

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, in my capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of July 2019, I will convene an open debate on 9 July 2019 on the theme “Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime” under the agenda item “Threats to international peace and security”.

In order to provide guidance on the open debate, a concept note has been prepared (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations



## **Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme “Linkages between international terrorism and organized crime”, to be held on 9 July 2019**

#### **I. Background**

1. The global terrorist threat continues to evolve and diversify, in particular with terrorist groups conducting their activities in an increasingly sophisticated manner and expanding their networks. In that regard, the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime, including transnational organized crime, as sources of financial and logistical support must be identified and prevented. The Security Council has recognized and expressed concern over the linkages between terrorism and organized crime in several of its resolutions, including resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#), [2195 \(2014\)](#), [2322 \(2016\)](#), [2368 \(2017\)](#) and [2462 \(2019\)](#), as well as in a statement by the President of the Council ([S/PRST/2018/9](#)).

2. In particular, the Council has recognized the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and has addressed how terrorist activities relate to different crimes, such as trafficking in persons (resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#)), illicit drug trafficking ([S/PRST/2010/4](#), [S/PRST/2012/16](#) and [S/PRST/2013/22](#)), trafficking in small arms and light weapons (resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#)) and even trafficking in cultural property (resolution [2347 \(2017\)](#)), money-laundering and smuggling of migrants.

3. In its resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), the Council called upon Member States to enhance the coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to the linkages (or close connection) between international terrorism and transnational organized crime.

4. Similarly, in its resolution [2195 \(2014\)](#), the Council encouraged Member States and relevant organizations to enhance cooperation and strategies to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, and to build the capacity to secure their borders against and investigate and prosecute such terrorists and transnational organized criminals working with them. More recently, in the addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (see [S/2018/1177](#), annex), adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee in December 2018, Member States were called upon to continue to conduct research and collect information to enhance knowledge of and better understand the nature and scope of the links that might exist between terrorists and transnational organized criminals.

5. There is, therefore, an urgent need to better understand and address those evolving linkages, as well as the manner and extent to which they vary in different regions and contexts, while recognizing that terrorism and organized crime have different motivations and legal regimes.

#### **II. Objective**

6. The objective of the open debate is to discuss the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime in its different manifestations and in different regions so as to better address the challenges posed by those two phenomena. The objective

is also to identify ways to strengthen cooperation between and among Governments, as well as between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

7. It will also afford an opportunity to refer to the role of the private sector and public-private cooperation in preventing and impeding terrorists from benefiting from organized crime and to actions taken by Member States to maintain a safe and humane environment in prisons, considering that they should not be grounds for further radicalization.

8. All such discussions are to be held while bearing in mind that any measures taken to combat terrorism and organized crime should comply with international law and the obligation to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

9. The open debate will also offer an opportunity to share and highlight experiences, lessons learned, good practices and context-specific challenges encountered by Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with a view to fostering technical assistance, capacity-building activities and information-sharing tools or platforms that might benefit Member States in the context of the counter-terrorism and anti-crime activities of the United Nations.

### **III. Questions and issues for discussion**

10. Member States are invited to reflect and consider the topic, including by touching upon some of the following questions:

- How can Member States, the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations jointly address the linkages between international terrorism and organized crime?
- How can the linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime be identified, and how can activities in that regard be effectively disrupted?
- How can the United Nations contribute to cross-regional cooperation and information-sharing platforms, with full respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms?
- What are the best practices and lessons learned, and how can they be better disseminated?
- What is the role of regional and subregional organizations in that regard, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, in assessing the level of threats in their respective regions and contributing to the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?

### **IV. Briefers**

- Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
- International consultant, Tamara Makarenko