

**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. Asselborn Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations

I am grateful to you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to organize this open debate. Luxembourg, like Australia, believes the fight against terrorism and violent extremism is a priority. We commend the presidential statement we have just adopted at Australia's initiative, aimed at strengthening action on the part of the international community (S/PRST/2014/23). I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing on the United Nations response to the threat of terrorism, which highlighted the value the United Nations adds in this area. I also thank Mr. Gary Quinlan, Permanent Representative of Australia and Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and resolution 1989 (2011), concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and Ms. Raimonda Murmokaitė, Permanent Representative of Lithuania and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, for their informative briefings and determined action. I welcome the presence here today of my Argentine colleague, Mr. Héctor Timerman.

I associate myself with the statement to be delivered later by the observer of the European Union. The threat of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaida and its affiliates is a source of growing concern. While the terrorist phenomenon is certainly not new, the problem that such groups ravaging Iraq and Syria pose differs in nature and scale from threats that the international community has faced in the past. I thank the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) for its most recent report (see S/2014/815), which does a good job of analysing that what distinguishes the threat posed by such groups is the nexus they have established between funding and control of large areas of territory and populations, as well as the support they get from the more than 15,000 foreign fighters, from more than 80 countries, who have joined their sinister cause. Last year, a young couple and their child left Luxembourg for Syria, where the father of the family very quickly died in fighting between terrorist groups — such a waste, such a lack of respect for human life and such a terrible message for that man's child. The groups' extreme ideology is exacerbating sectarian tensions and helping to destabilize the region even more. Indeed, it is difficult to understand the attraction of such barbarity to anyone.

The atrocities committed by those terrorist groups have shocked us all. I will mention only the most recent example, ISIL's disgusting execution of an American humanitarian aid worker, Abdul-Rahman Kassig, who was captured while he was working to help the Syrian people. We must act together to combat this threat, and our response must be commensurate with the challenge. In the Security Council, the adoption of resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) has helped strengthen the international counter-terrorism framework aimed at containing the threat posed by ISIL, the Al-Nusra Front and the influx of foreign fighters. We must now work together to ensure that the measures outlined in those resolutions can take full effect. In that regard, I would like to thank the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate for their preliminary analysis and actions

supporting the implementation of resolution 2178 (2104).

For its part, Luxembourg has just completed a review of its entire legal framework in the light of the provisions of resolution 2178 (2014). Based on that, we have begun to review and adapt our legislative and regulatory framework in order to take full account of the Council's measures addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. The goal is to prevent those who want to leave to fight alongside terrorist groups from reaching conflict zones. We must also ensure that acts preparing, training and recruiting for terrorism are effectively prosecuted and punished. Lastly, our relevant authorities are working on a strategy to combat extremist radicalization based on both preventive and punitive measures, which will include establishing a mentoring and outreach network in close consultation with educational institutions and religious communities, and with the support of our National Red Cross Society.

Data-collection aimed at preventing the travel and transit of foreign terrorist fighters also involves strengthening information-sharing and cooperation among Member States. The European Union is already working on this, including through information exchange within its Schengen Information System and its work on providing data on passenger records. We intend to continue such efforts, particularly when Luxembourg assumes the presidency of the Council of Europe in the second half of 2015.

The Monitoring Team's report rightly emphasizes that we must redouble our efforts to block terrorist groups' sources of financing, such as oil smuggling, donations, trafficking in antiquities, taxing populations living under their yoke and, worst of all, the despicable trafficking of women and children. Luxembourg has adopted a complete and consistent set of legislative and regulatory measures in the struggle against money-laundering and terrorist financing. We pay particular attention to their effective implementation. Those measures fully take into account the declaration adopted by the Financial Action Task Force on 24 October in Paris, expressing deep concern at the financing generated by and provided to the terrorist group Daesh.

I would like to conclude by reiterating a point that the Prime Minister of Luxembourg already made two months ago at the Security Council summit held on 24 September (see S/PV.7272), which was echoed today by the Secretary-General. This point seems essential to me: that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law need to be an integral part of our counter-terrorism strategy if we want that strategy to achieve its aim. Otherwise, we run the risk of promoting a sense of injustice and impunity, which in turn fuels radicalization and the spread of terrorism. Now is not the time to fan the flames of violent extremism. On the contrary, we need to use all of the tools at our disposal at the international, regional, national and local levels to extinguish the noxious fire of terrorism.