



CABINET OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
HUNGARY

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF
COUNTER-TERRORISM AGENCIES OF MEMBER STATES**

on

**Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat the Evolving Threat of
Terrorism**

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Intervention by

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Madame President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism has become one of the most important challenges of our days because it has become global and it is gaining ground fast. All the corners of the world are threatened by terrorism due to its global nature, not only the countries that accommodate it, but those ones also that are located further away from the conflict zone. Consequently, collecting and distributing the information connected to counter-terrorism in the member states in a consistent and safe manner still is and will remain a task and obligation of paramount importance. A fundamental condition of the success of the fight against terrorism is the availability of the necessary and sufficient information. In the framework of the cooperation of police forces and with regard to national security services this issue is coordinated in the European context; communication takes place in protected channels specially designed for this purpose, not only on multilateral level but also on the basis of bilateral cooperation agreements. An important multilateral scene of sharing experience on information related to counter-terrorism and on the best practices of the relevant subject matter is the Madrid Group, an informal working group assembling European fusion centers specializing in terrorism analysis. The objective of the formation that convenes twice a year is, that as an information network of European fusion centers it facilitates the sharing of strategic analyses, terrorism related analyses, the best practices in the evaluation of threats of terrorism, and the exchange of information on non-operational issues.

In the case of the overwhelming majority of the United Nation member states, the probably most comprehensive sharing of the often-sensitive data and information is made possible by the cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). This however is

not suitable to realize the transfer of classified data, so the full-scale availability of the necessary information is not guaranteed. SIENA, a secure information exchange network application for the European level of information exchange between police forces is in operation since 2009, and it is managed by Europol. This is suitable for the information exchange between the police organizations even for sharing classified operational information. Based on the above, Hungary supports the development of the information sharing between the United Nations members states and within each member state. The simplification of international channels could make the cooperation more efficient and faster, without violating national interests and objectives.

With regard to that, we must declare that the global network of counter-terrorism coordinators can be established on the basis of mutual trust. Its activity could substantially contribute to fostering international cooperation, and could represent real added value in the measures to be taken in fight against terrorism, if the designated counter-terrorism coordinators would be experts who have an insight both into police and intelligence services, respectively. In that case, the expertise necessary for furthering the strategic, practical and operational cooperation could be ensured. Hungary is committed to establish such a counter-terrorism coordinators' network, which is able to contribute to performing the analyzing and evaluating tasks on the national level so, that it provides insight into the details of the existing experience, recommendations and analyses of the member states. If, along a common system of principles this coordinators' network can be actually formed, then member states must unconditionally aspire to agree on non-binding best practices with regard to processing and sharing information and evidence related to terrorism. A forum like that could provide a proper framework to make an assessment of those practical needs that match the continuously changing challenges and channel the potential best practices to the community of UN member states. All this could provide help not only

in managing and in processing the information related to terrorism, but in preventing and locating terrorist offences as well.

Considering all this, the activity of counter-terrorism experts working in the member states could provide an opportunity for sharing expertise, resources and relevant information. As an example, we can mention the unanimously approved and adopted UN Council Resolution at the end of 2017 with regard to the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR), declaring the decrees in the fight against threats to peace and security caused by the returning foreign terrorist fighters. The document, reinforcing a former UN Security Council Resolution with similar contents expediting actions against violent extremism and foreign terrorist fighters, puts bigger emphasis on the measures against transnational terrorist groups and the returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. New international obligations are established and proposals are formulated with respect to border control, strengthening the exchange of information gathered and processed – including API and PNR data and biometric data – in order to prevent that terrorists cross the borders. In order to prevent terrorists crossing the borders and identifying persons posing threat, it supports the application of evidence based risk assessment and screening/checking procedures as well as the collection and analyses of travel data.

These efforts are meant to restore and enhance the feeling of security in a general sense for every member state. Since 2015, the perceivable and practically perpetual actions of counter-terrorism and the fight against terrorism in the 21st century cannot be separated, i.e. we have to take into consideration to an ever greater extent that illegal migration doesn't only bring dozens of economic migrants into our country, but terrorist cells, so called dormant agents or trained fighters as well, whose detection, screening and tracking through the borders is of pivotal importance. The Hungarian government has always maintained a consistent position regarding illegal migration so that at the same time

fundamental human rights are respected. We are committed to safeguarding our culture, values and safety which are threatened more and more by illegal migration and conducive terrorism in diverse forms of manifestation. In 2015, such a terrorist attack took place in Paris which had been unprecedented in the history of the world. First and second generation immigrants attacked local inhabitants with whom they were living together in the same country. They were managed by people, about whom it turned out that they came with the illegal mass migration wave, or participated in its organization.

Mindful of this, if the member states' cooperation, the sharing of information and networking with the proper form and contents could be elevated to a higher level, then it is the duty of every member state to make efforts and contribute substantially to making it happen. Hungary will do so.

I thank you, Madame President!