

**HIGH-LEVEL Thematic Debate**  
**In a World of Risks: Today's Threats to International  
Peace & Security**  
**H.E. Dr. Abdusalam Omer**  
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**United Nations**  
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**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentleman and Dear Colleagues,**

It is an honour to be addressing you all on this most important of topics for global security, development and subsequently peace, progress and prosperity across the world.

The unique international peace and security challenges of our time are indeed diverse and their solutions need to be multifaceted.

One of the major challenges is terrorism because it affects the way we live our daily lives where ever we are, sometimes in a practical sense and sometimes poisoning our peace of mind.

We should not play into the terrorists' hands by exaggerating the threat they pose and in so doing exaggerate how much they have achieved their goals of creating fear.

Terrorism does not threaten anything like as many lives as climate change, inequality, air pollution, poverty or lack of health care.

However, terrorism often stands in the way of effective action to address those underlying problems, which in turn feed into terrorism.

### **Challenges**

The tragic attacks on the innocent all over the world, including in Paris, Brussels, Bamako and Istanbul recently, are clear evidence that addressing

the threat posed by terrorism must continue to be given high priority by all member States at the UN.

Terrorism knows no boundaries and is built on a misguided and intolerant beliefs. We therefore are all vulnerable to it and its devastating effects.

The Challenge for the world is that, just like all other organizations, given time, space and where they can find partnership, terrorist groups evolve and innovate.

Today, foreign terrorist fighters are increasing the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts all over the world.

The actions of foreign fighters poses a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens.

Foreign fighters add new, negative energy and distorted perspectives to conflicts as they raise morale, bring new ideas, finances, language skills and are targeted specifically to recruit more from within their own communities.

Today, foreign terrorist fighters are engaged in the conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and many other places. In Somalia, 85% of suicide bombings have been carried out by ethnic Somalis with other nationalities including European and African ones.

Somalia has an enormous Diaspora living all across the world and, while they are generally a force for good in our national development journey, we classify those who return to join and partake in terrorism Foreign Fighters as they return to destroy the country and society our Government and people are working so hard to build.

We should be under no illusions: in foreign fighters and terrorists in general, we are fighting a tough and determined enemy which has no regard for human life let alone International Laws, Values and norms.

These Foreign Fighters are tough and determined because they are driven either by an extreme, twisted and arrogant belief in their own moral superiority or by a cloak of moral superiority hiding pursuit of material gain. Recruiting often vulnerable misguided young people who make up the vast majority of radicalized fighters internationally has been made far easier by the wide availability of internet and the continuously advancing technology. One no longer needs to sit before monsters in secret places to be brainwashed into violence: they can make an appointment online.

## **Response**

In order to confront the evil of terrorism and effectively cut the foreign fighter recruitment supply line by confronting Violent Extremism, Governments must collaborate, coordinate and devise implementable strategies to defeat terrorism.

This is the only real way that terrorism financing, the movement of foreign fighters across continents and borders and the radicalization that misleads them can be challenged effectively.

Somalia is increasingly defeating AlShabaab politically as well as militarily and our Government is doing all it can to work with partner nations and organizations, of which the AU, the UN, USA, GCC, Turkey and EU are prime examples, to disrupt the international operations of terrorists in all fields including the poisonous recruitment of Foreign fighters, terrorism financing and Countering Violent Extremism.

Despite every efforts and resources, it is not possible in an age of globalization, fluid borders and technological advancement to insulate one's nation or interests from terrorism alone, no matter how powerful or developed the nation. Partnership, knowledge sharing, adequate resources and comprehensive developmental partnerships, including economic investment, are as vital as the physical security.

Somalia welcomes and appreciates the efforts made the UN Secretary General H.E. Banki Moon and the UN in general in leading on the combatting terrorism agenda in a holistic way. However, clearly there are challenges in intelligence sharing as a result of mistrust among some Member States and as a result coordination is lacking.

To overcome this, we propose a Center for Intelligence Sharing be created under the charge of the UN so that information and intelligence can be shared and distributed anonymously to relevant nations in order to confront terrorism effectively and collectively.

Tackling terrorism requires we understand the root causes of radicalisation and the violence. Much of it in Somalia and other parts of the developing world is poverty and lack of opportunity for education, skills and employment. In more developed countries social exclusion and poverty are also a concerning cause of radicalisation.

However, both can be addressed by the UN and respective Governments with inclusive policies aimed at alleviating poverty, offering skills and education and eventually employment.

The UN model of each agency doing only its bit is not practical any longer. To tackle terrorism and the new threats to peace and security in the world there needs to be a holistic and comprehensive approach to development which complement one another. Furthermore, other International Organisations, especially the financial ones, ought to partner with the UN to promote investment led national recoveries and strategies to create the conducive environment to dissuade terrorism and encourage peaceful development and progress.

Responding to threats emanating from non-State and transnational actors is truly challenging. A good example that I ask myself continuously is:

**How do you stop a young person who decides to kill themselves and take innocent people with them because they have been told they are the enemy by terrorists? How do you heal the tensions and stop the fighting in conflict and post conflict societies that allow terrorists to exploit the situation?**

I think the UN must continue to promote peace, actively engage in peacekeeping missions and must remain a lead player the fight against terrorism in all its forms. However, it must widen its scope for partnership so that Governments and local and international partners are also involved in the lasting solutions for peace and security in the world.

Capacity building, knowledge transfer and security cooperation will certainly make the world a safer place.

While Somalia is turning the corner towards peace, progress and prosperity, we understand the pain and misery terrorism and violence causes both people and nations.

**We therefore are staunchly committed to working with all partners, including the UN, to make the world a safer place for its diverse and interdependent people.**

**I Thank You Mr. President.**