

On October 2, the Resolution, Human Rights and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, was adopted at the 30th session of the UN Human Rights Council upon the US delegation's initiative. During the consultations on the draft resolution, Russia and numerous other delegations repeatedly expressed their concerns about the document. In particular, this was related to the fact that it lacked a key element, namely, the confirmation of the states' primary responsibility in countering terrorism and extremism. The draft did not reflect the effective measures of countering extremism that already exist in many countries, including Russia, and are enshrined in their national legislations. Nor did it contain a clear-cut definition of violent extremism. Most importantly, however, the draft essentially distorted the counterterrorism cooperation strategy that has been adopted by the UN and other relevant international organisations and revised agreed-upon priorities and accents. In his remarks, the Russian representative stressed that issues related to countering violent extremism should be regarded in the context of the tasks that states are faced with in preventing terrorism, among other things, in the framework of the partnership with civil society institutions. In this connection, it is of paramount importance that the relevant initiatives that are promoted today rely on the sound foundation of international law, respect for the sovereignty and equality of states and the unacceptability of interference in their internal affairs. As the co-sponsors failed to address the numerous concerns expressed by [other] states, the Russian delegation put the draft to a vote and voted against it. Russia will continue to pursue the course towards countering attempts to impose on the international community one-sided opportunistic approaches on the entire range of issues related to fighting terrorism. We will continue to advocate for strengthening international cooperation, above all, in the framework of the UN, in countering terrorism and extremism, including its violent practices.