



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 October 2021
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 111

Measures to eliminate international terrorism**Letter dated 27 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the need for concerted counter-terrorism action by the international community (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 111.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the need for concerted counter-terrorism action by the international community

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that international terrorism has become one of the most dangerous threats to the international community to emerge since the conclusion of the Second World War. Russia, like many other nations of the world, has repeatedly fallen victim to attacks organized by international terrorist organizations. Acts of terrorism are increasingly perpetrated using information and communications technologies and cyberspace is becoming a launching pad for attacks on public infrastructure and administration systems and for terrorist propaganda.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation affirms that the threat of terrorism can be countered through concerted action by States, in strict compliance with the norms and principles of international law, with the United Nations and the Security Council, the principal organ entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, in the central coordinating role. On 11 September 2001, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, speaking in reaction to the terrorist attacks in the United States of America, noted that the attacks underscored, once again, the urgency of the proposal made by Russia that the international community unite in its efforts to counter terrorism, calling it a twenty-first century plague. Following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, our country was the first to offer the United States its cooperation in combating terrorism.

It should be noted that the formation of a united front in combating terrorism was thwarted primarily owing to the unilateral actions of Western States, which supported anti-government forces in a number of States in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America instead of combating terrorism.

Disregard for international law and blatant interference by the United States and its allies in the internal affairs of sovereign States have set the stage for a surge in terrorism worldwide. Unilateral actions by the United States and its allies have proved disastrous for Afghanistan. In nearly 20 years of military presence there, the United States was unable to solve a single problem facing the country under its control. Meanwhile, civilian casualties resulting from military operations inside Afghanistan outnumbered terrorist casualties and heroin production increased several-fold.

Recently, a dangerous trend has emerged whereby the use of force and terrorist methods are being employed against sovereign States. This aggressive policy, which has the support of the West, has led to serious attempts by the Ukrainian authorities to commit and encourage sabotage in Russian territory, including in the Republic of Crimea and a number of other constituent entities of the Russian Federation, and to organize energy and water blockades of the Crimean Peninsula. Rather than rigorously implement the Minsk agreements, Ukraine has opted to use the language of brute force as the primary means of “dialogue” with the inhabitants of Donbass.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes that such policies by Western countries are destructive and that only actions by States founded on international law are effective in combating terrorism. The situation that arose several years ago in the Syrian Arab Republic is a case in point. The support

provided by the Russian Federation to Syria in accordance with its international obligations helped to rid most of this country's territory of terrorists.

On 28 September 2015, speaking before the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, proposed the establishment of a genuinely broad international coalition to combat terrorism.

This initiative is still pertinent today. The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that it is important to give it a parliamentary dimension. The first steps to that end were discussed at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, held on 9 September 2021 in Vienna, Austria. The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation welcomes the signing on the margins of the Summit of a memorandum of understanding to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation recognizes the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism efforts through cooperation with regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, established at our country's initiative, has proven its effectiveness.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation recognizes that counter-terrorism efforts significantly benefit from the convergence of national legal systems through the use of model laws adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls for the discussion of the challenges facing counter-terrorism efforts to continue during the World Conference on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, to be held from 16 to 18 May 2022 in Saint Petersburg, noting that dialogue between cultures and religions is essential for preventing conflicts and the spread of terrorist ideas, especially among young people.