



# SLOVENIA

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## STATEMENT

BY

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to the United Nations**

**Threats to international peace and security: Linkage between  
terrorism and organized crime**

**New York, 9 July 2019**

Mr President,

I wish to begin by thanking Peruvian presidency of the Security Council for putting the issue of linkages between international terrorism and organized crime on the agenda of the Council. It has been over four years since the Council discussed this topic and adopted resolution 2195. So the timing for this debate could hardly be more appropriate as not only are the means and threats of terrorism becoming more complex, the same is true for organized crime. With more involvement of new technologies the interlinkages are more difficult to discover and fight.

I also wish to align myself with the statement of the European Union and would like to add some observations and comments in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Terrorism and crime have often been treated as different phenomena because of the different motivations behind.

However, the growing convergence of organised crime and terror groups for several decades is a global trend threatening the security interests of many States worldwide. The phenomenon is not new. Indeed, it is an established fact that organised crime groups and terrorist groups often operate in similar ways, carrying out the same types of criminal activities and sharing organisational characteristics. Commonalties concern the transnational character; the financing through the commission of criminal/illegal activities; and, the ability to install fear.

This blurring of the traditional lines of distinction between terrorism and other forms of serious organized crime calls for a fine-tuning by States of policies designed to prevent and combat the activities of terrorist and organized crime groups, to optimize their impact and provide maximum security to citizens while respecting the rule of law, human rights and democracy.

Mr. President,

We believe that regional cooperation is one of the most effective ways of coping with this pressing and demanding issue.

Upon Slovenian proposal, the EU supported development of the Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism initiative (WBCTi) into the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) concept, which includes other prominent areas in internal security cooperation: prevention of violent extremism and fight against terrorism, fight against serious and organized crime, and border security.

Its policy goals aims to strengthen the intelligence-led policing, improving the regional instruments and operational cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkans.

In 2017, regional interior ministers together with international and the EU partners launched the implementation process, appointing a Support Group to implement this new policy. The structure brought together existing capacities and expertise of regional cooperation mechanisms and is hosted by the regional office of the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in Ljubljana.

Mr President,

Today`s debate has clearly shown yet again what a serious threat that interconnections between organized crime and terrorism pose to international peace and security.

The legislation and the law enforcement almost always seem to be step behind. That must be enough a reason for all the states to stay vigilant, update their legislation accordingly and on time and most of all invest in international cooperation.

We have established a variety of these in recent decades - at subregional, regional and international level and with the new UN Office on Counter Terrorism. If we truly want to fight both of these threats, we simply have to comply with the rules we have established and cooperate. No state or government can fight it alone. Terrorism and organized crime know no boundaries. Neither should we in fighting them.

The resolution that is to be adopted in this Council this month should thus give the necessary focus on all these different aspects of threats but also of our joint response to that threat. Let me end by again thanking Peru for the initiative.