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Security Council Briefing: Chairs of the Counter Terrorism, 1267 Sanctions and 1540 (Non-Proliferation) Committees, 15 November 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President.

First, I want to express Malta's gratitude to Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Chair of the 1373 Committee, and Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose, Chair of the 1540 Committee, for their excellent stewardship during 2023.

The threat posed by terrorist groups to international peace and security remains high and dynamic across conflict zones.

In Africa, Da'esh and Al-Qaida affiliates are expanding their activities throughout many parts of the continent. In Afghanistan, Da'esh-K continues to pose a serious threat within the country and the wider region. The Monitoring Team has further reported that the relationship between the Taliban and Al-Qaida remains close. Moreover, Da'esh maintains its insurgency and the ability to mount high-profile attacks in Syria and Iraq.

As the terrorist threat evolves, so too must the Council's response. We need greater attention to addressing the root causes of violent extremism, and to protecting human rights while countering terrorism. We also need to



enhance the inclusion of civil society within wider counter-terrorism decision-making.

As highlighted during our Arria-formula meeting in June, the Council must also ensure that counter-terrorism responses are gender responsive. This includes addressing sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated in terrorist contexts, violence which disproportionately affects women and girls.

President

UN sanctions are an indispensable component of the Security Council's toolbox in countering terrorism. This applies in particular to the threat posed by Da'esh, Al-Qaida, and their affiliates. I want to personally thank all 1267 Committee members for their constructive engagement in my capacity as Chair, and look forward to continued cooperation in 2024.

Malta was especially pleased that consensus could be achieved on updating the Committee's Guidelines earlier this year.

President

In an increasingly precarious global security environment, the risk that non-state actors, such as terrorists, may acquire, develop, traffic, or use weapons of mass destruction, is deeply concerning.



This risk is not imaginary. UNITAD's investigations have uncovered evidence of the development and use by Da'esh of chemical and biological weapons in Iraq.

UNITAD's important work serves as one example of the interlinkages between the work of the three Committees, and the importance of cooperation between them and their expert groups. This includes the participation of the 1267 Monitoring Team and 1540 Group of Experts on relevant CTED country visits.

The participation of the 1540 Group of Experts in country visits and outreach activities is a key aspect of the implementation of the Committee's mandate. In this regard, we are gravely concerned that all recent invitations have been blocked.

We also deeply regret the current impasse on the Group of Expert selection process. We reaffirm our full support for the Chair's proposal and reiterate our call for the Group of Experts to be fully staffed and working at full capacity without further delay.

I thank you.