



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Measures to Counter International Terrorism

Statement delivered by Emma de Gabriele

5-7 October 2026, Sixth Committee

Thank you, Madam Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Malta reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism remains a universal and persistent threat, requiring a sustained and coordinated international response grounded in a rules-based approach and implemented in accordance with international law, including international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.



This year marks twenty years since the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Malta welcomes the adoption of its ninth review and its reaffirmation of multilateral cooperation across the Strategy's four pillars. While we regret that, for the first time, it was not adopted by consensus, the discussions reflected a shared commitment to ensuring that the Strategy remains responsive to today's challenges. Malta also supports continued efforts to advance negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which would further strengthen the international legal framework underpinning our response.

Among the pressing concerns is the misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorist actors. The exploitation of online platforms to fuel political extremism and instability, spread propaganda, and facilitate recruitment even across borders requires our responses to evolve accordingly. Due regard must be paid to children and young people in this respect, both to protect them from exploitation and to recognise them as active agents in building more resilient societies.



Particular attention must also be paid to the maritime dimensions of terrorism, including the nexus between terrorism and transnational organised crime. Malta has been a steadfast contributor to effective maritime governance and remains committed to addressing terrorist threats at sea. Maritime routes, vessels, ports and critical infrastructure must not become targets of terrorism, nor avenues through which terrorist actors can move, finance their activities or secure logistical support. Terrorist actors may also seek to exploit illicit trafficking networks, criminal facilitators and gaps in maritime domain awareness to move persons, weapons, funds and other resources across borders.

The maritime domain must therefore form an integral part of our counter-terrorism architecture and cannot be addressed in isolation. This requires stronger cooperation among States, relevant UN entities, specialised agencies, regional organisations and the private sector, including through enhanced information-sharing and maritime domain awareness to identify and disrupt networks that enable terrorist activity at sea. Malta will continue working with partners to ensure that maritime security is fully reflected in counter-terrorism efforts.



Chair,

No State can address the terrorist threat alone. An effective response requires sustained cooperation, coordination and a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. In this regard, Malta reiterates the value of the Valletta Principles, developed in collaboration with CTED, as practical guidance for strengthening cooperation in preventing and responding to terrorism.

Malta stands ready to work with partners to strengthen our collective response and to ensure that no domain, including our oceans, is left open to exploitation by terrorist actors.

I thank you.