



**Kingdom of Belgium**

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Karen Van Vlierberge,  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative

To the United Nations Security Council

**Open debate**

**Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist  
acts: linkage of counter-terrorism and transnational organized  
crime**

New York, 6 August 2020

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Mr President,

I would like to thank you for the organization of this open debate, as well as the briefers with us today.

In July last year, on the impulse of the Republic of Peru, the Security Council adopted this resolution on the link between terrorism and organized crime by consensus, thereby acknowledging the importance of both phenomena as well as their interconnection. Today, we must ensure that this resolution is fully and correctly put into practice. The concluding observations formulated by the Secretary general in the report requested by this resolution constitute valuable guidance in our way forward.

The links between terrorism and national or transnational organized crime are manifold and evolving, and vary between regions. The Covid-19 pandemic did not break those links, which instead adapted to this new framework, and can be for example increasingly witnessed online.

Although many Member States have already adopted responses to address those linkages, both terrorism and organized crime continue to dangerously undermine the rule of law and human rights, and thereby exacerbate the threat posed by terrorism to international peace and security.

Some measures adopted by Member States in their fight against terrorism and organized crime may have negatively impacted the respect of fundamental rights and the work of humanitarian actors on the ground.

My country wants to remind the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to underline that respect for international humanitarian law, human rights and the rule of law must remain a top priority, everywhere and under all circumstances. It is even more the case in the framework of the Covid-19 pandemic.

An efficient fight against terrorism and organized crime requires an intense cooperation and coordination at the international, regional and national levels, as well as a global, whole-of-society approach. Strengthening the capacity of States is of key importance, and we wish to underline the central role played in this endeavor by UNODC, UNOCT, CTED and the Monitoring Team, as well as all other UN entities involved.

Our efforts to fight terrorism and organized crime should increasingly benefit from the expertise of civil society organizations, the innovations of the private sector, and the involvement of local communities, including the youth, women and girls.

Mr President,

Belgium, as many other countries around this table, has been harshly hit by terrorist attacks and violent extremism. Together with our European and UN partners, we will remain committed to efficiently address the linkages between terrorism and organized crime, as well as to cut off the sources of terrorism financing in all its forms.

I thank you.