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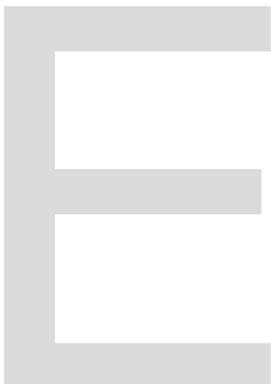
Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the co-Rapporteurs,
Ms. C. Guittet (France) and Mr. K. Hari Babu (India)***

1. Terrorism has gripped democracies around the world in more ways than one. It poses a serious threat to international security, civilized existence and democratic values. In democratic nations, citizens have the right to live in freedom and dignity. They are entitled to freedom from fear and an equal opportunity to enjoy their rights so that they can fully develop their potential. By contrast, terrorism aims for the very destruction of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

2. Terrorist strikes, such as those on the World Trade Center "Twin Towers" in September 2001, in Mumbai in 2008 and more recently in 2015, those in Paris, Beirut, Bamako and different parts of the world, have resulted in the loss of innocent lives and caused colossal damage. Since 2001, more than 61,000 terrorist acts have been perpetrated across the world. They have killed more than 140,000 people. According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, an independent think tank based in New York, Sydney and Mexico City, 32,658 people were killed by terrorist acts in 2014 (compared with 18,111 in 2013). That is nine times more than the number killed in 2000. Boko Haram and Daesh were responsible for more than half those deaths. In 2014, 162 countries were directly affected by or damaged due to acts of terrorism. Seventy-eight per cent of the related fatalities were concentrated in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria. In 2014, the economic cost of terrorism was estimated at \$52.9 billion. That is the highest level ever recorded and 10 times higher than in 2000.

3. Today, no country can claim it is safe from terrorism. Terrorist actors all around the world are connected through terrorist networks. The supply chains of the different elements of terrorism which seek to promote, and spread extremist ideology, recruitment, training, travel and financing, now have a global presence. This international phenomenon can only be defeated through the concerted action of all countries. As the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations have reiterated, all countries must take action within their own borders in a coordinated manner. They should adopt a number of identical measures, as the effectiveness of any action would be weakened if taken in isolation. As circumstances have changed, a holistic approach, under which all countries jointly combat this threat, is the only way of effectively dealing with terrorism. Global cooperation is the only path that will lead towards an end to terrorism.



#IPU134

4. In their draft Resolution, the co-Rapporteurs have focused on addressing, from a parliamentary standpoint, the first topic adopted by the Commission: *Terrorism: the need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights*. In preparing this draft Resolution, they drew on contributions from experts and parliamentarians, which were made during a hearing organized at the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2015). The co-Rapporteurs would like to thank all concerned for their contributions.

5. The draft Resolution therefore appeals directly to legislators, calling on them to implement five sets of reforms, which are essential in the fight against terrorism. The UN Security Council has debated the content of those reforms; The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate has recognized the effectiveness of the reforms in its reports. They are not exhaustive, but if those reforms were implemented in the 167 countries whose parliaments are members of the IPU, it would undoubtedly deal a decisive blow to the terrorist groupings that are currently active across the world.

6. The first set of measures aims to prevent the emergence in society of extremist attitudes that could lead people to commit terrorist acts, and also aims to deradicalize individuals. The draft Resolution requests that parliaments promote the exchange of information among themselves, and that they promote civic democracy education programmes, funding for counter-narrative campaigns, the exchange of good practices and the fight against poverty and social inequality.

7. The second set of measures criminalizes a range of acts or activities related to committing terrorist acts, including when those activities concern communication. Such actions and activities have been precisely defined by Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and are referenced in the draft Resolution.

8. The third set of measures would prevent the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. These include measures for collecting and exchanging travel-related information, conducting checks on people and seizing travel documents in order to prevent people from travelling.

9. The objective of the fourth set is to gradually cut off the sources of terrorist funding, particularly by calling on parliaments to punish anyone who funds a terrorist organization and to allow assets and bank accounts to be rapidly frozen if they are, or are likely to be, used by terrorists, their accomplices or supporters.

10. The last set appeals to those with budgetary powers in parliament to ensure that surveillance capabilities can be put in place in order to bring to justice foreign terrorist fighters or even to arrest them before they take action; it also appeals to the power of parliaments to ratify conventions on extradition or mutual police and judicial assistance. States do indeed ensure the proper surveillance of their nationals; but new measures should also be taken that tackle the international dimension of terrorist activity.

11. In conclusion, the draft Resolution recalls the duty of parliaments to support victims of terrorist acts by enabling them to exercise their right to be compensated.