

Vienna, 8 December 2017

## **CHAIRMANSHIP DECLARATION ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION THAT LEAD TO TERRORISM**

1. The Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE condemns terrorism in the strongest possible terms, in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist attacks, in particular those perpetrated in 2017. We offer heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and governments that have been targeted. Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.
2. The increasing number of terrorist attacks and alarming number of victims in the OSCE area, including attacks by terrorists acting alone or in small cells, continue to raise serious concerns, as does the proliferation of the terrorist and violent extremist ideology and narratives that motivate all these acts. Any act of terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation; we condemn, in the strongest terms, the incitement of terrorist acts and repudiate attempts at the justification or glorification (or apologie) of terrorist acts that may incite further terrorist acts. We respect the right to freedom of expression reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Furthermore, terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization.
3. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to remaining united in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT). We stress that terrorism can only be defeated through increased international solidarity and co-operation and by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and co-operation of all participating States and relevant international and regional organizations, as well as, where appropriate, civil society, and directed at impeding, impairing, isolating and incapacitating the terrorist threat. We condemn unequivocally and express outrage at the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, at numerous atrocities, at persecutions of

individuals and communities, *inter alia* on the basis of their religion or belief, by terrorist groups, such as the so-called Islamic State, also known as ISIL/DAESH, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. We note with appreciation the international counter-terrorism efforts being made and emphasize in this context that security in the OSCE area is intricately linked to security in adjacent areas.

4. We underscore the central role of the United Nations in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and strongly reaffirm our commitment to taking the measures needed to protect all people within our jurisdictions against terrorist acts and the need for all actions to be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and all other applicable obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We recall and reaffirm all relevant OSCE commitments adopted in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, in particular the 2015 Ministerial Declaration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism. Accordingly, we underscore the importance of our commitments under the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the need to continue to implement all its aspects in an integrated manner, in close co-operation with the newly created UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. We take note of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We also take note of the relevant Good Practices documents adopted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). We encourage the OSCE participating States to consider, as appropriate, becoming Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and to its Additional Protocol.

5. We welcome the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) and of the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (S/2017/375), with its recommended guidelines and good practices for effectively countering the ways that terrorist groups and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities use their narratives to encourage, motivate and recruit others to commit terrorist acts. We invite participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation to actively engage in and reinforce their work to address these challenges, in particular the spread of terrorist narratives, and to this aim undertake appropriate national and international measures, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in line with the relevant UNSC resolutions, in particular UNSCR 2354, and consistent with relevant OSCE commitments. We invite OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources and complementing ongoing UN

efforts, to facilitate thematic discussions focused on implementing UNSCR 2354 on a regional level and on exchanging lessons learned and good practices for promoting a comprehensive response to the spread of terrorist and violent extremist ideologies and narratives.

6. We acknowledge that the OSCE, as the largest, most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization, has unique organizational strengths that make it suited to providing a platform for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, and emphasize that the profile of the OSCE in this field could be strengthened further, in accordance with and building upon the existing mandates. In addition, voluntary reporting by OSCE participating States in the Security Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council is an opportunity to share valuable lessons that could be built upon.

7. We stress that OSCE participating States have the primary role in preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, while respecting their obligations under international law, in particular human rights and fundamental freedoms. We reiterate that all participating States should refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts. We reaffirm that those who participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating terrorist acts must be held accountable and brought to justice, on the basis of the principle “extradite or prosecute” in compliance with relevant obligations under international law, as well as applicable domestic legislation. We strongly reaffirm our determination and commitment to pursue a sustained and comprehensive approach and to strengthen co-operation at all relevant levels on preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT. In this context, we emphasize the importance of strengthening inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination.

8. We commend the OSCE’s work in this field, which complements efforts being made by the United Nations, as well as other international organizations. We welcome the OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism (#United CVE) campaign and the OSCE’s efforts to support and build the capacity of civil society actors in preventing VERLT, with emphases on women, youth, and religious and community leaders, as appropriate. We also welcome the OSCE’s work on scenario-based discussions, including table-top exercises aimed at building public-private partnerships, societal resilience, as well as its work on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks. We further acknowledge the role effective community policing can play in identifying individuals at risk of radicalization that leads to terrorism.

9. We reaffirm our intention to take resolute action, in full implementation of UNSCR 2178 and other relevant UNSC resolutions, and consistent with OSCE commitments, in particular the 2014 Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) (MC.DOC/5/14), to counter the threat posed by FTFs to countries of origin, transit and destination, including those returning to their countries of origin or relocating from or to conflict zones. We encourage commitment to co-operating and consistently providing mutual support in preventing and countering terrorism, including by eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists and preventing the recruitment and mobilization of individuals as terrorists, in compliance with obligations under international law, and consistent with OSCE commitments.

10. We underline our resolve to prevent and suppress terrorist financing and we commit ourselves to deepening international and regional co-operation within the UN, the OSCE, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-style regional bodies. We encourage a strengthening of the measures against the financing of international terrorist groups, in accordance with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. We also encourage swift, effective and comprehensive implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) standards, in the OSCE area and worldwide. We welcome the strengthening of the co-operation between the OSCE and the UNODC in offering capacity-building on countering terrorist financing in the OSCE area and for the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

11. We note with increasing concern the multifaceted nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, as described in relevant UNSC resolutions. In this context, we invite participating States to make full use of available multilateral and bilateral mechanisms and data-sharing systems and to contribute to existing databases and update them systematically, while fully respecting their obligations under international law, including the right to be free from arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy.

12. We remain committed to ensuring that national criminal justice systems are based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees and are effectively complemented by appropriate preventive measures. We stress the importance of the development and maintenance of effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems, as well as of ensuring effective prison management consistent with applicable

international law and national legislation, as a fundamental basis of any strategy to prevent and counter terrorism and VERLT.

13. We emphasize the importance of a sustained, multidimensional, and comprehensive approach to preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, aimed at effectively addressing all internal and external conditions conducive to their spread, in accordance with applicable international law and consistent with OSCE commitments, and while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify terrorism or VERLT. We also emphasize the importance of developing tailored and human rights-compliant strategies, policies and programmes, including a gender perspective, in line with applicable international law and domestic legislation, designed to reduce the appeal of terrorism and VERLT.

14. We emphasize the importance of building whole of society resilience to terrorism and VERLT, as well as of fostering the role of civil society in supporting a global campaign against terrorism, and the need to further promote public-private partnerships. We underscore the importance of involving civil society, in particular families, youth, women, victims of terrorism, and religious, cultural and educational leaders, as well as the media and the private sector, in preventing terrorism and VERLT, as applicable.

15. We recognize the need to foster an environment that is not conducive to terrorism and, in this context, stress the importance of counter-narratives which should aim not only to rebut terrorist messages but also to amplify positive narratives, in order to provide alternatives and address issues of concern to audiences who are targeted by terrorist narratives. We encourage participating States to adopt measures to counter terrorist narratives complying with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law and consistent with OSCE commitments. We emphasize the value of public-private partnerships in countering terrorist narratives, and the need to involve a wide range of actors, including families, youth, women and religious, cultural and educational leaders. Where appropriate, participating States could engage and co-operate with religious authorities and community leaders possessing relevant expertise in crafting and delivering effective counter-narratives.

16. We stress the importance of the role played by the media, civil society, religious groups, the private sector and educational institutions in efforts to enhance dialogues and broaden understanding, and in promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Fully respecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression, we stress the necessity to act co-operatively, including with ICT and

social media companies, in accordance with international law, to continue to develop and implement practical measures to counter the exploitation of the Internet and other information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes, including to commit, incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts.

17. We recognize that efforts to prevent terrorism and VERLT can benefit from increasing youth participation and promoting their sense of belonging to societies, including by the creation of an enabling environment and opportunities for youth to participate and engage voluntarily and freely in public life and in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles and the rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, and dialogue and mutual respect; such efforts can also benefit from the facilitation of youth access to social services and employment and from support being given to youth-led and youth-focused awareness-raising initiatives, including through the Internet and social media. We also underscore the important role of education in building relevant skills, such as critical thinking, media literacy, and the sense of responsibility, in order to enable youth to reject terrorist narratives and challenge them more effectively. In this context, we underscore the need to enhance the exchange of information, lessons learned and good practices on how to effectively engage with youth in preventing terrorism and VERLT.

18. We condemn all the acts, methods and practices of terrorist groups, including indiscriminate or targeted killings, torture, kidnapping and hostage-taking, abductions, and acts of violence which cause destruction and displace people. We express deep concern that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are known to be part of the ideology of certain terrorist groups, and are used as an instrument to increase their power in supporting the financing of terrorism, recruitment and the destruction of communities. We recognize the differential impact terrorism and VERLT have on women and children, with particular respect to such matters as violations and abuses of human rights, and acknowledge that women and children are often directly targeted by terrorist groups. We highlight the need to consider evidence-based policies in mechanisms and strategies for preventing terrorism and VERLT, as appropriate, in dealing with female, juvenile recruits and returnees. Children formerly associated with terrorist groups, or who have been forced to travel to conflict zones affected by terrorist attacks, should be treated in a manner consistent with their rights, dignity and needs.

19. We encourage States to co-operate in efforts to address the threat posed by terrorists, including relocating and returning FTFs, by, *inter alia*, developing and implementing, after prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies,

policies and programmes before, during and after imprisonment and as part of non-custodial measures of justice. Such programmes should be compliant with international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. They should also ensure national ownership and address specific concerns, vulnerabilities and needs of men, women and children, including accompanying family members of FTFs, as well those of incarcerated offenders, as appropriate. A comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach may benefit from the concerted efforts of those best placed to bring about successful outcomes, such as counter-terrorism practitioners from law enforcement bodies and criminal justice systems, social workers and civil society, including families, teachers, local communities, women, non-governmental organizations and religious, cultural and educational leaders, within their competencies. In this regard, we also emphasize the importance of further research, thematic discussions and sharing of good practices and international guidelines, as well as of tailored technical assistance offered by relevant international organizations, including the OSCE. To this end, we invite the OSCE executive structures to work with and assist the OSCE participating States on these matters, upon request, within existing mandates and available resources.

20. We welcome the activities pursued by OSCE executive structures, including OSCE institutions, within existing mandates and available resources, in support of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

21. We recognize the importance of subregional efforts to counter the transnational threat of terrorism. We therefore encourage and empower OSCE executive structures, within their mandates and available resources, to facilitate subregional co-operation to prevent and counter terrorism and VERLT, including with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, as relevant.

22. We welcome the efforts of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the field of preventing and countering terrorism and VERLT. Furthermore, we encourage parliamentarians from the OSCE participating States to continue to engage in dialogue with a view to strengthening international and domestic legislation, in order to prevent and counter terrorism and VERLT, to build resilience within our societies, to promote solidarity with victims of terrorism, and to speak out strongly and promptly against intolerance, discrimination, terrorism and VERLT.

23. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to join us in affirming this declaration.