

**Statement**  
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**UNSC CTC Special Meeting on FTF**  
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Madam Chair

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of Spain and the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for convening this meaningful and important event.

In recent years we have been seeing a rapid evolution and increasing threat of terrorism. Brutalities continue to be committed, defying human dignity and the fundamental values of humankind. Millions of lives are in serious humanitarian crisis, and the threat of terrorism is not limited to any particular region or country – it is reaching every corner of the globe.

In addressing this challenge, Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) continue to be a cause of grave concern. According to UN reports, there are more than 25,000 FTFs from more than 100 countries, and the number is still increasing. We should take this figure as a serious warning.

In response, the UN Security Council adopted the milestone Resolution 2178 at the September 2014 Summit, which stipulates concrete actions to be taken by member states. With the FTF continuing to pose serious threats, it is crucial that the international community reaffirm its collective will and identify weaknesses in our response. And today's gathering and preceding technical sessions are indeed timely and relevant in this respect.

Korea remains committed to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2178. Since its adoption, our government has been taking a range of measures, and coordination and cooperation among government agencies have been strengthened.

We are reviewing our legal system including the Penal Code to ensure an effective legal framework for criminalizing FTF-related activities. The ROK Government is working on a comprehensive anti-terrorism act, which would criminalize various activities which support the FTF and strengthen the capability of agencies to address terrorist threat. The act is now under consideration by the National Assembly.

We are enhancing monitoring of online terrorist-related messages and activities. Since Korea is highly connected to other parts of the world through the Internet, incitement and recruitment targeting youth through the Internet represents a particular risk for our country. We are working with major IT service providers and social media companies to ensure that these companies take necessary measures to remove toxic propaganda from cyberspace.

Countering violent extremism is also an important part of the efforts by the ROK Government. The Korean Government, in cooperation with the Hedayah Center, held an awareness raising workshop on CVE recently in Seoul. Furthermore, we plan to commission a research project on CVE for deeper analysis on the risk of violent extremism in Korea and East Asia.

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair,

UNSC Resolution 2178 has provided us with a strong framework to address the threat posed by FTF and significant progress has been made. Yet, given the complex and evolving nature of FTF, we need to continuously to identify and address gaps and weaknesses in our efforts. My delegation would like to share some thoughts in this regard.

First, the leadership and strong engagement of the UNSC in this particular issue are critical. The UNSC and CTC should continue to play a central role in mobilizing political commitment and mapping out a global strategy for our fight against the phenomenon of FTF.

Second, there is a need for more systematic and wider information-sharing. Detection and prevention of FTF relies on actionable and timely information across national/regional borders and within domestic systems. There is a need to ensure wider application of API and further enhance the wider exchange of information by various agencies including Interpol.

Third, a community-centered and multi-stakeholder approach is another key element. FTF is often the result of various push and pull factors which governments cannot tackle alone. Families, civil society, school and religious leaders are often better positioned not only to detect and prevent FTF, but also to speak about truth and nurture tolerance. Business sectors can also be crucial partners as they often have financial and technical resources. Governments need to work with these important stakeholders. Recently the Korean Government has been exerting efforts to raise awareness among CSR officials in corporations on the challenge of CVE and FTF.

Fourth, rehabilitation and reintegration should not be overshadowed by prevention. Failures in integrating returnees will increase the risk of homegrown terrorism or organized crime. We need to share experience and expertise on how best we can handle returnees.

Fifth, as stressed by Resolution 2178, education has a key role to play in countering terrorist narratives and incitement. In this respect, the UN Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) and the Global Citizenship Education (GCED) can be a strong platform for the fostering of tolerance and respect for diversity in our education system and to create an effective counter message against terrorist propaganda.

Lastly, capacity building is an essential element in our efforts against FTF. We should help each other to find and narrow the gaps in counter-terrorism strategies. Korea will work closely together with the United Nations and regional partners including ASEAN, in supporting capacity building efforts of states and regions in need.

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair,

It is imperative that in our counter-terrorism efforts we ensure full respect for the rule of law and human rights. As the Secretary General has mentioned, the failure to do so would betray the values we seek to uphold and may even have the effect of fuelling violent extremism.

Our fight is likely to be a long protracted one. It is crucial that we maintain the momentum and continue to further strengthen our operational capability to counter this multi-dimensional threat. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the ROK will indeed remain deeply committed to this crucial task of our time.

Thank you for your kind attention. /END/