

**Security Council Open Debate
Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts
International Cooperation on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism
November 2014, Security Council Chamber**

Statement by Mr. Logar Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Australia, as President of the Security Council, for organizing this timely and important debate today. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the Chairs of the two Committees for their insightful briefings. Slovenia is fully aware of the severity of the threat that terrorism and violent extremism pose to the global community, and in that context we are grateful for their dedication in tackling this complex threat in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

Allow me to note that Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the observer of the European Union (EU).

Slovenia has already adopted the necessary normative and operational measures and has implemented relevant best practices in the area of preventing and countering terrorism. Together with some EU actors, we are now also seeking the best possible way to strengthen the judicial response to terrorism, and are trying to explore additional measures needed to support the implementation of the recently adopted resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). Furthermore, we believe that the current need to effectively tackle the rapidly expanding phenomenon may also provide a new momentum for exploring ways to find a compromise on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

To effectively counter violent extremism, we have to work with a broad range of partners in order to gain a better understanding of the behaviours, tactics and other indicators that could point to potential terrorist activity and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity. At the same time, we must respect fundamental rights, including the right to free speech and the right to privacy. Groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, for instance, which promote extremist ideologies, represent a threat to moderate Islamic countries, and one of the most effective ways to combat that extremist ideology is with counter-ideology. To that end, the Slovenia-based Euro-Mediterranean University is planning to establish a centre for Islamic, Arab and Middle Eastern studies.

Slovenia is actively contributing to global efforts in countering terrorism and violent extremism, primarily within EU bodies and institutions and at the regional level, and therefore advocates the prompt conclusion of negotiations on the EU Passenger Name Record Directive and improving control of the external borders of the Schengen Area. We see further possibilities for improving the quantity and quality of criminal intelligence exchanged. Slovenia has, in cooperation with nine other EU member States, also put forward a non-paper regarding the EU initiative on sharing best practices on national counter-terrorism arrangements with the Western Balkans countries. As part of that initiative, Slovenia has proposed to use an integrative and complementary approach that will reduce overlaps and duplications, streamline existing and planned activities, and link them with identified priorities, taking into account available funding. This initiative was also one of the prime topics at last week's ministerial meeting of the Salzburg Forum, which Slovenia is currently chairing.

Mr. Quinlan took the Chair.

As one of the concrete activities of the initiative, in October Slovenia hosted a Western Balkans

counter-radicalization workshop co-organized by the European Union and the United States. Furthermore, we have been doing outreach to the region in the field of policing since 2008, when the secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe established its headquarters in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. At the operational level, Slovenia is a promoter of a counter-terrorism initiative based on the declaration of members of the initiative for international police cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism.

We believe that a broader approach is required to prevent and counter radicalization. These efforts must engage the whole of society and the media, including the Internet, and should not be focused merely to prohibiting or removing illegal Internet content. Positive and carefully focused messages need to be spread widely enough to offer vulnerable users an easily accessible alternative to terrorist or violent extremist propaganda. Those efforts should also include cooperation with the experts from the relevant industries.

In the context of voluntary and self-regulatory measures, we should consider creating tools for Internet users to anonymously report Web content related to radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism. In Slovenia, we have already established a so-called hotline Web eye, which enables Internet users to anonymously report hate speech and child sexual abuse images. The main goal is to reduce the amount of such content, in cooperation with police, Internet service providers and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. We believe that similar strategies could also aid in detecting content on radicalization and recruitment.