



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Contribution of

H.E. Ambassador Philippe KRIDELKA, Permanent Representative

High-Level Open Debate of the UNSC on the “20th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1373 (2020) and the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Committee : achievements in international cooperation, challenges and opportunities”

New York, 12 January 2021

Mr. President,

Belgium thanks His Excellency Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, for the opportunity to discuss this timely topic.

The 20th anniversary of resolution 1373, unanimously adopted in 2001 in the wake of the September 11 attacks, is indeed a suitable moment to take stock, both retrospectively and forward-looking, of the counterterrorism architecture of the United Nations.

Twenty years have passed, but the terrorist threat has not gone away. On the contrary, it has adapted and continues to constantly evolve, even more so in the current pandemic context. No region of the world is spared. Belgium therefore encourages all UN actors to continue to closely monitor these developments and to identify good practices that allow global, relevant and adequate responses. This debate is, in this regard, undoubtingly a step in the right direction.

In this context, Belgium would like to touch upon three priorities that it considers essential in order to shape any effective multilateral action in the future.

First, Belgium is convinced that only a **holistic, cross-border and inclusive approach** can enable the UN and its Member States to effectively fight this global and deadly threat. Such an approach must inspire the three-fold constitutive elements that are the **prevention, repression and reintegration** of men and women suspected of terrorism. This is why Belgium continues to work to strengthen coordination and cooperation within its borders, with our European partners and at the international level. In 2019-2020, during our two-year mandate as non-permanent member of the Security Council, this holistic perspective has strongly guided our counterterrorism action.

Second, Belgium firmly underlines the importance, in our global action, of the **respect for international law** in general, and more particularly, for international humanitarian law, human rights, children’s rights and refugee law. We continue to support the inclusion of these dimensions in all relevant areas, and in particular when facing the important challenge that is the fight against radicalization in prison. At the Security Council’s level, my country has particularly been active in fostering the respect for **due process** within the Sanctions Committees during its UNSC mandate. Belgium, therefore, reiterates its support for the work of

the ombudsperson of the 1267 Committee as well as that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which both contribute to strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of our policies.

Third, Belgium is of the view that it is crucial to find ways of ensuring that **counterterrorism measures do not adversely affect humanitarian action**. The potentially harmful effects of the policies that we adopt on any humanitarian situation must be efficiently assessed. Our focus must be on safeguarding humanitarian space and ensuring that principled humanitarian organizations can serve people in need. Identifying possible avenues for action at the UN level to better safeguard the space for principled humanitarian action in counterterrorist contexts must remain a key common effort.

Taking these three priorities into account, Belgium will remain strongly committed to the future revision of the United Nations Comprehensive Counterterrorism Strategy, and will continue to fully support multilateral efforts to fight all facets of the terrorist threat.

I thank you.