a fatal mistake to tie this type of political violence to a single culture, religion or nationality, whatever it might be. It also goes without saying that the transnational nature of terrorism and its use of modern technologies and communications are contributing to the spread of this scourge. That makes it essentially impossible to respond without international solidarity. In Qatar we consider ourselves an integral part of an international alliance against terrorism. We will tackle it nationally and globally by joining with international efforts.

We have no choice but to respond at a security level, and even with an emergency military response, given the imminent threat posed by the terrorist groups that recruit and transport combatants across borders. The current state of alert, however, should not make us forget the origins and motives of this phenomenon. Terrorism should in fact be a rare, exceptional occurrence; it is possible for terrorist groups to control entire populations and areas of certain countries only when the State is absent, creating a political vacuum, or when the State has become an instrument of murder and repression that leaves no room for dialogue, political efforts, gradual reforms or civil change. There are regimes of terror that are killing their own people, and if our efforts to eradicate terrorism are to bear fruit, we will have to restore such States, which should be unifying frameworks that do not deal in repression and can help us to fight terrorism. We cannot wait for more people to be killed. We cannot defeat terrorism unless the societies that have been affected by it react to the bloody repression such as what we are witnessing in Syria and Iraq, particularly when it targets people because their religion is different.

In that regard, we would make the following points. Past experience has shown that military action alone cannot solve such problems. We must work within a framework of political solutions that can open the door to a better future. Violence breeds violence, and we must therefore take a political path. Secondly, if the political dimensions of a solution are to gain public support, it must be credible and avoid double standards. When civilians are targeted, the response must be the same, regardless of who is perpetrating that violence. We cannot stand by while thousands are killed. There is always some explanation or justification for this, but I fear that such explanations give the impression of a double standard. Thirdly, fighting terrorism does not give anyone carte blanche to take measures that are outside the rule of law. Civilians must not be victimized yet again.

In conclusion, we affirm our support for all efforts based on an international consensus designed to put an end to this scourge, whatever its motivations or the excuses made for it.

The President: Unfortunately, I am being called to participate in another United Nations forum, so my able Secretary of State, John Kerry, will take over the presidency of the meeting.

I would like to say to my friends the leaders of Kenya, Bulgaria and Moldova, as well as my good friend Stephen Harper of Canada, and other Heads of State, that we heartily welcome their commitment and participation in this meeting. I also thank the entire Security Council for the seriousness with which we have tackled this problem. I would like to note that it is very rare to see the United Nations achieve the kind of consensus we see represented in today's resolution 2178 (2014). If we look at all the statements that have been made today, several themes stand out.

First, the brand of violent, extreme terrorism that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant represents is something that all of us in the civilized world must reject. Secondly, in addition to dealing with such terrorism's challenges militarily, we are going to have to change hearts and minds, and that will require a wide range of strategies. Today's resolution commits each of us to finding tools to counter the radicalization that can lead to the recruitment of young people who we obviously want to take a better path in life.

I want to reaffirm that the United States will not be committed simply to a military approach. We are also deeply committed to working with every single country that is prepared to cooperate in making sure that the scourge of terrorism and the use of foreign fighters for perverted ambitions are thwarted. We are going to make sure that we reach out to everyone here individually to find out how we can be helpful and cooperate with them.

I will, however, repeat what I said at the outset of this meeting. Resolutions alone will not be enough.

Lofty rhetoric and good intentions are not enough. We are going to have to translate words into deeds. But given the seriousness with which all of us have made our presentations here today, I am confident that we can in fact succeed; that we can drain the sources of the type of extreme radicalization we have been seeing; that, as a consequence, and with the help of political solutions to conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, we can arrive at a situation in which all of our young people, rather than resorting to violence and suicide bombings, can be confident about getting a good education, seeking opportunity, raising families and living in peace. I would like to thank everyone here for their outstanding contributions to this important and historic effort.

Mr. Kerry took the Chair.

The President: I would like to express my appreciation to the Heads of State and Government and Ministers who have waited very patiently to take part in this meeting. We should emphasize how important it is that all of these statements become part of the record. It has been an important record to build, and we look forward to all the speakers still to come. I will be here for a portion of that, at which point I have to go to a meeting of the Friends of Syria Core Group, and Ambassador Samantha Power will take the Chair. But, as I say, we are very anxious to receive all the statements orally; this is a very important record of the seriousness with which each country takes these responsibilities.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Rossen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

President Plevneliev: We ask you, Secretary Kerry, to please extend our warm regards and special thanks to President Obama for his extraordinary leadership in bringing about, organizing and presiding over today's historic event. We would also like to extend our condolences to our friends and the people of France on the murder of their citizen at the hands of brutal terrorists.

Resolution 2178 (2014), of which Bulgaria was a sponsor and which this highly respected body just adopted, represents the international community's decisive stance towards the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The resolution further develops the United Nations counter-terrorism framework and highlights the need for strengthened legal measures at both the national and international levels.

Foreign terrorist fighters pose a very serious threat not only to their countries and regions, but also regionally and globally. Therefore, determined action is required. No country, including my own, is immune, and international cooperation and exchange of operative information, as prescribed by the resolution just adopted, is more than necessary. Terrorist attacks happen everywhere. The terrorist attack of July 2012 at the airport in Sarafovo is yet another example of the spread of the recruitment of foreign fighters for terrorism, and for committing acts of murder and brutal violence. We have seen the ugly face of terrorism in my country.

The foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon cannot be attributed to any one religion, ethnicity or region. In that regard, the Bulgarian religious community has taken a firm and united position exemplified by a declaration condemning in the strongest possible terms the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). That declaration was adopted by the Bulgarian General Mufti and supported by the National Council of Religious Communities in Bulgaria. I am so proud to be President of a country where different religious groups live peacefully together and where they have acted immediately and decisively together.

Combating radicalization and extremism requires urgent preventive measures, such as support for institution-building, respect for human rights, social inclusion and cohesion, and cooperation with regional and global partners. With today's resolution, the international community has provided for a longer-term and strategic international response to this phenomenon. As a result, all States must now ensure the implementation of an appropriate legal and institutional counter-terrorism architecture, at both the national and global levels, and must ensure that it be systematically strengthened and improved. The Bulgarian Government will follow suit and will urgently propose national legislative measures to that end.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

President Kenyatta: Last weekend, Kenya commemorated the heinous attack on the Westgate Mall, which left 67 people, of 13 nationalities, dead. Half the terrorists who executed that attack were foreigners drawn from the ranks that have come to fight alongside Al-Shabaab. Tragically, the pool of foreign

fighters is also being filled from our children in Kenya and the region.

The alarming rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is also driven by the phenomenon of foreign fighters. It awakens us to the speed at which terrorist organizations can evolve. No doubt, a greater risk lies in the fighters returning to their homelands or finding new operating spaces in which to carry out their terrorist attacks. Such is the threat that we face from foreign fighters and operatives, who in the past have killed hundreds of our citizens.

Our conviction is that strong, enforceable action must be taken to tackle terror groups and the phenomenon of foreign fighters. That belief is informed by our experience that terrorist groups are continuously evolving into new forms in response to opportunity. For instance, the closer collaboration of Al-Shabaab with Al-Qaida has led to strengthened links with other Al-Qaida affiliates, allowing for increased movement of foreign fighters and weapons. It has also renewed their strategic and communication capabilities.

The risk is growing, and we are all in its path. We are geographically close to Al-Shabaab's Somali camps. Our status as a democracy, which terrorists associate with the West, also makes us a target. Our deepening democracy and our growing prosperity are anathema to terrorists.

The fragile security environment in Somalia continues to afford Al-Shabaab a safe haven in which to operate. In cooperation with other regional countries within the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as with the Somali National Army, Kenya has continued to undertake campaigns that are degrading Al-Shabaab's capability. We wish to underscore that sufficient support to the ongoing AMISOM operations and stabilization efforts is integral to securing Somalia and denying the fighters operational space. In the light of that imperative, we strongly urge expanded support for AMISOM, particularly in facilitating ready access to force multipliers in the form of air and maritime support.

Even as we take the battle to the existing terrorists, we need to expand our focus on the radicalization of youth. That is the pipeline for global terrorism. We must call attention to the enablers of that process, especially those providing financing at the grassroots level, where radicalization is taking place. Those efforts must take place within a wider strategy that brings in all States. The East African countries are also deepening security cooperation in concrete ways, alongside our economic integration agenda. We in Kenya and East Africa have taken up our responsibilities in the global war against terrorists and stand ready to partner with anyone and all parties willing to eradicate that menace.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

President Ivanov (*spoke in Macedonian; interpretation provided by the delegation*): The countries of South-Eastern Europe are facing a serious threat. The Balkan region is the first part of Europe on the bloody map of the so-called Islamic caliphate. I have to say with concern that the Balkans are already becoming a base for the recruitment and radicalization of new foreign fighters for global jihad. The foreign fighters from the Balkans in the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Jabhat Al-Nusra are grouped into ethno-national platoons to export jihadist ideology back to their home countries and thus serve the wider goals of jihadism. No one can tell with certainty the exact number of foreign fighters from the Balkans involved in military operations in Iraq and Syria. Their number is constantly increasing and we can no longer count them. Among them are jihadists ready to carry out military operations for defensive and offensive jihad. Their interaction with foreign fighters creates a multinational structure that poses risks and danger. They have an external network of supporters in the West. They have the capability to plan, support and carry out attacks against the West ands its interests. Some have been there for three years; others are joining them now. Some are there to stay, but some are likely to return to the Balkans. When they come back, they will bring along their hatred of diversity and their devastating ideology, which will infect our vulnerable societies and States.

For the time being, the Balkan region is not an operational base for international terrorist networks. However, we should be aware that this is not a temporary but a permanent threat we must be prepared for. We must not rule out as impossible the sick scenarios and verbal threats from foreign fighters for the creation of a so-called Balkan caliphate. We are under a constant threat for which neither our region nor our countries are prepared. This is the diagnosis of the disease we face, but is there a remedy? I am confident that the remedy consists of three essential steps.

First, the legal blockade of the Republic of Macedonia's rightfully deserved membership in NATO is also a serious blockade against peace, security and stability in the Balkans. At the beginning, we were blocked in the United Nations because of the name of our country. We are now blocked out of NATO and the European Union not just because of our name but also because of the identity and language of our citizens. The blockade is a result of a breach of resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993); a violation of the 1995 Interim Accord that was deposited with the United Nations; and a violation of the 5 December 2011 judgment handed down by the International Court of Justice, one of the principal organs of the United Nations. It is for those reasons that we have not been able to find a mutually acceptable solution in the past 21 years. But it is also for those reasons that there exists an atmosphere of insecurity and instability in our region. The Security Council can and must contribute to peace, security and stability in the Balkans. I urge and expect the Council to be persistent in demanding unconditional respect for its resolutions. I expect the Council to be involved in view of ensuring respect for the verdict of the International Court of Justice in the Macedonia case.

Secondly, we should accelerate the integration of the Republic of Macedonia and the other Balkan countries into the European Union. By postponing enlargement, the Union is creating a vacuum in what historically has been the poorest geopolitical space. And we all know that such vacuums are eventually filled. The European Union must not forget that the Balkans is part of Europe and that by postponing enlargement it creates a problem on its own territory. It is necessary that all of the Western Balkan countries be integrated into the European Union as soon as possible.

Thirdly, we believe it is necessary to establish a regional counter-terrorism centre in the countries of the Western Balkans to work on identifying and assessing terrorism threats and to ensure operational coordination with a single centre that would monitor terrorist threats and targets at the regional level. The centre would also ensure operational cooperation on intelligence on terrorist groups, their networks, locations, capacities and intentions. That would serve to provide early warning, prevention and coordination of activities among law enforcement and intelligence services.

There is no longer any excuse for blocking the initiative on European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration. Our region is vulnerable, and so is Europe. It is necessary to strengthen institutions in all Western Balkan countries by funding programmes for deradicalization and counter-radicalization in order to ensure early prevention and the deployment of counter measures through programmes and action plans. We do not have the capacity to respond and address this threat by ourselves. We have limited financial capacity. We therefore need partners to build capacity and to counter violent extremism. We can deprive terrorist groups of the one resource that is most precious to them — new recruits — by reducing sympathy and support for extremism. We must be responsible. We must help each other. The stability and security of each State is an important link in the whole region.

The President: It is now my pleasure to give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Harper (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I am pleased for the leadership demonstrated by the Security Council. We also thank you, Secretary Kerry, as well as President Obama, for convening this meeting and inviting other countries as well.

The threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters is a source of great concern. The conflict in Syria and in Iraq is increasingly alarming people around the world, including Canada.

(*spoke in English*)

The presence of a large number of foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq is not only aggravating and an already dangerous regional security situation, for us it involves the risks that individuals may return home with knowledge and experience gained in terrorist activities to motivate and recruit others and potentially to conduct attacks.

Canada is taking action on this. In 2013, we brought forward the Combating Terrorism Act, which created new criminal offences in connection with leaving or attempting to leave Canada for terrorist purposes. Recent amendments to the Citizenship Act will also enable us to revoke citizenship from dual citizens and to deny it to permanent residents who are convicted of terrorism offences. We are also using existing tools to take appropriate actions to counter foreign fighter threats, including passport revocation, the listing of terrorist entities under the Criminal Code and supporting capacity-building initiatives abroad. As we go forward, we are examining how to strengthen all of these and other tools. Of course, terrorism and crime for

terrorist purposes cannot, as has been recognized in the Council, be prevented by security and law enforcement alone.

(*spoke in French*)

It is also essential to support prevention efforts to fight violent extremism before certain individuals become foreign fighters.

(*spoke in English*)

I should mention that in Canada our security and intelligence agencies work well, and work most particularly well with our Muslim communities, in identifying such threats. It is also important that we track and squeeze off terrorist financing wherever possible.

Canada is pleased to have been a sponsor of resolution 2187 (2014) today and to support efforts to improve the international response to the foreign fighter phenomenon. We will also continue to work with the Government of the United States, the Government of Iraq and our other friends and allies on a range of humanitarian, political and military assistance to those fighting this phenomenon in the region.

The President: As I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I want to express my apologies to the other Prime Ministers and to my good friend His Excellency Mr. Benkirane, the Head of Government of Morocco, for the fact that I have been called to a meeting on Syria. Ambassador Power sits as a member of the President's Cabinet, and I am privileged to turn the Chair over to her. We are extremely grateful for everybody's participation and strong statements.

With pleasure, I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Mr. Rutte (Netherlands): The direct threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters concerns us all. Both our international and our national security are at risk. As a country of origin for such fighters, the Netherlands raised its terrorism level to the second highest level 18 months ago. Our national security is directly affected by this issue. But most alarming of all is the situation in the conflict zones themselves.

Ms. Power took the Chair.

Innocent civilians are victims of merciless violence. The threat is serious, and it calls for a serious response. This is a duty that rests on us, the international community. That is also the reason why today the Dutch Government decided to increase its support to the international effort to stop the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant by providing military means. We will provide F-16s to join the fight against ISIL, and furthermore, we will provide military training and advice. In total, we will deploy 380 men and women.

Last year, in the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Netherlands and Morocco launched a joint initiative to formulate good practices in tackling the problem of foreign terrorist fighters. Yesterday, at the Forum ministerial meeting, we presented the outcome — a comprehensive set of guidelines focused on every aspect of the foreign fighter threat. Those recommendations cover not only counter-terrorism responses, but also preventive efforts. As co-leader of the Forum's working group on foreign terrorist fighters, the Netherlands will promote the adoption of those good practices, and we are open to working actively with all United Nations Member States and United Nations partners on this important issue.

The United Nations sanctions regime is essential to addressing the problem of foreign terrorist fighters. Sanctions are an important instrument for depriving terrorist organisations and fighters of their sources of finance, and sanctions could be tightened further. These sanctions, however, must be implemented and monitored properly, or they will not be effective in practice. I believe that at the United Nations level we should examine whether the monitoring and technical assistance provided to Member States can be enhanced.

It is vital that the international community act jointly on this issue. Resolution 2178 (2014), co-sponsored by the Netherlands and adopted today, sends a strong signal that we stand shoulder to shoulder to confront the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr. Benkirane (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is not new. Regions such as Afghanistan and North Africa have been witness to it. It has recently taken a new dimension, particularly in the context of the Syrian and Iraqi crises.

This phenomenon, which began as a local, contained threat, has today become a danger for the

countries of origin, transit, residence, destination and return. Therefore this high-level meeting of the Security Council on threats caused by terrorist acts and foreign terrorist fighters comes at just the right moment in terms of the local, regional and international initiatives aimed at adopting practical measures to deal with the phenomenon in the framework of the United Nations system. The international community has become united in order to provide a unified, decisive response to deal with the repercussions of this threat.

Awareness of the dangers and risks of this development cannot be limited to a security approach. That is seen very clearly in the Security Council resolutions adopted in August, the meetings in Jeddah and Paris and the resolutions of the League of Arab States dealing with this phenomenon. It is actually a much more complex issue, and managing it requires a strategy that takes into account the varying phases of extremism, polarization, recruitment and the fighting itself, as well as the reintegration of those people.

This phenomenon has developed in regions that previously had not experienced it at all. It cannot be attributed to just a specific religion or nationality of any kind. Therefore we need to disseminate principles of tolerance and openness. This is where the Commander of the Believers, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, is working together with his fraternal Arab States and the African States.

Morocco is prepared to take part and share its best practices and experiences, developed within the framework of its national, multidimensional strategy to counter terrorism. We have seen tangible results in terms of the effectiveness of cooperation with the States with which we are working. Morocco continues to be a victim of foreign terrorist fighter groups and is continuing to take practical measures to deal with the threat, relying on its comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy. We believe that the dismantling of recruitment cells in order to deal with the transfer of fighters to conflict regions is the direct outcome of the efforts of the Moroccan authorities. Last week the Government of Morocco adopted a new bill to ratchet up our national efforts to deal with the threat posed by those fighters, within the framework of an holistic approach that is aimed at strengthening the legal and institutional framework.

As part of the implementation of our early and ongoing commitment to supporting international efforts to deal with terrorism, particularly its latest manifestations, we have undertaken major efforts to take part in bilateral, regional and interregional cooperation. This is complementary to the international efforts being made to address this phenomenon. The Kingdom of Morocco and the Netherlands, aware of the dangers and threats posed by terrorism, launched an initiative within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, through which we were able to hold several meetings in the United Arab Emirates, The Hague and Marrakech. The outcomes were seen yesterday, when we issued the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon, particularly in the legal and security areas.

Today's resolution 2178 (2014) notes this effort of Morocco and the Netherlands in the framework of the Forum, and encourages us to continue our cooperation, particularly by bringing together experts. In December in Marrakech, we will hold the first meeting of the working group that was established as part of this Forum. This will be followed by many more meetings. We hope that we will be able to benefit from the support of all.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Ema Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway.

Ms. Solberg (Norway): The unprecedented brutality of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and its terrible territorial ambitions pose a threat to all around this table. We must work together to eradicate the roots that allow such extremist groups to exist. It is crucial to mobilize local communities, civil society and Governments in the fight against terrorism.

I see three main tasks ahead. First, terrorism must be fought in Iraq and in the wider region. Secondly, we need even closer international cooperation in the fight against terror, and thirdly, radicalization must be fought at home in our own countries.

I thank President Obama for his leadership and initiative.

The dramatic events unfolding in the Middle East and North Africa show the dangers of not giving people a stake in the governing of their country. When conflicts are left unchecked, civil wars may spill across borders. The influx of foreign fighters is worsening an already fragile situation in the countries concerned. We strongly condemn the criminal terrorist acts committed by citizens of Europe and of other countries. We will

take strong measures to prevent them from travelling to conflict zones.

The Norwegian Government has drawn up a strategy for the deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign fighters returning home. We have an whole-of-government approach within a national action plan that involves all levels of society. Terrorism and related acts are already criminalized under Norwegian law. In July, we submitted a bill on measures to stem the flow of foreign fighters to areas in conflict. We must also stop the financial flows to such groups. Relevant legislation needs to be in place. Information must be shared effectively. We must also address the underlying problems that breed extremism and terrorism. Let us work patiently to increase understanding and tolerance among the groups.

We must all take a firm stand against hate speech. I was very encouraged to see large crowds of all backgrounds on the streets of Oslo recently. They were following the call to march against extremism. Their concrete message was formulated by one of the young Muslim organizers saying: "ISIL is not my Islam."

Norway takes part in international cooperation and capacity-building efforts to prevent radicalization and violent extremism. We support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Grave violations of human rights can foster terrorism. Measures against terrorism and the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law are mutually reinforcing.

Norway co-sponsored resolution 2178 (2014), adopted by the Council today. The broad representation is a manifestation of the unity and urgency expressed here. Today, we are sending a clear signal from this Chamber that we must all do our part.

The President: I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mrs. Persad-Bissessar (Trinidad and Tobago): During the past two hours and 45 minutes we have been expressing our commitment to the fight against terrorism. However, I would ask my colleasgues to take one moment to stand in silence as we express our condolences to all those who have lost their lives, property or families because of those terrorists.

Trinidad and Tobago took the decision to co-sponsor resolution 2178 (2014) on the basis of our commitment to assist the international community in bringing relief to all those people in various parts of the world who have seen the destruction of their communities, the murder of their families, the rape of their women and the orphaning of thousands of children at the hands of terrorists. We recognize that no State, whether large or small, developed or developing, is immune from the scourge of terrorism. Many people will recall that more than two decades ago, Trinidad and Tobago was able to successfully combat the attempts of a terrorist group to overthrow the democratically elected Government of that time.

This global scourge has witnessed an unprecedented rise in recent times. It has resulted in new levels of barbarism that have shocked the conscience of members of the international community. Terrorism threatens the foundation of the rule of law and undermines the inviolability of the right to life and the other fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the various national and international human rights instruments.

As a firm believer in the ability of the United Nations to contribute to the resolution of international problems such as terrorism, Trinidad and Tobago has studied the text of the resolution. We find that despite some imperfections, it provides a useful platform for the launch of greater international cooperation in the battle against terrorism, which is universally accepted as a crime against humanity.

Cooperation at the global level in the fight against terrorism is critical for small States, such as my country. While my Government has expended tremendous financial resources and has trained a cadre of military and law enforcement officials in an effort to protect our citizens and to secure our borders and industrial installations against terrorist acts, I am mindful of the need to strengthen our capacity to counter violent extremism, which could undermine our democracy and our way of life. In keeping with the relevant provisions of this historic resolution, Trinidad and Tobago would therefore seek to take advantage of mechanisms for cooperation with other Member States, whether bilaterally, multilaterally or in the context of other arrangements, in order to improve our ability to counter terrorism in various areas.

Her Excellency the President of Argentina mentioned concerns about capacity. While Argentina is a large State, we are a small nation, and many of us may not have the same capacity as larger States have. The

representative of Argentina said that her country did not produce weapons — we do not either — and that it had to buy energy. Fortunately, we have energy. We are a very tiny nation of 1.3 million people. The capacity to comply with such obligations therefore gives us reason to pause.

We point out such concerns in saying that we wholeheartedly support the resolution. We especially pay attention to the provision that States may be able to comply to varying degrees, depending on their capacity. Therefore, as we commit to implementing the resolution, we seek partnership arrangements within the family of the United Nations for some of the following: conducting criminal investigations or proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorists acts, obtaining evidence for the prosecution of terrorists, exchange of information to monitor the transit of foreign terrorist fighters, and other measures to bring to justice those intent on committing terrorism, whether they be foreign fighters or home grown.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that my country has already taken many legislative and adminsitative steps in the fight against terrorism, because we were victim to terrorist acts in 1990. We have in place an anti-terror law. We already have border controls with respect to the finger-printing of persons entering the country. We have areas dealing with the financial intelligence unit regulations and compliance with the Financial Action Task Force, which addresses the whole issue of the financing of terrorism, as well as many other administrative and legislative mechanisms. We will need the support of our partners in this United Nations family to be able to fully comply with and implement the resolution.

It is our hope that, in acting with one voice on this matter, all members of the Security Council, especially the permanent members, will show the same spirit of unity and seek to tackle the myriad issues facing the international community so that the promise of the Charter of the United Nations will be fully realized as we approach the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of this institution.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council.

Mr. Van Rompuy (European Union): Let me start by thanking President Obama and all members of the Security Council for holding this meeting.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a dreadful threat to security not only in Syria and Iraq. Beyond the Middle East, ISIL is also a grave threat to us all. We must respond jointly by undertaking direct actions to destroy ISIL's military and economic capability, by increasing our support to affected countries and by stopping foreign fighters from joining ISIL. No doubt, ISIL will portray whatever we do as a fight against Islam, but this is a common fight against cruelty and barbarism. That is why public statements by Islamic leaders are so important.

As we gather here today, United Nations States Members are joining forces to fight ISIL. Its positions are under international attack. The League of Arab States has spoken clearly, and many of its members are taking part in those actions, with the United States and European countries. Last month, the European Council — our assembly of 28 Presidents and Prime Ministers — backed the decision by individual member States to provide military material to Iraq. In line with the measures now endorsed by the Security Council, we then also agreed to use existing sanctions regimes more effectively. We will work to block ISIL's financial flows and weapon flows and cut off illegal oil revenue.

We must also strive to strengthen the resilience of affected countries and the immediate region. Violent dynamics are spreading instability in all directions, into North Africa and the Sahel. The new Iraqi Government needs to rally the support of all Iraqis. Efforts to find a political solution to the conflict in Syria must continue. European Union Governments are ready to assist countries in the region with border and aviation security and counter-terrorism capacity. We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected populations and to help countries provide shelter to refugees.

However, the crackdown must also take place in our own countries. We cannot allow citizens from Europe, Africa or Asia to feed ISIL's ranks. Foreign fighters also represent a dangerous threat back home. In Brussels, my own hometown, at the Jewish Museum, three innocent people were murdered earlier this year by a returning jihadist. Plots are being foiled.

We must renew our efforts to prevent radicalization and extremism in our cities. We must cooperate better in sharing intelligence, police and judiciary information to track down terrorists. In that context, the European Union is accelerating work on its Passenger Name Record. It is about detecting and disrupting suspicious

travel. Foreign terrorist fighters will be investigated, prosecuted and convicted.

The European Union welcomes today's resolution 2178 (2014), which calls on United Nations States Members to make it a criminal offence to travel abroad for terrorist purposes.

We know this will be a major endeavour. The strategic defeat of ISIL requires determination, long-term engagement and unity from all of us. The European Union and its member States are ready to play their part.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Elio di Rupo, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Mr. Di Rupo (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank President Obama and all the members of the Security Council.

My country, Belgium, grasped very early on the scope of the threat posed by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and the need to have a collective response to it. That is why my Government began to enhance exchanges among the countries most concerned in the European Union and made contact with countries outside of Europe, in particular in the Middle East, on this issue.

In Belgium itself, specific preventive measures were taken, as were measures to pursue those responsible for the threat. The attack against the Jewish Museum in Brussels, as just mentioned by Mr. Van Rompuy, which took place 24 May and during the course of which four people were brazenly killed in cold blood, strengthened our resolve.

The tools to fight the scourge of radicalism exist. We must make full use of our national intelligence services, Europol, INTERPOL, the Schengen instruments and the bodies and entities of the United Nations. Some priorities include punishing — without faltering — acts of terrorism, those who enable terrorism in any way and those who spread hate; protecting our populations and those who could be seduced or have been seduced by these murderous ideologies and who can be cured of it; ensuring those who cannot or will not be cured can cause no harm; and, finally, entrenching and strengthening our democratic values, the rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination.

Along with decisively suppressing any acts of terrorism, we must also attack some of the root causes of extremism: instances of oppression, injustice, double standards and growing inequality. We must take on board the lessons of our previous interventions in various areas around the world. We must ask ourselves how have we helped populations after our military interventions, especially those populations who have lived through previous interventions that were extremely violent. Did we deploy the necessary measures to foster their prosperity, education and balanced peace?

The fight against terrorism is also a fight for values. It is a fight that concerns the entire international community. We therefore welcome, and I welcome on behalf of my country, the resolution adopted today in the Council (resolution 2178 (2014)), which we fully support and which we joined in sponsoring.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Serbia.

Mr. Dačić (Serbia): I would like to join previous speakers in thanking you, Madam President, for convening this meeting of the Security Council to discuss the threat to international peace and security posed by foreign terrorist fighters, which is an issue of the utmost regional and global importance. In addition, I would like to express my special appreciation to President Obama for presiding over the Council's business earlier today and for providing thrust and gravitas to the message that we aim to send.

Serbia, one of the sponsors of resolution 2178 (2014), welcomes the adoption of this resolution on foreign terrorist fighters, which, we are convinced, will go a long way in addressing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as the most serious threat to international peace and security. We believe that the resolution and our discussion today will strengthen cooperation among all Member States in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

Terrorist threats have intensified in the past decade, and extremist activities of any kind and in any place find fertile soil in unstable political situations and a lack of socioeconomic opportunities. The problem of terrorism is complex and calls for the coordination of activities and the allocation of equal attention to all its aspects, both at the national and international levels. The root causes of terrorism are manifold and widespread. They include religious fanaticism; social exclusion, especially of ethnic and religious minorities; uneven access to education and the lack of job and economic opportunities.

The fight against terrorism will be hard and long, and military measures alone will not be sufficient. A multidimensional approach is needed, and we, therefore, welcome the adoption of the resolution today. Banning the recruitment and transport of potential foreign fighters by national laws, controlling money and arms flows and engaging local communities in addressing extremism are just some of the multifaceted measures that the resolution provides for.

Serbia, too, has faced the problem of foreign fighters. At the end of the 1990s, extremist fighters joined secessionists in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo. Today, radical preachers, in increasing numbers, preach faith in the Raška region in south-western Serbia and in Kosovo in religious centres financed from abroad and recruit young people to fight alleged religious wars. Persistent efforts are being made by my country to confront the threat of terrorism. Money laundering and the financing of terrorism have long been sanctioned, and the criminal code is now being amended to provide for harsh prison punishment of foreign fighters, their recruiters and financiers.

In conclusion, let me also reiterate the readiness of my country to step up cooperation with all countries in the region and beyond and coordinate our activities accordingly.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Mr. Aziz (Pakistan): Allow me to begin by thanking the President for taking the laudable initiative to convene and preside over this important meeting of the Security Council. This Council meeting sharply focuses attention on foreign terrorist fighters, an emergent and dangerous dimension of terrorism. We fully support resolution 2178 (2014), which has been adopted today. The Council decisions are timely for mobilizing international political will, as the threat by foreign terrorist fighters multiplies rapidly.

Terrorism is the scourge of humankind. We condemn it in all its forms and manifestations. The international community's fight against terrorism is critical for the maintenance of world peace and security. This is not a war of one or two nations or one or two regions; it stretches across the globe. We all realize that the war has become much more complex and dynamic. The enemy is ubiquitous and lethal.

Over the past several years, Pakistan has paid a heavy price in blood and resources in the war against terrorism. More than 50,000 people, including thousands of our security forces, have become victims of terrorism. Our resolve to fight terrorism is strong. Right now, as I speak, we are conducting the fierce Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan of our tribal areas to take out terrorists and block the sources of their funding. We know from experience that to advance their nefarious agendas terrorist groups devises sophisticate strategies, use modern technologies and extract weaknesses in governing infrastructure. To oppose this hydra-headed monster, our responses must be quick, comprehensive and commensurate. At the same time, our actions need to be compliant with international humanitarian law and our cooperation rooted in the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Pakistan believes that foreign terrorist fighters have no stake in the peace and stability of the region they operate in. They thrive on lawlessness and resist every effort towards peace and reconciliation. Often they become the core around which radical and violent extremism flourishes. The international community needs to counter this threat in a comprehensive and effective manner, including by resolving the conflicts that breed them. The creation and existence of foreign terrorist fighters is as much a function of the environment as it is of security. As we fight them, we should also focus on a preventive approach to stem their growth.

It is evident that collective will and collaborative efforts are required to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. All States need to take stringent counter measures at national levels. At the same time, collaborative measures are essential because of the transnational nature of this threat. In this context, the sharing of information and expertise and building the relevant capacities of States upon request are, therefore, very important.

Pakistan, as always, is ready to contribute to the international efforts to counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. We also look forward to a broader discourse and engagement with a view to refine our approaches to deal with this transregional threat.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria.

Mr. Lamamra (Algeria): I would like to express my deep appreciation to President Obama and to you, Madam President, personally for the initiative to hold a summit meeting of the Security Council, with an open debate, on the crucial issue of foreign terrorist fighters.

This phenomenon is not new to Algeria. Having harshly endured and steadfastly confronted it in the 1990s, we have pioneered in the call for an international comprehensive approach to tackle terrorism. We rightfully foresaw the harm and dire consequences that the unleashed complacent policies would eventually cause to all societies. This phenomenon knows no boundary, country or religion. It is a kind of world business whose stocks are always faster and easier to trade between criminals, whose overgrowing profit is counted in bloodshed, insecurity and the global threat it poses.

We take the floor at a time when my country has just welcomed the safe return of two of our diplomats, who were kept in harsh captivity for nearly three years after being kidnapped in Gao, Mali, but also at a time of sadness and mourning after the murder and death of two others, who we will never forget. This very morning we have received the news of the cowardly assassination in Algeria of a French national, Pierre Hervé Gourdel. We express our deep condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the victim, as well as to the French Government. We assure them all that we will spare no effort in making sure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Algeria will never, ever, bend to terrorism and justice will be done. Our commitment to fight this scourge will grow even stronger.

We could not but welcome today's meeting, and we have co-sponsored resolution 2178 (2014), which sets the political, legal and operational aspects of the appropriate international response to terrorism. Algeria believes, nevertheless, that it would be a dreadful mistake to consider that the job is done with the adoption of today's important resolution and the new obligations that come with it. President Bouteflika has always been of the view that fighting and defeating terrorism means holding firm to a long-haul, long-term and staunch approach in implementing a multifaceted effective strategy.

We should not be caught unaware. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is a serious issue to be specifically addressed, but it remains merely one aspect of terrorism or, if I might say, one of the tentacles of terrorism. Addressing terrorism means bearing in mind all the other tentacles of this behemoth phenomenon, by setting up comprehensive strategies to address it at the local, regional and multilateral levels. It certainly means looking at all the measures that can be taken to curb terrorism — stemming recruitment; disrupting its means of financial support, including kidnapping for ransom; countering violent extremism and preventing radicalization — and never losing sight of the necessity of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. In that regard, the conflict in the Middle East will definitely remain a persistent disruption of the world's tranquillity if the international community does not address generally the questions of illegal occupation, continuous and violent injustice, denial of freedom and the right to self-determination that constantly feed stiff resentment.

Let us be very clear. Algeria condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and we are actively engaged in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addition, we are a committed participant in the Global Counterterrorism Forum. We strongly believe, likewise, that our multifaceted response must always be respectful of human rights and international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Resolution 2178 (2014) clearly has more weight than what appears on its face because it was adopted by unanimity. Because it comes at a very challenging moment, it gives the right signal and draws us towards a more action-oriented effort involving all Member States and all regional organizations.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal.

Mr. Ndiaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): We would first of all like to welcome President Obama's initiative in organizing this high-level open debate on terrorism. Senegal is a sponsor of resolution 2178 (2014), just adopted. We would like to take this opportunity to firmly condemn the cowardly murder of French citizen Hervé Gourdel and express our deepest condolences to the people and the Government of France and to Mr. Gourdel's family.

During the Fourth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held last June, we

expressed our deep concern about the recruitment in Syria of skilled foreign fighters by terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida and its affiliates. That phenomenon continues to grow and is a source of major worry for the international community. In that regard, I commend the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre's initiative to implement a project to improve the understanding of the phenomenon and develop best practices for putting an end to it. Indeed, the return of foreign fighters to their countries of origin is not without consequences. The implementation by the international community of an appropriate and efficient strategy is imperative to ending this new threat to global security.

Despite our efforts, terrorism continues to rage in new and more sophisticated forms, particularly in the Sahel and West Africa, where the situation is beyond disturbing, where Boko Haram and various concealed and clandestine networks are operating. The world's political evolution, the development of new information and communication technologies as well as the existence of new, more complex and multidimensional conflicts have encouraged terrorist movements to refine their methods of action. To that may be added their often erroneous interpretation of religion and an abusive use of religious vocabulary. Furthermore, the increase in hostage-taking by terrorist groups in order to obtain funds and political concessions is worthy of our full attention. These kidnappings for the purpose of extorting funds to finance terrorism must be dealt with impartially, objectively, technically and apolitically.

Combating all these threats undoubtedly requires concerted actions that the United Nations has the responsibility to coordinate, harmonize and facilitate. It is a question of encouraging initiatives and programmes that favour dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions. It is also a question of promoting mutual respect and prevention of defamation of religion, religious values, beliefs and cultures.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Senegal's staunch determination and unwavering commitment to collaborating with the United Nations and all concerned actors in the fight against this pernicious threat to international peace and security. On behalf of Senegal, I welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2178 (2014), which is a decisive step on the path towards finding a lasting solution to the phenomenon and which at the same time embodies the political will to bring a collective response to the terrorist threat.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

Mr. Rinkēvičs (Latvia): The topic of foreign terrorist fighters is a matter of serious concern for the international community in its entirety, and it is very timely that the Security Council is addressing it. Undoubtedly, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a serious threat not only to the people of Iraq and Syria but also to the international community as a whole.

As a responsible member of the international community, Latvia is willing and ready to contribute to the fight against terrorism. We have joined the efforts of the international community in the fight against terrorism and have expressed the strongest support for the United States of America's coordinated actions in countering the threat posed by ISIL.

Foreign fighters are not a new phenomenon. Thousands of people from countries outside the region are fighting and committing terrorist attacks in Iraq and Syria. Foreign fighters participate in many conflicts all over the world, be it in Afghanistan, Somalia or Ukraine. It is an increasing challenge to deal with these fighters moving from one conflict area to another, thus becoming professional fighters. There is a high risk that they can use their new experience wherever they go. There is no place for glorifying these mercenaries. It is imperative to understand that these people are not fighting for peace; they are creating war and feeding conflict. They should be prevented from doing so by the international community.

The United Nations has a very important role to play in streamlining international efforts. In that context, we strongly welcome the resolution on foreign terrorist fighters that was adopted by the Security Council today (resolution 2178 (2014). States Members of the United Nations should take concerted action to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, as the resolution urges.

We recognize this issue as an emerging threat to our national security as well. Therefore, Latvia is actively working to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken domestically to prevent the recruitment of foreign fighters on our territory and discourage residents of Latvia from illegal involvement in military conflicts abroad or in providing any support to terrorists wherever they are. That is something that certainly requires our

united, firm action, and I applaud the joint action of the Security Council in addressing the issue.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Archbishop Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See.

Archbishop Parolin (Holy See): My delegation commends the United States of America for convening this timely Security Council open debate on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

Today's debate comes at a time when we face the dehumanizing impact of terrorism, fuelled by violent extremism. The ongoing, and in some regions escalating, use of terror is a reminder that this challenge requires a shared commitment from all nations and people of goodwill. Indeed, terrorism represents a fundamental threat to our common humanity.

This institution was founded in the wake of an era in which a similar annihilistic view of human dignity sought to divide and destroy our world. Today, as then, nations must come together in order to fulfil our primary responsibility to protect people threatened by violence and direct assault on their human dignity.

Pope John Paul II reminded us in the wake of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 that the right to defend countries and peoples from acts of terrorism does not provide license to meet violence with violence, but rather must be exercised with respect for moral and legal limits in the choice of ends and means. The guilty must be correctly identified, since criminal culpability is always personal and cannot be extended to the nation, ethnic group or religion to which the terrorists may belong.

International cooperation must also address the root causes of international terrorism. In fact, the present terrorist challenge has a strong sociocultural component. Young people travelling abroad to join the ranks of terrorist organizations often come from poor immigrant families, disillusioned by what they feel is a situation of exclusion and by the lack of integration and values in certain societies. Together with the legal tools and resources to prevent citizens from becoming foreign terrorist fighters, Governments should engage with civil society to address the problems of communities most at risk of radicalization and recruitment and to achieve their satisfactory social integration.

The Holy See, which is a sovereign international subject that also represents a world faith community, affirms that people of faith have a grave responsibility to condemn those who seek to detach faith from reason and instrumentalize faith as a justification for violence. As Pope Francis reiterated during his visit to Albania last Sunday,

> "Let no one consider themselves to be the armour of God while planning and carrying out acts of violence and oppression. May no one use religion as a pretext for actions against human dignity and against the fundamental rights of every man and woman, above all, the right to life and the right of everyone to religious freedom".

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mogens Jensen, Minister of Trade and Development of Denmark.

Mr. Jensen (Denmark): The many discussions in New York and around the world this week about the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist organizations have served to remind us once again that the threat from terrorism and violent extremism is acute and real.

Violent extremism and terrorism are a threat not only to the innocent civilians of Abuja, Mosul or Aleppo. Relative to our country's size, a very large number of foreign fighters from my country have left to join forces with extremist groups in the Syrian theatre. To Denmark, as to many other European countries, the phenomenon of foreign fighters is not an abstract one; it constitutes a serious security concern.

The challenges we are facing include providing assistance to concerned parents in an effort to prevent young people from travelling to war zones, but also to counter the threat from those who went and are coming back. Some of these young men and women will come back battle-hardened, strongly indoctrinated and with newly forged ties with extremist groups — groups with the clearly defined goal of harming our societies and our citizens as much as they can.

If the international community is to counter this threat effectively, we need to be guided by our respect for the rule of law, and we need to apply a firm and truly holistic and integrated approach building on three pillars.

First, we all have a responsibility to protect the suffering civilian population in the region against the ongoing atrocities committed by ISIL. In order to do this effectively, we must be ready to apply immediate measures, including military operations.

Secondly, a broader preventive strategy is needed to reduce vulnerabilities to radicalization and to stem the flow of recruits and financial means to extremist groups.

Finally, this threat is, as we well know, transnational in character, hence our response also needs to build on strengthened international cooperation, coordination and the sharing of lessons learned.

Denmark wholeheartedly supports resolution 2178 (2014), just adopted, which we, too, co-sponsored. We warmly thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for their leadership on this resolution and for spearheading an international coalition against ISIL and for an inclusive Iraqi Government.

So far Denmark has provided immediate support to the international response in the military area, with 130 transport aircraft; significant humanitarian assistance to mitigate the extraordinary humanitarian crisis caused by the brutal acts of ISIL; and firm diplomatic support for the formation of the international coalition against ISIL.

My Government only last Friday launched a new Danish national action plan to prevent violent extremism. It contains a wide range of initiatives to be implemented over the coming years. This builds on four interlinked responses to the threat: strengthening the capacities of local authorities to deal with radicalization; mitigating online radicalization and recruitment; intensifying international cooperation, including capacity-building assistance; and, lastly, working to mobilize civil society.

However, as none of us can solve this problem on our own, it is imperative to link national initiatives and expertise with internal efforts. We consider the Global Counterterrorism Forum, established by the United States and Turkey three years ago, an obvious platform for building alliances across regions and continents to further the implementation of the resolution.

Violent extremism has an impact on the security of us all, in Copenhagen, in Baghdad and in New York, but it also hampers development and economic growth globally. It is therefore very important for us that the global framework for countering the threat be firmly anchored in the United Nations and that all Members of the United Nations family engage actively in the effort to build resilience and counter violent extremism wherever we meet it.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Ditmir Bushati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania.

Mr. Bushati (Albania): Let me thank you, Madam President, for calling this timely meeting on this particularly complex issue. We highly appreciate the leadership the United States has been showing, including in particular during its Security Council presidency, on the issue of countering terrorism and the rise of foreign terrorist fighters.

Last Sunday, in his first visit to a European country, Pope Francis chose Albania, a secular country where Muslims and Christians are living and prospering together. As Pope Francis exhorted during his visit:

> "May no one use religion as a pretext for actions against human dignity and against the fundamental rights of every man and woman".

Contrary to these fundamental values, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has clearly shown what it is capable of. ISIL must be defeated and its extremist ideology, which promotes and justifies terrorism, and ruthless methods must be countered.

In this context, we highly appreciate President Obama's remarks and the determination of the United States to degrade and, ultimately, defeat ISIL. As ISIL actively tries to recruit citizens everywhere to join its terrorist cause, the phenomenon of foreign fighters is now of particular concern. Indeed, foreign fighters pose a serious threat throughout the whole trajectory of their journey, to the transit States and the destination States.

But the threat is also great for the States of origin, as the return of foreign fighters to their countries of origin carries potential risks, particularly where security structures are insufficient, where political stability is fragile, where social cohesion is yet unformed or where there is a complex religious and ethnic fabric, as is the case in the Balkans.

The international effort to counter ISIL has been picking up momentum and contributors. Albania is proud to have been one of the first countries to respond to this challenge. But it has now become clear that it is a challenge that will require our long-term engagement in different ways, whether through military support to Iraq or by stopping the flow of foreign fighters, and all of that without forgetting the social, economic and humanitarian dimensions of the crises in Iraq and Syria.

We condemn unequivocally and in the strongest terms every terrorist act committed by terrorist groups and organizations everywhere. No cause can justify terror; no logic can accept the death of innocent people.

In that regard, Albania has been at the forefront of international efforts in the Western Balkans to stop the flow of fighters. My country has taken concrete legislative, administrative and security measures, passing specific laws that punish participation in conflicts and wars in other countries.

But let us not forget that the use of force is hardly the only way to defeat and put an end to terrorism and to discourage the dark appeal of foreign fighters. If we are serious about eradicating this phenomenon, we must also think in social and economic terms about what we can offer marginalized groups within these societies. That will give us a greater chance of success in countering incitement to commit terrorist acts not only through the force of the rule of law, but also by doing more to achieve the social inclusion of the marginalized through education, solidarity and support.

Today's resolution 2178 (2014), of which my country is proud to be a sponsor, underlines the importance of cooperation between all Member States in addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. My country stands ready to further contribute to international efforts to strengthen peace, stability and cooperation among nations.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Urmas Paet, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

Mr. Paet (Estonia): I would like to thank the United States presidency and President Obama for their initiative in convening this meeting to address terrorism's threat to international peace and security, with particular focus on foreign terrorist fighters. Like many nations, Estonia is gravely concerned about the recent wave of aggressive terrorism and violent extremism, which crosses State boundaries and poses a threat to countries far from conflict zones. Today's discussion at the highest political level here in the Security Council is therefore most timely.

We should agree on further ways and means of cooperating in fighting the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The appalling wave of violence we are seeing from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front is being supported by an influx of radicalized foreign fighters. They pose a real threat, not only where they are fighting but also after they return home to their countries of origin. The problem's repercussions are also visible in the Sahel region. Whatever its form or manifestation, no act of terrorism, regardless of its motivation, can be justified.

Terrorism demands a global response. Only intensive, close and well-coordinated cooperation between nations and international organizations can produce results. There are many different ways to fight it. Direct action must be taken against terrorists' safe havens, and it can include military strikes, as the recent actions against ISIL have shown. Fighters must be prevented from travelling to and from such havens. Globally, we must block the financing of terrorism and close all their channels of support. We must identify and sanction individuals and groups who sponsor terrorism or facilitate and finance the recruitment of foreign fighters.

Another important path to reducing the threat of terrorism is to address the conditions conducive to its spread. That can range from strengthening legal systems to reducing poverty and tackling the development-security nexus. We can combat terrorism more effectively by approaching it horizontally, as a cross-cutting issue. We commend the manner in which United Nations and European Union counter-terrorism strategies are advancing this approach.

The outcome of our discussion today should enable Member States to address this growing threat within the context of respect for international law and human rights. Estonia, as one of the sponsors of today's resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters, therefore fully supports its adoption and swift implementation. It is crucial that all nations and relevant international organizations provide the resources and mechanisms needed to implement these measures. Estonia is fully committed to that effort. We must tackle terrorism and violent extremism as quickly as we can and wherever it emerges in order to prevent it spreading further.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Ashikbayev (Kazakhstan): I would like to begin by reiterating Kazakhstan's firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We share the view that this heinous and inhuman evil must be rooted out and eliminated through our decisive and collective action.

Kazakhstan is proud to be a sponsor of today's resolution on foreign terrorist fighters (2178 (2014)) because we believe the fight against international terrorism demands a long-term, comprehensive approach. It is an approach that must be built on

greater regional and global cooperation, with the active participation of all United Nations Member States and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Terrorism has no national or ethnic identity, citizenship or religion. It poses a threat to all nations, rich and poor. And that threat, which ignores borders, is growing rapidly. It can be tackled successfully only if we combine our efforts and broaden our multifaceted cooperation to counteract it. Member States must unite and work together to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and adjust their national legislation accordingly.

We believe that the main focus and priorities of counter-terrorism efforts should be as follows. First, we should further develop universal anti-terror legal instruments and other mechanisms. Secondly, we should build our national and international anti-terrorism capacities and expand networks and mechanisms that enable us to exchange best practices. Thirdly, we should develop an international database of terrorist organizations and individuals. Fourthly, we should strengthen our commitment to fighting money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and improve our tools for doing so. Fifthly, we should increase our efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, arms, nuclear and other hazardous materials, and travel documents.

Lastly, all Member States and other stakeholders should encourage the integration of migrants into their new societies, reduce their social and economic marginalization and increase dialogue between ethnic groups, religious denominations and cultures in order to reduce the risk of radicalization. Kazakhstan, where more than 130 ethnic groups and representatives of 17 religious denominations live in peace, is committed to promoting the ideals and values of inter-ethnic and interfaith dialogue in order to attain peace and security. We regularly host the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in order to help spiritual leaders use their authority and wisdom to guide their congregations towards shared peace. This final point is vital if we are to reduce the opportunities and conditions conducive to terrorism and tackle the use of the rhetoric of social injustice and religious extremism in recruiting foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's strong commitment to working with all partners in our region and in the international community to address the challenge of international terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Albert Chua, Second Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

Mr. Chua (Singapore): Foreign terrorist fighters are a clear threat to international peace and security. An estimated 12,000 foreigners from over 70 countries have participated in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria. That is the largest mobilization of foreign militants since the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s.

It is not just the number of foreign fighters that has been commanding attention, but the horrific tactics used by terrorist organizations like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Al-Nusra Front. Their violent campaigns against minority groups in northern Iraq and Syria, the brutal murders of Muslims and non-Muslims, the abduction of innocent civilians and the widespread abuse of human rights constitute crimes against humanity. Singapore condemns in the strongest possible terms the actions of ISIL and other terrorist groups. We extend our deepest condolences to all who have suffered or who have lost loved ones.

Singapore is not immune to the threat of terrorism and radical ideologies. There are foreign fighters in Syria who have traveled from South-East Asia. The Singapore Government knows of a handful of Singaporeans who have gone to Syria to take part in the conflict. Other Singaporeans expressed interest to join the fighting in Syria but were stopped before they were able to travel.

Like many countries, Singapore is gravely concerned about the potential threat posed by returning terrorist fighters. The Soviet-Afghan war drew in thousands of foreign fighters, led to the creation of Al-Qaida and inspired the creation of other terrorist groups. Al-Qaida's key regional affiliate in South-East Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), has been responsible for several large-scale terrorist attacks, such as the Bali bombings in 2002. In December 2001, the Singapore Government foiled a plot by JI members to attack targets in Singapore, including a number of diplomatic missions. Fortunately, they were stopped before they could do harm.

Terrorist groups such as ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front are a threat to the entire world. The international community must counter that growing global threat with a comprehensive strategy that addresses not just the military but also the ideological aspects of the conflict. We must counter the radical ideology used

to recruit foreign terrorist fighters, which fuels their violent extremist agenda. The Singapore Government has supported and worked with our Muslim religious leaders, community groups and individuals to rehabilitate terrorist detainees and to delegitimize radical ideologies.

Singapore welcomes the strong leadership of the United States on this issue, in particular the formation of an international coalition to combat the ISIL threat. Singapore also welcomes the Jeddah Communiqué issues by Arab countries of the region to stand united against ISIL. Both will be critical in cutting off financial and material support for ISIL and preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as in the ideological battle.

Singapore firmly supports all international and regional cooperation to combat terrorism, including the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all Security Council resolutions related to counter-terrorism. We welcomed the adoption of resolution 2170 (2014) on 15 August, which condemned the terrorist acts and violent extremist ideology of ISIL and the Al-Nusra Front and urged all United Nations Members to take appropriate measures to combat terrorism. Resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters, adopted by the Council today, is an important step in the global effort to combat terrorism, and Singapore was pleased to co-sponsor it. We stand ready to play our part in combatting the threat of global terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): New Zealand commends the United States for organizing today's meeting and thanks the many leaders from around the world who have come to give their support to this important initiative. We also extend our deep condolences to the Government of France for the horrific execution this morning in Algeria.

New Zealand strongly condemns the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other violent extremist groups in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. We recognize that the international community must make a determined and cohesive response to those horrific acts. That is why we co-sponsored resolution 2178 (2014), which was adopted earlier today. Foreign terrorist fighters have been directly involved in some of the worst atrocities committed by those groups. We recognize that the international community must play its part in confronting the threat posed by such fighters and by those whose assistance supports them. Today's resolution and debate are therefore timely but, as President Obama has reminded us, resolutions and rhetoric are not enough.

The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is not new. It is a threat that has featured in the Council's counter-terrorism discussions for more than a decade. However, information technologies now present terrorist networks with opportunities to radicalize and recruit foreign fighters and to finance and facilitate their movement and activities on a scale that makes the threat truly formidable.

While national and regional circumstances vary, no country is immune to the threat. A small number of New Zealand nationals are known to have traveled to Syria to fight with extremist groups, and we are conscious of the threat that foreign terrorist fighters can pose to many of our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific, including our nearest neighbour, Australia. New Zealand recognizes the need for a comprehensive approach to tackling that threat. Domestically, we are looking to tackle the drivers of radicalization and violent extremism by engaging communities in building resilience, as well as taking preventive security and law enforcement measures such as canceling passports. We are also working with our partners in South-East Asia and the Pacific to build their capacity to counter terrorism and violent extremism and to help them ensure that they do not become either a target or a source of international terrorism.

New Zealand welcomes the calls in today's resolution for enhanced efforts by the United Nations counter-terrorism machinery to support such capacity-building and to support the work of other relevant regional and international forums to promote cooperation in that area.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Gómez-Acebo (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like at the outset to thank the United States for the opportunity to participate in this timely and necessary meeting.

Contemporary terrorism, including in its jihadist form, from which Spain has long and painfully suffered, is a multifaceted and mutable phenomenon. However, it has one defining characteristic — it is a crime against

humanity, rooted in the fanatical and absolute denial of the very idea of human rights. The threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters illustrates the changing nature of terrorism. It is not a completely new phenomenon, but its current features have intensified, requiring us to come up with urgent decisions and solutions that are also well considered and effective yet that consistently maintain respect for human rights.

Spain is taking up the fight against the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters in solidarity with the countries most acutely affected, but also because Spain itself is directly affected by the problem. My country is experiencing this problem most immediately as a country of origin. We have already identified at least 50 individuals who have exited our borders in order to join terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq. We are also aware that human trafficking networks may try to use our territory along their routes in order to transport foreign terrorist fighters, which would make our country a transit point. In addition, Spain is exposed to the security threat posed by returning terrorist fighters. For all those reasons, we fully identify with and have actively participated in the efforts of the international community to address this serious problem.

First of all, Spain has actively focused on preventive approaches aimed at preventing the radicalization that can lead to terrorist violence, promoting alternatives based on education and dialogue. Spain has been applying that approach for several years. It is at the heart of the Alliance of Civilizations promoted by Spain, which is now an integral part of United Nations mechanisms. The same approach underlies other regional measures and programmes we have encouraged, such as the Mediation in the Mediterranean initiative.

Where we have been unable to prevent radicalization and terrorist recruitment, we have been forced take other measures to prevent the movements of terrorist fighters. In that regard, we are preparing to modify our legal statutes so that the movement of individuals seeking to leave Spain to join terrorist groups in a third country would be punishable as a crime under our penal code. That is a measure that is in line with those taken by other countries and is recommended by the codes of best practices we are putting in place. Moreover, Spain aims to foster information exchanges to prevent the relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, as we have begun to do with some neighbouring countries, as part of a cooperation effort that has already yielded very positive results.

Spain has always supported international multilateral cooperation to face the great challenges of our times, among the terrorist threat. For that reason, my country was one of the proponents of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and has supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2006.

Against that backdrop, Spain commends President Obama for his initiative to convene this high-level Security Council meeting. We welcome the important resolution 2178 (2014), adopted unanimously by the Council. We joined as a sponsor of the resolution, and we are ready to participate with the greatest degree of commitment in its immediate and effective implementation.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Al-Jarman (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, I would like to thank you, Madam President, for holding this important meeting and for inviting representatives of Member States to participate in the debate, at which the Council adopted resolution 2178 (2014), on the flow of foreign fighters from around the world to join foreign terrorist organizations.

The acts of terrorists organizations, which have recently seized large numbers of cities and villages and directly engaged in fuelling conflicts and committing grave violations against innocent people, including assaults, kidnappings, displacements and mass murders, serve to confirm our belief that there is a common threat facing all Member States that requires a united effort to take strong and immediate measures.

The threat we face today has been exacerbated recently by the lack of deterrent actions in the past. Two decades ago, we faced the threat of Al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations whose acts were multiplying across the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. Today we continue to suffer from the same threats, and even more serious ones, due to the emergence of various forms of violence that are not limited to committing murder and kidnapping and causing displacement, they also include sexual violence against women as a prime target, which is always overlooked during talk about the crimes committed by those organizations.

The acts committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in both Iraq and Syria are the largest proof of that and have become a source of concern for the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, we appeal to the international community to continue its efforts to eliminate a principal element contributing to terrorism — the recruitment of foreign fighters — and to ensure that the effort becomes part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating other elements that fuel terrorism.

The United Arab Emirates strongly condemns the recruitment of foreign fighters and related financing activities. We consider such operations one of the most dangerous elements that contribute to international terrorism. We also emphasize that the dangerous proportions of the issue are not limited to areas of conflict, but also include safe areas from which those fighters are recruited. The United Arab Emirates therefore welcomes the resolution adopted today and regards it as an important and crucial document. Addressing this threat cannot be done through security and military measures alone. It also requires the international community to pursue a unified, comprehensive strategy that prevents the recruitment of terrorist elements through the following strategies.

First, we must strengthen international cooperation at all levels, particularly in exchanging information on recruitment campaigns for young foreign fighters and on their movements. It is also important to establish clear and specific criteria for regulating that process.

Secondly, it is important to tighten control over social networks, which are used in attracting a larger number of deluded youths to achieve the vicious goals under religious slogans, which have no connection with any divine faith. The United Arab Emirates is currently conducting a study on the mechanisms for preventing terrorist organizations from using social networks in recruitment.

Thirdly, we must tighten national legislation and laws to ensure the criminalization, prosecution and punishment of the people involved. In that context, I would like to point out that the United Arab Emirates recently adopted a strict federal law to punish those found guilty of inciting terrorism or who have carried out terrorist acts.

Fourthly, we need to take all the necessary steps to combat acts of violent extremism, including by promoting educational and rehabilitation programmes for unemployed youths to shield them from incitement and recruitment by terrorist campaigns. On our part, the United Arab Emirates is committed to combating violent extremism and its related beliefs and terrorist acts and coordinates through its membership in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum with the other partners to ensure that their territories are not used for disseminating terrorist acts and other related crimes. By hosting the Hedayah Centre, the United Arab Emirates is also contributing to the international community in the area of sharing best practices for countering violent extremism in all its forms. At the same time, we will work on strengthening preventive policies through the establishment of centres for the rehabilitation of people affected by extremist and terrorist ideologies.

Finally, we commend the efforts of the Council in adopting previous resolutions pertaining to the subject within a short period, most recently in resolution 2170 (2014), which condemns the recruitment of foreign fighters by ISIL and the Nusra Front in Iraq and Syria. That shows that the Security Council has a clear strategy on fighting terrorism. We also hope that the serious efforts of the Council will include allowing Member States to participate in its discussions in order to ensure that our efforts for combating terrorism are effectively coordinated.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Madam President, for the initiative to hold this important meeting. This is part of the momentum we see at the international level and the efforts being made by a number of parties that seek to counter terrorism.

Syria was the first to denounce this terrorism, even before others, after long delay, saw the danger it posed. We have sought to address it and counter it before it could spread. We were also the first to confront it on the ground.

Terrorist acts by foreign fighters who fight the wars of others, especially in Syria, are a violation of the age-old tolerance of the Syrian people. Such acts by terrorists run amok target infrastructure, civilians and their means of survival, armed forces, schools, hospitals, mosques, churches, historical monuments, workplaces and homes. They have also attacked diplomatic missions, humanitarian workers and humanitarian convoys.

Those crimes could not have taken place without the support that foreign terrorist groups receive from certain Governments that are members of our international Organization. Those countries provide media and diplomatic cover, training, financing and safe haven. Airports today serve as places of reception for such criminals, who are sent from those countries into Syrian territory and who also come across their borders.

In a letter from my Government dated 28 August and addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council, my country welcomed resolution 2178 (2014), concerning the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and all persons and entities linked to Al-Qaida and ISIL operating in Iraq and Syria, while always respecting national sovereignty and international law. We adopted that position because that resolution was perfectly in line with Syria's position with regard to terrorism in all its forms. We also pointed to our willingness to combat terrorism through a regional or international coalition, supported internationally, or through agreements or bilateral cooperation. We are combating the terrorist threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the Al-Nusra Front, as well as other terrorist groups that the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has not cited in its list because of opposition from a number of countries. For example, Islamic Front is not on that list.

Syria is firmly pursuing this war against terrorism in all its forms, in which we have been engaged for a number of years, and we support any sincere international effort to combat terrorism in all its form and in all its names. But this must be done while respecting the lives of innocent civilians, while respecting national sovereignty and in accordance with international law. We affirm here that the participation of Israel in the coalition against Daesh undermines the credibility of the coalition, does the fact that Israel shot down a Syrian plane that was only doing its national duty in bombing Daesh and Al-Nusra sites. These are groups that attacked the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and kidnapped its personnel. Those acts show the alliance between Israel and terrorist organizations attached to Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

We believe that the United Nations is the main forum for bolstering efforts aimed at combating terrorism in order to ensure international peace and security. Success in our efforts against terrorism requires that we distance ourselves from anything that can undermine the credibility of the role of the United Nations, such as politicization of this struggle by finding pretexts for committing terrorist acts and dividing terrorists into good terrorists and bad terrorists, distinguishing moderate terrorism from extremist terrorism. Terrorism is terrorism. In this struggle against terrorism we cannot conceive of a coalition that includes the countries that are the primary supporters of terrorism and terrorists, that provide them with refuge and money. Some countries — Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — have been the main ports of call for terrorists going to Iraq and Syria.

My country reaffirms its support for resolution 2178 (2014), adopted today by the Council. We also stress that military strikes will not achieve their goals against terrorism unless they are carried out in respect for international law and in coordination with the countries concerned. Measures must be taken to get countries that are supporting international terrorism to stop those practices, which threaten international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Kumar (India): We would like to thank you, Madam President, for organizing this open debate. It not only allows us to focus on the multidimensional and evolving threat from the foreign terrorist fighters; it also underscores the need to correctly contextualize the problem and build the right narrative in order to ensure sustained focus to address this challenge. It must be mentioned that while the current intensity of focus on foreign terrorist fighters, including in resolution 2178 (2014), is rather recent, the threat itself is of some vintage.

Foreign terrorist fighters are only one facet of the broader challenge of international terrorism. Nevertheless, it is one that needs to be addressed, and the Security Council is to be commended for establishing a new legal and normative framework for doing so. The foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon is a manifestation of international terrorism's growing threat to international peace and security. It is evidence that the terrorism supply chain, including radicalization, recruitment, financing, planning and communication, is global.

The resilience and evolution of the threat also underscore the fact, as we have maintained and advocated all along, that we must eschew segmented and partial approaches. In addition to responding to specific aspects of the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon globally, we need to comprehensively address the twin challenges of the sophisticated worldwide economic and operational infrastructure of terrorism, and interlinkages among the global terror networks.

Internationally, the emerging dimensions of the foreign terrorist fighters threat also give acute relevance to the global agenda on countering terrorism, as universally agreed under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006 and its review held earlier this year. More than anything else, they underscore the need for a comprehensive international normative framework to combat terrorism. We feel that the time is ripe for us to make expeditious progress and conclude the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that we piloted in 1996. We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of endless theoretical debate. The price we will pay for procrastination will be in human lives. The General Assembly needs to come to a consensus agreement on a comprehensive convention to outlaw international terrorism.

In addition, given various facets of the foreign terrorist fighters challenge, including its transnational nature, and the fact that no country is isolated from this threat, robust international cooperation with clear operational modalities — including for information-sharing, tracking travel routes, recruitment networks, communication methods and financing channels — is an imperative that we all need to pursue with focus and vigour. It is also necessary for States to ensure that their territories are not used to indoctrinate, train, equip and finance the terrorists. We also need to work both individually and collectively to challenge and repudiate the terrorist narrative. We condemn terrorism and believe that no cause or grievance can justify taking recourse to terrorism.

We in India remain concerned about the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon and its impact on security of countries internationally. We believe that it is important to address this challenge in the larger context of terrorism and are taking such steps as are necessary to deal with it. Just yesterday, the Global Counterterrorism Forum adopted the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon.

Resolution 2178 (2014), which the Security Council has adopted today, is far-reaching. It should provide a framework for collective and individual action to address the menace of foreign terrorist fighters, setting out a permanent obligation for all Member States. We hope it will be followed up and effectively implemented. The international community has to back its words with deeds. The resolution is a useful addition to the legal framework to deal with the scourge of terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Malaysia.

Mr. Haniff (Malaysia): I thank you, Madam President, for convening this meeting and for the opportunity to address the Council. Malaysia welcomes today's meeting, which aims to tackle head-on the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

I wish to reiterate Malaysia's strong and unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices by individuals and groups that employ terror to coerce others and strike fear in their hearts. In line with our long-standing position against terrorism, we fully support resolution 2178 (2014), adopted by the Council today and which Malaysia co-sponsored. We support the resolution's aims to strengthen and galvanize international action to combat terrorism in general and the scourge of foreign terrorist fighters in particular.

In the past, Malaysia grappled with terrorism on its soil, when terrorists stoked fear and hatred among the population as they sought to assert the claim that communism was superior to democracy and religion. In countering that threat to national sovereignty, peace and stability, the Government undertook massive and broad-based measures informed by the need to win the hearts and minds of the people. The Government's aim was simple: to assure the population that they and their children and future generations would have a decent, secure life and a promising future and would not join the ranks of the terrorists. In Malaysia's experience, such an approach has worked. My delegation believes that the hearts-and-minds approach must be fully considered in our common endeavour to combat the scourge of the foreign terrorist fighters.

The growing foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon suggests that ideologies rooted in violent extremism have spread around the globe and are continuing to do so. In that regard, Malaysia is of the view that the existing mechanisms under the United Nations framework, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive

Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the relevant Security Council Sanctions Committees, among others, could be further strengthened with a view to effectively addressing terrorism and violent extremism in all their aspects. In recent months, details have emerged with regard to the possible participation of a small number of Malaysian nationals who have gone abroad and reportedly joined the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the mistaken belief that doing so would serve the cause of justice and jihad. I wish to unequivocally stress that, for Malaysia, there is nothing Islamic about kidnapping, raping, torturing and murdering civilians. We do not condone or support the involvement of Malaysian nationals who commit terrorist acts or participate in conflicts abroad.

For its part, the Malaysian Government authorities have designated IS as a terrorist organization and will spare no effort in acting against its members. We have also taken steps to review certain aspects of the legal and policy frameworks with a view to further strengthening counter-terrorism capabilities at the national level.

Malaysia strongly believes that terrorism needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner, not necessarily through the use of force alone. Countering terrorism effectively requires a multifaceted approach in addressing the underlying factors that support terrorism. On that note, Malaysia believes that there is a serious need to look into the support mechanisms, including the funding and supply of weapons that sustain foreign terrorist fighters.

Malaysia takes this opportunity to reiterate its call for greater cooperation and understanding among cultures, religions and civilizations. Some years ago, Malaysia called for the establishment of a global movement of moderates in order to drown out the voices of the extremists and their ilk.

In the light of the threat posed by the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon and the need for a concerted and coordinated effort to counter it, Malaysia believes that it is imperative now, more than ever, that the Global Movement of Moderates be embraced by the international community.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka): Sri Lanka commends you, Madam President, for having convened this timely debate. We have been following with deep concern the events that have been unfolding in Iraq and neighbouring countries throughout the past two months and the atrocities being perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and associated groups with a supply chain of foreign fighters.

Sri Lanka deplores in the strongest terms the terrorist acts committed by such groups. including against unarmed civilians. The shocking acts of violence unleashed on people and the destruction of monuments, places of religious worship and sites of archaeological and cultural value are deeply disturbing. While our thoughts and sympathies go out to the many thousands who continue to suffer as a result of the ruthless acts of terror, we emphasize the need to take appropriate steps to protect civilians, minorities, civilian facilities and places of worship and of historic significance.

As the Council is aware, Sri Lanka suffered for almost three decades at the hands of separatist terrorists, described by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the world's most ruthless. The people of Sri Lanka have therefore experienced first-hand the devastating impact of terrorism on societies, communities and the very foundations of a nation. Our own institutions, long cherished, including our democracy, were under serious threat. The Sri Lankan Government has time and time again unequivocally stressed the need for the world to take action against terrorist acts committed by non-State actors that have little or no respect for human life. Terrorism in all its forms ad manifestations must be condemned.

It is evident that ISIL is now taking on a transnational form and poses a threat to the wider region. Sri Lanka would like to reiterate that it is in the best interests of the international community to ensure that no space be allowed for any terrorist groups or their sympathizers to raise funds and logistical support of any form anywhere. We express our solidarity with the people of the countries of the region in such difficult times and stand ready to support timely measures to help victims on the ground.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): The issue of foreign terrorist fighters is being addressed today because of the situations in Iraq, Syria and Libya. Some people seek to represent the revolution of Arab peoples as an Islamic movement and to achieve

an Islamic political movement in order to gain power. They are affiliated with certain regional forces and seek to promote such a movement to the detriment of the identity of the Arab peoeple and their territorial integrity.

Foreign terrorist fighters are a threat to their countries of origin. They have come to our countries from Europe, the United States and the four corners of the world. The revolution in our region has now taken on a religious dimension. The recruitment and training of those fighters in some States is a very serious mistake. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters has a number of aspects. That serves to underscore what Egypt has said on many occasions, namely, that we must define a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. We are aware of the appeals in that regard.

People try to convince young people to participate in combat in the belief that they are committing crimes in the name of what is right and just, even if they carry out such acts on religious grounds. In addition, they use telecommunications and the Internet in order to establish the necessary links for the recruitment of such young people. Those young people are also told lies.

In that regard, I would like to emphasize that Egypt has for some time been taking steps to deal with terrorism. That includes measures to combat the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In that connection, I would like to underscore that the Egyptian criminal code includes provisions that define and penalize terrorism by punishing all terrorist-related acts, including involvement in terrorist attacks, incitement and the provision of financial support. Egypt respects Security Council resolutions, in particular those on combating terrorism. We submit reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee as proof of our commitment.

At the regional level, we seek to implement the relevant African and Arab agreements. The situation facing us today promotes the true values of Islam, while trying to ensure that no connection is made between Islam and extremism, given that common efforts in that regard will soon be stepped up in cooperation with various other States.

When we talk about combating terrorism in the Middle East, such a fight must be comprehensive and sustained. We must not only address the threat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, since all those terrorist groups are interconnected. Therefore, for those efforts to be successful, we must fight terrorism wherever it takes place, whether in Iraq, Syria or any other country.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that we must commit to ensuring respect for Security Council resolutions. The United Nations bodies are called upon to monitor the implementation of those resolutions in order to put an end to terrorist attacks and the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I wish to thank all the participants — those present and those not present — for their contributions to this meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.20 p.m.