

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

Ms. Daniela Gauci, Counsellor, Delegation of the European Union to the
United Nations

at the Sixth Committee

on the Agenda item 114:

3 0 H D V X U H V W R Q W O L P Q Q D W R I Q D O W H U U R U L Y

United Nations

New York

October 2021

±CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ±

Mr/ Madam Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA country Liechtenstein as well as Ukraine, and Georgia, align themselves with this statement

Let me begin by thanking you Chair of the Sixth Committee. We very much appreciate your commitment to its work.

The threat from terrorism and violent extremism is constantly evolving and such threats have not diminished during the pandemic. COVID has magnified several emerging challenges at a time when many

The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Member states have had to shift

coordination. We must act collectively with the United Nations, as well as with the Global Coalition to Defeat Da'esh and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), to ensure that Afghanistan does not serve as a base for the hosting, financing or exporting of terrorism to other States.

It is also important to address all phases of counterterrorism, which reduces vulnerabilities, strengthens work on eliminating root causes, enhances capacity to protect our citizens and bring terrorists to justice. This approach mirrors the four pillars in the EU CT Agenda: anticipate, prevent, protect and respond.

Efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, though, must never serve as a pretext for human rights violations. On the contrary, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counterterrorism measures.

The EU insists that any measures taken to counterterrorism

stages, from prevention to administration of justice, while protecting human rights.

The EU specifically insists on the importance of the full and meaningful participation and leadership of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. It is fundamental to build well-integrated societies where gender inequalities and any other form of discrimination are addressed. It is crucial to invest in education, to foster intercultural and interfaith dialogue and to develop programs aimed at preventing radicalization and enhance resilience to terrorist propaganda.

In addition, the rights of victims of terrorism have to be protected and promoted. Victims of terrorism are entitled to specialised, gender-sensitive assistance, protection and support. Victims of terrorism can also play a very important role in countering terrorism, by countering terrorist's narratives and by sharing their experiences. The EU has created a Centre of Expertise for victims of terrorism.

The EU reiterates its full support to the Office of the Ombudsperson to the 1267 Sanctions Committee. The legitimacy and efficiency of sanctions relies on fair and clear procedures for all sanctions regimes.

The EU remains committed to the finalisation of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. A comprehensive convention is important.

humanitarian action in counterterrorism contexts must be strengthened.

Thank you