

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (spoke in Spanish):

I would like to join other delegations in commending you, Mr. President, on your initiative in holding today's open debate and for the concept note (S/2016/306, annex). I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing.

Inevitably, I will be revisiting some issues that have already been covered by previous speakers, and I will therefore try to modify my statement somewhat.

Uruguay firmly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism demands no exceptions to its barbarous brutality. There is no political, ideological, philosophical, religious, ethnic, racial or any other justification for it. We are extremely worried by the disturbing frequency of these devastating acts around the world. Terrorism today has transcended national and regional boundaries to become a global phenomenon, and no State or person can be considered safe from it. We are horrified by the levels of barbarity and cruelty we see in the criminal acts perpetrated by groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida, Boko Haram, the Taliban, Al-Shabaab and others. Terrorists do not distinguish between combatants and civilians. Their attacks, whether targeted or indiscriminate, are aimed at innocent populations and individuals.

The threat is global and our response must be global, too. More than ever, the international community must stand united if it is to reject and combat terrorism, and that requires coordinated action. Terrorism takes many forms and evolves in time and space, which makes it difficult to fight, and its enormous capacity for destruction and grave violations of human rights makes it a serious threat to international peace and security. The complexity of this issue, and the frequency and atrocity of its acts and their terrible consequences should goad the international community to redouble its efforts to protect its citizens.

We must strengthen and increase our cooperation at every level, between States and among international, regional and subregional organizations, in order to share best practices and to strengthen States' national capacities for preventing and suppressing terrorism in all its forms. We must also consider the participation of organizations that represent civil society, the private sector, academia, educational institutions, community and religious leaders, young people and women. We would especially like to emphasize the importance of the role of women in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, as the Security Council recognized in resolution 2242 (2015). We share the belief in the importance of ensuring women's empowerment as a central factor in strategies to combat terrorism and violent extremism. We would also like to highlight the crucial role that religious leaders should play in fighting violent extremism, without ignoring the fact that political and social unrest, economic problems and cultural decadence create fertile ground for terrorism to grow.

We appreciate the Organization's efforts and actions conducted through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and all the United Nations entities that go to make it up, as well as those of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the various sanctions committees. We support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and await the results of its review in June. We are committed to the efforts aimed at strengthening its implementation and we understand the importance of acting collectively. We would also like to emphasize that the fight against terrorism must be conducted with respect for and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Prevention must be a key element in any strategy for combating terrorism, along with the pursuit and prosecution of the perpetrators of terrorist acts. Every State has a responsibility to prevent the emergence internally of extremist ideologies that can incite terrorist speech or methods. It is important to formulate national prevention strategies with the support of the United Nations and by sharing best practices and technical assistance where necessary.

We appreciate the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We join the General Assembly in urging States to refrain from financing or encouraging terrorist activities, and from supporting them in any other way or by providing training for them. We know that States must also focus on combating domestic complicity with terrorist groups, wherever they may be.

The fight against terrorism must be won in the realm of ideas and with respect for the law. We therefore emphasize the importance of the role of education and public debate as a means of combating extremism and intolerance. We must raise awareness of the value of human life and banish indifference. We stress how crucial it is that States have judicial frameworks and stable, functional institutional structures. It is also vital to develop and strengthen international cooperative judicial instruments and effective mechanisms for border controls and financial oversight regimes.

Uruguay expresses its great readiness to contribute within its abilities to the fight against this scourge. In that respect, it is developing a national strategy and striving to closing the identified gaps in its institutional capacity.

Uruguay recognizes that in combating terrorism, it is essential to attack its funding sources and its involvement in organized crime, which threatens the transparency of the economic and financial system and undermines public order and security.

Uruguay actively participates in regional and multilateral entities related to security issues in general and terrorism in particular, and maintains bilateral exchanges of information and good practices. It has also made progress in its accession to various instruments relating to the international fight against terrorism, most recently the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which came into force in my country on 3 April.

Uruguay also seeks to increase its deterrent capacity against terrorism and organized crime, in which border control is key. Uruguay recently installed the most up-to-date passenger control systems in its airports for immigration purposes and used by Interpol under the rubrics automated border control, passenger name recorder and advance passenger information.

The task of combating and eliminating international terrorism is large and complex. The onus lies with all members of the international community. Multilateralism is a fundamental principle of Uruguay's foreign policy and the keystone of its international relations. In that regard, Uruguay approaches this vital challenge with commitment, solidarity respect for international law and human rights.

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