



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 13 February 2017

Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks

**Statement by H.E. Caitlin Wilson
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United Nations**

(As delivered)

Mr President

Safeguarding our critical infrastructure is an economic and security imperative.

Australia supports Ukraine's initiative aimed at mobilising international cooperation to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure.

The threat of terrorism to critical infrastructure is enduring and requires sustained mitigation efforts by governments.

The UN has a key role to play including by working with Member States to ensure the full implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Countries define what constitutes critical infrastructure in different ways. For Australia critical infrastructure is the physical facilities, supply chains, information technologies and communication networks which – if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period – would significantly impact on the social or economic wellbeing of the nation, or affect Australia's ability to conduct national defence and ensure national security.

In January 2017, Australia established the Critical Infrastructure Centre which provides a coordinated and cohesive approach to the security of Australia's critical infrastructure.

The centre brings together expertise and capability from across the Australian Government to better manage the national security risks to our critical infrastructure.

Mr President

Australia relies upon a strong intelligence-led, prevention and preparedness regime to support our counter-terrorism arrangements.

This approach encompasses targeted prevention and preparedness measures based on risk management principles and maintaining capabilities to manage various types of terrorist threats, attacks and their consequences.

The Australian Government also works with owners and operators in a business-government partnership—to share information, to tap into the experiences of others and to develop collaborative mitigation measures to the most serious risks to critical infrastructure.

In terms of the cyber perspective, the Australian Cyber Security Centre is the Australian Government's primary source of advice on cyber threats. It is firmly of the view that establishing a strong cybersecurity posture, increasing awareness of potential vulnerabilities, and implementing effective security measures are vital to deter and prevent incidents against critical infrastructure, including from terrorists.

Mr President

The safety and security of critical infrastructure requires the concerted efforts of public and private partners around the globe.

Australia looks forward to continued practical collaboration with international partners, including the UN, to enhance and promote cross-border and global critical infrastructure security and resilience.