

**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. Korosi Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations*

I would like to thank Australia for convening this open debate on counter-terrorism. While I fully support the statement to be delivered later by the observer of the European Union, I wish to add a few observations in my national capacity.

To combat and uproot terrorism we must apply a broad spectrum of economic, financial, social, educational, administrative and legal measures — and force, if necessary. Much has been said on those aspects today. Right now, I would like to focus on some legal elements, particularly concerning accountability for crimes committed by terrorist actors. All who commit criminal acts or acts of terror — or who merely think about joining a terrorist group — must be aware that the day when they have to give account for the crimes committed will inevitably come. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted in 2013, “Terrorism festers where conflicts are endemic and where human rights, human dignity and human life are not protected and impunity prevails” (*S/PV.6900, p. 2*).

Based on that often-repeated observation, Hungary appreciates the robust measures and comprehensive approach taken by the Security Council in resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). My country also commends the Council’s stronger focus on accountability in the fight against terrorism. Resolution 2170 (2014) reinforces the concept that widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian populations because of their ethnic or political background, religion or belief may constitute a crime against humanity, and it emphasizes the importance of accountability. It also urges all States to cooperate and bring to justice those who perpetrate, organize or sponsor terrorist acts of any kind.

Those two resolutions have already become important reference points and a mobilizing force for accountability, as we have seen in the recommendations contained in the newly published report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic on the activities of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). However, the Commission of Inquiry seems to be convinced that besides domestic action and regional international cooperation, as outlined in two resolutions, international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, should also be engaged. That buttresses the requests that the Council has already heard on the need to act decisively when accountability is in jeopardy and, as the Secretary-General has put it, impunity prevails. Furthermore, we have no reason to doubt that the fact-finding mission requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-22/1 will find alarming circumstances related to ISIL activities in Iraq. Iraq and the international community will therefore have to ensure ISIL’s accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against, in particular, women, children and religious and ethnic minorities.