



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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**Open debate of the Security Council
on**

**Addressing the Issue of Linkages between Terrorism and Organized Crime
under the agenda item**

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

**6 August 2020
New York**

Mr. President,

Thank you for organizing this important debate on *Addressing the Issue of Linkages between Terrorism and Organized Crime*. I also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov and UNODC Executive Director Ghada Fathi Waly for their insightful briefings.

My delegation associates itself with the statement by the distinguished representative of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional observations.

Mr. President,

It is crucial that the Security Council as the primary organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security continues to attach the highest attention to the issue of counter-terrorism in the whole range of its aspects, including the linkages between terrorism and organized crime, whether transnational or domestic.

The Slovak Republic condemns all forms and manifestations of terrorism and is engaged in counter-terrorism, both individually and as a part of the international community. We reiterate the universal obligation to respond to the global threat of terrorism. For this response to be effective, it needs to be based on the analysis of the *modus operandi* of terrorists which includes their cooperation with criminal groups and networks with view to enable, *inter alia*, the funding or the travel of terrorists.

Mr. President

Slovakia shares the concerns expressed in Security Council resolution 2482 (2019), whereby *“terrorists can benefit from organized crime, whether domestic or transnational, as a source of financing or logistical support.”* This fact has been systematically reflected in Slovakia’s national approach to addressing security threats, including those potentially stemming from the malicious nexus between terrorism and organized crime.

Slovakia has taken both programmatic and institutional measures.

In 2017, the Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) was established directly within the National Crime Agency (NAKA). This institutional set-up, facilitated through the integrated structure of NAKA, allows for a very close cooperation between various specialized departments of the Slovak Police Force, i.e. organized crime, financial crime, corruption, drug-related crime, firearms trafficking etc. and for their necessary day-to-day interaction. The Counter-Terrorism Unit acts both as a prevention and response body when dealing with acts of terrorism. Among others, it focuses on collecting evidence, exposing criminal acts related to terrorism, as well as assessing terrorist threats on the territory of Slovakia.

Another important institutional tool with a direct relevance to disrupting linkages between terrorism and crime is the Financial Intelligence Unit of Slovakia. This body assumes the task of the central national bureau in the area of preventing and detecting money laundering and terrorist financing.

Last but not least, an important part of the institutional framework is the National Security Analytical Center of Slovakia (NBAC) whose daily operation provides a broad participatory and information exchange basis for more than half a dozen selected national agencies principally responsible for countering serious security threats to Slovakia and its citizens, including threats arising from terrorism.

Mr. President,

As for the programmatic element of Slovakia's national approach to linkages between terrorism and organized crime, the following documents and their periodical reviews are worth mentioning. The *National Action Plan on the Fight against Terrorism (2019-2022)* represents a strategic document that also aims at creating conditions for the subsequent fulfilment of international obligations, including bilateral and multilateral agreements, Security Council resolutions and decisions of EU agencies related to countering terrorism. Further relevant documents are the *National Action Plan on the Fight against Money*

Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Financing of Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2019-2022) and the Strategic Principles of the fight against the legalization of the proceeds of crime, the fight against terrorism and financing of the proliferation of weapon of mass destruction (2019-2024).

To conclude, Mr. President,

Slovakia believes that a robust framework, its rigorous implementation and effective international cooperation can significantly contribute to preventing and countering the scourge of terrorism.

I thank you.