

**Statement
by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Belarus on countering terrorism**

10 April 2024

The Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism, wherever they are committed and whatever their aims.

The bloody terrorist attack in the Russian Federation on 22 March 2024, which claimed the lives of more than 140 civilians, was a shock to the entire international community. It reminded us all once again of the enduring value of human life. A group of criminals cold-bloodedly shot and burned innocent people. All this reminded us of the chronicles of the Great Patriotic War, when the Nazi invaders and their accomplices massacred the civilian population in the same ruthless manner, sparing neither women nor children.

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to humanity today. Many countries around the world are confronted with acts of terrorism and violent extremism, which are increasingly used to destabilise internal political situations and foment inter-ethnic and inter-religious discord.

Criminals disregard everything, resorting to new methods, using the Internet and digital technologies to recruit, finance the perpetrators of terrorist acts and incite the commission of terrorist acts.

We are convinced that the suppression of acts of international terrorism is one of the most important elements in maintaining international peace and security, ensuring sustainable development and preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

Terrorism feeds on energy and takes root where the spiritual and moral values, traditions and culture of peoples are destroyed and history is forgotten. That is why, in the context of the fight against terrorism, we stress the key role of preventive measures to preserve historical memory, to foster in societies an attitude of respect for the culture and traditions of peoples, and to develop friendly relations between States.

We note the key role of parliaments in preventing and combating terrorism, including through legislative activities, participation in the development of relevant policies and strategies, and the development of international co-operation.

We call on parliaments and parliamentary organisations to consolidate efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and extremism, including by promoting the implementation of relevant strategies, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

We, the members of the Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, declare our commitment to strengthening international cooperation in preventing and suppressing acts of terrorism. We express our readiness to cooperate with all interested parliaments and international organisations in order to create a reliable barrier against terrorism and extremism.