

**REMARKS GIVEN BY H.E. MR. PAUL HEINBECKER
BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OPEN BRIEFING ON TERRORISM
DECEMBER 6, 2000**

Monsieur le Président,

Nous félicitons la présidence russe de nous donner la possibilité de poursuivre le débat entamé l'an dernier sur le terrorisme international qui a abouti à l'adoption de la résolution 1269.

Le terrorisme constitue une menace toujours présente pour la paix et la sécurité internationales.

Il représente en outre une menace pour la sécurité humaine car les victimes du terrorisme sont surtout des civils innocents.

C'est pourquoi ce problème mérite de figurer dans la définition élargie de la sécurité que le Conseil de sécurité est en train d'élaborer.

As we are all too aware, terrorism knows no international boundaries.

Its perpetrators recognize neither the rule of law nor international norms.

They reject discussion and negotiation as the way to resolve a dispute or achieve a political objective.

They do not care what havoc they wreak among the innocent to reach their goals, or just for the sake of a political statement.

There is no justification for terrorism and there can be no concessions made to those who commit terrorist acts.

In various regional and multilateral fora, including the General Assembly of the United Nations, we have agreed on important principles in the fight against terrorism.

These include the denial of support and sanctuary for terrorists; the establishment of an ever widening network of international Conventions against terrorism; and international cooperation and coordination at the policy and practical level.

No state is immune from the threat of terrorism, nor from the threat that its territory could be used to support terrorist activity elsewhere.

For this reason, international cooperation is essential in the fight against terrorism.

The conclusion of negotiations over a year ago on the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism now brings to twelve the number of international counter-terrorism instruments at the disposal of the international community.

These conventions, along with the ongoing negotiations on other instruments such as the Comprehensive Convention to combat international terrorism constitute a sound legal framework to combat terrorism anywhere in the world.

The multiplicity of international efforts to fight terrorism reflects the importance that the international community attaches to this issue.

Our citizens expect no less.

They also expect that strong action against terrorism will be consistent with broader commitments to human rights and the rule of law.

By respecting these principles, the institutions entrusted to fight terrorism will attract public support and deny terrorists the sympathy and the support they crave.

For its part, the Security Council has and must continue to play a key role in the fight against terrorism.

It has responded robustly to specific cases of terrorism, whether it was the Lockerbie case or the assassination attempt on President Mubarak.

It has also imposed sanctions against those who harbour or support terrorism, as in the case of the Taliban and Usama Bin Laden.

These actions, while showing that there can be no impunity for terrorism, can also serve as a deterrent to future terrorist acts.

La lutte contre le terrorisme revêt de multiples aspects.

Elle doit faire partie d'un cadre plus large qui ne s'attaquera pas uniquement à cette menace immédiate mais aussi aux facteurs sous-jacents qui entretiennent le terrorisme.

Il s'agit notamment de coopérer sur l'application des lois tout en s'attaquant aux questions relatives aux droits de l'homme, au développement démocratique, à la bonne gouvernance et aux problèmes socio-économiques.

C'est dans le cadre d'une telle approche globale du problème qu'il sera possible de trouver des solutions viables et à long terme au terrorisme.

Thank you, Mr. President