

Statement by H.E. Archbishop Gabriele Caccia
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations
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Terrorism has both grave short-term consequences and long-term destabilizing effects on people and communities. The heinous crimes committed by terrorists demand condemnation. No

Moreover, counter-terrorism measures that may inhibit the provision of humanitarian aid are particularly troublesome. Genuine concern regarding aid falling into the wrong hands must not prevent it from being delivered to those in need. It is worth recalling that legitimate humanitarian activities, including those carried out by religiously inspired organizations, contribute positively to the prevention of terrorism. It is therefore indispensable to ensure that counter-terrorism measures do not limit nor inhibit the capacity of charitable and humanitarian organizations to provide aid to vulnerable groups or persons, including emergency relief to refugees and displaced persons as well as medical services to the wounded.

Given the global threat that terrorism poses, it is essential that counter-terrorism efforts are multilateral in nature. Building such a broad alliance against terrorism further underscores that we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together.³ Combatting terrorism must also include a continuous analysis of both its root causes and short- and long-term consequences to facilitate truly result-oriented measures.

Measures promoting the work of local communities and grassroots programs, engaging with religious leaders and faith-based organizations, and supporting educational institutions are all essential to prevent and combat terrorism. With the pandemic forcing Member States to shift resources from counter-terrorism initiatives to public health needs, efforts must ensure that the necessary response to the pandemic does not unintentionally lessen our common anti-terrorism efforts.

In conclusion, the Holy See welcomes the international efforts made this year² despite the pandemic² to prevent terrorism, including the first UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism and the 7th Review of the UN Counter-Terror Strategy, and stands ready to support further efforts in the future.

Thank you, Madam Chair.