

Advancing counter-terrorism initiatives

Thank you, Mr President. I would like to congratulate Indonesia on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and also thank Indonesia for a consistent effort to advance counter-terrorism initiatives.

I also thank the briefers, Undersecretary-Generals Vladimir Voronkov and Ghada Fathi Waly, for your presentations today.

Mr President, the United Kingdom welcomes ongoing efforts to deepen understanding about the link between organised crime and terrorism. The current threat posed by these linkages varies from country to country and even within regions.

The threats to domestic interests can be quite different to the threat to international interests. And this necessitates a more sophisticated and nuanced response by governments. For example, in the United Kingdom, while interactions between terrorists and criminals occur, they have not yet led to a notable increase in the threat. But in some countries, criminal gangs help facilitate a more permissive environment within which terrorists can operate, as well as provide resources and funding. While the potential linkages vary by context, we recognise that in many places they may derive from similar underlying conditions. In our view, this highlights the importance of a broad preventative approach and one which strengthens capacities to ensure effective legal and criminal justice responses. We should also be very aware of the potential impact on individuals' livelihoods when trying to disrupt previously licit or even illicit economic activities because of that potential benefit to terrorists. We therefore encourage the United Nations and Member States to take this opportunity to tackle common drivers such as economic hardship and vulnerable, and marginalised communities whilst ensuring that all measures to tackle terrorism and serious and organised crime are in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Mr President, we welcome the commitment shown by many Member States in ratifying international and regional counter-terrorism legislation and implementing International Protocols and Conventions. We urge the United Nations and its Member States to continue to strengthen law enforcement and intelligence efforts to deny malign actors safe spaces in which to operate. This includes strengthening inter-agency cooperation and international coordination, as well as tackling illicit financial flows and the misuse of online spaces, for example.

It is therefore critical to prevent terrorist use of the Internet and to ensure that there are no safe spaces online for all forms of terrorists to promote or share their extreme views, to incite attacks, recruit members and indeed obtain resources. In 2010, we set up the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit based in the Metropolitan Police to date in excess of 310,000

individual pieces of terrorist content referred by that unit have been removed by companies. The unit has also informed the design of the EU Internet referral unit based at Europol.

Mr President, we welcome the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism's announcement establishing itself as an independent organisation. We are delighted to sit on the newly established Independent Advisory Committee with colleagues from civil society, academia and our international partners and UN partners like CTED. On serious and Organised Crime specifically, the United Kingdom has established complementary global networks to combat serious and organised crime and terrorist threats through our Serious and Organised Crime Network and the Counter Terrorism and Extremism Network. They work across government to deliver on our objectives, taking into account principles of both justice and national security. More broadly to date, the United Kingdom spent over \$54 million on CT programmes in 2019, focused on multilateral campaigns and supporting partner countries. In addition, we spend over \$30 million on wider security measures. Through the Serious and Organised Crime Network we are piloting a project aimed at combating serious organised crime and counter-terrorism intersection.

It is important the multilateral organisations such as the United Nations, UNODC and Interpol work in partnership with one other. This is vital at a time when scarce resources are sometimes being redirected to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations is uniquely placed to bring together relevant expertise and resources to help coordinate efforts while ensuring they are underpinned by the rules based system, which will bolster international security and capabilities.

The international community should also consider how best to support vulnerable communities at risk of involvement in organised crime or terrorism in fragile and conflict affected states. The additional pressures they face make it likely that the threat is higher in those environments.

To tackle terrorism, our aim is to disrupt the immediate threat of attacks, but also address the longer term factors which enable terrorist groups to grow and continue, whether that be at home, online or overseas. Our approach reflects our commitment not only to reduce the risk from all forms of terrorism, but to do so in a way that is consistent with and indeed advances our commitment to human rights and the rule of law. We recognise that success has come from strong international collaboration and we hope this will continue to be the case in future.

Mr President, we come together nearly a year after this Council adopted Resolution 2482 and much has changed in that time. The resolution was forward-looking and stressing the importance of ensuring that all counter-terrorism measures take note of impartial humanitarian assistance so that key actors can continue to deliver critical support in complex environments. States and communities are confronting the unprecedented spectre of Covid-19, and now more than ever it is essential that we ensure that international efforts are responsive and adaptive to a rapidly changing environment.

Thank you, Mr President.

Meet RWM's Head of Technical Strategy

News story

Dr Sam King introduces the thinking behind geological disposal in her blog



Dr Samantha King, Head of Technical Strategy, RWM

In her role at RWM, Dr Samantha King is responsible for integrating across engineering, safety, research and requirements and programme functions, transformation and stakeholder engagement.

Sam has a BSc. in Physics and Chemistry, a PhD in Chemistry from Manchester University and around 20 years' experience in radioactive waste management.

Sam has worked on a number of international projects with radioactive waste management organisations around the world, and has led reviews of the transferability of technology developed internationally to the UK, in order for us at RWM to learn from the experience of other geological disposal programmes.

In her blog, Sam explains why implementing a safe long-term solution for higher-activity radioactive waste is the right thing to do, and introduces the thinking behind geological disposal.

Dr Sam King says:

Our goal is to move all the UK's higher activity radioactive waste into a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), a series of [highly engineered vaults and tunnels hundreds of metres below ground, in solid rock](#).

You can read the blog in full [here](#).

[Priti Patel thanks firefighters for tireless efforts during coronavirus](#)

Home Secretary Priti Patel paid tribute to the work of firefighters throughout the coronavirus pandemic as she visited Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service today (Thursday 6 August).

She met with firefighters who have been on the frontlines during the pandemic and heard how their roles have adapted to deal with the challenges posed by coronavirus.

Throughout the pandemic, FRS staff have taken on a range of additional duties to support the national effort to fight coronavirus.

This has included delivering essential items to over 80,000 vulnerable people, fitting over 4,000 face masks for frontline NHS and care staff, and transporting over 3,000 non-COVID-19 patients to and from hospital, according to statistics collected by the National Fire Chiefs' Council.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Our brave firefighters have played a crucial part in our fight against coronavirus.

They have provided invaluable support to other emergency services – assisting vulnerable people and NHS staff – in addition to their usual life-saving duties.

I am extremely grateful to them for their selfless service to our country.

During her visit, the home secretary was briefed on Merseyside's role in coordinating national resilience capabilities for fire and rescue services across England and Wales.

Merseyside FRS provides specialist training to other fire authorities and maintains specialist vehicles and kit required to protect people and property in local and national emergencies. The Home Office is providing over £11 million in total funding for Merseyside's role in national resilience work.

Her visit included a demonstration of how firefighters use high-volume pumps – which can pump 7,000 litres of water per minute – to respond to major flooding incidents, such as the Whaley Bridge dam breach in August 2019.

She also met with the urban search and rescue team to see how fire dogs are used to locate missing people following natural disasters and building collapses.

Merseyside FRS Chief Fire Officer Phil Garrigan said:

It is fantastic to have the opportunity to show the Home Secretary some of the work we do here at Merseyside – both in our own right as a local Fire & Rescue Service but also as part of our national role in relation to the coordination and deployment of National Fire and Rescue Service assets.

We have also been able to show how we have maintained our operational responsibilities despite the current pandemic and despite concurrent events taking place elsewhere. For example, the Home Secretary was able to see first-hand how we are currently preparing our teams should they be needed to aid in the response to the terrible events in Beirut this week as part of the UK International Search and Rescue team.

Throughout the pandemic, Fire & Rescue Services up and down the country have gone above and beyond the call of duty, helping to support our NHS and blue light colleagues wherever possible.

The way in which operational and non-operational staff have stepped up during this crisis is incredible but not in the least bit surprising. Locally, Merseyside FRS staff have delivered thousands of prescription medications and hundreds of food parcels to those most in need. We have worked with our local authority partners, housing associations, charities and sports teams to ensure that those most at risk have not been forgotten.

We've continued our day to day work alongside these additional roles. We train for all scenarios, but could not have coped so well without our incredible staff. I'm very proud of them and we will continue to do everything we can to support our frontline workers and amazing NHS colleagues.

To support the fire and rescue service during the pandemic, the Home Office recently launched a £6 million Fire COVID-19 Contingency Fund. This fund will provide financial support to fire and rescue authorities who incur significant costs as a result of taking on additional duties during the pandemic.

The government has also provided £3.7 billion to local government to support their response to the outbreak. This included around £35 million for standalone fire and rescue authorities. County councils and unitary authorities with responsibilities for fire also received a share of the funding as part of a wider allocation that reflects the totality of their local government responsibilities.

Work carried out by the Animals in Science Committee on 2018/19 Commission of Work

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Letter from Professor David Main, Chair of the Animals in Science Committee, to Minister, Baroness Williams, responding to the 2018/19 Commission of Work.

Letter from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to Rachel Reeves MP

[unable to retrieve full-text content]The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has written to Rachel Reeves MP.