In response to the letter from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, of 29 May 2020, concerning a call for input for her thematic report to the 75th session of the General Assembly

Sweden would like to thank the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism for her letter of 29 May 2020 requesting submissions for the thematic report “human rights, humanitarian law and counter-terrorism”. Sweden fully supports the effort to explore the interplay between human rights and international humanitarian law in counter-terrorism contexts in order to ensure better protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We look forward to receiving the report including recommendations, and would like to make the following observations.

Sweden considers it to be of the utmost importance that all counter-terrorism measures are conducted in full compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. Such compliance is a fundamental cornerstone of any sustainable effort to counter and prevent violent extremism leading to terrorism.

Restrictive measures adopted by the UN Security Council and European Union, including those pertaining to terrorism, must be fully compliant with international law, including international human rights law and humanitarian law and are not intended to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is important that humanitarian exemptions, when applicable, are fully and efficiently implemented. We welcome any information on obstacles posed by EU restrictive measures to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Sweden fully supports efforts to strengthen due process in sanctions regimes and procedural rights of listed persons, including through the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to UNSCR 1904 (2009) in relation to the UN 1267 sanctions regime concerning Daesh and Al Qaida.

An open, inclusive civic space and active involvement of civil society actors are key components of successful efforts to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism. We welcome any information on challenges faced by humanitarian and human rights organizations as a result of counter-terrorism regulation.