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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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International cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001)

**Written statement by H.E. The Hon Mitch Fifield
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the
United Nations in New York**

Australia commends the Presidency of Tunisia and the United Nations Security Council for organising this virtual Open Debate on 'International cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of Resolution 1373'.

This year, as we approach 20 years since the tragic events of September 11 and the prompt response of the international community, including the Security Council's passage of Resolution 1373, it is important to reflect on the progress member states have made in combating terrorism, and to renew our commitment to continue to work together.

Sadly, terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace and security, and the methods and tactics of terrorist groups continue to evolve and present new challenges.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism is one such challenge as terrorists and violent extremists have sought to exploit the pandemic in their narratives and to assist in their mobilisation in many places.

As Australia's Foreign Minister has noted, COVID-19 has highlighted the major role of international institutions in addressing and coordinating a global response to a global problem.

Twenty years on, the United Nations continues to play a key role in addressing ongoing and evolving CT challenges, and Australia remains pleased to support the important work of the United Nations, the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED, and other relevant entities.

The spirit of global solidarity encapsulated in Resolution 1373 has also inspired global, regional and bilateral cooperation to counter terrorism that complements the UN's work.

Australia is proud to be a founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), which works with UN bodies, member states and civil society to develop international best practice, guidance and toolkits, supporting implementation of UN Security Council obligations, including Resolutions 1373, 2178, and their successor resolutions.

The Global Counterterrorism Forum's efforts to support UN member states' implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the UN CT framework more broadly have proven particularly effective, leading to a number of joint UN-GCTF initiatives.

We have come a long way together as a global community since the adoption of Resolution 1373 and the institutions and initiatives built on the framework of that resolution have proven resilient and flexible as the terrorist threat has evolved in the intervening years. Australia looks forward to continuing this vital work in cooperation with the United Nations, relevant bodies and member states.

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