



## Roma – Lyon Group’s First Report on the Implementation of the G7 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

### Introduction

At the Ise Shima Summit in 2016, the G7 Heads of State and Government committed themselves to an ambitious Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Major steps ahead have been taken since then in all the relevant fields identified in the Action Plan, and the Ise Shima commitments have guided the G7 members in further coordinating their policies, within the wider international community, in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. This commonality of intent, principles and actions has been renewed in the Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism adopted by the G7 Leaders in Taormina.

Providing security for all our citizens remains a priority for us. In the past year, we have seen remarkable progress in reducing the foothold of Daesh in Syria and Iraq; in the prosecution of terrorists and in the dismantlement of their networks; in international judiciary and law enforcement cooperation. Still, we continue to acknowledge the inextricable link between terrorism and violent extremism and regional instability, as well as the need to tackle the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism and enhance G7 co-operation with our partners in the BMENA, Sahel, Arabian Peninsula, Horn of Africa, South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, East, South and South-East Asian regions. As we assess the work made as G7 members since the Ise Shima Summit, we renew our commitment to countering terrorism and violent extremism and to enhancing the response of the international community in these fields.

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### **Implementation of relevant UNSCRs**

The G7 have continued to urge the full implementation of all terrorism related UNSCRs, including Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2242 (2015) and 2253 (2015), and will continue to stress the implementation of all relevant obligations in all international and regional fora, as well as – when and as necessary – in our bilateral engagement with UN Member States.

We also welcome the adoption, last February, of UNSCR 2341 on the danger of terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and look forward to supporting its implementation through international cooperation, awareness raising, information sharing, public – private partnerships, and capacity building. We highlight the importance for the international community of identifying potential critical targets and of establishing cross-border planning and cooperation to protect infrastructures – such as power grids, pipelines, railroads, airports, ports – from the threats posed by terrorist groups and the impact they could have - not only on human lives, but also to regional and global economic development.

### **Information Sharing and Cooperation**

We welcome the adoption, in December 2016, of UNSCR 2322 on police and judiciary cooperation in countering terrorism. UNSCR 2322 emphasizes – inter alia – the importance of full implementation of UNSCRs 1373 (2001), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015); of establishing laws and mechanisms allowing the broadest possible information exchange on administrative, police and judicial matters; of international cooperation as the cornerstone of a coordinated and robust response.

We also remain committed to supporting INTERPOL's information sharing role, through concrete ongoing efforts to best enhance the connectivity of priority partner countries to the INTERPOL Database System and continue to assess how we can jointly accelerate this endeavor; the Group will continue to work on enhancing priority countries' connectivity to INTERPOL databases. We also welcome UNSCR 2322's call to Member States to support INTERPOL's I-24/7 police information network.

### **Aviation Security**

G7 Member States have strongly supported the adoption of UNSCR 2309 on international efforts to counter the threat to aviation security, welcoming the emphasis it places on the implementation of Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; the call to UN Member States to assist in the delivery of effective and targeted capacity development, training and other necessary resources, technical assistance, technology transfers and programs; the stress on international and regional cooperation as a means to strengthen information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and returnees.

We welcome the adoption, during the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly, of Resolution A39-18 on continuing ICAO policies related to aviation security, including on refining and developing the Global Aviation Security Plan



(GASeP); on protecting civil aviation against cyber-attacks, and threats to the landside areas of airports, as well as attacks carried out or facilitated by insiders; on broadening existing international and regional cooperation and on best practices-, information- and expertise-sharing; on enhancing the use of information exchange mechanisms, particularly Advance Passenger Information (API); on reviewing and refining the scope and methodology of the Universal Security Audit Programme - Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA).

### **Border Security**

The G7 Members remain committed to strengthening cooperation among their – and their partners’ – border agencies and to supporting the expansion of the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) in traveler screening. G7 Members reiterate the importance of filling gaps in API use at international level, and note the critical importance of API as an effective instrument in the fight against terrorism - and in stemming the flow of foreign fighters, and in monitoring their return, in particular. The G7 Roma – Lyon Group will remain engaged on cooperation and exchange of information on issues pertaining to border security.

### **Countering Terrorist Financing**

G7 Members remain committed in playing a key role in countering terrorist financing, assuring full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and actively participating in the main fora and international initiatives on this issue.

G7 Members have developed national comprehensive institutional and legislative frameworks in order to disrupt the sources of financial flows generated by Daesh, al-Qa’ida, and their affiliates, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with terrorism. This multipronged approach integrates international multilateral efforts together with national actions in order to foster coordination and effectiveness and to prevent duplication among initiatives taken in other fora. To this end - taking stock of the work done following the “Action Plan on Combatting the Financing of Terrorism”, adopted at the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting in May 2016, in Sendai - a key priority remains enhancing cooperation and exchange of information on countering terrorist financing between G7 Countries’ competent authorities.

As founding Members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the G7 Members will continue to ensure an active participation to the works of this inter-governmental body that since 1989 develops recommendations to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating terrorist financing and protecting the international financial system from abuse by terrorists. It is worth noting that, since February 2016, the financing of Daesh has been included in FATF plenary meetings as a permanent agenda item.



G7 Members welcome and support the ongoing work to strengthen the institutional basis, governance and capacity of the FATF; and call on all member states to ensure that the FATF has the necessary resources and support to effectively fulfil its mandate.

Improving information sharing between G7 financial intelligence units and enhancing cooperation with other competent authorities', promoting partnerships with the private sector and fostering a better information exchange between the public and the private sector are crucial steps to move forward, based on the findings of the mapping exercise. G7 Members also reiterate their commitment to actively participate in the work of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

G7 Members also promote and support the full implementation of sanctions adopted by the Security Council as a strategic tool to promote peace and stability, with a particular focus on sanctions in support of countering terrorism financing.

Further work is needed to bolster the G7 collaboration and implementation in targeted financial sanctions. Ways to enhance our ability to put forward and consider proposals for UN designations, autonomously supplement UN listings, and respond to and make bilateral freezing requests will continue to be pursued.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of Money or Value Transfer Services (MVTs) for financial inclusion, the G7 Member States are discussing how to improve oversight of channel consistent with a risk-based approach. The G7 aims to improve the supervision of remittance services and further efforts to effectively manage illicit finance risks.

Finally, we welcome the adoption, in December 2016, of UNSCR 2331, on countering the trafficking of persons in areas affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations, which clearly acknowledges the connection between trafficking in persons and terrorism, encouraging – inter alia – international cooperation to address the issue of trafficking in persons where it is committed for the purpose of supporting and financing terrorism.

### **Trafficking of Antiquities**

G7 Member States remain committed to countering the looting and trafficking of cultural property, not only as a source of financing the activities of terrorist groups and organizations, but also as a heinous means to eradicate cultural diversity from the territories under their control. G7 Members will continue to support the full implementation of UNSCRs 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and other Resolutions related to cultural heritage protection; the exchange of information and data on illicit trafficking of cultural property between national criminal and international organizations; the engagement of the private sector, financial institutions, internet service providers, online marketplace operators, museums and private foundations in reporting suspected trafficking in cultural property as well as adoption of codes of conduct and other effective policies on acquisition of cultural property.

We recognize that vulnerabilities in the antiquities sector pose challenges in terms of money laundering and terrorist financing, notably with respect to Free Ports and Free Trade Zones. We encourage FATF and Countries to better understand ML/TF



vulnerabilities associated with Free Ports and Free Trade Zones and implement adequate measures to address them.

We also note the UNESCO General Conference's Resolution 38C/48 adopting the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO's Actions for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Resolution on the Role of Customs in Preventing Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects, adopted by the WCO in July; and welcome the International Conference for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas, held in Abu Dhabi in December 2016 under the patronage of UNESCO and organized by France and the United Arab Emirates and the creation of the international fund for the protection of endangered cultural heritage in armed conflict. We encourage all States to contribute to support preventive and emergency operations and fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Finally, we warmly welcome the adoption of UNSCR 2347, which underlines the importance of joint investigations, cross-border cooperation and exchange of information in countering the trafficking in cultural property by terrorist and organized criminal groups, and the need to enhance synergies with the private sector in this field. We encourage all Member States to ensure its full implementation, including with regards to cooperation with UNODC, UNESCO and INTERPOL, with a view to developing broad law enforcement and judicial cooperation in preventing and countering all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property, and related offences.

#### **Engagement with the private sector**

G7 Member States reiterate the importance of the role of the private sector in countering the exploitation by terrorist groups of avenues within the legal economy to advance their activities, and remain committed to improving their cooperation to this end, including by enhancing information exchange between law enforcement agencies and financial units. While remaining committed to partnering with the private sector in countering online recruitment, radicalization and incitement to violence, G7 Member States reiterate our efforts to preserve and promote pluralism, access to information and freedom of speech in free, open and creative societies.

We welcome the announcement - late last May - by the European Commission together with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft of a Code of Conduct on illegal online hate speech in Europe, in the effort to respond to the challenge of ensuring that online platforms do not offer opportunities for incitement to violence or the spread of illegal hate speech. We also welcome the work under the EU Internet Forum, launched by the Commission in December 2015 to tackle online violent extremism and radicalization to violence. We acknowledge the important role of civil society, social media companies, and Communications Service Providers in helping voluntarily to identify and remove content aimed at spreading propaganda for terrorism and violent extremism. We encourage them to continue to facilitate the implementation of legitimate removal requests by updating and improving their general conditions of use and continuing to



strengthen their approach by developing technological solutions to addressing violent extremism online.

We also welcome the joint statement issued by Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter and YouTube in December 2016 announcing their intention to develop a common database containing “digital fingerprints” of violent extremist images, flagging terrorist- and violent extremism-related propaganda posted on their respective platforms for action in accordance with their terms of service. We encourage this interesting initiative and would appreciate to be updated on its progress.

The growing use of end-to-end encrypted communication services puts content out of reach of law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies. It’s important that industry and wider partners are engaged in order to find a solution that permits governments to obtain lawfully and on a systematic basis, at the request of competent authorities, critical data and contents. This should be done in a way that protects the right to privacy and the human rights of vulnerable users while also facilitating criminal investigations and ensuring that there are no safe spaces where terrorists can communicate online.

We also welcome the update from the UK Prime Minister at the May 2017 gathering in Sicily about the proposed industry-led forum to combat online terrorism, which reinforces the ongoing efforts of existing initiatives such as the EU Internet Forum. We look forward to supporting the work of the forum going forward.

### **Empowering Alternative Voices and Tolerance in Society**

Following up on G7 Ise Shima commitment for reconfiguring UN leadership on PVE and counterterrorism, all G7 Members have signed up to the UK-initiated *Principles for UN Global Leadership on Preventing Violent Extremism*, issued on behalf of 72 Member States on 14 October 2016 at the United Nations General Assembly. Since then, they have continued their joint action in support of the UN Secretary-General’s proposal on the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the position of an Under-Secretary-General serving as the Coordinator of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and Senior Advisor to the Secretary-General on Counter-Terrorism.

We therefore welcome the adoption in June 2017 of UN General Assembly Resolution 71/291 on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and we look forward to working constructively with the Under Secretary General designate to help the new Office taking a leading role in implementing all four pillars of the UN’s Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, including institutionalizing PVE across the UN system, while fostering cooperation with international and regional organizations, ensuring better coherence and co-ordination, and de-conflicting current duplications of effort, in a transparent and inclusive manner.

We welcome the adoption of UNSCR 2354, which provides UN Member States with guidelines and good practices on how to develop counter-narratives at all levels, and



paves the way toward a coherent, harmonious and credible evolution of positive communication against any misleading, violent ideology.

We welcome ongoing efforts by G7 member states to promote pluralism, tolerance and gender equality through instruments such as cross-cultural and interfaith dialogues, exchange programs, and educational assistance.

We have continued our support to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), including in its engagement on CVE. We welcome the progress made to enhance its effectiveness and adaptability to emerging challenges, and look forward to deliberations at the 8<sup>th</sup> GCTF Ministerial Meeting in New York next September.

G7 Members also have continued to steer and encourage the work on preventing and countering violent extremism carried out by the Hedayah Centre in Abu Dhabi, which has received our support and encouragement, including through high level political visits, and funding. G7 Members continued to support the work of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), including the expansion of its activities in Kenya and Kosovo - thanks to financial contributions by most G7 Member States, and the European Union - to empower local communities and support their resilience to violent extremism and radicalization to violence. We welcome the activities by the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, including in sustaining the global CVE agenda through dissemination of best practices and expertise sharing. We also welcome the Civil Society Empowerment Programme, launched under the EU Internet Forum in 2017, with the aim of ramping up civil society efforts and expertise across the EU in the development of powerful alternative narratives online.

### **Capacity Building**

The establishment of solid, effective partnerships is a cornerstone of international cooperation in countering terrorism and in preventing violent extremism and radicalization. As we remain aware that every chain is only as strong as its weakest link, we commit ourselves to steering international and regional organizations and entities towards implementing effective, efficient and focused capacity building and technical assistance programs where deemed most necessary. We will strive to avoid duplications and to coordinate between ourselves – including in the framework of our Group - and with other donors to make sure that G7 activities will have the maximum possible impact in partner countries.

Following the 7<sup>th</sup> GCTF Ministerial Meeting in September 2016, we welcome the progress made on the International Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism Capacity-Building Clearinghouse Mechanism (ICCM), to help identify gaps in programming, de-conflict overlapping programs, and to mobilize and guide donor resources through non-binding recommendations.

G7 Members will continue to implement bilateral activities in the areas which they have identified as most critical such as countering violent extremism, combating the financing of terrorism, enhancing border and aviation security and strengthening cyber-related capacities.



## Way Forward

G7 action against terrorism and violent extremism is rooted in a common system of values, which will continue to provide the most solid foundation for our concerted and coordinated action. We emphasize that all counterterrorism efforts must be based on the common principles of democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law. As the G7 tackle the major challenges of drying the streams of terrorist financing, addressing the dangers and problems connected with the return of foreign terrorist fighters from conflict areas and the associated risks for regional stability, countering the widespread use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and addressing the conditions conducive to radicalization to violence, they will continue to rely on the heritage they established within the wider international community.

In order to take stock of the progress one year from now, the Group will initiate a further review of the implementation of the Action Plan on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism by the next Summit.

