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President: Mr. Kőrösi (Hungary)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ousman (Niger), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda Item 121 (continued)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/77/266 and A/77/718)

Mr. Khng (Singapore): Singapore thanks the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia for their work as co-facilitators of the resolution for the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), which has led to the adoption of the important resolution 77/298.

Eliminating terrorism requires continuous effort and cooperation on the part of all Member States at the national, regional and international levels. In today's fraught geopolitical climate, it is all the more important to work together to ensure that we do not allow terrorist groups to exploit vulnerabilities that may have been exacerbated by global challenges. In that context, the GCTS remains an important tool to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. Its regular review allows Member States to ensure that the GCTS remains relevant and in line with our priorities. I have three brief comments on the resolution that has been adopted.

First, we are happy to note that the resolution for the eighth review was adopted by consensus. That sends a strong message that Member States stand firmly united against the global threat of terrorism.

Secondly, there is a need for a balanced implementation of all four pillars of the GCTS. We also stress that the principal responsibility for the implementation of the GCTS rests with Member States.

Thirdly, we welcome the three-year review cycle on the resolution, which would line up the next GCTS review with the Strategy's twentieth anniversary. We look forward to exploring how we can enhance our common strategic and operational approach to fighting terrorism in 2026, while preserving the balance among the four pillars of the GCTS.

Singapore remains committed to fighting international terrorism. We have adopted a whole-of-Government approach to maintain close coordination among Government agencies in dealing with threats posed by terrorism. At the same time, we actively engage the community and commercial and private parties to more effectively manage those threats. To complement our counter-terrorism strategy, the Singapore Government also completed work on our national strategy on countering the financing of terrorism last year and this has since been published. The strategy serves as a road map to prevent, detect and deter terrorism financing and includes the following points: coordinated and comprehensive risk identification; a strong legal and sanctions framework; a robust regulatory regime and risk-targeted supervisory framework; decisive law

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enforcement actions; and international partnerships and cooperation. On the last, Singapore has established strong working relationships with international counterparts to facilitate cooperation in the countering of the financing of terrorism and to ensure that we are updated on terrorism financing typologies.

Singapore also continues to be active in regional and international cooperation on counter-terrorism, given that international cooperation and intelligence-sharing are crucial to preventing and deterring terror attacks. Within the South-East Asian region, we participate actively in and support regional counter-terrorism activities, particularly those organized under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. At the United Nations, we are of course supportive of the GCTS and participated in the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States that took place earlier this week. Singapore will continue to work with the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

Mr. Sakowicz (Poland): Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (EU). I would like to take this opportunity to share some remarks in my national capacity. However, before doing so, I would like to join previous speakers in thanking the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia for the immense work and efforts they put into this year's review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). We also welcome the adoption of the eighth GCTS review resolution earlier today (resolution 77/298).

Two years ago, when we debated the same topic (see A/75/PV.88), nobody could have imagined that a year later we would witness the horrible war in Europe due to Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. But it happened indeed and, as a matter of fact, it means that the classic threats to security unexpectedly came back and became the number one challenge to regional and global security. Russia has chosen the path of full-scale war against its neighbour, and such a situation has not only led to instability, vulnerability and the burying of existing agreements, as well as the suffering of innocent people, but, in the context of today's debate, it has also inspired and even encouraged many terrorist organizations worldwide. They exploit the momentum when most of the world is trying to help the victim and stop the aggressor. We are concerned that this could bring alarming results, and in a not-so-distant future.

Obviously, that does not mean that the fight against terrorism has somehow lost its relevance. There are many examples of terrorist activities worldwide. Daesh, Al-Qaida and many affiliates, despite their losses, continue to operate and even to rebuild their structures. They have changed tactics and recruit new members, including by using propaganda online. We also cannot turn a blind eye to the serious threat from politically or ideologically motivated violent extremism and terrorism.

There are regions demanding more assistance and help to fight terrorist groupings. One example is Africa. Despite significant setbacks, the terrorists continue to conduct attacks in various places all over that continent. An attack on a school in western Uganda only a few days ago was yet another appalling example of those acts. In addition, some paramilitary forces and mercenaries, like the Russian Wagner Group, contribute to problems and fuel conflicts instead of fighting terror. We need to take the facts and potential consequences into account. No one should doubt, however, that Africa needs more cooperation and initiatives. We support in particular those local-led initiatives that centre prevention and the protection of civilian populations in their counter-terrorism efforts. We are also concerned with the growing threat from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province in Afghanistan and the possible spill-over of its activities into Central Asia.

The United Nations Member States have made enormous progress in fighting terrorism worldwide. Many terrorist cells have been eliminated. Quite a huge humanitarian and stabilization effort has been put together. The experience of the international community calls for a coherent multidisciplinary, multi-agency approach to tackle terrorism effectively, while ensuring that any measures taken respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is important to address all aspects and stages of terrorism. In other words, we need a comprehensive approach to terrorism, including the problem of its root causes. The major goal should be to help people in need. Poland fully supports a whole-of-society approach and calls for improved collaboration and cooperation between Governments and their agencies, the private sector and civil society. The need for progress remains regarding information-exchange, the sharing of best practice and, last but not least, cooperation on the ground.

New tactics of extremists and terrorists require new responses. For example, we need to look more closely

at the problem of the misuse of new technologies: unmanned aerial vehicles, three-dimensional technology and artificial intelligence, evolving information and communication tools, in particular with respect to the Internet, to name only a few. New efforts should be taken to strengthen available measures to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring financial support, including the use of cryptocurrencies.

We are concerned about the spread of extremist propaganda and its impact on the young generations. Hence, it is our task and obligation to create an environment that is not conducive to terrorism and radical extremism and to build counter-narratives to terrorism and, in a broader perspective, societal resilience, with the wide participation of many actors, including Governments, families, youth, women and religious, cultural and educational leaders, media and the private sector.

The Polish view on the fight against terrorism is clear — we need to continue strong and to have focused cooperation and solidarity. Our commitment to preventing and fighting terrorism remains unwavering. Poland will continue to work towards that end with the United Nations, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Global Coalition against Daesh and other partners whose cooperation brings added value to countering this threat.

We are aware of the increased stabilization needs. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, we are willing to continue our participation in those efforts. Since 2012, we have been involved in various forms of humanitarian aid and stabilization pledges to many regions. Our support goes through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the United Nations, the EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross and others. Only this year, the Polish Ministry for Foreign Affairs designated over \$1.85 million for humanitarian assistance to support stabilization efforts in countries of the Middle East affected by terrorist activities. We are convinced that our joint efforts serve the United Nations community well in fighting effectively against violent extremism and terrorism. We do hope that the next review brings even more tangible results in that regard.

Mr. Imohe (Nigeria): Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) (see A/77/PV.80).

I take this opportunity to express my utmost appreciation to the co-facilitators of the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), Ambassador Tarek Ladeb of Tunisia and Ambassador Bob Rae of Canada, as well as their experts Mr. Hussein Hirji and Mr. Yassine Salah, for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in leading the eighth review to this point.

First and foremost, Nigeria unequivocally condemns all forms of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. As a nation at the forefront of the international fight against that menace, we remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening multilateral responses to counter terrorism. Throughout the eighth review process of the GCTS, Nigeria has actively and openly participated with a spirit of compromise, recognizing that the need to preserve the Strategy's balance and to enhance the tools for its implementation has been paramount.

The consensus adoption of the resolution (resolution 77/298), a tradition since 2006, once again sends a resounding condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations on a global scale. Though the path to consensus posed challenges, as highlighted by several delegations, particularly that of the OIC, we welcome the introduction of significant new elements. Specifically, the recognition that locally initiated, locally championed and locally owned solutions, responsive to local needs, are paramount in the effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies. That is a testament to the General Assembly's commitment to maintaining a living document that is attuned to the current threat landscape.

Furthermore, we commend the Secretary-General for his invaluable reports (A/77/266 and A/77/718) on the implementation of the GCTS and the threat posed by Daesh, which provide reliable guidance for the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States, the United Nations and the wider international community. We also extend our gratitude to the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and other specialized United Nations agencies within the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact for their

continued support in addressing Nigeria's counter-terrorism challenges.

We must continually bear in mind that no country or region is immune to the ever-evolving threat of terrorism. Multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, with a focus on prevention and building resilience, plays a critical role in thwarting the spread of terrorism. Nigeria remains committed to implementing a coherent strategy that curbs terrorism comprehensively, addressing the conditions conducive to its growth. Prevention stands as the foundation of our strategy, and we consistently enhance efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism, strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks and making advancements in screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The passage of the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act in 2022 stands as a significant milestone, establishing the National Counter-Terrorism Centre to better coordinate the establishment and implementation of counter-terrorism policies and strategies in Nigeria. Additionally, the Act provides the necessary legal framework for the creation of our National Sanctions Committee, which is dedicated to implementing Security Council resolutions on countering the financing of terrorism. Moreover, the Act establishes a special victims trust fund, housed within the Office of the Attorney-General, to provide compensation, restitution and damages to victims of terrorism. Furthermore, the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons has been established to strengthen Nigeria's capabilities to curb the illicit movement of small arms and light weapons in the region.

Nigeria places significant emphasis on countering the financing of terrorism, and we are committed to combating the misuse of cyberspace and new technologies by terrorist entities. We will continue to work openly with regional and international partners in addressing the threats posed by Daesh and Al-Qaida in Africa.

While certain Member States' proposals did not find their way into the adopted text, it is essential that we appreciate the process that we undertook, which brought many critical issues to the surface. Member States must take note of those pertinent issues and work towards strengthening national, regional and international responses to address those threats ahead

of the ninth review. We acknowledge the genuine concerns raised during the eighth review regarding the escalating threat of terrorism in Africa, particularly the influence of Daesh and Al-Qaida on affiliate terrorist groups in the region. Those concerns, I believe, have not fallen on deaf ears and may signal the need for greater participation by the Group of African States in the ninth review in 2026, which will coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the GCTS. Moreover, the upcoming African Counter-Terrorism Summit, to be hosted in Abuja by Nigeria and UNOCT in the first quarter of 2024, carries significant importance for the ninth review. The Summit will serve as an opportunity to identify challenges and foster collective action, strengthening national and regional institutions to effectively counter the threat of terrorism in Africa. We eagerly await the participation of African States and key partners in that pivotal event.

In closing, Nigeria reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the balanced implementation of the GCTS along its four pillars, and we eagerly welcome the opportunity for further collaboration with the United Nations, Member States and international partners in eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, not only in Africa but across the entire world.

Mr. Dzhaiani (Ukraine): At the outset let, me join previous speakers in commending the dedicated efforts of Canada and Tunisia as co-facilitators for the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). In our opinion, the adopted document responds in general terms to existing and emerging terrorist threats and offers pathways for a balanced implementation of Member States' obligations under all four pillars of the Strategy. At the same time, due to its consensual nature, the document lacks some important provisions that could make it more relevant and closer to the current global and regional security environment and the evolving trends in international terrorism. Nevertheless, the GCTS remains an important framework for international efforts in the field of countering terrorism in all its forms.

In resolution 77/298, adopted today, we have reconfirmed once again our respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and unity of all States, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The relevance of that provision has significantly increased against the background of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. We have also reaffirmed that any acts of

terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

In that regard, combatting the growing proliferation of State-sponsored terrorism is essential for the success of global counter-terrorism efforts. This particular issue continues to be of high importance to my country, as by now the whole world has seen the purely terrorist methods of warfare used by Moscow in Ukraine. Those include missile shelling of civilian infrastructure, with more than 37,000 attacks throughout the country since the beginning of the invasion. They also include ecocide. On the night of 6 June, Russia blew up the dam of the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant, which is located near the city of Nova Kakhovka in the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region of Ukraine. That brutal terrorist act caused the biggest man-made environmental disaster in Europe in decades, equivalent to the use of a weapon of mass destruction. Russia also arranges local environmental disasters in Ukraine along the entire frontline by mining and blowing up smaller dams and through nuclear blackmail directed, *inter alia*, against other countries.

Russia has deployed up to 40 nuclear weapons carriers on the territory of temporarily occupied Crimea. The deployment of Russian nuclear warheads is also expected on the territory of another country bordering Ukraine. High-ranking officials of the Russian Federation openly threaten the international community with nuclear weapons. Moreover, power units of Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine are currently mined by Russia. That constitutes the real threat of nuclear disaster, not only for Ukraine but far beyond. The international community must not tolerate the State terrorist activity of Moscow in its war against Ukraine. All terrorist acts of the aggressor State must be resolutely condemned and prosecuted.

In conclusion, let me stress that it is our task to ensure that all perpetrators, organizers, mentors and sponsors of terrorist activities, whoever they may be, are brought to justice and that the full adherence to international law is ensured. It is our common and global responsibility.

Mr. Chindawongse (Thailand): I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his reports, as contained in documents A/77/266 and A/77/718. My delegation also notes with appreciation the progress accomplished

by relevant United Nations entities in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), which contributes to global counter-terrorism efforts and thus to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Terrorism knows no borders and respects no boundaries. It is a cause of immense suffering and the destruction and disruption of countless lives of innocent civilians. Easier access to the Internet also opens channels for terrorists to resort to online platforms to propagate their ideologies, exploit the grievances of others, gain sympathy and followers and seek funding. So, what do we need?

First, we need a comprehensive and multifaceted approach encompassing measures to prevent and combat terrorism, including in the digital domain, while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. That is what we need. In the light of the aforesaid, I am pleased to see that those critical components are incorporated into the latest GCTS. Moreover, the adoption today, by consensus, of resolution 77/298, on the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is a testament to the fact that international cooperation is imperative to a comprehensive and sustainable solution to terrorism. I thank in particular the two co-Chairs of the intergovernmental process for their leadership and efforts in that regard.

Thailand is firmly committed to preventing and combating terrorism and wishes to highlight our contributions to the fight against terrorism, as follows.

First, at the national level, we have recently adopted the national guidelines on strengthening co-existence amid social diversity and the new action plan on counter-terrorism for the period 2023–2027. The importance of education and youth empowerment are among other concepts highlighted in the national guidelines. Efforts and resources are dedicated to improving educational standards and promote critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity in order to build resilient societies in which inclusivity and understanding prevail over division and prejudices. The new action plan employs prevention, response and rehabilitation approaches while emphasizing inter-agency cooperation and multi-stakeholder participation to effectively address terrorism. What is embedded in those documents is the promotion of moderation, peaceful expressions, interfaith dialogue and a culture of peace, while fostering an environment where individuals feel

included, valued and empowered — a key concept for a comprehensive and sustainable solution to terrorism.

Secondly, Thailand's commitment to global counter-terrorism efforts extends beyond our borders. We work with our partners to facilitate the sharing of intelligence and best practices, including through the I-24/7 Interpol database to identify and deter foreign terrorist fighters. At the regional and subregional levels, we actively participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meetings on Transnational Crime, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, as well as the subregional meeting on counter-terrorism and transnational security. We also actively participate at the international level, including in the Financial Action Task Force global network and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. Those platforms serve as an important venue for dialogue, coordination and the shaping of effective strategies to address the changing faces of terrorist threats.

Thirdly and lastly, Thailand attaches great importance to capacity-building. We are honoured to be a co-organizer of various counter-terrorism programmes and activities, many of which are with United Nations entities. For example, from 15 to 17 February, our Office of the National Security Council co-hosted a workshop on whole-of-Government crises and strategic communications for preventing and countering violent extremism with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The following month, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organized a training programme with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on national proliferation awareness and commodity identification. We believe that building capacities to prevent and combat terrorism is essential to the effective implementation of the GCTS and to global efforts to fight against terrorism as a whole.

In conclusion, Thailand reaffirms our commitment to preventing and combating terrorism. In that regard, we are inspired by the Secretary-General's call, made earlier this week at the high-level conference on counter-terrorism, to create a future without terrorism. So let us join hands, share experiences and work in synergy and solidarity to ensure that our efforts yield tangible results and that we achieve this future. Together, we can overcome the challenge and threat of terrorism.

Together, we can create a safer, more peaceful and prosperous world for present and future generations.

Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are a constantly evolving threat. The proliferation of terrorist organizations in situations of armed conflict and the increase in attacks identified with the extreme right and white supremacist groups are proof of their dynamic nature. Consequently, the international community is facing different challenges today than those that prevailed in 2006, when the Global Strategy (resolution 60/288) was adopted (see A/60/PV.99). Phenomena such as the use of the Internet for radicalization and the dissemination of hate speech, as well as digital assets to finance terrorist activities, force us to examine the Strategy to ensure that it remains a current, useful tool that is up to the task of the challenges we face today.

Confronting terrorism is, without a doubt, an enormous, global challenge in terms of international peace and security that requires the greatest coordination and cooperation among States, with the full support of the United Nations. It also requires us to adopt a definition of terrorism and, for that reason, it is necessary to conclude the negotiations of a general convention on the matter.

We thank Canada and Tunisia for their work as co-facilitators of the eighth review of the Strategy. Unfortunately, a lack of flexibility and political will stood in the way, preventing resolution 77/298 from reflecting a genuine, substantive update of the Strategy. That negotiation process cannot continue to be a zero-sum exercise. Nevertheless, this space for debate also allows us to take stock of and analyse, with a good dose of self-criticism, the approaches and measures that have been taken in the fight against terrorism — measures that have sometimes implied violations and abuses of the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including refugee law.

In that regard, Mexico is more convinced than ever that prevention is key to effectively and comprehensively addressing this phenomenon. As we have said on previous occasions, the real fight against terrorism will be won through development, education, job opportunities, social justice and gender equality, not with military violence and force. Abusive invocation of the right of self-defence, contained in Article 51 of the

Charter, in the context of the fight against terrorism is unacceptable and sets dangerous precedents for the future. It is imperative that efforts to combat terrorism be carried out strictly within the limits established by international law, thereby avoiding the arousal of feelings of revenge that perpetuate cycles of violence.

We also highlight the importance of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022), which was adopted by the Council in December 2022 (S/PV.9214), in which Mexico participated as an elected member. That resolution was a game-changer in preventing sanctions, including the measures taken by States in the context of combating terrorism, from hindering the provision of humanitarian assistance. That has been a priority for Mexico and one that we have worked on for several years. We therefore welcome that Council resolution, which has the potential to save lives, even in the most difficult conditions.

On the other hand, we reiterate that it is imperative that the measures adopted to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism incorporate a real, intersectional gender analysis that includes

“the roles of men, masculinities and structural gender inequality and stereotypes in radicalization, mobilization and recruitment processes” (A/77/718, para. 62),

as the Secretary-General underscores in his latest report. The fact that the vast majority of those who decide to join extremist organizations and who carry out terrorist attacks are men and young men confirms that we must centre notions of masculinity and gender stereotypes, present in all societies around the world, in our discussions.

In conclusion, Mexico expresses its appreciation to civil society organizations that support prevention efforts. We also take this opportunity to reiterate our support and appreciation to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Above all, my country reaffirms its commitment to the victims of terrorism, to whom we not only have a duty of accountability but also the obligation to commit ourselves to lasting peace and justice on the basis of the full rule of law, with a view to preventing the suffering of other individuals in the future.

Mr. Fifield (Australia): On behalf of Australia, I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives

of Canada and Tunisia for their tireless facilitation of the important resolution 77/298. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov for his leadership on counter-terrorism in the United Nations system. We commend the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities for their efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

Despite some positive developments since the seventh review of the GCTS, terrorism and violent extremism remain a threat to communities around the world. Terrorist groups do not respect national borders, and through the Internet they have global reach. That is why multilateral cooperation and collaboration is critical to achieving our counter-terrorism objectives and to keeping our citizens safe. When the GCTS was first adopted 17 years ago, the international community came together to coordinate a united global effort to counter terrorism and to save lives. During the seventh review of the GCTS, Australia welcomed the inclusion of language on the importance of protecting human rights while countering terrorism, and the recognition that our counter-terrorism measures sometimes impacted negatively on the very communities they aimed to protect. In essence, we recognized that counter-terrorism measures sometimes exacerbated drivers of radicalization. Australia also welcomed language on gender analysis, recognizing that understanding the differentiated drivers and impacts of terrorism helped to make programming more effective. In that regard, Australia welcomes the establishment of the Human Rights and Gender Section in the Office of Counter-Terrorism and hopes that it will drive a gender-responsive approach across the United Nations counter-terrorism work.

Australia welcomed efforts in the eighth review to strengthen our frameworks for understanding and responding to the gender dimensions of terrorism, including how conceptions of masculinity play a role. We were disappointed that the General Assembly was not able to find consensus on that.

Australia welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. We especially welcome the light she has shed on the narrowing of civil society space as a result of counter-terrorism measures. From Australia's perspective, borne out in our experience domestically

and internationally, a whole-of-society approach is critical to effectively preventing violent extremism. Civil society has the best insight into local dynamics and the best solutions, tailored to local communities.

Australia shares the conviction that the United Nations system should be transparent, accountable, effective, efficient and consultative. We welcome the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's efforts to develop strategic policies and strengthen monitoring and evaluation. Australia looks forward to the development of a results framework that could be used across the United Nations system to help stakeholders comprehensively evaluate the implementation of the GCTS, particularly as we approach its twentieth anniversary.

Australia would have liked to see independent oversight of the integration of rule of law, human rights, and gender as cross-cutting elements across the work of the United Nations. We were disappointed that consensus was blocked on that. Australia looks forward to the ninth review of the GCTS in three years' time and hopes that the General Assembly will be able to respond meaningfully to the rapidly evolving terrorist threat.

Ms. Hillyer (New Zealand): The third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies has served as a timely reminder that terrorism and violent extremism are collective challenges that require a united resolve and enduring coordinated action by Member States. But it has also been an opportunity to hear directly from those non-Member States in the room. The very welcome presence of civil society, academia and private sector representatives has brought valuable perspectives, subject matter expertise and practical tools to this shared conversation. Providing space for civil society members to tell us what they are seeing and to help inform global best practice is exactly why these forums are so important.

Equally, this week has been a vital chance to hear and to amplify the voices of victims of terrorism. These discussions have reaffirmed the importance of an inclusive, whole-of-society approach to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism that protects and promotes human rights and is gender-responsive. We have heard diverse perspectives on ways in which the international community can mobilize to prevent radicalization through early intervention and engagement. And it is precisely those perspectives that should help to inform the United Nations Global

Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which serves as a call to action — a shared road map to identify and combat the challenges that we face.

We welcome the adoption of the eighth review of the strategy by consensus (resolution 77/298), and both thank and commend Canada and Tunisia for their leadership and their tireless efforts over this process. We recognize that the text of the resolution represents a compromise for many States. While countries are informed by their own unique perspectives and experiences — and we are collectively strengthened as a result — we also know that terrorism transcends borders. As we have heard so often this week, and indeed in preceding months working to review the Strategy, the global terrorism landscape is rapidly evolving and so, too, must our approach. For the Strategy to be effective in guiding our actions, it must be ambitious and inclusive and reflect the changing nature of terrorism and violent extremism. It must also promote and defend the rights of those we seek to protect. And while robust discussion and debate on those issues are healthy, they cannot be at the expense of our solidarity and shared determination. We cannot afford to cede ground to those who would seek to exploit societal vulnerabilities and cause our citizens harm. As one of many countries to have directly experienced the devastating impacts of terrorism, New Zealand knows first-hand that our work here is not hypothetical.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a living document, and this discussion should and will be ongoing, but today is an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms — and we must.

Mr. Al Shehhi (Oman) (*spoke in Arabic*): On behalf of the delegation of Oman, I would like at the outset to express my thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report before us today contained in document A/77/718, regarding the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). I would like also to thank the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote the performance of the United Nations in combatting terrorism. I also commend the pivotal and important role played by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and Ambassador Voronkov. They help countries to counter terrorism, in line with the relevant resolutions. I also would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Rae, the Permanent Representative of Canada, and Mr. Ladeb,

the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, for their dedicated efforts in facilitating the negotiations leading to the adoption of resolution 77/298.

The Sultanate of Oman has adopted a steadfast policy that condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the justification for it. The Sultanate of Oman is committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. My country has taken every measure to counter terrorism by adopting a system that effectively addresses the danger of terrorism within the public and private sectors, including the institutions of civil society. In that regard, the Sultanate of Oman has adopted a national strategy to combat terrorism that includes systematic, scientific and practical frameworks to combat both terrorism and its financing, in line with the GCTS. We have also joined international conventions and treaties that criminalize extremism and terrorism.

The Sultanate of Oman has adopted a media policy on raising awareness within society of the extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. We also promote the values of tolerance, harmony, unity and convergence among the members of society. We address sectarian strife and hate speech and follow a policy of positive neutrality regarding civil and sectarian disputes in certain regional countries. What happens in those countries is an internal political not a sectarian affair.

The Sultanate of Oman believes that counter-terrorism starts with addressing injustice and achieving international justice. Accordingly, we call on the international community to end political wars and conflicts. We also believe that such continued wars will fuel extremism and extremists. My country calls for respect for all that is sacred without infringement.

In conclusion, the Sultanate of Oman stresses that terrorism is an international problem that can be addressed only through international constructive cooperation that dispels the justifications used by extremist groups to recruit new elements. Resolving political conflicts and international crises, achieving international justice without selectivity, respecting the values of tolerance and coexistence, and addressing hate speech and extremism are the best means to eliminate the danger of terrorism amid the quest of terrorist groups to develop their technological and biological warfare capabilities, including the use of drones.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): We welcome the adoption by consensus of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) (resolution 77/298). We also thank Ambassadors Rae of Canada and Ladeb of Tunisia and their teams for co-facilitating this difficult but important negotiation process.

When the Strategy was adopted in 2006 (resolution 60/288), the counter-terrorism landscape looked very different. Today the threat is more ideologically and geographically diffuse than ever before. Branches and affiliates of Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham remain resilient and determined, especially in Africa and Afghanistan. We are seeing terrorists use new and emerging technology, such as unmanned aerial systems, artificial intelligence and encrypted communications, to radicalize new recruits to violence and commit acts of terrorism.

We must continue our collective efforts to sustain effective counter-terrorism pressure against those adversaries. Through this update to the GCTS, we can keep pace with the evolving threat. The negotiations were fraught, but it was critical that we preserved robust text on the important role of civil society, gender equality and human rights in the resolution.

We are also glad to see the GCTS recognize the Secretary-General's report on terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief (A/77/266) — or what the United States refers to as racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism. The GCTS is clear in condemning terrorism in all its forms and in calling out the danger of violence motivated by religious prejudices. We emphasize the importance of careful research on those phenomena and whole-of-society approaches, including in the field of prevention.

We welcome the Secretary-General's numerous calls on Member States to redouble their efforts to repatriate their nationals from north-eastern Syria. As such, we strongly support the updated text in the GCTS calling on Member States to provide technical assistance and to build capacity to repatriate, rehabilitate, reintegrate and, where appropriate, prosecute foreign terrorist fighters and associated family members. The United States stands ready to assist Member States in their efforts on that front. As the Secretary-General said during his visit to the Jeddah-1 camp in March,

“we must prevent the legacy of yesterday’s fight from fuelling tomorrow’s conflict”.

We are disappointed that the resolution was not updated to include a more significant focus on one of the most pressing emerging challenges we are all dealing with globally — the threat from the use of unmanned aerial systems for terrorist purposes. We must be vigilant in countering terrorist use of that technology. We have seen terrorists carry out attacks using unmanned aerial systems, including against critical infrastructure, as well as for propaganda and surveillance purposes.

We must continue to enhance transparency, accountability, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the GCTS by United Nations entities. We look forward to 2026, when we will reconvene to mark 20 years since the initial adoption of the Strategy. We will submit an additional explanation of position in detail for the record.

Mr. Miller (Israel): At the outset, I wish to thank the facilitators from Canada and Tunisia for their excellent and cooperative approach throughout the eighth biannual review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). It has been a lengthy and complex negotiation process, which has led us to the adoption of resolution 77/298 here today.

Mere days ago, two Palestinian terrorists entered a restaurant at a gas station in the West Bank and opened fire upon innocent Israeli diners. In that act of brutal terror, four Israelis were murdered in cold blood while four more were injured. Tragically, that horrific attack was not a singular event. In the past six months alone, 28 Israelis have been murdered by Palestinian terrorists and over 150 Palestinian terror attacks have been perpetrated. Meanwhile, Iran’s State-sponsored terrorism continuously funds, arms and trains terrorist armies across the region. From Hizbullah in Lebanon and Islamic Jihad in Gaza to the Houthis in Yemen, Iran’s actions are responsible for death, suffering and destabilization across the Middle East.

From well before Israel’s founding to this day, Israelis and Jews have faced and continue to face relentless acts of terror and violence. Thousands of lives have been taken, tens of thousands injured, hundreds of thousands tragically affected. In Israel, you are hard pressed to find even one person who does not know someone who was killed or injured in a terror attack. Whether they are a family member, a friend

or an acquaintance, terrorism is a reality that every Israeli faces.

Israel has always made it abundantly clear that there is no justification for terrorism — and whatever feeble excuses terror organizations give to justify their actions, they should not be dignified with any endorsement by members of this body. This year has seen a rise not only in terror attacks against Israelis but also against Jews around the world. Antisemitic attacks are proliferating at a breakneck speed. Terrorists and bigots are always finding new ways to expand their hateful and destructive agendas. We must stay ahead of the curve.

Two days ago, on Tuesday, Israel hosted a side event, together with the World Jewish Congress, that highlighted the phenomenon of online extremism morphing into offline terrorism and the importance of global cooperation among all sectors — Government, social media companies, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations — to tackle every heinous practice as a collective. The heartbreaking reality of terrorism that Israel faces has enhanced and refined our national counter-terrorism strategy. Necessity is the mother of invention, and for Israel, our expertise in combatting terrorism saves lives every single day.

As we all know, terrorism is a global phenomenon that knows no borders. It is a threat that every single Member State is tragically accustomed to fighting. And here at the United Nations, the heart of the international arena, the best way to combat global threats is through sharing our expertise, best practices and know-how with one another — something Israel is always wholeheartedly committed to doing, especially in the field of counter-terror strategies. Israel does so at the multilateral level through our cooperation with different United Nations and international bodies focused on counter-terrorism, and also at the bilateral level, through capacity-building, training, information- and intelligence-sharing and professional dialogues.

Israel is very pleased that the biannual United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by consensus, as it provides the international community with invaluable tools to defend ourselves from the persistent threat of terror. Nevertheless, there is one crucial issue that unfortunately does not receive the focus it deserves. I am referring to the topic of incitement via social media platforms,

primarily among children. The incitement of children to perpetrate terrorist acts puts them in immediate danger. Children, as a particularly vulnerable group, can be easily influenced and are highly affected by their surroundings, thereby making them a particularly appealing target for terrorist incitement.

To our great regret, we can witness the horrible implications of the incitement and brainwashing of young minds in our region. Palestinian children who have been brainwashed to murder are increasingly turning to jihad and taking up arms against innocent Israelis. The number of attacks perpetrated by Palestinian children — some as young as 13 years old — is rising. That horrifying phenomenon does not occur in a vacuum; it is the result of blatant incitement orchestrated by the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian terrorist groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. That incitement must end. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a valuable tool for the international community, yet it fails to duly address the growing threat of incitement, especially among children. Youth must not be educated to hate, and combatting incitement to terrorism is key to ensuring a safer future for all.

Israel welcomes international efforts to counter terrorism and sees itself as a full partner in those efforts. Nevertheless, we were sorely disappointed to see the inclusion once again of the forty-third preambular paragraph in resolution 77/298. The resolution on the GCTS should serve as a compass for the global fight against terrorism. An essential element for effectively combatting terrorism is to adopt a zero-excuses and zero-tolerance approach to countering terrorism. The forty-third preambular paragraph does the very opposite of that. It serves as a vehicle to justify certain terrorist acts and the cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians, when actually those acts should be condemned outright, regardless of the context. Israel therefore disassociates itself from the forty-third preambular paragraph.

Mrs. Eat (Cambodia): My delegation highly appreciates the convening of this high-level meeting on addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation. We are grateful to the representatives of Canada and Tunisia, Ambassador Bob Rae and Ambassador Tarek Ladeb, respectively, and their teams for their tireless efforts to co-facilitate the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), leading to the adoption by consensus of resolution 77/298.

Regardless of the fact that differences still remain on the definition of what constitutes terrorism and how to address it, our presence at this high-level meeting reflects a sense of unity and common understanding on the necessity of concerted efforts to address the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Furthermore, it has become clear to us that reinvigorating multilateralism and institutional cooperation is the only way to ensure a well-coordinated and comprehensive response to the risk and rise of terrorism. That is because, as Ambassador Rae and others have rightly pointed out, terrorism is a global challenge affecting all nations worldwide, one way or the other, directly or indirectly. It requires the active engagement of Governments, civil society and the private sector. It requires the sharing of best practices and information, as well as support to bridge the capacity gap. Most importantly, it requires strong political commitment and empathy to be effective. Here, I would like to acknowledge the importance of the coordinating role of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations system.

Cambodia has not been a target of terrorist attack, yet my Government remains vigilant and has taken many steps to counter terrorism so as to contribute to regional and global peace and security. Cambodia's National Counter-Terrorism Committee has actively cooperated with all parties and partners through various platforms in fighting against terrorism and in preventing Cambodia from being used for terrorism activities elsewhere. For example, we have strengthened our border control and aviation security with a modern border-guard system and have enhanced our Advanced Passenger Information capability. And over the past decade, our National Counter-Terrorism Committee has coordinated and participated in more than 300 training courses and workshops on preventing and countering terrorism. With a focus on prevention, Cambodia continues to work with partners to improve our collective capabilities in the digital age and in this age of artificial intelligence, while fully respecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm Cambodia's unwavering resolve to support multilateral efforts, through the balanced application of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to eliminate the root causes of terrorism and extremism and to fight against that global threat.

Ms. Dautllari (Albania): Let me begin by thanking Canada and Tunisia for their effective leadership in ensuring a consensual updating of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will help all United Nations members better cope with the evolving threat of terrorism.

The adoption of the eighth review of the Global Strategy (resolution 77/298) reaffirms once more that all Members take terrorism to be a real threat and are willing to work together to fight it together. We value the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and subsidiary bodies of the Security Council in checking the progress of the implementation of that important document by Member States. That means giving each of the four pillars equal weight and redoubling our efforts to implement them. That is all very encouraging. For my country, the fourth pillar is vitally important. The rule of law and human rights must be pole star in the fight against terrorism. That is why violating human rights in the name of protecting human rights is a travesty. It is the surest way to undermine the trust of people in our fight against terrorism. The fight against terrorism must build an alternative to terrorist ideology practices. That can be done only if we lead by example. Words will not be enough. We must uphold the rule of law at all times so as to ensure due process and fair trial and to strengthen institutions.

We strongly support international counter-terrorism efforts and remain fully committed to implementing the necessary legislation to fight terrorism at the domestic and international levels. We have adopted national strategies on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism, while fully complying with international law. Albania has not experienced terrorist attacks on its soil, but we have had to deal with foreign terrorist fighters, whom we have treated as a serious threat. We have adopted measures and policies for the dignified return of foreign fighters and their families, especially children. We have brought to justice those who have committed crimes and created policies for reintegrating them into society. We hope other countries will do the same.

Prevention and engagement with civil society are at the heart of our strategy to fight terrorism in all its forms. That is why we are deeply concerned at the shrinking space for civil society to play its vital role in this fight and all other fights. We also must make sure that our strategies incorporate the gender dimension. My country fully supports the eighth review of the

Global Strategy and praises the remarkable work done by all actors involved to renew our commitment to collective efforts to counter terrorism and to identifying new areas to strengthen our coordination for the years to come.

Mr. Khan (Pakistan): At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia earlier today on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) (see A/77/PV.80).

I would also like to thank the co-facilitators of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Ambassador Tarek Ladeb, and the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Bob Rae, for leading this extremely important process.

Pakistan has been at the forefront of the international fight against terrorism and has made innumerable sacrifices of more than 80,000 lives. For more than a decade, Pakistan has suffered the most due to terrorism and continues to face terrorist groups that are funded and financed by our adversaries. Spoilers in our neighbourhood continue to target us, including through support for attacks planned and orchestrated by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Daesh and Baluch militant groups. Pakistan possesses the capability and the will to utilize all means required to defeat that externally sponsored terrorism.

Pakistan welcomes the adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), as contained in resolution 77/298, despite differences and divergence. We address the hope that the adoption of the resolution will help in further strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as towards the implementation of all four pillars of the GCTS in a balanced manner. Our first and foremost responsibility is to address the root causes of terrorism, and it is imperative for the international community, in particular the Security Council, to address situations of prolonged, unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and the denial of the right to self-determination. There is a continued campaign to portray struggles for self-determination and national liberation as terrorism in order to justify the oppression of people under foreign occupation. It is essential to respect pillar IV of the GCTS and to clearly define terrorism and distinguish it from legitimate struggles for national liberation and

self-determination. We welcome the reaffirmation of our commitment to taking measures to resolve prolonged conflicts and foreign occupation, as well as to confront oppression, in order to address conditions that are conducive to the spread of international terrorism.

One of the most important roles of the GCTS review is to keep the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of new and emerging threats in order to reflect and take into account the evolving trends of international terrorism. Today one of the most concerning emerging trends in global terrorism is in the form of terrorist attacks on the basis of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, Islamophobia or other forms of intolerance by violent, nationalist, supremacist, far right and other such groups and ideologies.

Regrettably, the eighth review has failed to reflect various important proposals initiated by the OIC that are aimed at addressing those threats in the light of recent developments. Pakistan, along with the OIC, made various proposals, including the condemnation of acts of racist, fascist and extremist right-wing elements to incite violence and terrorism against Muslims through the deliberate desecration of mosques and the burning of the Holy Quran. In the spirit of achieving consensus, the OIC group, including Pakistan, demonstrated the utmost flexibility and compromise to address some of the key concerns of Member States, but without any success. Unfortunately, and to the detriment of all of us present today, these concerns did not find their way into the text of the resolution.

We also emphasize the adverse impact of such acts of hatred, which promote Islamophobia, anti-minority sentiments and anti-immigrant narratives. However, those proposals, initiated by the largest negotiating bloc, were completely sidelined. Such sidelining not only disappoints us but also raises a very serious question about the cherry-picking approach in finalizing the text. It is crucial to emphasize that our failure to condemn such acts of incitement and hatred sends a clear message that terrorism against Muslims will be tolerated. That exclusion will not be without its costs, as it will serve as a propaganda tool for those who do not wish to see peace and harmony among communities around the world.

Pakistan is also deeply disappointed that the eighth review of the GCTS failed to recognize the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which was established through the consensus resolution 76/254.

Denying the inclusion of that reference and other OIC proposals, while accommodating individual Member State requests to reflect events, the content of which was neither agreed upon by all Member States nor supported, is a classic example of that discriminatory and biased approach. It signifies the perpetuation of a perception that stigmatizes Muslims. Pakistan firmly rejects that stigmatization and will continue its efforts to challenge that flawed perspective. We hope that the report of the Secretary-General will take a comprehensive review of such new and emerging threats.

Pakistan has been calling and will continue to call for the necessary changes in the global counter-terrorism architecture and the Security Council sanctions regime to end the stigmatization of followers of certain religions, as well as to broaden the scope of such measures against new and emerging threats, including on the basis of racism, xenophobia, intolerance, Islamophobia or other forms of intolerance. At the same time, the Security Council sanctions regimes are often blunt instruments and contribute little to containing, much less reversing, the terrorist threat. Those should be reviewed and made more equitable, fair and transparent.

We must also address the new tools of terrorism, especially in the cyberdomain. Cryptocurrencies, online terrorist recruitment and incitement to violence and defamation, which we have just heard here as well, are a few to mention. We are of the firm view that the General Assembly should establish a Member State-led committee that can oversee the balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is also important for transparency and fairness and to reflect a diverse set of views across the globe.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address this gathering. Pakistan remains committed to combating terrorism at the international level and calls upon all States to join hands in eradicating that menace. Together, through collective efforts and a comprehensive approach, we can create a safer and more secure world.

Mr. Francis (Trinidad and Tobago): At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this plenary debate, and to also extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report contained in document A/77/266, under agenda item 121, "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy". Trinidad and Tobago also expresses its appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia for their astute leadership in facilitating our discussions on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Trinidad and Tobago views this debate as a means to further strengthen the international community's response to the pernicious scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which threatens our shared values of peace, tolerance and respect for human dignity, while destabilizing regional and international security.

As we adopt the eighth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 77/298), today's deliberations will facilitate the deepening of our common commitment to strengthening the global framework for collective security that will be faithful to our aspirations for international peace and security, envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations. In that context, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its support for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an important pillar of the international community's efforts to confront and to repel terrorism and violent extremism.

In that connection, the Anti-Terrorism Act of Trinidad and Tobago establishes, among other things, a robust legal architecture that embodies a whole-of-Government approach. It includes measures for criminal prosecution to counter the financing of terrorism, the sharing of information, intelligence and evidence and the enforcement of targeted financial sanctions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Furthermore, through its national counter-terrorism strategy, Trinidad and Tobago continues to strengthen its capacity to combat international terrorism by deepening our collaboration with bilateral and multilateral partners, including intraregionally through the Caribbean Community Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The strategy is rooted in our firm belief that our greatest asset is our people, including our women and girls. Therefore, our resolve to ensure that no one is left behind rests on guaranteeing the safety and security of the State, including that of its population, and the creation of a just and peaceful society. In that regard, Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the ongoing support provided by our development partners, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the wider United Nations system in monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Global Strategy.

We particularly welcome the review's renewed focus on building capacity to repatriate, rehabilitate and reintegrate victims and family members of foreign terrorist fighters. However, the threat and the methods of international terrorism are in a state of perpetual evolution. The threat landscape appears far more unclear due to the broad array of violent, radical and racist ideologies, the emerging prevalence of radicalized lone actors and the misuse of emerging technologies, all of which have led to greater unpredictability, thereby making planned terrorism events more difficult to detect and combat.

For small developing States like Trinidad and Tobago, those new, direct and more complex challenges to peace and security pose severe threats to the success of our efforts and require substantial expertise, technology and infrastructure to effectively intercept and prevent. Therefore, we strongly encourage further technical assistance to support national authorities in capacity-building, particularly in training and the transfer of technology. Further, the scope of countering terrorism and violent extremism must emphasize the multidimensional nature of the threat itself. Greater focus and analysis, as well as support programmes and assistance, should include perspectives that address the negative social, economic and psychological trends that converge under conditions of poverty, humanitarian crises and violence that give rise to violent extremism.

In closing, international terrorism has no respect for territorial borders or for race, age, gender or social class. We must work together assiduously to rid the international community of acts of terrorism and the proliferation of violent extremism, intolerance and xenophobia. For those reasons, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a collaborative multidimensional effort of all States for national, regional and international peace and security. Buoyed by our unified international will, we can and must prevail.

Mr. Holm (Norway): My delegation would like to thank the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia, as well as their respective teams, for their tireless efforts during the month-long negotiation process for resolution 77/298. My delegation expresses congratulations on the adoption of that document by consensus yet again, a feat that demonstrates the shared will of the international community to counter and

prevent terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms around the world.

The review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides a good opportunity to take stock of developments, achievements and challenges facing United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. Norway considered the following key developments since the last review: the High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism, held in Malaga, Spain, in May 2022, as well as a conference outcome document and civil society workshop; the special meeting of the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in Mumbai and New Delhi in October 2022, resulting in the Delhi Declaration, on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes; and the adoption of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022), which Norway, as a member of the Security Council in 2022, co-sponsored and voted in favour of (S/PV.9214).

Despite those important accomplishments, we have witnessed troubling emerging trends. Africa is now the continent most affected by terrorism. Affiliates of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaida have strategically exploited armed conflict, weak governance and local grievances to radicalize and recruit. Moreover, in some contexts counter-terrorism measures have had grave implications for human rights. Over the past two decades, in the absence of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, some Governments have deployed counter-terrorism measures that violate a broad range of rights, and sometimes they are used to target political opposition, thereby shrinking civic space. Some counter-terrorism measures have also had unintended negative consequences for human actions, affecting vulnerable peoples' access to much-needed humanitarian assistance and protection. Resolution 2664 (2022), however, is an important tool to address that issue.

In sum, we must acknowledge what the international community is up against — a threat it cannot define, that has no clear success criteria and which in some contexts is exploited to justify repressive measures. That is counterproductive to national and international efforts to combat terrorism. It should be in all Member States' interests to address those challenges. Only when the implementation is balanced across all four pillars can the Strategy be a good tool for Member States and the United Nations to counter and prevent terrorism.

In that regard, approaches to counter terrorism and to prevent violent extremism must be holistic and form a part of a broader political strategy that is preventative, conflict sensitive, gender responsive and regionally integrated. Addressing the root causes through the promotion of the rule of law, sustainable development and human rights is essential. Those efforts should be rooted in a whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approach that marshals cross-sectoral public resources, recognizes the importance of women's participation and leadership and institutionalizes strategic engagement with civil society in the development and implementation of counter-terrorism measures.

In that vein, would like to express thanks and appreciation to the civil society organizations that have been involved in this year's review for their important contribution. Norway also fully supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Ms. Scheel (Germany): It is a pleasure to briefly address the General Assembly at the end of an intensive counter-terrorism week leading up to the adoption of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) (resolution 77/298). Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union (EU), and we applaud United Nations Member States for the successful conclusion of the review.

The document reflects our common values and priorities in the fight against terrorism. It is based on a consensus and a commitment to further close multilateral cooperation. I particularly thank the co-facilitators, Canada and Tunisia, for their valuable work in the negotiations. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the delegation of the European Union for coordinating the input of EU member States and for negotiating on their behalf.

Germany is concerned about the multiple forms of terrorism and extremism. When it comes to the overall terrorist threat, we are confronted with an increased complexity. The geographic focus has shifted and continues to multiply. Different phenomena of violent extremism create an ever-more diverse threat picture, and new technologies change the paths of radicalization and recruitment, as well as attack patterns. That requires the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to constantly evolve in order to reflect new developments

and emerging threats and thereby provide a strong basis for our common efforts. That illustrates the importance of the process we have just completed.

Allow me to mention some of the areas that are of particular importance to Germany.

Germany is one of the strong advocates of addressing the need to prevent and counter all forms of extremism on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief. We therefore value the important work done to analyse violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The report of the Secretary-General (A/77/266), as well as the recent United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime practitioners' manual to counter right wing violent extremism, are valuable contributions to the discussion. We welcome the need to further engage on that global phenomenon, which is reflected in the text of the resolution.

In the discussion, we have also placed a focus on the important nexus of terrorism and organized crime as an area that merits further attention and analysis. Germany actively supports those efforts. The international community faces a more adaptive and lethal set of terrorist threats than ever before as terrorist actors increasingly develop complex expertise in using new technologies. The reviewed text of the Strategy reflects that important and dangerous new development to a certain extent. The GCTS must also continue to place particular attention on the fact that United Nations principles and values are embedded in all counter-terrorism efforts. Defending those principles and values in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism is a key challenge. That means ensuring respect for human rights and the principles of the rule of law, support for the victims of terrorism, the involvement of civil society and the highlighting of the important role of women in preventing and countering terrorism.

Germany emphasizes a holistic and whole-of-society approach in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism, involving all relevant institutions and stakeholders. Raising awareness for the unintended consequences of counter-terrorism measures is an essential element in achieving that. We therefore welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022), which is now also referenced in the text.

Finally, our efforts to strengthen the counter-terrorism architecture within the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

must continue. We have established a good basis for a further discussion on transparency, efficiency and better coordination. We look forward to continuing to strengthen synergies of existing efforts, for instance in the area of capacity-building measures.

The adoption of the review of the GCTS is a moment where the entire United Nations community demonstrates that it stands together firmly in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Germany commits itself to actively participate in the implementation of the Strategy.

Mr. Moretti (Brazil): Brazil welcomes the adoption of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) (resolution 77/298). We commend the co-facilitators for promoting an inclusive negotiation and for their tireless efforts to build consensus over a highly sensitive and complex issue. Our ability to achieve consensus, even under challenging circumstances, illustrates how the international community can unite to counter a phenomenon that endangers us all and whose sheer injustice appals us.

Although we should celebrate the resolution adopted today, we must also reflect on why we were not able to be more ambitious. For consensus to be achieved, we were compelled to content ourselves with a revision that is slightly more than a technical update of the seventh review. We should profit from the lessons we learned to understand better what divides us and what unites us. It is naturally difficult to agree on a strategy to combat an enemy whose identity we do not know exactly. Despite all the international conventions criminalizing certain terrorist acts, all Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and the eight GCTS reviews, we still lack an internationally agreed-upon legal definition of terrorism. It is high time to overcome the decades-long stalemate in the Sixth Committee related to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The adoption of that convention would fill a gap in international law. It would also help avoid frequent perceptions of double standards that weaken the fight against the threat.

Brazil welcomes the acknowledgement of the primary role of States in countering terrorism and criminality within their jurisdictions and the contribution of international and regional cooperation to strengthening their capacities. We are also glad that the Strategy was updated to acknowledge the adoption

of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022) last December. Ensuring the civilian population's access to unhindered, impartial humanitarian assistance is necessary, even in contexts where counter-terrorism sanctions apply. Resolution 2664 (2022) bears on the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures.

Terrorism is a disease. Sanctions should not stifle the patients — the civilian population who has the misfortune to live in territories controlled by terrorist groups or where they are active. Rather, they should address the disease itself. Otherwise, frustration and deprivation can fuel radicalization. We regret that the Strategy could not be improved in relation to the United Nations sanctions regimes, which can be used for countering terrorism. In our view, there is a need to improve the listing and delisting processes by ensuring that they are evidence based. Otherwise, perceptions of politicization and selectivity could undermine the legitimacy of the United Nations sanctions committees. Brazil also believes that an independent review mechanism, such as the Office of the Ombudsperson, would strengthen United Nations sanctions regimes. For that to happen, however, we would also need to ensure that its procedures meet due process standards. That includes improving the Ombudsperson's working methods.

During the debates, we noticed a justifiable interest in reinforcing monitoring and evaluation capacities in the implementation of the Strategy. However, we must strike a balance between the need to ensure monitoring, reporting on and evaluation of the Strategy and the importance of avoiding the diversion of resources that would be lacking for the implementation of the Strategy itself. In the context of ever-increasing demands to United Nations entities against the backdrop of resource constraints, we must be judicious in calibrating our different needs and priorities. It is also necessary to undertake a deeper analysis of what we expect from a single results framework to evaluate the activities of the United Nations entities in the diversity of their mandates. In the first place, we must explore how we can benefit more from existing mechanisms, such as the working groups of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

We fully endorse the appeal made on Monday by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism for a thorough evaluation of the impact of counter-terrorism measures on

human rights. Governments cannot delegate their primary responsibility to fight terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Nevertheless, in the implementation of the Strategy, we must facilitate enhanced geographical representation of civil society organizations, as well as increased engagement at the community level, taking into due account the contributions of underrepresented groups, women, youth and survivors of terrorism.

In conclusion, it is essential to maintain the delicate balance among the four pillars of the Strategy to ensure its effective implementation. The measures to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen Member States' and the United Nations system's capacities to address the threat must go hand in hand with a special attention to its root causes and an absolute respect for human rights and the rule law. Otherwise, we will stand no chance of defeating terrorism with durable results.

Mr. Moriko (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): My delegation welcomes the holding of this plenary meeting to adopt the resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 77/298), a unique instrument of our collective action against the phenomenon of terrorism.

Mr. Miller (Israel), Vice-President, took the Chair.

I would like to express my great appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada, and His Excellency Mr. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, for their facilitation efforts, which led to the positive outcome we welcome today.

Côte d'Ivoire aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and will make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Like previous reviews, the adoption again this year by consensus of the resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a source of great satisfaction for Côte d'Ivoire in the sense that it reflects the unity of the international community in response to the scourge of terrorism. My delegation also welcomes the fact that the resolution reaffirms essential principles to which my country is firmly committed. That augurs well for the effective implementation of the Strategy. Those principles include, first and foremost, the Strategy's dynamic nature, which calls on us to adapt our common action to terrorism's constant evolution, in all its forms and

manifestations. They also include the need to maintain a balance in the implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy, which is essential to its effectiveness. Similarly, respect for human rights, as both the foundation and key to the success of any approach to the fight against terrorism, must be maintained. The importance of prevention and the need to work towards the elimination of conditions that are conducive to the spread of the phenomenon of terrorism, as well as the establishment of international cooperation as a pillar of the Strategy, owing to the cross-border and global nature of terrorism, with a view to better coordinating our efforts, are also paramount.

On another note, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the expansion to three years of the next review cycle to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the Strategy.

As a party to all 19 international legal counter-terrorism instruments, Côte d'Ivoire has always provided unfailing support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, both when it was adopted in 2006 (resolution 60/288) and during its successive reviews. My country makes it a point of honour to implement the Strategy effectively. Over the past two years, my country, which has been hit hard by terrorism since 2016, has taken several decisive actions. Convinced that proactive action is important, since 2021 the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been implementing a policy to combat vulnerabilities in the northern border areas, which are prey to incursions by terrorist groups. Two important initiatives have been launched in that regard. They include a special fund to finance youth projects in three regions and an integration-support programme for young people from the northern border areas intended, in particular, to create basic social infrastructure for the populations concerned.

In addition, as a result of a partnership with France, an International Counter-Terrorism Academy was officially inaugurated in Jacqueville on 10 June 2021 and continues to enhance its operationalization. The institution, whose purpose is to strengthen the capacities of African countries in their fight against terrorism and to create a community and a culture of counter-terrorism in Africa, hosted the annual edition of Flintlock, a multinational military exercise in West Africa, from 20 to 28 February 2022. Côte d'Ivoire is also an active participant in the Accra Initiative, which is aimed primarily at the sharing of information and intelligence and the conduct of joint cross-border military operations among Member States, with a

view to preventing violent extremism and fighting transnational crime.

In the context of its cooperation with the United Nations, my country joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme in 2021. In addition, as part of the Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, on 23 May 2022 Côte d'Ivoire participated in a workshop to strengthen the expeditious implementation of asset-freezing measures of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This year, my country has participated in two important capacity-building events. They are the Lutetia simulation exercise on radiological and nuclear detection, held from 14 to 16 March in Paris, in accordance with the Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism; and the regional workshop on Good Practices in Border Security and Management to strengthen coordination and capacities to counter terrorism and transnational organized crime associated with it in West Africa and the region of the Sahel, held from 15 to 19 May in Rome.

In conclusion, Côte d'Ivoire would like to reiterate its firm resolve to pursue efforts aimed at the concrete and comprehensive application of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in line with its unwavering commitment to the international fight against that phenomenon.

Mr. Croker (United Kingdom): At the outset, let me present my thanks to the co-facilitators of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Canada and Tunisia, for their professionalism, patience and judgment in driving this important effort forward in an inclusive manner. Through the Strategy that we adopted this morning (resolution 77/298) (see A/77/PV.80), Member States agreed on the threat that terrorism poses to the lives of people around the world and to the peaceful functioning of our societies. We agreed on the moral imperative to address that threat together. We therefore welcome that the Strategy review has again been adopted by consensus. We should use the three years ahead of us for the next review for dialogue, to listen and to build trust so that

this important consensus can persist in the future. So, where do we go from here?

First, as our discussions over recent weeks have shown, the terrorist threat continues to evolve and endure. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan have shown their ability to carry out high profile attacks inside Afghanistan and to use it as a base to encourage attacks in the region and beyond. Daesh affiliates are growing around the world. Terrorists are exploiting new and emerging technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems. We look forward to working with other Member States on common areas of concern here and on how we can address them.

Secondly, at the heart of how we counter terrorism are the decisions we take about the types of society we want to live in. In all our efforts to counter terrorism and to prevent violent extremism, it is vital that we protect and advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms that are the bedrock of our societies. These values, along with promoting gender equality, are core to the United Nations and its foundations. We look forward to engaging with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Global Compact entities to ensure that those issues are mainstreamed through their work in a holistic and effective manner.

Thirdly, effective counter-terrorism requires more than the cooperation of just Governments. It requires a whole-of-society approach. We must build effective partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations. The United Kingdom welcomes the ongoing efforts made by United Nations entities to include civil society in counter-terrorism efforts, including the work of the co-facilitators to include civil society in the eighth review process. We look forward to working together to strengthen these efforts.

In closing, we again congratulate the co-facilitators and their teams on their leadership of this process. The United Kingdom looks forward to working with UNOCT and other relevant agencies on the implementation of the Strategy. I pledge the United Kingdom's continued and active support in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Khaddour (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country's delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations (see A/77/PV.80). We hope that the eighth review process and resolution 77/298, which

we adopted by consensus, will help us to respond in the most effective way to the threat of terrorism and to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other international instruments on countering terrorism.

I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Tunisia and Canada for their efforts in facilitating the eighth review process and in successfully leading the negotiations on the resolution. The resolution that we adopted today includes a number of important additions that address the latest developments and challenges that have emerged since the seventh review of the Strategy.

Our delegation engaged in the negotiations in a positive spirit, as my country is seriously committed to countering the threat of terrorism. We are convinced that all Member States must fully implement and be truly committed to what we have agreed in order to achieve concrete results and take tangible and effective steps to fight and curb that dangerous phenomenon, which threatens international peace and security

The challenges before us remain daunting and very dangerous. The continued phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, their movements and their presence in various regions of the world make us question the extent to which some Governments of States Members of the United Nations are respecting their counter-terrorism obligations. We urge that those Member States be held accountable for their role in the spread of terrorism, a phenomenon that has arisen primarily as a result of the chaos and armed conflicts that those very States had a hand in creating, especially in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

Those States have been violating the peremptory norms of international law. They have been blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of other States and attempting to destabilize them. They have been inciting violence, armed disobedience and intercommunal fighting. They have been promoting extremism and hate speech within those societies and have sought to intervene directly by military force under the pretext of countering the terrorism that those States themselves have created.

It is ironic indeed. When a certain State proceeded to fulfil its duty to fight terrorism, those States rushed to accuse that State of human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law, even though the violations that were and are still being committed by those States under the pretext of fighting

terrorism — the terrorism that they themselves have created — amount to the most egregious and most serious crimes of modern times.

A case in point is what has happened in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and my country, Syria, which will not be the last. The destruction, the killing, the bombing of entire towns and villages, razing them to the ground, as was the case with the city of Raqqa, all were done under the cover of international coalitions outside of the framework of international legitimacy and the Security Council. The question of responsibility for the crimes and violations perpetrated as a result of those brutal attacks has not even been raised.

The eighth review of the Strategy being discussed today reaffirms the ownership of the State concerned when it comes to countering terrorism. It states that the role of the international community should be confined to supporting the efforts of the State concerned, meaning that countering terrorism should not be used as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to use force outside of the framework of international legitimacy, or to defy the peremptory norms of international law.

Today, more than four years after the United States claimed that Da'esh had been defeated, the United States Administration is presenting us with new concepts and distorted interpretations of international law through which the United States is seeking to justify its condemned and illegitimate military presence in the north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, claiming that the threat of Da'esh persists in that area, although they claim that they defeated Da'esh four years ago.

I would like to stress that we have sent numerous formal letters to the Secretary-General and the Presidents of the Security Council containing information and statistics on the damage inflicted on Syrian civilians, economic facilities, infrastructure, oil wells, oil refineries and gas fields as a result of the illegitimate and unjustified United States presence in the north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic. The letters contained information on the repeated violations of Syrian sovereignty. United States support for secessionist groups is creating chaos and is allowing extremism and terrorism to take hold in that area under the pretext of countering terrorism.

My delegation once again calls for an end to that flagrant military intervention, which runs counter to

the most basic rules of international legitimacy, as it is taking place without the consent of the State concerned.

In his report, the Secretary-General referred to the need to quickly address the situation of the tens of thousands of individuals and their family members, most of them women and children, detained in the north-eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, some of whom have been suspected to have links to terrorist groups. I would stress that the main obstacle to addressing the situation of those individuals and their families is the fact that the United States is retaining them as hostages or as pretexts and flimsy excuses to justify its condemned, rejected and illegitimate military presence. The United States is seeking to perpetuate that crisis, not caring about its potentially disastrous humanitarian repercussions or the possibility of creating, over time, new generations of terrorists within those families, which are being detained in camps and detention centres managed and overseen by United States forces that are illegally present in that area and by secessionist militias supported by the United States itself. That prevents the Syrian Government from fulfilling its obligations to counter terrorism on its territories and settle that issue once and for all.

The best solution to that issue is to promptly dismantle those camps and detention centres and return those individuals and their family members to their countries of origin, according to a set time frame, and to put an end to the chaos and tension resulting from the illegitimate United States presence, which is in itself a reason for the growth of terrorism and violent extremism.

The solution is to support the efforts of the Syrian Government to counter terrorism and to restore security and stability throughout its territories in order to ensure its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to put an end to unilateral coercive measures that increase the despair and suffering of the Syrian people and that have a major impact on the ability of the Syrian Government to address the phenomenon of terrorism.

Mr. Ferreira Silva Aranda (Portugal): We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union (see A/77/PV.80) and would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

First, Portugal would like to welcome the consensual adoption of the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 77/298) and thank the co-facilitators — Canada

and Tunisia — for their untiring efforts in this negotiation process.

Terrorism is a growing threat to our society's values. The spread of that plague continues to put our political institutions, global security and international peace at stake.

Today the adoption by consensus of the eighth review of the Strategy reflects the commitment of all 193 Member States to the fight against terrorism. That must be seen as a positive sign, particularly at a time when multilateralism and international cooperation are facing severe challenges.

While we very much welcome this consensus and the fact that there has been no significant regression in the language previously agreed, we regret the lack of willingness to go further and be more ambitious in key areas such as civil-society participation and gender equality.

Countering terrorism and violent extremism requires comprehensive, multifaceted and collective cooperation at the global, regional and national levels. We are therefore committed to the fight against terrorism through international cooperation and the implementation of counter-terrorism measures, including the four pillars of the Global Strategy. Inspired by that progress, we would like to highlight that Portugal is party to all 19 international legal instruments regarding the prevention of terrorism.

In May Portugal also adopted a new revised national strategy for counter-terrorism in order to strengthen our internal mechanisms to prevent and combat terrorism. That is also proof of our will to fully implement the four pillars of the Global Strategy, particularly regarding the second pillar, on preventive measures.

This constantly evolving threat can be addressed only through collective action and inclusive multilateral solutions, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law. It is also essential to keep in mind the need to integrate civil society, youth, women and religious leaders in this endeavour, which belongs to all of us.

Mr. Mikhaylov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like first and foremost to thank the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and Mr. Voronkov himself for the excellent preparations made for the United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, as well as for his assistance to delegations in

organizing specialized events during United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, including on cooperation with international and regional organizations.

The conference and events on the sidelines are a crucial platform at which to present national approaches to preventing and fighting terrorism. We listened with interest to the best practices of other States and shared our own. Our country has significant experience in combating terrorist threats. Based on that experience, we are ready to cooperate with all those who support truly equal cooperation in this area in bilateral, regional and universal formats.

The United Nations plays a key role in coordinating the national efforts of States to counter terrorism. In that context, we would like to specifically focus on the latest review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Russian delegation would like to thank all the review participants for their constructive approach to negotiations and their readiness to seek out compromise. It was primarily thanks to this that we were able to maintain consensus on the resolution, which we consider to be extremely important in the context of the fight against terrorism in the Organization.

Resolution 77/298, agreed upon at the conclusion of the review, capitalized on the achievements of previous review cycles and led to a document that reflects the fragile balance of interests. At the same time, it is important to continue to consider a whole range of issues that are directly linked to greater effectiveness in the fight against terrorism. Those include unilateral coercive measures as well as politically motivated limitations on States' participation in international and regional counterterrorism forums.

Such actions are not based on international law and seriously undermine the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts. They complicate international cooperation in that area and harm the international counter-terrorism architecture as a whole.

We are concerned by the increase in the number of terrorist attacks based on racism and other forms of intolerance or perpetrated in the name of religions or beliefs in Western countries. In that connection, we think it is important to pay closer attention to combating neo-Nazism and aggressive nationalism as well as to prohibiting discrimination based on nationality and related incitement to violence.

Moreover, we must consider the importance of the prevention of the dissemination of terrorist and extremist ideology, including in the context of counter-terrorist “self-containment” on the part of the mass media and public figures. Unfortunately, recent regrettable examples have been seen even among high-ranking representatives at the United Nations, who have been bold enough to make statements that are essentially equivalent to a justification of terrorist attacks.

Extremism must be combated in all its forms, not only in its violent aspects. In that connection, we deem useful the experience of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its Convention on Countering Extremism. The Convention is a unique and comprehensive instrument and is open for signature by other States. The development of cooperation in that area is important, including through the use of the SCO’s unique experiences. We welcome the Security Council’s adoption of resolution 2686 (2023) on the values of human fraternity in promoting and sustaining peace. We consider it important that it acknowledges the negative influence of extremism as a whole.

Several delegations have not hesitated to once again misuse the agenda to level a range of politicized, baseless and simply absurd accusations at us. Their constant desire to discuss the Ukrainian issue in all forums borders on a blatant lack of respect for other participants and their priorities, approaches and problems. Listening to Kyiv and its supporters, one would think that there were simply no problems in the world other than the situation in Ukraine.

Well, since we have started to talk about Ukraine in the context of terrorism, we wish to note the following. The Kyiv regime is using clearly terrorist methods against Russia and its citizens. We are talking about assassinations and assassination attempts on journalists and public figures through explosions. Another similar example was an attack using a truck filled with explosives on the Crimean Bridge and many other openly terrorist actions. As for the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, we would stress that it is Kyiv that, since the summer of 2022, has systematically and deliberately been targeting the Kakhovka dam. Against that backdrop, attempts to accuse Russia of allegedly blowing up the dam seem particularly cynical.

Mr. Abdul Rahman (Malaysia): Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic

Cooperation (see A/77/PV.80). We wish to also extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/77/718.

Malaysia welcomes the consensual adoption of resolution 77/298, on the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy this morning. We thank the co-facilitators — the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia — for their efforts in steering the review and all delegations for their contributions to the process.

Seventeen years after the adoption of the Strategy, in 2006, periodic reviews have helped ensure that we have a common and agile road map and plan of action to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

While we have once again managed to adopt this text without a vote, it certainly has not been easy. As others have noted, the prospect of adopting this resolution by a vote becomes more likely at every review. It is more important now more than ever that we continue to galvanize our collective and political will behind the Strategy and to send a strong message concerning our unity in combating the scourge of terrorism.

Malaysia strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such heinous acts have brought nothing but the loss of innocent lives and the destruction of the socioeconomic fabric of affected communities. It is important that we build effective and resilient counter-terrorism institutions to face the evolving global terrorism landscape.

Combating that borderless threat requires strengthened cooperation through regional and multilateral platforms, including by enhancing the exchange of information, the sharing of expertise and improvements in counter-messaging mechanisms. As a State party to 11 of the 19 counter-terrorism instruments and a party to the 2007 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism, Malaysia has strengthened its national legal framework as well as reinforced its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with international law-enforcement authorities in investigations and prosecutions of terrorist suspects.

Our policymakers and enforcement agencies are also paying close attention to the threat of misuse of information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet and social media, by terrorist

groups to incite, radicalize, recruit, commit and fund terrorist acts.

Malaysia is committed to tackling the threats of terrorism through the whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approaches. Our primary counter-terrorism efforts continue to be focused on preventive and prescriptive measures. Countering the narratives of terrorists and extremists, carrying out programmes aimed at the deradicalization, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of former foreign terrorist fighters, as well as advocating mainstream religious views, in particular among youth and other vulnerable groups, are some of the measures undertaken in that regard.

That soft approach strategy is in line with the Malaysia Madani (Civil Malaysia) vision outlined by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, which underscores values and compassion in humanity such as fairness, respect and just and effective governance. That vision also forms the foundation of Malaysia's soon-to-be-launched national action plan to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The national action plan, premised on four pillars, namely, prevention, enforcement, rehabilitation and reinforcement, outlines the diverse roles, strategies and initiatives that various stakeholders should undertake in ensuring that Malaysia is able to fully contain and address the threats presented by violent extremism ideologies. The national action plan serves as the main guideline in coordinating roles, strategies and action initiatives by various quarters, including the Government, the private sector, the media, the education sector and community groups.

As a multicultural, multiracial and multireligious country, Malaysia strongly believes that mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and peoples are crucial in cultivating unity and harmony and thus curbing the spread of violent extremism ideology in Malaysia. We stress that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

Malaysia reaffirms its support for the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and remains committed to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, with a view to achieving global peace and harmony.

Mr. Kayalar (Türkiye): Türkiye aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/77/PV.80).

I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, we welcome the adoption of the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Despite some shortcomings in the final text, the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 77/298 is a significant achievement reaffirming the commitment and determination of Member States to prevent and counter terrorism.

We would like to thank the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Mr. Ladeb, and the Permanent Representative of Canada, Mr. Rae, for their leadership and efforts throughout that process, as well as their teams. It is not an easy task to achieve consensus among 193 Member States with different geographies, political, social and economic backgrounds and diverging concerns and sensitivities.

I represent a country that has been subjected to all forms of terrorism over decades and has lost tens of thousands of its civilian citizens due to that scourge. That is why we know first-hand that terrorism is one of the gravest violations of human rights. It also negatively impacts the fulfilment of fundamental rights and freedoms.

All acts of terrorism are unjustified regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

It is with deep concern that we observe that terrorist groups are globally expanding their networks, increasing their capabilities and adapting to new technologies. Violent far-right extremism driven by Islamophobia, white supremacy, hate speech, racism and xenophobia are also on the rise. Regional and sectarian tensions, intolerance and weak State structures offer breeding grounds for terrorist narratives and radicalism.

In that framework, Türkiye continues to be an ardent advocate for the necessity of international cooperation in fighting terrorism. We have been at the forefront of countering terrorist organizations with a broad spectrum of ideologies, be it Da'esh, Al-Qaida,

the Kurdistan Workers' Party/Democratic Union Party/Kurdish People's Protection Units or the Fetullahist Terrorist Organization, for years. Those groups and others have been operating across national borders, running training camps, acquiring financial resources and operating media outlets to disseminate their propaganda and glorify their vicious acts abroad.

Regrettably, some perpetrators of terrorist attacks, their accomplices and financiers have been able to escape justice and travel freely. Yet success in the global fight against terrorism depends on our collective effort to deny any safe haven to terrorists.

The international community must not permit terrorist groups to abuse rights and freedoms or exploit the asylum system. Furthermore, there can be no discrimination among terrorist organizations. Subcontracting a terrorist organization to fight another one is a serious mistake. It is counterproductive and will have a boomerang effect.

The ongoing threat of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) should not be overlooked. Temporary and legally unsound fixes to prevent FTF returns will not resolve that daunting problem. The responsibility for the so-called detention of FTFs should not be left to other terrorist groups.

Working to counter the financing of terrorism and anti-money-laundering efforts are also at the centre of our approach to effectively address terrorism in all its aspects. With that understanding, as a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Türkiye and its authorities are taking the necessary steps with regard to the action plan presented by FATF. We are committed to achieving a higher level of compliance with FATF standards.

We also take immediate action in implementing the sanctions decisions of the Security Council, and we would like to underscore that the nexus between organized crime and terrorism cannot and should not be disregarded.

Before concluding, I would like to underline that upholding human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism is crucial to defeating terrorism. Equally important is to support and protect the rights of victims of terrorism as an imperative for countering terrorism.

Mr. Charmakar (Nepal): I thank the President for having convened this debate today on this important agenda item.

Nepal welcomes the adoption of resolution 77/298, on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I thank the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia for their commendable leadership and efforts as co-facilitators of the resolution.

We extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports (A/77/266 and A/77/718) on this agenda item.

Terrorism remains a persistent global threat not only to international peace and security but also to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. No country is immune to it, and no country can tackle it alone.

In recent years, the global terrorism landscape has changed significantly. Grave concerns remain over the potential abuse of the latest and most sophisticated technologies, including drones, autonomous and remotely operated systems, digital currency, and payment methods by terrorist groups.

Social media has been misused to spread religious intolerance and anti-immigration and anti-racial sentiments.

Targeted terrorist attacks against multilateral institutions, including United Nations peacekeepers, have been undermining the very principles and values of international cooperation, diplomacy and humanitarian efforts.

A new landscape of terrorism has put pressure on the limited capacities and resources of developing countries as they also continue to fight the consequences of conflicts, climate change and economic distress. That calls for strong resolve on our part to address terrorism along with its underlying drivers, including poverty, climate change and human rights abuses.

Since its first adoption, in 2006, the Strategy has continued to play a crucial role in strengthening national, regional and international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. Consensus on adoption of the current Strategy shows that we are united in our fight against the menace of terrorism. We must enhance a coordinated response based on the four pillars of the

Strategy to address transnational organized crime, illicit financing flows and human and drug trafficking.

There is a need to provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries to enhance their capacity. Equally, strong cooperation among border-control, law-enforcement and judicial agencies remains crucial.

Nepal unequivocally condemns terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whoever and for whatever purposes.

Being inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha — the Enlightened Son of Nepal — we always support and promote harmony, peace, compassion and non-violence. We do not have any identified terrorist group on our territory. We are determined not to allow any terrorist groups to use our land to work against any country.

Being a party to seven international counter-terrorism instruments, Nepal implements its obligations under those instruments. With a strong legal and institutional counter-terrorism framework at home, we pursue a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and violent extremism.

Nepal closely collaborates with INTERPOL and enforces the United Nations sanctions list through immediate actions.

Open and inclusive societies founded on the values of equality, harmony, tolerance and social justice prevent violent extremism. We need to ensure respect for human rights, freedom of expression and the rule of law in our pursuit of the building of resilient societies.

We support the United Nations-initiated measures to provide educational, sports, mental health, psychological and behavioural-science support to the youth. The insights of academia, civil societies and private sectors remain important in our common resolve to fight terrorism. Innovative solutions and the sharing of best practices should be continued.

In conclusion, standing together, we can hold a shield of unity against terrorism. Through robust international cooperation, we can bring down the nexus of terrorism and build a safer world for all. Let us join hands, share knowledge and create a future free from the grip of terror. Let us unite, act and defeat terrorism.

Mr. Zhang Jun (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China aligns itself with the statement made by the

representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations (see A/77/PV.80).

We commend the important role played by the Permanent Representatives of Canada and Tunisia as co-facilitators in ensuring consensus among all parties on resolution 77/298, on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and appreciates the efforts of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in connection with the General Assembly review and the organization of activities during Counter-Terrorism Week.

Terrorism remains a prominent challenge that threatens international peace and security. As the Secretary-General's report (A/77/266) notes, the threats from Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliated terrorist organizations continue unabated. Some terrorist organizations active in the Middle East continue to spread and expand in Africa and Asia and have colluded with local terrorist organizations, posing a serious threat.

The triggers of terrorism have become more diversified, and the root causes of terrorism have yet to be effectively addressed. In the face of the complex and grave counter-terrorism situation, it is urgent to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation. China supports the United Nations in its central coordinating role to remain at the helm, identify the right problems, coordinate actions and take a multipronged approach to promoting synergy among the international community against terrorism, so that our world will be safer, with the peoples of all countries enjoying more tranquil lives.

First, the fight against terrorism cannot remain only in words but must be translated into political will and concrete actions. There is no good or bad terrorism. There must not be double standards in counter-terrorism, much less selectivity — focusing on combating terrorism and terrorist organizations that threaten only oneself while turning a blind eye to terrorist organizations that harm other countries, or even whitewashing them as a tool to interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

Secondly, the response to the terrorist threat cannot remain superficial but must focus on eliminating its root causes. Wars, conflict and turbulent security situations fuel violent terrorist activities and deprive people of basic living space. Terrorists collude with

transnational criminal organizations, increasing terrorist threats across the board. Military action alone cannot eradicate terrorism.

Counter-terrorism efforts must address both the symptoms and root causes, respect the leading role of the countries concerned and eliminate the root causes of terrorism through a comprehensive approach that eliminates poverty, increases employment, respects the diversity of civilizations, and enhances social inclusion.

Thirdly, support for Member States' counter-terrorism efforts should focus on capacity-building. Developing countries face the dual challenge of inadequate counter-terrorism capacity and resources. United Nations counter-terrorism resources should be pivoted towards countries on the forefront of counter-terrorism.

When helping developing countries step up counter-terrorism capacity-building, focus should be given to priority areas identified by recipient countries, and agendas and goals set by assistance providers must not be imposed upon them. The United Nations should strengthen the coordination of extrabudgetary counter-terrorism resources, allow more funds to be used to step up counter-terrorism legislation, judicial and law-enforcement capacity-building in developing countries, and support countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacity to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and combat cyberterrorism, so that counter-terrorism assistance can produce tangible results.

It is hoped that the United Nations African Counter-Terrorism Summit, to be held next year, will make positive contributions to ensuring greater support from the international community for counter-terrorism efforts in Africa.

We need to pay greater attention to the security situation in Afghanistan. Terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant — Khorasan Province, Al-Qaida and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement are not only wreaking havoc in Afghanistan but also moving to China and Central Asian countries to carry out activities that pose a serious threat to regional peace and security. All parties should jointly combat the terrorist organizations listed by the Security Council and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a gathering place for all kinds of terrorist organizations.

China has always helped developing countries, especially African countries, step up their counter-

terrorism capacity-building through bilateral and multilateral channels, including providing support for counter-terrorism projects of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and other agencies through the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund. It has also been stepping up regional counter-terrorism cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization framework.

We are ready to work with all countries to follow the vision of a community with a shared future for humankind; jointly combat terrorism, a public enemy of the international community; and continue to make positive contributions to international counter-terrorism cooperation.

Ms. Rodríguez Mancía (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the members of the Office for their efforts in connection with the holding of the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

We welcome the holding of the conference because it contributes to bolstering the objective of UNOCT to take the lead in connection with General Assembly mandates to combat terrorism and strengthens coordination among the various entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, with the goal of ensuring the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

Similarly, we congratulate the delegations of Canada and Tunisia for co-facilitating the draft resolution, and welcome the adoption by consensus of the omnibus resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 77/298). Its adoption will ensure the continuity of the practical measures that we have adopted to bolster the capacity of States to counter terrorist threats.

My delegation has stated on a number of occasions that terrorism is a global phenomenon and must be addressed at its very roots. All States are vulnerable to terrorist acts, because they pose a serious threat to international peace and security. They undermine democracy and create political instability, impeding the economic and social development of our peoples and the full enjoyment of their human rights.

Guatemala has pointed out the potential threat of the link between transnational organized crime and

terrorism, a relationship that promotes the illicit use of financial assets to harmful ends. We therefore firmly believe that the existing legal framework to prevent those links from forming is a valuable tool for all Member States, and we reiterate our firm support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, as well as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Given its geographic location, the Central American region and my country in particular have faced a number of transnational challenges that promote crime of all kinds, especially drug trafficking, money laundering, assassinations, human trafficking and the indiscriminate and illicit use and trafficking of weapons.

Despite the tremendous efforts made by my country, we continue to be victimized by international networks, which are overwhelming our capacities, as not they have not only high-calibre weapons and other materiel but also unlimited financial means at their disposal, all of which exacerbates their criminal conduct.

We are concerned at the fact that terrorists can benefit from transnational organized crime, and therefore we stress the need to enhance cooperation at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening responses to that challenge.

In conclusion, Guatemala reiterates once again its firm and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed and regardless of motivation.

Mr. Fatah (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): My country's delegation would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Permanent Representatives of friendly Canada and sisterly Tunisia for their efforts to facilitate negotiations on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also express our thanks and appreciation to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the coordinator of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), for facilitating the discussions and negotiations within the OIC and with other political and religious groups. In that context, my country's delegation would like to express its support for the statement delivered on behalf of the OIC (see A/77/PV.80).

My country's delegation would like to take the opportunity of this important event to stress that

terrorism is a global threat that requires a joint international response. All are aware of Iraq's fierce war waged on behalf of the world against the terrorist Da'esh organization, with the partnership of the international alliance, NATO and friendly countries. That partnership has allowed us to undermine terrorism, break down its capabilities and kill its leaders.

Our security forces continue to fight against the remnants of Da'esh gangs and its sleeper cells to prevent them from waging attacks and from finding safe haven and obtaining access to funds. However, it is important to note that the Da'esh organization remains a continuous threat and looks for opportunities to attack civilians, infrastructure and our security forces to prove its presence and to bolster its fighters in Iraq, Syria and abroad.

My country attaches priority to many issues related to counter-terrorism, as noted in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, namely, preventing the financing of terrorism; returning the families of foreign combatants to their country of origin; addressing cyberdanger; controlling the borders; tackling organized crime related to terrorism; ensuring that terrorists do not have access to chemical or biological weapons; dealing with strategic communication; and preventing violent extremism, as well as other urgent issues. We call on the international community to bolster cooperation in all those areas.

In that context, my country's delegation would like to stress an urgent and very important issue that affects regional and international security related to counter-terrorism, namely, the Al-Hol camp. That Syrian camp, which is located 13 kilometres from the Iraqi border, holds more than 50,000 Iraqi and Syrian people and nearly 10,000 so-called foreign migrants, most of them women and children. That camp poses a direct threat to national Iraqi security and to the region. Indeed, the camp is a socially disordered place where violence, crime and extremism prevail.

With respect to the Iraqi families living in Al-Hol camp, the Iraqi Government took the courageous decision to transfer many of them to Iraq for rehabilitation and reintegration. We call on the United Nations to provide greater assistance to the Iraqi organizations dealing with that issue. The Iraqi Government has also brought home a significant number of Iraqi terrorists who had been detained in Syria, most of whom were brought to trial.

We urge and encourage all countries concerned to take back their nationals from the Syrian Al-Hol camp in order to close it permanently. We also call on them to shoulder their responsibility in relation to bringing their terrorist fighters and their families home. They must be returned to their countries of origin and held accountable. They also must be rehabilitated and reintegrated. My country's Government in Baghdad is in contact with the embassies of countries that have citizens, including women, located in Iraq with a view to returning them home.

Lastly, my country's Government is committed to working with the international community to defeat Da'esh, restore stability in the liberated areas and return displaced people to their places of origin. Terrorists must be held accountable, and victims of terrorism must receive redress. We hope to continue making efforts to ensure security and stability for our people, the peoples of the region and the entire world

The Acting President: The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I would recall that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Rikhtegar (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have requested the floor in exercise of the right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of the Israeli regime.

I do not intend to dignify those baseless statements with a substantive response. Indeed, the Israeli regime is the main source of instability in the Middle East, and its very existence is based on terror, violence, torture and terrorism. Its representative has futilely tried to propagate his information and to politicize the serious work of the international community in combating terrorism.

The Israeli regime openly supports terrorism in the region and beyond. The Israeli regime's authorities have unequivocally acknowledged the regime's involvement in criminal terrorist acts against Iranian officials, scientists and civilians, in addition to sabotage operations against Iran's peaceful nuclear infrastructure inside Iranian territory, as well as against the other nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and condemns the unfounded accusations fabricated by the delegation of the Israeli regime and recalls that that terrorist regime, which abides by no rules or principles, is in no position to level baseless accusations at Member States.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting. We will hear the remaining speakers tomorrow morning, 23 June, at 10 a.m. in this Hall.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.