

JOINT STATEMENT ON COUNTER-ISIL/DA'ESH COOPERATION

Stuttgart, May 4, 2016

The text of the following statement was released by the Defense Ministers of Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States following a Counter-ISIL/Da'esh Defense Ministers' meeting hosted by the United States, in Stuttgart. The Australian Ambassador to Germany represented Australia during the meeting.

Today in Stuttgart U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter hosted a meeting of Defense Ministers from countries contributing the largest forces to the Global Coalition to Counter-ISIL/Da'esh to discuss the results and the gathering momentum behind the military campaign since the meeting of Coalition Defense Ministers in Brussels in February, to take stock of efforts to generate additional capabilities to further accelerate the efforts by the Government of Iraq and local forces in Syria, to discuss ISIL/Da'esh's global ambitions, and to ensure the protection of our citizens.

We called on all of Iraq's political leaders to commit themselves to the legal and peaceful reconciliation of political differences in order to confront the nation's challenges and to remain united against the common enemy of ISIL/Da'esh.

We acknowledged the important work that is being done to stabilize areas cleared from ISIL/Da'esh, including in the strategically important region of Anbar province. However, we also recognized the vast resource requirements of the stabilization effort and the considerable challenges that remain in funding those requirements. These efforts are not inherently military tasks, but their success is essential to the ultimate outcome of the military campaign. We reiterated the commitment of our respective governments to contribute in various forms to the civilian stabilization effort.

We reaffirmed our strong support to further accelerate and reinforce the success of our partners on the ground and for the deployment of additional enabling capabilities in the near term, in order to hasten the collapse of ISIL's/Da'esh's control over Mosul and Raqqa. As the largest troop contributing nations, Ministers also agreed to work collectively with other coalitions partners to most efficiently generate the additional capabilities identified by the Combined Joint Task Force INHERENT RESOLVE to support the campaign. In doing so we can strengthen the momentum already gained by our partners on the ground, bringing closer the lasting defeat of ISIL/Da'esh and its ability to terrorize the people of the region and our own populations.

Ministers took stock of the recent Chiefs of Defence meeting in London, to include efforts to better synchronize capability requirements across a wide range of current and potential crisis to most effectively utilize our collective resources.

As the current campaign advances, Ministers also welcomed the upcoming Coalition planning conference that will examine options for the next phase of the operation when the Coalition will focus on the longer term development of our local partners to ward against a reemergence of ISIL/Da'esh or other violent extremist organizations that seek to prey upon local populations.

We endorsed Secretary Carter's proposal for Defense Ministers of the C-ISIL/Daesh Coalition force contributing nations to convene their second Defense Ministerial later this year.