



# Security Council

Seventy-fourth year

**8605**th meeting

Tuesday, 27 August 2019, 3 p.m.

New York

*Provisional*

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*President:* Mr. Lewicki ..... (Poland)

<i>Members:</i>	Belgium .....	Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve
	China .....	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Côte d'Ivoire .....	Mr. Bieke
	Dominican Republic .....	Mr. Singer Weisinger
	Equatorial Guinea .....	Mrs. Mele Colifa
	France .....	Mrs. Boniface
	Germany .....	Mr. Schulz
	Indonesia .....	Mr. Djani
	Kuwait .....	Mr. Alotaibi
	Peru .....	Mr. Ugarelli
	Russian Federation .....	Mr. Kuzmin
	South Africa .....	Mr. Van Shalkwyk
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .. .	Mr. Allen
	United States of America.....	Mr. Cohen

## Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts**

#### **Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612).**

**The President:** In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and Ms. Michèle Coninsx, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

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

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2019/612, which contains the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.

I now give the floor to Mr. Voronkov.

**Mr. Voronkov:** I would like to express my sincere condolences to Member States where recent terrorist attacks have claimed hundreds of innocent lives — Afghanistan, Egypt, Kenya, New Zealand, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the United States of America and others. My heartfelt words of deepest sorrow go to the families who lost their relatives.

Last week, we commemorated the second International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, reaffirming that their needs, rights and resilience must be at the centre of our efforts. This topic will be an integral part of the counter-terrorism week at the United Nations in the summer of 2020, with the organization of the first global congress of victims of terrorism.

I thank members for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the ninth report of the Secretary-

General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612), as mandated by resolution 2368 (2017).

The report was prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, in close collaboration with my Office, with contributions from other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities. I am grateful to Mr. Fitton-Brown and Ms. Coninsx for their valuable contribution to the report. It is a comprehensive analytical document on the threat that ISIL continues to pose today at the global and regional levels.

The report outlines how, despite its territorial defeat in the Syrian Arab Republic in March, ISIL continues to aspire to a global relevance. It capitalizes on its affiliates and inspired attacks and has an estimated residual wealth of up to \$300 million dollars at its disposal.

Acute concerns also remain about the challenges posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), returnees and relocators, of whom between 24,000 and 30,000 have survived out of the initial estimate of 40,000. Member States must also contend with the threat posed by frustrated travellers, whose number is hard to estimate.

The report highlights the relevant activities conducted by United Nations entities over the past six months to support Member States. Those efforts are in line with the requirements under resolution 2396 (2017), as well as the newly adopted resolutions 2462 (2019), on countering the financing of terrorism, 2467 (2019), on sexual violence in armed conflict, and 2482 (2019), on the links between international terrorism and organized crime.

I would like to give the Council an overview of the global and regional situations concerning the ISIL threat. In the Middle East, ISIL's military defeat in the Syrian Arab Republic was a watershed, bringing to an end the dystopia of the so-called caliphate, which cost the people of Syria and Iraq so much. Yet the fall of Baghouz was not a fatal blow. ISIL continues to evolve into a covert network, with attacks increasing in areas controlled by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. That follows the same pattern that we

have seen in Iraq since 2017, where ISIL insurgency activity, reportedly designed to prevent normalization and reconstruction efforts, continues.

Turning to Africa, there has been a striking increase in ISIL- and Al-Qaida-linked recruitment and violence in the West of the continent. The Islamic State's West Africa Province is now one of the strongest ISIL affiliates, with approximately 4,000 fighters. The evolving threat posed by ISIL in Central Africa also calls for vigilance.

In Europe, radicalization in prisons and the risk posed by returnees upon release from prison remain major concerns, which compound the risk of home-grown terrorism and domestically inspired attacks at a time when ISIL finds it difficult to send fighters to Europe.

In Asia, the threat posed by ISIL continues despite military pressure. The group is estimated to have between 2,500 and 4,000 fighters, including FTFs. In Southeast Asia, ISIL affiliates remain capable of launching attacks with two worrying developments: first, the role of women in planning and executing attacks; and secondly, the explicit targeting of places of worship, as we saw on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka, which may indicate a new trend.

Over the past six months, thousands of suspected ISIL fighters, together with their families, have been detained in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Many are stranded in overcrowded camps in dire conditions, generating acute security and humanitarian concerns. There are as many as 70,000 people in Al-Hol camp in Syria alone, including women and children with potential links to United Nations-listed terrorist groups.

The Secretary-General recognizes in his report that Member States face significant, multifaceted challenges related to the repatriation of their nationals, including women and children, from territories previously controlled by ISIL. At the same time, the report recalls that Member States have the primary responsibility for their own nationals, and that policies and actions that lead to statelessness should be avoided. In that regard, I would like to highlight that several Member States, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, have repatriated women and children, including orphans, from Iraq and Syria.

At the direction of the Secretary-General, in April, my Office, together with other United Nations entities, developed a set of key principles for the United Nations system for the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children with links to United Nations-listed terrorist groups. We have shared those principles with Member States, as we believe that they can assist them in designing their own policies and actions in accordance with international law and human rights standards.

We are now following up with the practical implementation of the key principles. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of my Office is developing a global programme in partnership with other United Nations entities and regional and field presences to provide tailored support to requesting Member States on the screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals suspected or convicted of committing terrorist acts, as well as their families and associates. On 30 September, we will launch a handbook on ensuring a child rights-based approach to addressing the situation of children affected by the foreign fighter phenomenon, which will support the implementation of the key principles.

Let me just highlight my Office's key new initiatives, which are mentioned in the report. First, on law enforcement and border security, in May we launched our Counter-Terrorism Travel Programme — a multi-year, multimillion, multi-agency programme with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the International Civil Aviation Organization. As of today, INTERPOL has also joined the programme, which I think is a very promising development.

The programme seeks to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime by using travel information such as advance passenger information and passenger name record data in accordance with resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017). I would like to thank the Kingdom of the Netherlands for their continuous technological and financial contributions that enabled the programme, as well as the State of Qatar and other countries and the European Union for their support, including financial support.

Secondly, on the protection of vulnerable targets, my Office will soon launch a comprehensive four-year global programme with a focus on safeguarding religious sites from terrorism-related threats, which is a worrying trend. The programme will be implemented in close coordination with CTED and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in line with resolution 2341 (2017). I am grateful to Ms. Coninsx and Mr. Moratinos for the excellent cooperation in that regard.

Thirdly, on countering the financing of terrorism, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of my Office is expanding a global capacity-building programme to include technical assistance on terrorist asset freezing, protecting the non-profit sector, sharing financial intelligence and promoting public-private partnerships, *inter alia*, in response to resolution 2462 (2019). I am grateful to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous financial contribution to this programme.

Lastly, I would like to thank all Member States that have been partnering with my Office to organize high-level regional conferences, sustaining the momentum for international cooperation and laying the groundwork for the second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States next year. We have already completed three such conferences in partnership with Member States, namely, in April with the Government of Tajikistan; in June with the Government of Mongolia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and in July with the Government of the Republic of Kenya, which was our biggest regional conference yet. With close to 1,500 participants, the Kenya conference galvanized the international community's support for counter-terrorism efforts in Africa. It is very important that all three conferences were organized with the active engagement of civil society organizations. Next week, we will organize our fourth conference in Minsk with the Government of Belarus, focusing on the risks and opportunities posed by new technologies in the fight against terrorism.

The Secretary-General stressed in his report that the current lull in attacks directed by ISIL may be only temporary. We need to remain vigilant to mitigate the risk posed by the evolution of ISIL and its affiliates, deny it new recruits and prevent its resurgence. It is essential that Member States keep a comprehensive and long-term perspective in that fight. This requires urgent political leadership and a principled approach based on international law and human rights standards.

The United Nations system remains fully committed to supporting Member States in countering terrorism.

**The President:** I thank Mr. Voronkov for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Coninsx.

**Ms. Coninsx:** I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the Council on the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612). I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for providing an overview of the report, as well as the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Analytical and Sanctions Monitoring Team for their collaboration with my team in preparing the report.

The ninth report demonstrates that, while welcome progress has been made, most significantly in the military defeat of ISIL in the Syrian Arab Republic, the challenges involved in responding to the aftermath of that defeat and the threat posed by its affiliates around the world remain substantial. In particular, as we heard from Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Member States and the international community should pay urgent attention to the fate of the thousands of individuals, including large numbers of women and children, who are currently detained owing to their suspected association with ISIL. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) will continue to support United Nations efforts to assist Member States to address this issue in full respect for international law and human rights.

In parallel with possible repatriation efforts, States, with the support of the United Nations system, should also prepare to deal with the post-repatriation phase, issues of accountability and the challenges involved in rehabilitation and reintegration. In that regard, Member States have reiterated to CTED their concerns at the potential risks posed by the imminent release of imprisoned foreign terrorist fighters — men and women alike — in the absence of appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. In the light of the short sentences given to many returnees, owing to evidentiary and jurisdictional challenges, there might be limited opportunities to engage them in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes prior to their release. In turn, extended periods of pretrial detention without guarantees of due process can undermine the

effectiveness of rehabilitation measures and increase the potential risk that such individuals might radicalize others within prison systems to violence.

It is therefore essential that post-repatriation strategies include short-, medium- and long-term components relating to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. It is also essential that such strategies be human rights-compliant and gender sensitive and take into consideration the special needs of children. That is not easy and, of course, there is no one-size-fits-all policy. Programmes should instead be tailored to local conditions and allow for a case-by-case approach, while still meeting applicable international law and upholding human rights.

CTED remains fully engaged, together with its partners, in assisting States address these challenges. One example of that is our work in the Lake Chad basin, where we have been working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations entities to help States develop regional approaches to screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration as part of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Islamic State West Africa Province.

Our dialogue with Member States has revealed that many other gaps and challenges remain in our efforts to understand, address and counter-terrorism and violent extremism. Addressing the gender dimensions of terrorism and violent extremism is a particular challenge. In February, CTED published a trends report entitled *Gender Dimensions of the Response to Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters*. Significant knowledge gaps remain regarding the number and profiles of women who travelled to and returned from ISIL-held territory. It also noted that women tended to receive more limited rehabilitation and reintegration support, potentially putting them at greater risk of marginalization and recidivism.

Furthermore, as terrorists continue to exploit the Internet, social media and messaging apps, practitioners need improved skills and updated tools to access critical evidence and help prosecute and secure the conviction of terrorist suspects in judicial proceedings. To help Member States address those challenges, CTED, UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors have developed the *Practical Guide*

*for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders*, which helps practitioners at the national level to gather, preserve and share electronic evidence, with the overall aim of ensuring efficiency in mutual legal assistance matters.

Terrorists also continue to demonstrate their interest in carrying out attacks targeting critical infrastructure and civilian or soft targets, including places of worship. CTED has identified the need for States to develop or expand existing national strategies and action plans to take into account the risk and threat to such targets.

Government and private-sector partnerships are particularly essential to the protection of soft targets against terrorist attacks. This has been a topic of concern for the Security Council. In June, the Counter-Terrorism Committee held an open briefing on this topic with Member States, civil society and the private sector. Participants discussed ways to work together to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks against soft targets and their victims. It was noted that the development of responses, from prevention to recovery, should also involve close engagement with local leaders and communities. The Secretary-General, also concerned by this trend, has tasked the Alliance of Civilizations to develop an action plan that supports Member States in their efforts to protect religious sites.

Another critical issue is victims of terrorism. As we have heard, last week, the United Nations held its second annual International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. For too long, victims of terrorism have struggled to have their voices heard and their rights upheld. It is imperative that we recognize and honour the victims and survivors of terrorism. That requires that we ensure that the perpetrators of terrorist attacks be held to account.

As the report makes clear, the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) has already made considerable progress in that regard in less than one year, including the first excavations of mass grave sites and the exhumation of victims' remains in Sinjar, in north-western Iraq.

In April 2019, the Council adopted resolution 2467 (2019), on sexual violence in armed conflict, which recognizes the victims of sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups as victims of terrorism. It is essential to address the needs of survivors of conflict-

related sexual violence. In the immediate term, that includes upholding victims' rights and addressing their humanitarian needs. But it also requires the development and implementation of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies that strengthen victim-centred approaches across a range of issues and recognize communities as key partners in the process of reintegration.

As noted by the Secretary-General in his ninth report (S/2019/612), ISIL maintains significant residual wealth, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Preventing ISIL and its supporters from raising, using and moving funds to support terrorist acts around the world remains a key component of international efforts to counter the group's threat. Therefore, over the past six months, the Security Council, supported by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, undertook numerous activities aimed at countering the financing of terrorism. Following the January 2019 Arria Formula meeting on preventing and countering the financing of terrorism, the Council adopted resolution 2462 (2019), which is the first resolution focused solely on preventing and suppressing terrorism financing. Furthermore, the United Nations system, including CTED, has also sought to better understand the linkages among international terrorism, organized crime and terrorism financing. In February, CTED published a study entitled *Identifying and Exploring the Nexus between Human Trafficking, Terrorism and Terrorism Financing*. And, of course, just last month, the Council adopted resolution 2482 (2019), which requires Member States to address those linkages.

Despite their military defeat, ISIL and its affiliates remain a significant threat. We must therefore remain vigilant, innovative, adaptive and proactive in our response. CTED will continue to work with its implementing partners, including Member States, other United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, to ensure a holistic and effective approach to this complex threat to international peace and security.

**The President:** I thank Ms. Coninsx for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

**Mr. Kuzmin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I would like to thank you, Sir, for having convened this meeting. We also wish to thank

Mr. Voronkov and Ms. Coninsx for their in-depth analysis of the situation regarding the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Recent reports have focused, quite rightly, on fundamental changes in the situation in Syria and the transformation of contemporary international terrorism against the backdrop of the military defeat and significant weakening of ISIL positions. A decisive contribution to the dismantling that terrorist group was made by the Syrian army and allied forces operating in Syria on legitimate grounds, including the Russian Federation.

We share the Secretary-General's concerns about ISIL's ongoing attempts to establish a firm foothold in other regions. ISIL clearly intends to shore up its positions in Afghanistan, to establish a branch in South Asia and to step up its presence in the Asia-Pacific region. It is cooperating with Islamists in North and West Africa, while Europe is being eyed as a stage for terrorist attacks.

Our common goal is to prevent ISIL from having even the slightest opportunity to rear its head, gain strength, regroup and find additional ideological and human resources in different countries and among different population groups. In that regard, we must closely monitor the efforts of certain groups that have helped spawn the emergence of today's terrorist leaders to reformat ISIL and create a new, more sophisticated terrorist organization. We caution against playing into the hands of terrorists and their accomplices, applying double standards to them and making distinctions between bad, not-so-bad and, even, good terrorists.

We should like to share our assessment of the terrorist threats in key regions. Presently, the total number of ISIL members and their affiliates in Syria is about 3,000 people. In addition, there are many other terrorist groups present, the most combat-ready of which is still Jabhat Al-Nusra, which is particularly active within and around Idlib governorate. More than 1,500 militants have returned from combat zones to their homes or have gone to other residential areas under the guise of internally displaced persons.

In Iraq, despite the end of the military campaign against ISIL and the announcement of a drawdown of the international coalition, the ground remains fertile for further destabilization. Jihadists have turned to sabotage and terrorist tactics and are now banking on fuelling the Sunni-Shia conflict in the country.

Currently, ISIL combat units in Iraq comprise as many as 2,000 fighters from about 40 States, mainly from the Middle East, Central and South East Asia, as well as the Russian Federation and countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States. The main hotbeds of ISIL's subversive activity are concentrated in the Sunni triangle zone, as well as in the governorate of Diyala and Kirkuk. In addition, south-eastern Iraq, particularly the Shiite governorates of Babil, Wasit, Dhi Qar, Maysan and Basra, is also at risk.

In Libya, ISIL is increasing its activity and is capitalizing on the collapse of the State and the effective fracturing of the country. The group is strengthening its position near oil ports along the Mediterranean shore to the east of Sirte, the so-called oil crescent, and in the cities of Tripoli, Benghazi and Derna. The situation in the south of the country is further complicated by the massive infiltration of Chadian Islamists.

In Egypt, there is an active presence of up to 1,500 fighters belonging to Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis. The terrorists are engaged in hostilities in the north-east and south of the country and regularly attack security forces.

ISIL is focusing on the deployment of an extensive underground terrorist network in the Sahelo-Saharan zone, the formation of staging grounds and the mounting of frequent intimidation and sabotage attacks against national law enforcement agencies, United Nations peacekeepers and civilians. Militants are also establishing contacts with local criminal groups that control arms smuggling, drug trafficking and illegal migration. That threat is compounded by terrorist groups that have declared their alliance and cooperation with ISIL, especially the Islamic State's West Africa Province and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara. In particular, the Islamic State's West Africa Province is currently engaged in terrorist activities along the borders of Cameroon, Nigeria, the Niger and Chad. The group consists of 3,500 people, mostly from the local population. The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara has up to 700 members, and another ISIL branch, the Islamic State in Somalia, has up to 900 members.

Members of ISIL are actively seeking to transform Afghanistan into a staging ground for infiltrating other parts of the region. The core of terrorist structures is approximately 4,000 militants, concentrated largely in the provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar. In addition, members of ISIL are active in the northern and eastern

parts of the country. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province has solidified its position in Afghanistan, with the support of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement. Young people and field commanders from local and regional terrorist groups, including the Taliban and Hizb ut-Tahrir, are being actively recruited, as are militants from combat zones in the Middle East. The most dangerous situation is unfolding in the areas of Afghanistan that border Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, with approximately 1,300 ISIL affiliates. At the same time, ISIL leaders seek to expand their presence in the north and east of the country by taking control of areas traditionally controlled by the Taliban.

Unfortunately, ISIL continues to receive funds from foreign sponsors disguised as charitable foundations, religious organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

During the discussion of the seventh (S/2018/770) and eighth (S/2019/103) reports of the Secretary-General (see S/PV.8330 and S/PV.8460, respectively), the Russian delegation drew attention to flagrant violations of the ISIL arms embargo. That remains relevant and pressing. The document under discussion today in no way addresses the issue of the provision of military goods to terrorist organizations. It is unacceptable to turn a blind eye to such glaring gaps in the fight against international terrorism. It is important to publish information about all funding channels for ISIL and the efforts undertaken to eradicate them. Possible solutions to that problem will be discussed in detail at the second International Conference on Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking in the Context of Fighting International Terror, to be held in Moscow on 5 and 6 September.

We speak about this regularly, however, I wish to emphatically reiterate today that collective action by the international community is necessary to counter international terrorism. It is necessary to take advantage of the conditions emerging after the elimination of the terrorist staging grounds in the Middle East. It is necessary to pool efforts in order to suppress the further spread of the terrorist threat, forestall spiralling tensions in the region and find political and diplomatic solutions to all existing issues based on international law and under the central coordination of the United Nations.

**Mr. Schulz** (Germany): First of all, I thank Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and Ms. Michèle Coninsx for their briefings. I also thank the various United Nations

entities and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for preparing an excellent report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/612).

As the report states, the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) remains imminent and substantial, albeit in a different manner. It is crucial that we continue our efforts to prevent the continuation of ISIL as an underground network. Terrorist groups like ISIL and Al-Qaida have proven that they are quick at adapting to changing circumstances. In that context, I want to commend the Ombudsperson of the ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, Mr. Daniel Kipfer Faschiati, for his work, which is vital for the credibility, fairness and effectiveness of the sanctions regime. The fight against terrorism is not a sprint but, obviously, a marathon. Let me focus on four, although by no means exhaustive, key elements in fighting terrorism and conducting counter-terrorism operations from the point of view of Germany.

First, measures must also include countering the financing of terrorism. As the current holder of the vice-presidency of the Financial Action Task Force, Germany is particularly committed to supporting its work as the international standard-setter in that regard.

Secondly, we must also ensure that human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law in general are always adequately considered in the fight against terrorism and that trust in State institutions is strengthened. Disrespecting these values is a factor that can lead marginalized persons to violent extremism and into the hands of terrorist networks.

Thirdly, we also need to address concerns about the adverse and unintended consequences that sanctions and counter-terrorism measures can have on the delivery of humanitarian aid. The measures taken must not impair or hinder humanitarian activities carried out by impartial humanitarian actors, in keeping with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

Fourthly, and lastly, Germany has repeatedly stressed the importance of including a gender perspective in the work of the Council. As the Secretary-General's report shows, the gender dimension plays an important role in countering the terrorist threat on a number of different levels. For instance, women find themselves under horrific conditions in violent conflict situations and are particularly affected by violence. However, women are not only victims of terrorism: female radicalization and women linked to, and operating for, terrorist groups

should also become a priority in our agenda. By way of example, Germany supports the reintegration of female Al-Shabaab defectors in Somalia through psychosocial counselling and gender-appropriate vocational training. Female Al-Shabaab members are rarely active as armed fighters but play a vital role in supporting the structure and organization of Al-Shabaab.

Looking ahead a little more strategically, we have, of course, to vigorously fight terrorism, but at the same time, we need to do much more on conflict prevention. Respect for human dignity is vital in that regard. Creating jobs, developing an environment in which young people in particular can earn a living and support a family and providing opportunities for social, economic and political participation are crucial. For example, the Sahel Alliance was created precisely to achieve those aims, and the nexus between development and security has been on the agenda of the Group of Seven Summit taking place in Biarritz, where recent developments in, and international support for, the Sahel region have also been discussed.

Before I conclude, I would like to stress a truism that seems to be so true as to almost not need to be mentioned but is often lacking in practice — international cooperation across the board. Such cooperation is key to our success, and going it alone means playing into the terrorists' hands. That is why we are convinced that we must keep prevention, foreign terrorist fighters, terrorist financing, information-sharing, terrorist use of the Internet, aviation security and cooperation on border protection on the international agenda.

**Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China thanks Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Executive Director Coninsx for their briefings and welcomes the ninth report (S/2019/612) of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) to international peace and security.

The recent spate of attacks in Afghanistan, Egypt, Somalia and elsewhere has inflicted colossal damage on those countries. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General, despite having suffered military defeats, ISIL remains an international terrorist organization that poses a global threat. Issues such as how to deal with returning foreign terrorist fighters and their family members and the resettlement and reintegration of released members present challenges for Member States. Member States must remain vigilant and keep

a watchful eye on the global terrorism threat. The international community should foster awareness of the need to build a community of a shared future for humankind and step up results-based cooperation in the joint fight against the threat of terrorism.

First, it is imperative to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and allow the United Nations and the Security Council to play a central role in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts. The fight against terrorism must be based on unified standards, a zero-tolerance policy, respect for the sovereignty of the countries concerned, the primary responsibility of Member States for counter-terrorism and fully implementing the Council's relevant resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That is the only way to stay united, coordinate effectively and work synergistically.

Secondly, it is important to take a holistic approach by addressing the root causes as well as the symptoms of terrorism, including by focusing on the elimination of the root causes themselves. The international community should push for a political settlement of hotspot issues, resolve differences through peaceful means, assist Member States in their poverty reduction and eradication efforts and in achieving sustainable development and encourage dialogue and harmonious coexistence among the various civilizations and religions on an equal footing. Assistance should be given to developing countries to boost their counter-terrorism and de-radicalization capacity.

Thirdly, it is necessary to step up international judicial cooperation and adopt tailored counter-terrorism measures in the light of emerging trends in, and new features of, terrorism. That requires us to focus on the following prominent issues: the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, the diversified means of terrorist financing, the collusion of terrorist organizations with organized crime and the misuse of the Internet and communication technologies by terrorists. Support should be given to Member States with the aim of enhancing coordination on border control and law enforcement, intelligence sharing and results-based cooperation.

Fourthly, the strength and expertise of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), and other mechanisms

should be fully leveraged so that they can continue to contribute to terrorist threat assessments, the capacity-building efforts of Member States and terrorist sanctions, among other things. UNOCT should be given support to organize regional counter-terrorism meetings. In the course of their work, all of the counter-terrorism mechanisms should act in strict accordance with the relevant resolutions and rules of procedure, increase coordination among themselves and enhance communication with Member States with a view to maintaining the authority and effectiveness of the counter-terrorism and sanctions regimes and making a greater contribution to international counter-terrorism efforts.

As an important player on the international counter-terrorism front, China is deeply involved in counter-terrorism cooperation within the framework of, inter alia, the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. China has been supporting Member States to build their counter-terrorism capacity through the China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund and carrying out fruitful cooperation with many Member States in such areas as counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing and combating terrorist financing, transnational organized crime and cyberterrorism, thereby making a remarkable contribution to the global fight against terrorism. Together with the community of nations, China stands ready to fight the threat of terrorism through concerted efforts in the joint quest for world peace and stability.

**Mr. Cohen** (United States of America): I thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Executive Director Coninsx for their briefings today.

The latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/612) on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) demonstrates the hard-won progress that we have made over the past several years, culminating in the territorial defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria in March. This accomplishment is a testament to the work of the global coalition to defeat ISIS, which now has 81 members. Coalition military efforts removed scores of ISIS leaders from the battlefield, including ISIS so-called ministers of war, information, finance, oil, gas and its chief external operations strategist and propagandist.

Beyond its military successes, the global coalition takes on ISIS in four main non-military lines of effort through counter-financing, counter-messaging and

public affairs, the detention and repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters and the stabilization of areas liberated from ISIS. The United States recognizes that the international community's work to defeat ISIS is far from complete, even after the territorial defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and the coalition remains committed to continuing the fight against ISIS.

The Secretary-General's report highlights the large number of ISIS fighters and dependents in displacement camps and detention facilities in northern Syria and Iraq. The United States remains concerned about the concentration of those fighters in what are otherwise civilian displacement camps, and the potential for radicalization to violence where they are present. The United States encourages Member States to repatriate and prosecute their citizens as appropriate in order to bring those responsible for ISIS crimes to justice. We also support efforts to protect displaced persons and help them return to their communities.

The coalition is committed to preserving the successes that we have achieved. To date, coalition partners have pledged more than \$1 billion in stabilization programming in Iraq, which is key to securing military gains and stabilizing liberated terrain, in part by addressing drivers of violent extremism.

Beyond Iraq and Syria, ISIS affiliates continue to threaten other regions of the globe. The Secretary-General's report makes it clear that ISIS affiliates pose a serious threat from West Africa to South-East Asia and that, in some cases, those affiliates can serve as a hub for the further regional expansion of ISIS. For that reason, we are pleased with the decision of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in May to designate ISIS-Khorasan. Beyond highlighting the threat that ISIS regional affiliates pose, that designation allows the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) to target regional facilitators who otherwise have no link to the ISIS core. The United States looks forward to working with members of the Committee to designate more affiliates.

In addition to designations, there have been other important advances in recent months. In March, the Security Council adopted resolution 2462 (2109), which reinforced in advance the framework for countering the financing of terrorism. We express our appreciation to France for spearheading that important effort. The designations of ISIS affiliates and the adoption of

resolution 2462 (2019) are significant developments, but Member States must act on them in order to make them meaningful. The United States urges all Member States to fully implement their 1267 sanctions obligations, resolution 2462 (2019) and all of the relevant Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions in support of the ultimate defeat of ISIS.

Finally, while today's briefing focuses on ISIS, we must not overlook the ongoing threat of Al-Qaida. As we approach the eighteenth anniversary of the 11 September attacks, Al-Qaida-linked groups continue to threaten stability in Syria, the Sahel and elsewhere. We must work together and employ all of our available tools to ensure that Al-Qaida does not consolidate power and once again threaten the United States, our allies and our partners. We have achieved substantial success against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. We cannot relent. The United States will continue to work with its partners to pursue, degrade and ultimately defeat ISIS and Al-Qaida.

**Mr. Singer Weisinger** (Dominican Republic) (*speak in Spanish*): We underscore the importance of this topic and are grateful for the holding of this afternoon's meeting on the constant and pernicious threat of terrorist acts to international peace and security, which overwhelming justifies the reason that it is indeed a priority for the Security Council. In that regard, I thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Executive Director Coninsx for updating us.

Absolutely nothing justifies the barbaric and inhuman criminal acts of such scale against the lives of innocent people, for whom the dark rational underpinning of such acts is foreign and used as an instrument to spread fear and insecurity. The Dominican Republic condemns in the strongest terms all terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations. We remain united in the face of the collective suffering of the victims and survivors of the terrorist attacks, atrocities and cowardly attacks perpetrated throughout the world, including this year's events resulting in 51 deaths in New Zealand and nearly 300 in Sri Lanka.

It is in the memory of the victims and the resilience of the survivors of terrorism that we embrace our humanity and find the strength to fight together with determination and resolve an evil that affects us all. We remain faithful to our principles and aware and respectful of fundamental rights, including those of

women, children and family members as the victims of foreign terrorist fighters.

In the light of the most recent reports indicating the territorial defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham and the terrorist group's aspiration to achieve global relevance through its regional affiliates by inspiring attacks and transforming itself into a covert global network, we echo the urgent need to step up our resolve and resources to address the challenges posed by the prosecution and repatriation of detainees and internally displaced persons.

Reports on the spike in the number of refugees in camps alerts us to the scale of the problem faced at the humanitarian, human rights, security, logistical, legal, jurisdictional and other levels, as exemplified by the case of Al-Hol camp, which only this year has seen its population increase sevenfold to more than 70,000 people.

We echo the concern about and threat posed to adult detainees and, to a greater degree, minors and young people, who are often traumatized by, and exposed to, radicalization in prison while affected by poverty, marginalization and stigmatization, which makes the process of social reintegration more difficult and the risk of future violence and their recruitment into one of those terrorist groups more likely.

In that regard, we commend the work of the United Nations system for having developed the key principles for the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children with links to United Nations-listed terrorist groups — a useful tool that can facilitate the development and implementation of policies and actions in line with international law.

We are also aware of the noxious relationship between terrorism and transnational criminal organizations involved in the trafficking of drugs, people and natural resources, which only further puts our ability to combat them to the test and requires strengthening and increasing existing international cooperation among the relevant authorities. We are concerned about the number of foreign terrorist fighters, estimated by some Member States to number between 24,000 and 30,000, and the challenge that that poses to countries in which their presence is felt and those of transit and origin.

Lastly, we urge Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, to continue to strengthen

their strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of suspected terrorists and returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, while paying particular attention to approaches sensitive to gender-related issues and violence against children.

**Mrs. Mele Colifa** (Equatorial Guinea) (*speak in Spanish*): We appreciate the convening of this important briefing. Similarly, we appreciate the briefings delivered by Mr. Voronkov and Ms. Coninsx, which helped us to contextualize the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) to international peace and security (S/2019/612).

With the fall of Baghouz in March, the military defeat of Da'esh in Syria must be registered as an important milestone of global efforts against terrorism. As the report indicates, however, full success in that important undertaking requires the international community, in support of the affected States and in respect of their sovereignty, to address the challenges posed by the subsequent humanitarian situation, the prosecution of Da'esh affiliates and their families, especially women and children, and the dispersal of foreign terrorist fighters to other territories.

In that regard, we remain concerned about the impact of the growing presence of foreign terrorist fighters in Africa and their interaction with, and reinforcement of, Da'esh-affiliated groups, such as the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara and the designated Da'esh provinces in West and Central Africa. We are further concerned over their collaboration with Al-Qaida and its affiliates in the region and other terrorist groups and their conflictive relations with groups such as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram, especially in West Africa, where there has been an upsurge in violence and attacks linked to Da'esh and Al-Qaida.

We therefore commend the strengthened collaboration among the various United Nations agencies, including those present here, in support of States in designing and carrying out their counter-terrorism strategies and implementing the relevant Council resolutions and the 2018 addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles on foreign terrorist fighters, among others.

That is why, as we have been doing, we encourage those efforts to also focus on so-called geographical blind spots in the fight against terrorism, in order to

reinforce efforts to prevent and curb the spread of terrorist groups and their activities.

The African continent is being bled out by the activities of terrorist groups, such as the Boko Haram group in north-eastern Nigeria, which also affects the neighbouring countries of the Niger, Chad and Cameroon, countries which are neighbours of Equatorial Guinea. There is the case of Al-Shabaab in the east of the continent. Countries such as Mali and Burkina Faso are falling victim to groups supported by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. All those phenomena cause enormous damage and pose serious challenges to the lives and economies of the countries most directly affected and, to a lesser extent, their neighbours and, by extension, the whole of Africa.

Resolutions 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019), which the Council adopted this year, led by France and Peru, respectively, and which Equatorial Guinea had the honour of co-sponsoring, help revitalise and strengthen the fight against Da'esh, Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups by focusing on preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism and the links between transnational crime and terrorism. Those two strategic areas are important to preventing the use of new technologies for the dissemination of terrorist propaganda and as a tool for the recruitment and radicalization of juvenile delinquents in prisons; illegal mineral exploitation; human, arms and drug trafficking for terrorist purposes; and the potential for the creation and use of weapons of mass destruction.

Covert Da'esh and Al-Qaida networks, the existence of lone wolves and new methods of terrorist attacks executed by women, girls and entire families; attacks against targets that are considered easy, such as places of worship, family ceremonies, among others; and the recent attacks by the extreme right remind us of the need to galvanize international cooperation against terrorism and spur investment in sustainable development to tackle the root causes of terrorism and conflict. In that regard, we are encouraged by the holding of regional conferences in Tajikistan and Kenya, which we hope will translate into concrete results with a view to containing and eliminating the terrorist threat.

We just celebrated the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which focused on the resilience of victims of terrorism and their families. In that regard, we wish to conclude

by acknowledging and encouraging the role of the United Nations in facilitating international judicial cooperation and gathering digital evidence. Moreover, processes that promote accountability through mechanisms such as the United Nations Investigative Team for Accountability of Da'esh/ISIL, to promote accountability for crimes committed by Da'esh in support of victims in Iraq, including and especially sexual and gender-based violence victims.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea remains firmly committed to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions to ensure the success of that important work.

**Mr. Allen** (United Kingdom): May I start by thanking Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and Ms. Michèle Coninsx for their briefings today, which I think set out very clearly, as does the Secretary-General's report (S/2019/612), just how much of a challenge remains. While military successes have removed Da'esh's territorial control of the so-called caliphate, Da'esh and foreign terrorist fighters continue to pose an ongoing and serious challenge to our individual and collective security. It is not only Da'esh, as other colleagues have also talked about other groups, particularly Al-Qaida and Al-Qaida-affiliated groups. We must be very concerned by those.

I think that, faced with a problem that affects many countries in many regions of the world, Member States naturally look to the United Nations, and in particular to the Security Council, through its resolutions and committees, to give guidance and support. I believe that means that we need not only a timely and effective set of responses but also even better coordination and evaluation.

We, as the United Kingdom, therefore welcome the number of guidance products that are being developed to assist States in navigating some of those complex new challenges. But I would like to stress — I am sure that I am preaching to the converted to my left — the need to ensure that those are complementary and reflective of a whole-of-United Nations approach.

To that end, we would particularly like to encourage the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to continue to conduct its assessment visits and strengthen its own dialogue with Member States, and for Member States to engage CTED in requesting those. I can say that the United Kingdom is looking forward to its own CTED assessment in October.

I would also like to stress the need for proactive follow-up by CTED and its partners, and that is where the Office of Counter-Terrorism particularly comes in with its capacity-building capabilities. It is so important that, where CTED carries out an assessment, in partnership with a Member State, that capacity-building and support be in place for those Member States to really be able to make a difference. I think that I would start there, if I might, in responding to the briefings that I heard. The Secretary-General's report sets out a number of challenges. Let me just focus on a few.

First, I share the concerns raised by a number of colleagues and our briefers about the conditions in the camps in north-east Syria, particularly for family members and children. That should be of great concern for us all. We welcome the United Nations increased attention on the challenge of addressing those conditions, while also integrating efforts to prevent violent extremism and incitement to terrorism among camp populations. That is clearly a task beyond the United Nations; it is for all Member States to think about how we can support such work.

An important element of that is accountability for the crimes committed by Da'esh. I was very pleased to hear the remarks by our colleague from Equatorial Guinea on the subject. We, like them, fully support the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), in particular when it comes to sexual and gender-based violence. We have increased our funding for UNITAD, and I hope that we all support their efforts to collect, preserve and, of course, use that crucial evidence.

It is also alarming that Da'esh still reportedly has \$300 million in reserves. We know that terrorist attacks are increasingly low-cost and low-tech. In recent cases, we have seen that transfers of small amounts of money using new technologies, inspired by narratives both online and offline, can terrorize our citizens. That amount of money could cause huge damage. We again collectively need to tackle the financing of terrorism and ensure we are doing so in a way that keeps pace with modern money flows. That is a job for us all.

I would like to say how much we agree with the analysis of the Secretary-General's report (S/2019/612) with regard to the risk of radicalization and mobilization taking place in prisons. Prisons, of course, are a place

of risk. But, at the same time, they can be an important place for disengagement and rehabilitation efforts. We would encourage the United Nations and its partners to support Member States in developing measures in that area. I would note that the Council has placed great emphasis on prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. That is something that we have taken to heart in the United Kingdom. I would like to say just a couple of words about our experience in that area.

In the United Kingdom, rehabilitation work is focused on a broad range of individuals, not just those serving a prison sentence for a terrorism-related offense and not just those in prison. We also work with those on probation in the community and those subject to court orders of other kinds, such as returnees from Syria.

Let me finish by expressing our concerns about the increase in the number of terrorist attacks motivated by extreme right-wing ideologies. We know that terrorist narratives, incitement and resources are moving across borders — both real and virtual. We fully support the Christchurch Call to Action and efforts to remove terrorist content online, while protecting human rights and freedom of expression. We look forward to working with our partners in Member States, the United Nations and the technological industry to strengthen those efforts and combat incitement.

Across all forms of terrorism and extremism, let me say that we strongly support the United Nations initiatives to prevent violent extremism, which place civil society at their centre. The cornerstone of the United Kingdom's own prevention model is our local work with communities and civil society organizations. We support civil society organizations across the country to build their awareness of the risks of radicalization and their resilience to terrorism and violent extremist narratives and propaganda. As I have said before in the Chamber, that is not something that can be done from outside of a community or from outside of a country. It can be done only at the local level by communities themselves being empowered to tackle extremism and terrorism before they start. That is one of the places in which the United Nations could be so very helpful in sharing best practices. I encourage members to step up their efforts even further in that area.

**Mr. Van Shalkwyk** (South Africa): Like others, we would like to thank Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and Ms Michèle Coninsx, Executive

Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, for their briefings on the Secretary-General's strategic-level report on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) (S/2019/612).

The comprehensive report on the threat posed by ISIL/Da'esh provided in the Secretary-General's ninth strategic-level report emphasizes that, while the group has suffered significant setbacks, it nevertheless remains a serious threat to international peace and security as a result, inter alia, of its highly-adaptive nature and continued access to significant funds and recruits. As the report indicates, ISIL/Da'esh is attempting to regroup and re-establish itself in a covert capacity and further expand its international presence by means of affiliates. The present lull in attacks by the group might, regrettably, be only temporary.

South Africa notes with particular concern the findings in the Secretary-General's report concerning the African continent, where ISIL/Da'esh has sought to exploit peace and security challenges, via affiliates, to further the group's abhorrent agenda. Areas of particular concern highlighted in the report include parts of North Africa, where the crisis in Libya in particular has provided fertile ground for ISIL/Da'esh affiliates in fragile countries and the surrounding region.

Also of concern is the observation in the Secretary General's report that West Africa has seen a striking increase in ISIL and Al-Qaida-linked recruitment and violence and that the Islamic State West Africa Province, believed to comprise 4,000 fighters, now ranks alongside the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan as the strongest ISIL regional affiliate.

We are of course also particularly concerned about reports suggesting that ISIL/Da'esh is attempting to establish itself in Central Africa, and even in the Southern African region. South Africa will continue to stand steadfast with our fellow African brothers and sisters in the fight against terrorism on the continent so that that terrible scourge is not allowed to erode the hard-won progress we have collectively made in Africa.

South Africa remains committed to international cooperation in fighting terrorism. No country can shoulder the burden alone. The centrality of the United Nations in coordinating and facilitating international efforts to fight terrorism and providing support to those Member States requiring it is crucial if we are to succeed. In that regard, we value the work of the

counter-terrorism bodies of the United Nations in assisting Member States in fighting the scourge and encourage greater cooperation among them and regional bodies, including the African Union. In that regard, we commend the Secretary-General's international regional conferences, including the African Regional High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, inaugurated by the Secretary-General and His Excellency President Kenyatta of Kenya in Nairobi in July.

In the fight against ISIL/Da'esh, South Africa also views as important the work of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), which undertakes the task of investigating the crimes committed by ISIL/Da'esh and works to ensure that those responsible face accountability for their crimes.

South Africa remains committed to addressing terrorism holistically as a security threat, and equally to addressing the conditions and factors that give rise to terrorism and fuel it. Its causes and manifestations are varied and should be taken into account in elaborating counter-measures, in full compliance with international law, including human rights law and humanitarian law.

It is also critically important that countries refrain from the use of unilateral coercive measures in their counter-terrorism efforts. Such measures often result in unintended casualties and serve to fuel a vicious cycle of resentment and hatred that ultimately perpetuates further violent extremism and terrorism.

**Mr. Djani** (Indonesia): First of all, like others, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Assistant Secretary-General Coninsx for their briefings, which provided insight. We also express our gratitude to the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and related entities for the report (S/2019/612) we have before us.

I have read some of the report. Like others, we take note of many of the various salient points, including that, despite its territorial defeat, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continues to aspire to global relevance, in particular through its affiliates and inspired-attacks. We also note the ongoing humanitarian and security challenges posed by foreign terrorist

fighters (FTFs) and their family members. With that in mind, my statement will focus on three issues.

First, with regard to the threat posed by ISIL, the heinous ISIL-linked or ISIL-inspired attacks that have recently been witnessed in Sri Lanka, Syria, Iraq, several places in West Africa and other parts of the world, even during a wedding ceremony recently in Afghanistan, again demonstrate that ISIL remains a serious threat. That is also the case in our region, where Indonesian authorities successfully foiled a plot by an ISIL-linked terror group in May. The fall of the last ISIL-held territory in Syria and a decrease in its resources were significant, but evidently this does not mean the end of ISIL. Therefore, we feel it is only wise not to go overboard and declare victory over terrorism just yet.

The evolution of ISIL from a territorial entity to a covert network, the activities of its regional affiliates, the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and the logistical, jurisdictional and human rights complexities of addressing ISIL-related detainees in Syria and Iraq remain huge challenges. We shall continue to be vigilant in that regard.

That leads to my second point, relating to the importance of international and regional cooperation, which we have referred to here several times. All recent challenges reflect the need for the effective implementation of relevant international instruments, United Nations resolutions and, more important, cooperation at all levels among States and non-State entities. The response of the United Nations, Member States and other stakeholders to the evolving threats in the areas of preventing and countering terrorist financing, securing international judicial cooperation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration and community engagement are becoming increasingly important. I think we have achieved a lot, but the problem is that there is still much to be done.

My third and final point concerns the way forward. For sustainable, long-term success in the fight against terrorism, it is crucial to adopt a holistic approach. While continuing with hard measures, we should also invest in soft measures to counter terrorist narratives and steer people away from extremism. We need to promote dialogue and tolerance and give voice to moderation as the best approach to confront hatred and prevent incitement. We also need to eliminate conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We

must be mindful of the importance of prisons and detention facilities, while implementing policies to prevent recidivism.

Although ISIL has dwindled, it remains a scourge of humankind. We need to have a clear strategy to address the root causes of the emergence of ISIL to ensure that this tragic cycle of violence will not repeat itself. No justification is good enough and, once again, Indonesia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, no matter its origins or motivations. After hearing everything that has been said in this Chamber, I believe this is a particular issue on which the Council is united. We stand together in our condemnation of terrorism. As we also heard, we recently commemorated the second annual International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. It is incumbent upon all of us to do more to fight terrorism; we owe it to its victims.

**Mr. Ugarelli (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*):** We also wish to express our appreciation for the convening of this meeting and the valuable briefings given by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Executive Director Coninsx.

Despite the military defeat of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) and the loss of its territorial control, we know that it continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security as it seeks to maintain its global influence through its network of affiliated organizations, as well as inspiring attacks through its hate narrative. In that regard, the fight against Da'esh remains a huge challenge for all States, including the issue of the return of foreign terrorist fighters and their families, attacks on critical infrastructure and vulnerable targets, the use of the Internet and social networks and the use of sexual violence as a strategic and ideological goal.

It is also essential to coordinate the international community's efforts in support of regional and international organizations, especially the United Nations. In that regard, we highlight the efforts of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), as well as the role of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Preventing and combating terrorism require a holistic approach in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the concept of sustainable peace, while recognizing that peace and security, development and human rights are mutually reinforcing. The

transformation of Da'esh into an underground organization seems to have fostered action by regional terrorist groups, through which Da'esh has become a kind of franchise. Without necessarily needing to develop operational or logistical links, Da'esh is now able to claim responsibility for attacks by such local groups.

We believe that it is essential, in accordance with international law, to combat the abuse of information and communication technologies, as well as the non-profit organizations used by Da'esh to raise funds, recruit followers, justify its actions and continue promoting its terrorist narrative. In that connection, we agree that the fight against its financial and logistical capacity must be a priority. Da'esh retains considerable wealth. Its financial flows must be limited as we tackle the issue of money laundering. We highlight the importance of resolution 2462 (2019) to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism.

We join other countries in highlighting the adoption of resolution 2482 (2019), on the links between terrorism and organized crime. Criminal activities such as drug trafficking and trafficking in persons or cultural property not only represent a source of financing but also a mechanism for logistical support. In that regard, we welcome the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the importance of close cooperation with UNOCT and CTED, as well as the efforts of the international community, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, with a view to improving our understanding and response to this global phenomenon.

The challenge posed by the return of foreign terrorist fighters merits particular attention, especially when they are incorporated into national criminal justice systems. It is necessary to develop appropriate policies for prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration while fully respecting human rights and due process. Such strategies should also adopt a gender perspective and safeguard the rights of children. The addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles and the key principles for the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children linked to United Nations-listed terrorist groups are excellent tools for this purpose.

While the crimes committed, including those related to sexual violence, must not go unpunished, accountability should contribute to strengthening

justice, reconciliation and non-recurrence. We must prevent prisons from becoming environments that foster radicalization and recruitment and ensure that freed combatants can properly reintegrate into society. Bearing this in mind, we must also recognize the courage and role of the victims of terrorism in our efforts to prevent and combat this scourge. We would therefore like to highlight the initiative of the Secretary-General to organize the first International Congress for Victims of Terrorism as part of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate Peru's wholehearted commitment to preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, particularly through actions that the Council is in a position to take thanks to our shared consensus.

**Mr. Alotaibi** (Kuwait) (*speak in Arabic*): At the outset, we thank Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and Ms. Michèle Coninsx for their valuable and comprehensive briefings on the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh) to international peace and security. I will focus on three key issues.

First, with regard to the continuing threat posed by Da'esh, despite the victory of the international community against terrorist organizations, especially the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) and its military defeat in Syria with the fall of the city of Al-Baghuz in the Deir ez-Zor region in March, Da'esh has not been fully eradicated. It continues to operate and develop covertly in Iraq, Syria and other regions across the world by evolving its tactics — either for terrorist operations or financing such operations, as well as recruiting individuals based on available resources.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2019/612) notes that Da'esh continues to be able to send money to carry out subversive acts in ways that are difficult to detect by authorities. It still has a wealth of nearly \$300 million.

The war against Da'esh in Iraq and Syria has resulted in many humanitarian and security threats and challenges that include, for example, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, returnees and people wishing to relocate with their families. Addressing their large number requires building the capacities of law enforcement agencies to try them and rehabilitate the victims.

Prisons are also incubators that fuel and spread extremist ideologies among poor, marginalized or discriminated against prisoners. That calls for greater cooperation and communication among Member States, with the support of relevant United Nations agencies, in order to bolster efforts related to the rehabilitation of prisoners and their reintegration into society, including prisoners convicted of terrorist crimes.

The State of Kuwait has established Al-Salam Rehabilitation Centre, which provides guidance to those who were affected by aberrant ideologies. The centre's programme leads to the rehabilitation of participants with extremist ideologies. That reflects our endeavours to cope with global events and counter the phenomenon of religious bigotry and extremist thought.

Secondly, combating and preventing terrorist financing is one of the main challenges that countries face in their counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorist groups finance their activities through various means, including transnational organized crime, ransom, arms trafficking, drug trafficking and extortion. The Security Council has adopted many resolutions to consolidate the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism, notably, resolution 1373 (2001), which introduced legally binding rules. Recently, the Council also adopted resolution 2462 (2019) under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. That resolution is dedicated exclusively to the prevention and suppression of terrorism financing and refocuses attention on evaluating and understanding the threat posed by terrorist financing and the strategic role of financial intelligence in efforts to combat terrorism. It also focuses on the importance of public-private partnerships, as well as effective activities related to cooperation, coordination and exchange of information.

Thirdly, on the importance of international cooperation, one of the key tools to combat the threat of Da'esh to international peace and security is international, regional and subregional cooperation in the following areas — sharing information, improving prevention, addressing circumstances conducive to terrorism, preventing incitement to perpetrate terrorist acts, combating financial support to terrorist groups, training members of law enforcement agencies, addressing the nexus between crime and terrorism and focusing on youth and engaging them in national plans related to combating terrorism. We must also conclude bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism agreements.

We commend the ongoing cooperation between United Nations bodies and agencies with regional organizations and Member States in the areas of capacity-building and the exchange of expertise. We look forward to further cooperation in that regard.

In conclusion, we continue to condemn terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motives. It is a criminal act that cannot be justified and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnicity. Combating terrorism requires the mobilization of all international efforts to tackle this criminal scourge through measures to ensure respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance.

**Mrs. Boniface** (France) (*speak in French*): Allow me also to thank Vladimir Voronkov and Michèle Coninsx for their briefings.

As the report indicates (S/2019/612), despite the loss of its territory, Da'esh continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, particularly through its regional subsidiaries and the attacks it continues to inspire. In that context, the efforts of both the military and civilian components of the international coalition against Da'esh must continue in order to support pluralistic and inclusive political solutions in Syria and Iraq. That is the only lasting response for preventing the re-emergence of Da'esh in a different form. The fight against impunity for crimes committed by Da'esh is also an essential element for peace and reconciliation. Those messages were reaffirmed at the coalition's meeting in Paris on 25 June and enshrined in the Paris road map, which is intended to guide the coalition's action in the coming months. In addition, France believes that our efforts must continue to focus on three priority action areas for action, which are included in the report.

First, we must focus on combating terrorist financing. As the financial resources of Da'esh are still estimated at nearly \$300 million, we must intensify our efforts to isolate terrorists by drying up their sources of funding. France encourages all States to fully implement resolution 2462 (2019) and cooperate closely with the United Nations in the implementation of their obligations. We must build the broadest possible partnership, involving all the actors concerned — States, the private sector, multilateral institutions and civil society.

France commends the outstanding work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

and the Office of Counter-Terrorism in assessing needs and providing technical assistance. The second iteration of the “No money for terror” conference, to be held in Australia in November, will be an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made in Paris in April 2018 and the obligations set out in resolution 2462 (2019).

The second priority concerns the treatment of foreign terrorist fighters and persons associated with them through the full implementation of resolution 2396 (2017). We must continue to strengthen measures to detect, assist and monitor people at risk, through constant information sharing. At the international level, close coordination among civilian, military and financial intelligence services, as well as among judicial authorities, is essential to responding to the threat and delivering justice. France has a consistent position in that regard — foreign terrorist fighters are expected to be tried as close as possible to the location where they committed their crimes. It is a matter of both justice and security. France recalls that it is opposed, in all places and under all circumstances, to the death penalty. In addition, France attaches particular importance to providing assistance to children, especially psychosocial and educational, to promote their reintegration.

Finally, the third priority is preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. Progress has been made, with Internet companies mobilizing their resources. But as the Christchurch attack demonstrated, much remains to be done to more effectively prevent the spread of terrorist propaganda and support the development of positive counterarguments. That is why France and New Zealand have mobilized alongside several partners and Internet companies to launch the Christchurch Call, which includes collective and voluntary commitments by Governments and online service providers to address the problem of terrorist content online and prevent the misuse of the Internet, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of a free, open and secure Internet. That complements important measures already taken in other frameworks, such as the European Union, the Group of 20, the Group of Seven, the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, the Tech Against Terrorism initiative and the Aqaba Process. We will remain fully mobilized to ensure the follow-up of these commitments.

Allow me, in conclusion, to stress the central and unifying role that the United Nations must continue

to play in the fight against terrorism. France will continue to support United Nations entities in their efforts to identify needs and responses and to promote coordination among all relevant actors.

**Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve** (Belgium) (*speak in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Coninsx and Mr. Voronkov for their interesting briefings.

We take note of the fact that, even after its military defeat and the territorial end of its self-proclaimed State, Da’esh continues to seek a global role, in particular through its affiliates and isolated attacks by individuals who subscribe to its hateful ideology. In addition, the situation in the detention camps and facilities in Syria and Iraq remains a great concern, especially with regard to radicalized women and to children. That is the reason behind the policy of Belgium to repatriate those people. Belgium believes that the threat is far from over, including in Europe. There is a particular risk stemming from individuals who were prevented by the authorities from joining Da’esh and still wish to contribute to the terrorist movement through an individual act. In the face of such threats, a comprehensive approach, including the prevention of violent extremism, is indispensable.

Belgium concurs with the Secretary-General’s analysis that there is still a risk in prisons, which remain an environment conducive to alienation and, potentially, radicalization. Part of the problem lies in the lack of awareness of this constantly evolving phenomenon and of appropriate training. Monitoring of prisoners is also crucial.

In reconsidering its prison system, Belgium has opted for a tailor-made approach based on an individual risk assessment and management. At the end of detention, monitoring continues at the local level, through police services, psychosocial services and local administrations, which continue to exchange the necessary information.

Following the Secretary-General’s previous report (S/2019/103), several resolutions were adopted to help the international community tackle the terrorist threat, such as resolution 2462 (2019), on the financing of terrorism, initiated by France; resolution 2467 (2019), on the use of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism, initiated by Germany; and resolution 2482 (2019), on the link between organized crime and terrorism, initiated by Peru. Belgium very much welcomes the attention devoted in these resolutions to the importance of human rights, international humanitarian law and

international refugee law in our efforts and policies to combat terrorism. In particular, it is necessary to guarantee the necessary space for the daily actions of humanitarian workers in a situation affected by terrorism. Belgium will co-organize a side-event on this subject with the European Union during the high-level week of the General Assembly in September.

Finally, Belgium is of the view that it is important to closely monitor the polarization created within our societies by the attacks perpetrated by or in the name of Da'esh and the resulting responses. Indeed, recent attacks inspired by extremist and violent ideologies in some Member States should give rise to vigilance and prevention. Belgium will continue to engage resolutely in multilateral efforts to combat this global threat.

**Mr. Bieke** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*speak in French*): My delegation welcomes this briefing to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2019/612). It congratulates Mr. Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General and Head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and Ms. Coninsx, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), on their enlightening briefings.

Da'esh represents one of today's greatest security challenges for the international community and, above all, for the Security Council. Despite its military defeat in Syria and Iraq, Da'esh still retains its ability to cause harm. Worse still, its ideology, rhetoric and scope of action continue to extend beyond the borders of the two countries, thereby posing an ongoing threat to the security and stability of our States. Indeed, this terrorist organization remains very active throughout the world, demonstrating its resilience thanks to new technologies and various devices that allow it to bypass international technical and financial control mechanisms. The relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the ninth of which is before the Council for consideration, draw our attention to the extent of the threat and the urgency of coordinating our actions to curb or even eradicate this phenomenon.

In the face of the global threat posed by Da'esh, counter-terrorism strategies must, in order to be effective, be part of a multilateral approach based on enhanced cooperation among all actors in the fight against terrorism. In that regard, it is the responsibility

of the United Nations, and more specifically the Security Council, to be at the forefront of our common action to halt the spread of this scourge. My country therefore welcomes the adoption in 2019 of two key texts in the fight against terrorism, namely, resolution 2462 (2019), which recommends in particular the adoption of national and regional legislation to remove sources of terrorist financing; and resolution 2482 (2019) which, *inter alia*, establishes a direct link between terrorists and organized crime. Côte d'Ivoire also welcomes the launch of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, as well as the approval of the revitalized structure of the related working groups and the 2019-2020 workplans. In addition, my delegation appreciates the support of UNOCT and CTED in strengthening the legal and institutional capacities of States and regional organizations. Côte d'Ivoire therefore encourages them to promote meetings designed to promote exchanges of experience and good practices in counter-terrorism.

For the fight against Da'esh to be comprehensive and effective we will have to take into account a range of issues, including accountability for crimes committed, the phenomenon of radicalization and the repatriation of children of foreign fighters, of whom, according to UNICEF, there are about 29,000 in Syria, including 20,000 who are believed to be from Iraq. Côte d'Ivoire is of the view that the crimes committed by Da'esh in Iraq and Syria must not go unpunished and therefore reiterates its support for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, whose work should safeguard the right of victims to justice as part of a fair trial.

The fight against terrorism and violent extremism can only produce the desired results if it is supported by national and regional strategies to eradicate youth poverty and unemployment, as well as transnational organized crime. To that end, it is essential to develop urgent responses to the social demands of the population and to provide better job opportunities to young people. Such a strategy is particularly valid for West Africa and the Sahel, geographical areas that have seen a worrying increase in activities of the Islamic State and its complex network of affiliates, which take advantage of the porous borders, States' weak capacities and community rivalries.

The strengthening of international cooperation and the pooling of resources must remain the guiding principles underpinning our action against terrorism in all its forms. Aware of that imperative, the members of the Economic Community of West African States have decided to hold an extraordinary summit on the threats posed by terrorism to regional peace and security on 14 September.

Côte d'Ivoire remains convinced that eradicating terrorism demands holistic solutions within the framework of a multilateral approach. It therefore welcomed the Franco-German position articulated on the side lines of the Group of Seven summit to promote broader support for the Group of Five for the Sahel within a security and stability partnership in the Sahel aimed at expanding the scope of its work.

In conclusion, my country hopes that our shared commitment to combating terrorism will be commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. It must be an ongoing and coordinated effort that takes into account the structural causes and phenomena that fuel terrorism and violent extremism.

**The President:** I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Poland.

First of all, let me join other colleagues in thanking Ms. Coninsx and Mr. Voronkov for their, as always, very comprehensive and informative briefings.

Poland fully shares the assessment made by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2019/612) and reflected in the interventions by Ms. Coninsx and Mr. Voronkov. Despite the progress made in fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS), Member States and the Security Council must remain vigilant so as not to allow ISIS to revive its operational capacities. Allow me also to echo my colleagues calls for stepping up international cooperation in combating terrorism, as terrorism today is of a transboundary nature. Such cooperation is instrumental in effectively addressing this challenge, and it also requires the cooperation with and the engagement of the private sector and civil society.

Poland is deeply concerned about the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), returnees and those who have relocated. Women and children associated with FTFs returning and relocating from conflict zones

may require a special focus and assistance, as they may have served in many different roles.

We also wish to echo the remarks made by Ms. Coninsx with regard to the potentially disastrous situation of overcrowded camps for internally displaced persons, in which there are stranded families with links to United-Nations-listed terrorist groups, if that is not addressed. With limited access to food, water, medical care and other basic services, people may be easily recruited by terrorists offering better living conditions.

I also wish to touch upon the challenges that Member States are facing in the justice and corrections systems, which was raised by some representatives. In Europe, radicalization in prisons remains an important issue, with the estimated number of FTFs who have returned from conflict zones reaching several thousands. Without additional resources allocated by Member States, prisons will become places in which radical ideologies can thrive. The sharing of extremist views among inmates coming from backgrounds marked by poverty and violence pose the potential risk of further violence.

Lastly, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the proper investigation by Member States of ISIS operatives for their crimes, including crimes of sexual violence. Resolution 2467 (2019), spearheaded by Germany, recognizes victims of sexual violence, perpetrated by terrorists, as victims of terrorism. We would like to recall that that resolution encourages the Secretary-General to ensure that monitoring teams for sanctions committees include members with specific sexual violence and gender expertise and, in that spirit, we encourage Member States to allow expert bodies to carry out work in the field.

I also wish to echo what the representative of Equatorial Guinea said about the importance of ensuring accountability and affirm Poland's full support for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and all United Nations-established investigative mechanisms aimed at fighting impunity and ensuring accountability, as we believe that both are key counter-terrorism instruments.

We also echo the Secretary-General's appeal to comprehensively address the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, while bearing in mind that investigations should lead to fair trials and be conducted in accordance with international

law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

*The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.*