

Mr President,

We thank you for having organised this open briefing, and would also like to thank all the panellists for their informative contributions.

Although several Security Council resolutions have already expressed the **Council's concern regarding the links between terrorism and organised crime**, these links need to be further identified and countered. These links may pertain both to financial assistance for terrorist organisations, logistical assistance or even the establishment of an ad hoc coalition. We have also observed that there is a fine line between terrorism and organised crime, both transnational and domestic. While terrorist organisations often finance their operations through criminal activities, criminal organisations sometimes adopt methods similar to terrorist organisations to achieve their aims.

The existence of links between terrorism and organised crime **varies greatly between regions**. It is important that the multilateral actions designed to combat terrorism and organised crime take these different realities into account, and that our measures in this area are adapted to the various regional contexts.

Mr President,

Unfortunately, Europe has also been the victim of various violent terrorist attacks on its territory in recent years. Belgium has also been struck by attacks, notably in March 2016. Most of the terrorists who participated in these recent attacks had a criminal history, often involving **petty crime**. These individuals became radicalised and joined terrorist groups through a process and with a speed that took us by surprise, being different to the processes of radicalisation that we had known up until then. They were knowingly targeted by Da'esh, through a **rhetoric of redemption** for their past crimes. This process of radicalisation took place in particular within our prisons, prompting us to reconsider our analyses of the processes of radicalisation, but also our prison systems.

Moreover, it is also important to understand the close links between the different types of organised crime and how terrorist organisations benefit from them. We have observed that there is a significant link between **trafficking in human beings** and terrorism. This link exists in the financing of terrorist organisations, but also through **sexual exploitation as a tactic of terrorism**. These practices have been incorporated by Da'esh, as well as by Boko Haram and other terrorist organisations.

In addition, terrorist organisations continue to benefit from **arms trafficking**, both to finance themselves and to get hold of weapons. Terrorist organisations focus on small arms and light weapons, which allow them to pursue their dangerous and violent objectives, causing countless innocent victims. We strongly condemn the transfer of weapons, which is **illicit by nature**, to terrorist organisations.

Mr President,

We welcome the **draft resolution initiated by the Peruvian mission**, which aims not only to understand the complexity of the links between criminal organisations and terrorist organisations, but also proposes concrete measures.

We reiterate the importance we attach to the fact that none of the measures taken to combat terrorism and organised crime should hinder the work of humanitarian organisations, whose work is neutral and impartial. **Respect for international humanitarian law** and the fundamental principles enshrined in the Geneva Conventions remains paramount everywhere and in all circumstances.

We also recall the importance of **capacity building of States** in the fight against terrorism and organised crime, and we commend the important role played by UNODC and UNOCT.

Mr President,

We thank you for having organised this important debate, and you can count on our cooperation in drafting this new resolution.