



S

**Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
to the United Nations**

685 3rd Ave., Suite 1108, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 •

svgmission@gmail.com | <http://svg-un.org>

Statement

by

H.E. Ms. Halimah DeShong

Deputy Permanent Representative

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

United Nations Security Council
February 7th, 2020
New York

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

I thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Executive Director Madam Coninx for their briefing. We are especially grateful to civil society representative, Mrs. Mona Freij for her briefing, we thank you for your work, the powerful words you share and applaud the bravery of all the women who stand against the worst excesses of ISIL (Da'esh).

Today's meeting is, undoubtedly, an important opportunity for the Security Council to reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of violence, including terrorism.

Indeed, despite all our efforts, terrorism remains a pressing challenge and one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. As noted in the latest Secretary-General's report, the issue of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) remains acute. An estimated one half to two thirds of the more than 40,000 who joined the so-called "caliphate" are alive. This means that foreign terrorist fighters are on the move, returning home or relocating to other theatres of conflict.

With the current assessment of the financial reserves available to ISIL varying from \$100 to \$300 million, we encourage all Member States to fully adhere to their obligations under resolution 2462 (2019). It is incumbent upon us to ensure that those financing, planning, perpetrating and supporting terrorist acts are brought to justice.

At the same time, we wish to alert the Council's attention to the fact that well-meaning but ill-fitting regulatory attempts to combat the financing of terrorism have had unintended effect on the banking system in small island locations. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, like many countries around the world, has put mechanisms in place to combat these scourges. The establishment of our Financial Intelligence Unit is a critical tool in this area.

My delegation strongly supports the Accra Initiative to address threats of terrorism and transnational organized crime in West Africa. The launch of a joint project with UNCCT and INTERPOL, for implementation in 2020 to facilitate information-exchange on foreign terrorist fighters in Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East, is one that we particularly hope will make a positive impact in the region.

We also applaud UNITAD's investigative efforts, including its role in collecting key documentary, digital, forensic and testimonial material, in support of domestic proceedings to hold ISIL accountable for its crimes.

Saint and the Grenadines is of the firm view that addressing the multidimensional threats to international peace and security (in this instance, those resulting from terrorism) requires gender-aware and gender-responsive analysis and action. Action and operational plans must inhere gender-just approaches which centre the participation of women, promote survivor-centred remedial and reparatory actions against sexual and gender-based violence, and address the overall differential involvement in and effects of terrorism on women, men and children. Connected to this point is the need to create actions attentive to other forms difference and inequalities which produce the conditions of dispossession, often exploited by terrorist organisations.

Global and regional security challenges have increased in recent years, becoming more complex, multidimensional and fluid. In response to the concerns of terrorism and in an effort to enhance and guarantee a safe and free region, the CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CT Strategy) was implemented in 2018. Formulated in keeping with and in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, the CT strategy incorporates prevention, deterrence, denial, disruption, defence and ready response. We welcome the upcoming joint Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) High-Level Regional Conference on Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in March.

The UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represents the most comprehensive and effective decision taken by the international community to eliminate this dangerous threat. We welcome its seventh review, which will provide an additional opportunity to consider an improved and more effective translation of its four pillars into concrete actions and measures. In our view, the issues being discussed here today can contribute to a meaningful outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is of the view that the fight against terrorism calls for hard work based on, among other things, collective action and intelligence sharing to find and identify the perpetrators of the threat, to pinpoint their locations and to understand their strategies and goals.

Thank you.