

**Delegation of the Republic of France
Position Paper for the Security Council**

The topics before the United Nations Security Council (SC) are: Youth, Peace, and Security; Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts; and The Situation in Myanmar. On the international agenda, all three topics are of utmost importance to accomplish sustainable development and a peaceful coexistence of the global community. The Republic of France is advocating enhanced international cooperation by coming up with extensive solutions encompassing threats to peace and security in the aspects of youth, terror and the latest happenings in Myanmar.

I. Youth, Peace, and Security

Eventhough youth is synonymous with vitality and energy, young people are paradoxically often viewed as a burden and, as it pertains to security, even a threat. They are puppets of the violence deemed to be intrinsic or easily manipulated by armed or criminal groups. Stereotypes about young people serve to justify the use of repressive force against them and violations of their most basic rights, in particular their right to peaceful protest and to be heard, including in armed conflict.

Through the *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples* (1965) the General Assembly (GA) has introduced six principles to raise and educate youth in spirit of peace, justice, freedom, dignity and is provided with facilities and capacities to take part in cultural exchanges. Following these principles, the Republic of France has organized a Youth Forum together with Tunisia held in Tunis 2019 and carried out the project *Youth in the Sahel* through the French Development Agency. Both projects support young adolescents in terms of socio-economic development as a safeguarding instrument to maintain peace and security for the young generation. Furthermore, a young diplomats' association, within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, was established by young people themselves in 2018 in Marseilles, and its first international meeting the issue of migration was discussed. Urging to fulfil *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Republic of France views the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) 16 and 4 as central indicators to resolve the issue at hand. President Emmanuel Macron has showcased this by an increase in France's generous contribution to the *Global Partnership for Education* of €200 million. Recalling SC's resolution 2419 (2018), France urges all Member States to keep educational spaces free from all violence and especially strengthening women's rights to equally enjoy education is crucial to the equal peaceful development of our youth. Raising special attention to women, France highly supports SC resolution 1325 (2000) which reaffirms the empowerment of women and girls and their right to participate in peacebuilding equally.

France urges all Member States to especially support women and girls in decision-making processes before, during and after conflict in order to integrate a gender perspective into all of their work. Furthermore, France sees the need to integrate youth as key stakeholders in institutional government mechanisms and/or as parties involved in informal peace processes following the implications of the latest *Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security* (2018) initiated by the SC resolution 2250 (2015). To achieve this endeavour, Member States should establish youth quotas that obtain over fair selection processes and respect the diversity of young people. France will continue to work to promote the youth, peace and security agenda and to make it effective and fully operational in collaboration with all other delegations.

II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

International terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Despite having defeated Daesh (ISIL) territorially in Syria and Iraq, we see an urgent need to battle this global threat in all its forms. Terror has the ability to adapt its strategies in emerging situations very flexibly by taking advantages of weaknesses in counter-terrorism frameworks. With a global economic impact of fifty-two billion U.S. dollars, terrorism obtains over large amounts of assets to oppose security of the people.

Nonetheless, cooperation on the international level is key to the fight against terrorism, which is why France highly supports the *United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* (2006). It enables Member States to build capacity preventing and combating terror maintaining human rights. We are convinced that international collaboration is inevitable to accomplish these goals. Therefore, we welcome the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with its 17th goal to enhance partnerships

worldwide as terrorism poses a global threat. On the European level, France helped improve tools available, for instance the European Counter Terrorism Centre of Europol and created the European Passenger Name record system that will improve the monitoring of air travel. Taking military action also plays a crucial role. Hence, French troops participate in the *Operation Barkhane* in the Sahel and have launched the *Operation Chammal* in Syria and Iraq in 2014 while stabilizing these areas and seeking political solutions at the same time. We believe that prevention strategies regarding the financing of terror should be a priority on the international agenda to avoid attacks on civilians. Thus, we strongly encourage the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing* of the General Assembly (1999) and SC resolution 2462 (2019) that aim to reduce capacity to launch attacks by uttering illegal transactions. Regarding this matter France has hosted the *No Money for Terror Conference* in Paris in 2018 where the Paris Agenda regarding this issue has been implemented.

Bearing in mind the transnational nature of terrorism and its financing, we aim for a collective commitment through sharing financial intelligence. Through a collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), access to a structured intelligence-sharing platform called goINTEL in the frame of the programme goPortfolio could be provided. Therefore, we invite all Member States to participate in this network which is also linked to the Office of Information and Communications Enterprise Applications Centre Vienna to share financial information that could be linked to terrorist organizations through an annual non-public panel. Within this panel, authorities will be able to exchange knowledge about the evolution of trends, especially regarding financial flows that happened online as well as sources and tactical information in order to uncover illegal transactions that allow terrorism financing.

III. The Situation in Myanmar

Since August 2017 700.000 Rohingya were forced to flee from Myanmar. This makes up half of the Burmese Rohingya population. Security in Rakhine State has dramatically deteriorated and human rights to life, liberty and security of person, rights to equality, work, healthcare, and education are being breached, since an attack by Rohingya military set off an ethnic cleansing of this ethnic group. This has triggered a humanitarian crisis leaving many dependent on humanitarian aid.

France reaffirms its support for the work of the humanitarian organizations and French non-governmental organizations on the ground financially in order to respond to the needs of affected populations and internally displaced persons in Rakhine State. Thus, the Republic of France has made generous contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP), to the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and many more. Bearing in mind the multiple human rights violations committed by the army and security forces of Myanmar against the Rohingya population, there is a need to ensure the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) to its full extent. Hence, implementing the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) (1965) is of utmost importance to end the severe ethnic and religious-related violence in this region. Providing a safe haven to those affected, France calls on Bangladesh to continue to accept the Rohingya, who are seeking refuge within its borders. Having acted upon the request of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar (IIFMM) to bring the situation in Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), France notes with deep regret that the trial did not bring successes forward regarding this issue. Showcasing that Europe does not comply with the latest happening in Myanmar, France and European partners reinforced the arms embargo on Myanmar and imposed sanctions in forms of asset freezing in European banks, and implemented a European travel ban on seven senior officers responsible for serious human rights violations to the Rohingya population. Noting that a democratization of Myanmar is a crucial step to end violence in this region, France reaffirms its support for the Burmese government that is willing to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Kofi Annan.

In order to create a peaceful state, a political solution must be found. Therefore, France calls for independent and transparent requires to be carried out. A ministerial appointment of the Myanmar government and officials of the Rakhine State should be held annually, aiming for the coordination of policy and public quarterly reports should be delivered to the IIFMM and to the UNHCR. Additionally, evidence must be collected and conserved by the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, in order to bring those responsible to justice.