

**Security Council Meeting on Peace and Security – Terrorist Acts**  
**Monday, September 27, 2010**

***Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations***

I thank you, Sir, for the leadership that you and Turkey have shown this year as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. I also thank you for bringing us here today to focus on what is a shared mission to combat terrorism and violent extremism. We are called to this mission as individual nations and as a community of nations to protect our citizens, strengthen our security, foster stability in unstable places and help to create the conditions for long-term progress.

I want to thank the Secretary-General and his staff here at the United Nations, because after all the United Nations is our premier forum and is valuable for sharing best practices and helping nations that struggle with terrorism to build their capacity to respond to threats. The United Nations has recently taken steps to advance these goals by integrating counter-terrorism throughout its work to address peace and security challenges worldwide, while at the same time promoting transparency and improving coordination within the United Nations system and with the national counter-terrorism teams on the ground in communities around the world.

I want to speak briefly about the progress made with one critical counter-terrorism tool — the sanctions list of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities. This list must evolve as the threat posed by these groups evolves, so we are pleased that the 1267 Committee actively updates the list. So far this year, 45 names have been removed and 17 have been added. We commend the Committee for creating the post of Ombudsperson to receive petitions for individuals and entities that want to be de-listed. We applaud the inclusion of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and its leaders on the list, and we encourage Member States to provide regular updates to the Committee to ensure that the list remains accurate.

This regime, as with all of our joint efforts, is only as strong as our shared commitment. Today, let me emphasize that the United States is committed to working through multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, to confront the threats posed. We are also committed to strengthening this multilateral architecture. We believe that it can do better, so although we are very supportive we want to work with all here to improve it, since we also believe that countering terrorism is not a task that any country achieves on its own. It is a global challenge. It calls for all nations to be vigilant and creative, as well as receptive to new ideas, willing to set aside failed strategies, and be open with each other about the threats we face and how we are addressing them. We are far more likely to succeed in thwarting terrorist networks like Al-Qaida and its syndicate of organizations if we work together to track their actions, share intelligence, disrupt their schemes, and put their leaders out of action.

These groups have a global view, and we must have one too. That begins with a shared understanding of the big picture. Counter-terrorism demands a comprehensive approach, as reflected in the draft presidential statement that will be adopted at the conclusion of today's meeting. Therefore, we need intelligence operations capable of discovering terror plots, military and law enforcement officers trained and ready to stop them, border control officials who can spot potential dangers, justice systems that can fairly and effectively prosecute criminals, and corrections systems that can then detain those who have been arrested and/or convicted. We have to do more to develop these institutions and capacities and help each other by mobilizing expertise and resources.

But, at the same time, and beyond these measures, we have to realize that countering terrorism means more than stopping terrorists. It means stopping people from becoming terrorists in the first place. That requires addressing the political, economic and social conditions that make people vulnerable to exploitation by extremists. For people whose lives are characterized by frustration or desperation, and for people who believe that their Governments are unresponsive or repressive, Al-Qaida and other groups may offer an appealing view, but it is a view rooted in destruction and we have to provide an alternative view that is rooted in hope, opportunity and possibility.

That means enacting policies that create new opportunities for people to build a better future for themselves, strengthening our commitment to core values, particularly human rights and the rule of law. We cannot sacrifice those values in our zeal to stop terrorists. Our values are what make us different from those who are trying to tear down so much of the progress that has been made over the course of history — and I have to add, especially for women and girls.

So as we work to defeat terrorists worldwide, we cannot abandon our values; we must defend them. Each of our countries represented around the Security Council table today has felt the impact of terrorism or violent extremism. Our citizens have been attacked and our cities threatened, and those threats will, unfortunately, continue. However, our determination to protect our people and our common humanity are greater than those who seek to harm us. I think that if we are smart and thorough in our approach and continue our work together, we can reduce and eventually end the threat of terrorism.

I again thank both the Secretary-General, and in particular you, Mr. President, for pulling us together to talk about this today.