

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 5 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the pleasure to inform you that India proposes to organize a briefing of the Security Council on 15 December 2022 on the theme “Global counter-terrorism approach – principles and the way forward” in connection with the item entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”.

The briefing will be chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar. A background note intended to guide the discussions on the topic is attached (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ruchira **Kamboj**



**Annex to the letter dated 5 December 2022 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: global counter-terrorism approach – principles and the way forward”, 15 December 2022**

1. The terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September 2001 were a turning point in the global approach to counter-terrorism. Since then, London, Mumbai, Paris, many parts of West Asia and Africa have also experienced terrorist attacks. These attacks highlight the following:

(a) The threat of terrorism is grave and universal. Terrorism in one part of the world seriously impacts peace and security in other parts of the globe;

(b) The threat of terrorism is transnational. Terrorist actors and their supporters, facilitators and financiers collaborate while remaining in different jurisdictions to organize acts anywhere in the world. A transnational threat can be defeated only by the collective efforts of all States Members of the United Nations;

(c) All acts of terrorism are criminal. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned. There cannot be an exception or justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of its motivation and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. The era of classifying terrorists as “bad”, “not so bad” or “good” on the basis of political convenience must end immediately;

(d) The menace of terrorism cannot be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

2. Over the past 20 years, there has been some progress in creating a multilateral architecture to assist Member States in combating terrorism. The Security Council, as the principal body of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, established the Counter-Terrorism Committee to help countries to fulfil their counter-terrorism commitments. Following the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, the General Assembly adopted the first United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, setting in policy the contours of a global approach to counter-terrorism.

3. Meanwhile, the Security Council adopted a series of thematic resolutions to address the threat of terrorism. These included:

- Resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#) on addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including stemming the travel of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones
- Resolution [2195 \(2014\)](#) on the role of transnational organized crime in supporting terrorism
- Resolution [2199 \(2015\)](#) aimed at cutting the funding of international terrorism, including through oil reserves, the smuggling of cultural antiques, external donations and ransom payments
- Resolution [2309 \(2016\)](#) on seeking closer global cooperation to ensure the safety of air services from terrorist attacks
- Resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#) aimed at protecting critical infrastructure
- Resolution [2354 \(2017\)](#) on countering terrorist narratives

- Resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#) aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons
- Resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) on stemming the threat of foreign terrorist fighters through effective border management
- Resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) on countering the financing of terrorism
- Resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#) on addressing the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime

4. Resolute counter-terrorism measures undertaken by countries individually or collectively have seen some success. Many avenues of support for terrorism were diminished or plugged by constant monitoring and implementation pressure from international forums including the Financial Action Task Force. The caliphate of Islamic State, or Da'esh, was defeated in 2018.

5. However, in recent times, there has been a resurgence of terrorist activities in both range and diversity, as well as in geographical space. Following the Libyan crisis of 2011, countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel faced a huge flow of fighters and arms, destabilizing the Governments. Africa's home-grown terrorist groups have found ideological support from global terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and ISIL. The terrorist threat was further complicated by pirates and organized criminal networks facilitating trafficking in arms, drugs, humans and finance for these terrorist groups. The threat continues to grow towards the coastal region of Western Africa.

6. Similarly, the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan, Al-Qaida, Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent and terrorist groups sheltering in Afghanistan has increased following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban in August 2021. While the collective expectation of the Security Council, expressed in its resolution [2593 \(2021\)](#), was that Afghan soil would not be used for terrorism, to threaten or attack any country, to shelter or train terrorists or to plan or finance terrorist acts, the threat prospects remain high.

7. The proliferation of digitalization, new and emerging communications and financing technologies has also increased the risk of these technologies being used by terrorist groups. The risk of radicalization through the Internet and social media, and terror financing using cryptocurrencies and crowdfunding platforms, was heightened, particularly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Member States have, in recent times, also witnessed the use of unmanned aerial systems for the surveillance of targets, trafficking in drugs and arms and the launching of terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and public places.

8. The existing and emerging threats call for a renewed collective approach to terrorism. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and there cannot be any exception or justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivations behind such acts. Looking at the motivations behind terrorist acts and categorizing such acts by intent as political or religious and by ideological motivation will dilute our shared commitment to fighting terrorism.

9. The proposed high-level briefing will provide an opportunity for members of the Security Council to build on the recent deliberations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting in Mumbai and Delhi (held on 28 and 29 October 2022), to further share their views on the current state of affairs and to aim to arrive at key principles of the global community's collective fight against terrorism going forward.

### Guiding questions

(a) What are the trends that the global collective needs to be wary of in the fight against terrorism?

(b) Has the lack of a common international legal framework weakened our fight against terrorism?

(c) How do we safeguard the sanctity of sanctions regimes against terrorists and terror entities and make them effective in combating terrorism?

(d) What should be the key principles of a global counter-terrorism architecture that serves the interests of all Member States?

**Briefers**

1. Under-Secretary-General, Office of Counter-Terrorism
  2. Acting Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
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