

**Delegation from the United States of America  
Position Paper for the United Nations Security Council**

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: I. Youth, Peace and Security, II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts, III. The Situation in Myanmar. The United States of America recognizes the urgency of discussing these topics and looks forward to working multilaterally with Member States in addressing these issues at the upcoming conference.

**I. Youth, Peace and Security**

Secretary General António Guterres states that peace and security can only be achieved if we empower young people as leaders and enable them to unleash their full potential. However, in many countries around the world, youth have been stigmatized, marginalized and treated as the main protagonists of criminal violence. Recognizing that these negative narratives perpetuate the vicious circle of violence, the United States of America stresses the need for strong international cooperation to overcome these stereotypes in order to build and maintain peace. We welcome SC Resolution 2250 (2015), which is the first international policy framework acknowledging the positive role of young people in the prevention of crises and in the advancement of peace. Furthermore, we fully embrace the goals of *Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy* (2018), which was launched by Secretary General António Guterres in order to amplify the voices of young people for a peaceful and sustainable world. Another important achievement is the *Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security: The Missing Peace* (2018), which was carried out by the Secretary General and served as a basis for SC Resolution 2419 (2018), in which youth engagement is also part of its central aspects. The United States of America proudly invests in leadership exchanges and programs like the United States Young African Leaders Initiative to provide business, civic, and leadership development training in order to equip young leaders with the skills to build bridges in conflict and lead democratic societies. Moreover, we support programs that engage youth as partners to foster cohesion and tolerance. Therefore, we have partnered with the Peer-to-Peer Dialogue program, where students develop online campaigns to prevent and counter violent extremism. Such engagement has been an important part of our whole of society effort, in line with the UN's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, in countering ISIS over the last few years. As part of the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum (2019) we have hosted an event for global youth delegates to generate new ideas on youth engagement and to hear directly from them about ways to further implement SC Resolution 2250 (2015). We call upon the Member States to continue their efforts to promote pathways for young people to get the skills they need to become active citizens in shaping the government and politics of their countries. In order to broaden the participation of youth within the UN system, we urge the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities, including the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office, to redouble their efforts to integrate youth perspectives into their work. To achieve this, the Secretary General should locate Senior Youth advisors in the offices of his Special Representatives. Furthermore, we suggest a general directive for all UN services to implement a youth quota of five percent, bearing in mind a cross-geographical representation and in accordance with existing relevant rules and regulations governing administrative and budgetary issues. Furthermore, the SC should ensure that its missions take into account youth perspectives, including through consultation with local and international youth's groups. Therefore, we suggest to invite civil society, including youth organizations, to brief the council in country specific considerations in the field of peacebuilding. Intermittent extra costs should be financed through UN Peacebuilding Fund. By involving youth in all of the implementation mechanisms of peace agreements, we not only build a culture of inclusion but also lay the foundations for sustainable peace.

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

The world's efforts to maintain international peace and security are continuously undermined by terrorists' activities. According to the Global Terrorism Index (2019) 103 countries recording at least one terrorist incident in 2018, meaning that terrorism is a global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion. As technological advances of the past century have created an increasingly complex terrorist landscape, there is a strong need for international cooperation in order to tackle this challenge. In the aftermath of September, 11 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City, the SC adopted Resolution 1373 (2001) which resulted in the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate to provide capacity-building mechanisms for Member States in order to combat terrorism. Aiming to strengthen counter-efforts within the UN system, the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* (2006) was adopted, which we appreciate as another important milestone in the peacebuilding process. Furthermore, the USA welcomes the General Assembly Resolution 71/291 (2017) by which the UN

Office of Counter Terrorism was created in order to oversee the CTC and the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, founded in 2005. Moreover, we support SC Resolutions 2462 (2019) and 2482 (2019), which are both focussing on tackling the financing of terrorism and international organized crime. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United States of America is highly committed to cooperate with partners and international organizations to tackle the terrorist threat and to manage the consequences of a terrorist attack. Recognizing that today's terrorist landscape is more fluid and complex than ever, we have developed a National Strategy for Counterterrorism in 2018, which provides flexible guidance to enable an effective approach against an adaptive terrorist threat. Acknowledging that conflict is the primary driver for terrorism, we also partner with West Africa to foster a more prosperous, democratic and stable region. We have provided over USD 5,5 billion in support for long-term stability and security in West Africa. Moreover, our United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sahel Development Partnership offers a holistic approach to bolster resilience and counter violent extremism. Acknowledging that areas near porous borders, combined with weak law enforcement, provide opportunities for terrorists and transnational criminal groups to work together, we are aiming to support Member States' ability to secure borders and prevent and mitigate terrorist attacks. Therefore, we encourage Member States to build critical counterterrorism skills by using our Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program, which has delivered counterterrorism training and equipment to law-enforcement agencies of partner nations throughout the world. Emphasizing the importance of the rule of law and respect of human rights, ATA provides training courses, seminars and equipment relevant to investigation in topics related to border and cyber security, leadership and management as well as regional coordination and cooperation. Member States would receive strategic guidance by our Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism while the USA's Diplomatic Security Service would be responsible for the administration of the ATA program. As terrorist networks continue to adjust their strategies, the implementation of this approach would strengthen countries capability to meet the evolving threats. To achieve this, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the UN Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism would provide Member States with the necessary financial aid.

### **III. The Situation in Myanmar**

For decades Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar have endured discrimination, persecution and violence. In 2017 over 742,000 people sought refuge in neighboring countries and as the root cause of plight has not been addressed, the numbers keep growing. The deteriorating humanitarian and political situation in Myanmar not only poses an immediate threat to the people of Myanmar but also to peace and security beyond its borders. Therefore, Myanmar has for decades been the subject of yearly UN resolutions regarding the human rights situation. In this context the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 34/22 (2017), which resulted in the establishment of an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar to gather basic information on the humanitarian situation in Myanmar and the conditions in refugee camps in neighboring countries. Moreover, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has negotiated the 2018 memorandums of understanding with the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar, which we view as an important achievement in order to protect displaced persons. Moreover, in January 2020 the International Court of Justice ruled against Myanmar over its military's brutal treatment of the Rohingya, which we highly appreciate. The USA has a long-standing commitment to improving the lives of the people of Myanmar and USAID is committed to continue its efforts to build self-reliance by strengthening Myanmar's ability to plan, finance and build its own development solutions. Furthermore, we remain the leading contributor to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh providing more than USD 669 million since the outbreak of violence in 2017 in order to address the urgent needs of the refugees in Bangladesh as well as the related needs of the Bangladeshi host communities. Recognizing that there is still an acute need for international aid, we call upon the Member States to provide all support necessary for the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar in order to return and protect Rohingya refugees as it was negotiated in the repatriation deals with the High Commissioner for Refugees. Moreover, we urge the government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with and grant unrestricted access to all relevant UN mandate holders including the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and the Independent Commission of Inquiry of Myanmar in order to start an independent investigation on the basis of existing reports of all human rights violations. To deliver justice to victims and to ensure that all those responsible for crimes against persons are held to accountable, we encourage Myanmar to arrange criminal proceedings that are in accordance with regional and international judicial mechanisms. The USA wants to highlight that providing justice and reconciliation in the aftermath of conflicts is not only essential to building peace but also to safeguard stability in national development. If the government of Myanmar does not take any action in order to improve the political and humanitarian situation in Myanmar, the international community should consider to imposing sanctions.