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Chairman: Mr. Prandler (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/57/37, A/57/183 and Add.1, A/57/66, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/88-S/2002/672, A/57/203, A/57/269-S/2002/854, A/57/273-S/2002/875 and A/57/341-S/2002/950)

1. **Ms. Kalema** (Uganda) said that prior to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the United States of America, which her Government and all peace-loving States condemned, terrorists had been operating elsewhere in the world. In August 1998 Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania had suffered simultaneous strikes on the United States embassies located in those countries. Innocent civilians and embassy staff had died, others had been injured, and property damage had occurred.

2. Terrorists continued to operate in the northern region of her country, where thousands of people, including women and children, had been abducted, maimed or killed indiscriminately. Homes had been set ablaze and food had been destroyed, leaving those who managed to escape hungry and homeless.

3. For those reasons, her Government reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations and its Member States, as well as other relevant international organizations, in the fight against terrorism. Her delegation was committed to the implementation of the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism and believed that the Declaration was still as important as when it had been adopted.

4. Her delegation was also in favour of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which had yet to be finalized.

5. Her delegation also supported the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism currently under consideration by the relevant Working Group of the Sixth Committee. Her delegation would, however, like to see the draft cover legal entities which sponsored terrorist activities aimed at destabilizing a State. Moreover, the root causes of terrorism should be addressed.

6. As part of the counter-terrorism efforts undertaken since the previous year, a national committee on terrorism had been created within the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate the

implementation of United Nations anti-terrorism resolutions and conventions.

7. The Parliament had adopted a Suppression of Terrorism act and was due to consider ratification of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Organization of the Islamic Conference Convention on Combating International Terrorism.

8. Lastly, her Government was a party to 4 of the 12 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions. It would soon become a party to the remaining 8, following the completion of the domestic procedures required for their entry into force.

9. **Mr. Naidu** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum group of States, said that the resolve of those countries to combat terrorism was embodied in the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security issued by the Forum leaders in August 2002. That declaration underlined the importance of introducing legislation and developing strategies to combat terrorist financing and other serious crimes, including money-laundering, drug trafficking, people smuggling and people trafficking.

10. The Pacific Islands Forum group also strongly supported efforts to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft nuclear terrorism convention.

11. Capacity limitations presented a major challenge to many of the group's member countries, several of which were involved in consultations with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee). Forum leaders had requested a report in 2003 that would review the regional implementation of that resolution and of the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Officials were examining the vulnerability of banking and financial systems and transport infrastructure, particularly at international airports.

12. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that his delegation assessed the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in a positive light and believed that, during its first year, a sound basis had been established for further success in the implementation of its mandate. Strengthening the interaction between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, United Nations Secretariat units, and regional and national bodies would help to

maintain the momentum created by the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), particularly with regard to the harmonization of anti-terrorism legislation.

13. His Government was a party to 9 of the 12 multilateral counter-terrorism treaties and was completing the domestic procedures required to become a party to the remaining 3. In particular, in June 2002, Belarus had ratified the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

14. His delegation supported the adoption of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism in order to eliminate serious gaps in the international legal framework for combating terrorism. In that connection, his Government appealed to other States to overcome their differences regarding the scope of application of the convention, which related to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental norms of international law.

15. His delegation was also convinced of the need to adopt, as soon as possible, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, given the threat posed by the ever wider dissemination of nuclear materials and technologies throughout the world.

16. Lastly, his delegation strongly supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and believed that the issue should be on the Working Group's agenda.

17. **Mr. Uykur** (Turkey) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

18. His country had suffered from terrorism. His delegation had long called attention to the serious nature of the problem, from which no nation was immune.

19. His Government was a party to all 12 international conventions against terrorism, which set out the basic legal framework for cooperation among States in combating terrorism. His Government called upon all States which had not yet done so to become parties to those conventions.

20. He underscored the invaluable work of the Working Group, which had elaborated the two most recent counter-terrorism conventions and was currently finalizing two others. The current draft of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, submitted by India, was a solid basis for discussion. An instrument should be concluded without delay in order to ensure that there was no safe haven for terrorists in any country.

21. His delegation also looked forward to the completion of the discussions on the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

22. **Mr. Mamba** (Swaziland) said that the challenge facing the international community was to ensure that any action taken to defeat terrorism did not deepen the divisions among its members. A solution must be found that took into account the opinions and concerns of all Member States. In that connection, his delegation hoped that a comprehensive legal framework against terrorism would be concluded as soon as possible within the Working Group.

23. His delegation continued to support the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint response of the international community to terrorism.

24. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), his Government had given priority to strengthening the legal regime on combating terrorism. An internal security bill that outlined measures relating to the resolution would soon be introduced in Parliament.

25. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna to strengthen its terrorism prevention branch with a view to providing technical assistance to States.

26. **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina) said that twice in the past decade his country had been a target of international terrorism. His delegation had been actively involved in the development of international rules and actions for the suppression of terrorism and would continue to support all such efforts in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

27. His delegation endorsed the appeals made earlier for resolution of the outstanding issues relating to the draft comprehensive convention on international

terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

28. It was also essential for action at the international level to be reflected immediately in the domestic sphere through the adoption of effective laws and regulations.

29. Regional cooperation was of growing importance in combating terrorism. Some months earlier, the Organization of American States had adopted an updated counter-terrorism convention, replacing one over 30 years old. The new convention referred to United Nations texts in order to bring the regional response into line with international norms.

30. **Mr. Makayat-Safouesse** (Republic of the Congo) said that the African continent had seen a steady increase in the number of terrorist acts stemming from political, religious and ethnic intolerance. For that reason, his delegation took a strong interest in the efforts of the Working Group on terrorism.

31. His Government had always supported the resolutions of the United Nations and OAU which unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. An array of measures had been enacted at the national level to complement those international efforts. While his country did not yet have specific legislation dealing with terrorist acts as separate offences, it had the necessary tools for the prevention and punishment of such acts, including two laws on ensuring the safety of civil aviation. His Government had also issued regulations for the prevention and suppression of terrorist financing in accordance with a central African convention on the harmonization of banking rules.

32. His delegation welcomed the progress made in the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the report of the Working Group (A/57/17) reflected the basis for a broad consensus. That was true, in particular, of the draft texts contained in annexes I to III of the report. As to draft article 18, his delegation called upon Member States to resolve the outstanding issues as soon as possible.

33. **Mr. Biato** (Brazil) said that the increasing sophistication and global scope of international terrorism derived in large measure from closer links between terrorist groups and international criminal networks. His delegation reaffirmed its unequivocal

condemnation of terrorism. Irrespective of motivation, terrorist acts must be seen as gross violations of the most fundamental human rights: the right to life and the freedom to live without fear.

34. Over the years the international community had painstakingly created a network of interlocking conventions on judicial cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of terrorist crimes were brought to justice. Brazil had ratified 10 of the conventions, and the remaining instruments were before the Congress for ratification. A comprehensive counter-terrorism convention was needed to provide a juridical framework for the application of the existing instruments and to come to grips with a phenomenon that so far had eluded definition. Its adoption would send a powerful message that the international community was determined to deal forcefully with the threat. His delegation supported the proposal that, once a convention had been concluded, an international conference should be convened to underscore the commitment to developing coordinated and comprehensive anti-terrorist strategies.

35. Brazil had also engaged in the fight against terrorism at the regional level under the auspices of the Organization of American States through the Inter-American Committee to Combat Terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. It had presented two reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and was reviewing its national legislation to enhance its contribution to the global struggle.

36. Although the international community was well aware of the urgency of dealing forcefully with the threat, it must nevertheless not let a heightened sense of vulnerability lead it to forgo first principles. The fight against terrorism would be self-defeating if waged in a manner that was incompatible with established human rights standards and the Charter of the United Nations, or that detracted from the broad international coalition formed following the events of 11 September 2001.

37. Equally important, it should not divert attention from the enormous social and economic inequalities around the world; in other words, the security agenda must not be allowed to overshadow the agenda for hope. Issues such as open trade, the international financial regime and the fight against poverty, on which the legitimate aspirations of many peoples hinged, must not be ignored. The sense of solidarity

that currently united the international community in combating terrorism should be carried over to finding solutions to terrorism's underlying causes: conflict, poverty, ignorance and racism. Terrorism found fertile ground in civil strife and deprivation. The United Nations was the appropriate forum for building a global coalition that could legitimately develop a long-term response to terrorism and its origins.

38. **Mr. Ilnytskyi** (Ukraine), speaking also on behalf of other participating States of the GUUAM Group, namely Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, said that the perpetrators of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had acted counter to the laws of human civilization, and their actions were to be firmly condemned. In the face of the terrorism challenge, the international community had demonstrated its resolve and had brought about an encouraging impetus for change. It was increasingly clear that only through the joint comprehensive efforts of the whole international community could terrorism, extremism and aggressive separatism be overcome. The United Nations constituted the appropriate framework for collective efforts in fighting terrorism. His delegation called upon all States to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and the norms of international law.

39. As the universal organ with broad competence, the General Assembly had an important role to play in combating terrorism. The 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (A/49/60, annex), among other things, encouraged States to review the scope of the existing international legal provisions on terrorism with the aim of ensuring that there was a comprehensive legal framework covering all aspects. While the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism were constructive outcomes, speedy conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism had acquired special importance.

40. The group of States for which he spoke was committed to uniting their efforts in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, as called for by the GUUAM charter. The Presidents of the participating States had issued a declaration at their summit meeting in July 2002 stating the determination of their Governments to provide the political, legal and organizational basis for overcoming the challenges of international terrorism, separatism, intolerance and

extremism, and an agreement on cooperation in that regard had been signed. Those decisions had been underlined at the recent meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM States. The participating States were fully cognizant of the threat posed by the use of the proceeds of crime to finance terrorist activities and were examining the issue of working closely with the Financial Action Task Force.

41. **Mr. Iskandarov** (Azerbaijan) said that his delegation aligned itself fully with the statement of Ukraine. Following the barbaric terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, his Government had supported all the subsequent efforts of the anti-terrorist coalition and had contributed by adopting its own concrete measures. In addition to signing and ratifying the Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and ensuring that its national legislation was in conformity with international standards, Azerbaijan had also opened its air space and provided logistical support for the military phase of the campaign; cooperated with law enforcement agencies in other States to prevent terrorists from transiting Azerbaijani territory; captured and extradited persons identified by their own Governments as terrorists; and worked closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, whose work it valued highly. The only portion of Azerbaijan territory that the Government could not effectively police was the 20 per cent occupied by Armenian forces.

42. Based on its own sad experience, Azerbaijan could testify that terrorism was closely related to aggressive separatism, organized crime and drug trafficking. In the decade since the invasion by Armenia, Azerbaijan had been exposed to 32 terrorist acts by Armenian terrorist organizations, including two horrific bomb attacks in subway stations in the capital, and the links with organized crime had been clearly demonstrated.

43. Hence it was ironic that Armenia had attempted to spread propaganda aimed at linking Azerbaijan to terrorism by using the very documents released by Azerbaijan as part of its efforts against terrorism and by painting a distorted picture of Azerbaijan's pride in its rich Islamic culture. However, the world was well aware which side had a record of terrorist activity; United Nations veterans would remember the bomb attack on the Azerbaijani mission in New York by Armenian terrorists in the 1980s. Unfortunately, terrorists were supported by the current political environment in Armenia. Many were from the political

elite and some of their views received official support. Only a few years ago the Armenian Government had been asking for the release of terrorists convicted of a bomb attack at Orly Airport.

44. The worldwide struggle against terrorism was only beginning. To achieve a world without fear, the international community must address not just the manifestations of terrorism but its root causes, among them, aggressive separatism, occupation of the territories of others and the resultant isolation of portions of States from international legal control. Such situations undermined the very foundation of the United Nations as embodied in its Charter. His delegation hoped that in countering the evil of international terrorism, Member States would unite on the basis of principle rather than narrow national interests.

45. **Mr. Loizaga** (Paraguay) said that the events of 11 September 2001 had struck at the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence in the international community. Terrorist acts could not be justified or accepted as an extension of politics by other means. Convinced that terrorism was a global threat to peace, Paraguay was committed to supporting the Organization as it assumed its proper role in combating terrorism, vigorously and unequivocally, taking all necessary measures in keeping with the Charter and the rules of international law. In 1972 the General Assembly had begun, though timidly, a long series of efforts to draft an international convention for the suppression of international terrorism. A major tragedy had been required to create consensus on the urgent need for a rapid response. The Organization must take effective collective measures as provided for in the Charter. His delegation considered it a matter of priority to strengthen the international legal basis for combating terrorism and was confident that negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism could be concluded during the current session on the basis of the draft proposed by India, together with an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism.

46. His Government had submitted its reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and was committed to working closely with it. Paraguay was in the process of becoming a party to the international conventions on terrorism and had been one of the first countries to sign the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

47. **Mr. Cabrera** (Peru) said that, as a country that had experienced first-hand the scourge of terrorism, Peru attached special importance to measures to eliminate it. After 15 years of struggle, during which terrorist movements had killed more than 25,000 people and caused incalculable damage, Peruvians had managed to defeat terrorism thanks to the decisive action of the authorities and the cooperation of the civilian population. The events of 11 September 2001 had shown that terrorism was not confined within national borders. In a globalized world, no country could consider itself immune. His delegation reiterated its vigorous condemnation of acts of terrorism, regardless of the motivation or identity of those responsible.

48. Peru was a party to the 12 United Nations conventions relating to terrorism and was in the process of reviewing its national legislation to ensure its full conformity with their provisions. Convinced that the international legal framework needed to be strengthened and expanded, it felt that the speedy adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism should not be postponed and urged the States with the most divergent positions to spare no effort to reach an agreement. With regard to the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, his delegation felt that, although the text proposed was not perfect, it would be far better for the international community to have a legal regime on the matter than to allow a gap to remain.

49. Notwithstanding its firm commitment to human rights, Peru wished to call attention to the danger of misuse of political asylum, a humanitarian institution that Peru had always defended and would continue to defend. The globalization of terrorism meant that receiving countries must redouble their scrutiny of applications for asylum, to ensure that the mantle of humanitarian protection was not extended to perpetrators of terrorist acts, and must monitor those granted asylum, to ensure that they did not use their status as a cover for seditious activities and terrorist financing. In that regard, Peru called for full implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing.

50. **Mr. Mezeme-Mba** (Gabon) said that, since 11 September 2001, the agenda item on measures to eliminate international terrorism had become a matter of universal concern. Gabon had been one of the first

to implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by taking legal measures to prevent and suppress terrorism, and it had been cooperating fully with the initiatives taken by the Committee established pursuant to that resolution. There was an urgent need to accelerate negotiations on the two draft conventions under consideration. His delegation welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee and was confident that differences on a comprehensive definition of international terrorism could be overcome. A United Nations conference would be useful in coordinating counter-terrorism strategies, which must address, among other questions, the problems of armed conflicts and the social and economic concerns that served as a pretext for some terrorist groups.

51. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that his country, which had been a victim of terrorism on a number of occasions during the previous decade, reiterated its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A coherent and coordinated international response to international terrorism was needed and the United Nations had a central role to play in that effort. In combating terrorism, however, the inherent right of States to self-defence, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, must be respected. Ethiopia fully supported the role of the United Nations and the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to galvanize international action against the continuing threat of international terrorism. The report which it had submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee outlining the wide range of administrative, legislative and judicial measures taken by the Government to combat international terrorism was clear testimony of Ethiopia's commitment to combating and eradicating that scourge. His Government would continue to work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the effort to eliminate terrorism in all its forms.

52. Ethiopia supported the early conclusion of the negotiations on a comprehensive convention against international terrorism and the elaboration of an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism in order to close the existing gaps in the international legal regime to combat terrorism. Flexibility and political will were needed in order to resolve the pending issues and complete the negotiations. Continued consultations within the Working Group would make a useful contribution to the achievement of that objective.

53. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel) said that the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 had reminded the world that terrorism posed a threat to all peace-loving peoples, had no respect for human values and transcended boundaries, nationalities, race and religion. It was a direct challenge to the most fundamental principles of nearly every faith and country. The attacks also showed that terrorism could exist only with the support and complicity of States.

54. Terrorism had its own perverse logic, which dictated that it must continually horrify and stupefy. The same level of violence that shocked the international community one day left it unmoved on the next and terrorists must always find new atrocities to outrage its sensibility. The war against terrorism was crucial, not just for Israel but for the world at large. It was a war for homes and families and indeed for civilization. There was no value, however sacred, that fundamentalist terrorism had not trampled underfoot.

55. But although terrorism was abhorrent, it was also vulnerable. Where the proponents of terrorism could not be attacked directly, their lifelines, particularly their financing and their State support, could be cut off. With regard to the former, it should be remembered that international terrorism was a business that could not operate without a steady flow of funds. The Security Council had recognized that fact when it called upon all States to prevent the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, including through organizations that claimed to have charitable, social or cultural goals. That was not always easy. Governments were loath to be seen taking steps against charitable organizations that ostensibly raised money for the poor and weak. It must be recognized, however, that terrorist fund-raising in the guise of charity was a doubly heinous crime. It marked not only death, but in so doing cynically abused those in genuine need of assistance. Israel was currently in the advanced stages of ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. During the previous year, it had revised its money-laundering legislation and had continued the outlawing of extremist organizations engaged in terrorist fund-raising under the guise of charitable activities. Those organizations continued to raise funds abroad, however, and Israel called upon all States to take similar action. States should consider all necessary ways in which, within the framework of their

domestic legislation, they could remove the veil of charitable purposes, where such purposes were but a thin disguise for terrorist activity.

56. The second weakness of terrorism was that it could not operate in a vacuum and depended on sympathetic States for sponsorship and support. The international community should therefore make it very clear that sponsoring terrorism and permitting terrorist groups to act with impunity from within the borders of a State were not among the prerogatives of sovereignty. Indeed, sovereignty carried with it a responsibility not to acquiesce in the organization or preparation of terrorist acts within the territory of a State. In its resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1377 (2001), the Security Council had also reaffirmed the principle that no State should allow its territory to be used as a base for cross-border terrorist attacks.

57. It should therefore be abundantly clear that neutrality was not an option in the fight against terrorism. Many States still behaved, however, as if they could remain neutral in the war against terror, even as they granted sanctuary to terrorists and their supporters and permitted the free flow of terrorist funds and trafficking in the arms and equipment used in terrorist attacks. Such States were not neutral. They were accomplices to terror and must be made to pay the price. The international community must be willing to call terrorism by its name and place blame where it was due.

58. Terrorism was defined by what one did and not by why it was done. Moreover, there was no equivalence between those who engaged in terrorism and those who fought in self-defence. No principle of international law could ever justify the murder of innocent civilians and the admission of such a possibility merely invited terrorists to carry out their inhumane acts.

59. In contrast to the cowardice of the terrorists, who hid behind innocent children and families, the extraordinary courage of the States and peoples confronted with terrorism must be recognized. The international community should strengthen the hand of those States and their peoples and show them that they were not alone in the battle.

60. In response to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who had lectured the Committee about terrorism the previous day, her delegation had hoped that the Syrian delegation would rise above the toxic

rhetoric for which it had become known. As a State that actively harboured, supported, financed and encouraged terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, however, it would have been naïve to expect anything less from the Syrian Arab Republic. It was indeed surreal that a member of the Security Council should defy the Council's resolutions, in particular those concerning terrorism, with impunity.

61. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia) observed that the phenomenon of terrorism had received significant attention since the attacks of 11 September 2001, which had demonstrated that no nation or individual was immune to that scourge. Terrorists were expanding their regional and global reach and their acts affected the security and political and economic stability of all nations. As a global danger, terrorism must therefore be met with a broad international response.

62. Armenia was fully committed to the action being taken by the United Nations to combat terrorism and to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. To that end, it was hosting a conference on the theme of "The international fight against terrorism: perspectives for regional cooperation in the southern Caucasus", to be held on 8-9 October 2002 under the auspices of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. He wished to thank the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Secretariat for assigning a counter-terrorism expert to the Conference, whose deliberations would be greatly enriched by the expert's participation. The large number of regional and international conferences being organized on the subject of counter-terrorism was a sign of the growing trend towards multilateral cooperation. Member States should increase such cooperation and abide by the principles of the international instruments relating to terrorism. In that regard, the adoption of a common definition of terrorism would contribute to the collective effort to eradicate that evil.

63. Particular efforts should be made to prevent terrorists from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction. Indeed, the international community could not ignore the possibility that some terrorist networks already had the capacity to create their own biological and chemical facilities.

64. The international community should continue its efforts to combat terrorism until the root causes of the phenomenon were eliminated. It should also recognize the danger inherent in treating entire nations and

religions as villains. No religion was evil and no religion justified the killing of innocent people. But any religion could become a deadly weapon if manipulated in situations where entire communities were affected by poverty, disease, illiteracy and hopelessness. The United Nations should redouble its efforts to promote economic development and eradicate poverty, since those were the strategic battlefields in the war against terrorism.

65. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that terrorist violence against innocent populations could never be justified on any grounds and must be fought with all lawful means at the disposal of States. Success in eradicating terrorist networks, which transcended national frontiers, depended on international cooperation and concerted action by States, while respecting the Charter of the United Nations, applicable international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and democratic values.

66. Ecuador had made a constructive contribution to the negotiations on important anti-terrorist agreements. In the United Nations, it would continue to support all initiatives aimed at preventing, combating and eliminating that scourge through agreed measures. In particular, it supported efforts to resolve outstanding issues relating to the comprehensive convention against international terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It commended the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to resolution 51/210 and the other members of the Bureau for their continuing efforts to achieve the required consensus.

67. At the regional level, Ecuador had played an active role in the negotiation of the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, which had been adopted recently within the framework of the Organization of American States.

68. At the international level, Ecuador supported programmes for the full and effective application of existing international norms to the fight against terrorism. It supported the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and, to that end, had developed a broad domestic strategy that included legislative, administrative, police and other measures. It stood ready to participate in international efforts aimed at preventing and punishing terrorism. Those efforts, however, should not be limited to military and police actions but should include broader

initiatives for the development of all peoples and nations, the reduction of poverty and the peaceful settlement of disputes that fostered hatred and created the conditions that were exploited by those who used violence and terror as their instruments.

69. **Mr. Lavallo-Valdés** (Guatemala) said that, long before the horrific terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, his Government had stressed the need for closer international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, which could create frictions between States and thus threaten international peace and security. The international community had adopted numerous resolutions in the General Assembly and had established norms to combat the scourge collectively. Regrettably, the application of those norms had been insufficient to prevent the atrocities of 11 September, which had brought about profound and permanent changes in the world.

70. The Sixth Committee should be proud of the contribution it had made to the fight against terrorism in the form of reports that were the basis of later action by the General Assembly, including the adoption of international instruments to combat terrorism in all its forms. The Committee had also elaborated the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. That Declaration, together with the supplementary Declaration of 1996, set out in a comprehensive and balanced manner the fundamental principles that should be respected by the international community in its fight against the scourge of terrorism. Indeed, prior to 11 September 2001, the Committee had been engaged in the elaboration of an international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and a comprehensive convention against international terrorism. It would therefore be ironic if, despite the impetus of the 11 September attacks, efforts to complete work on the two draft conventions were to fail.

71. **Mr. Diab** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel was cynically exploiting the tragedy of 11 September to pursue its policy of occupying Palestinian territory under the guise of combating terrorism. It continued to deny Palestinians the right to self-determination, in defiance of international law and United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 425 (1978). It also continued its expansionist policies and the development and stockpiling of chemical, bacteriological and nuclear weapons of mass

destruction, while blocking every effort to reach a just and lasting settlement of the problem in the Middle East. The Israeli occupation posed a threat to the territorial integrity of Lebanon and Hezbollah was exercising its right under the Charter of the United Nations to defend itself against foreign occupation.

72. **Mr. Haj Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that before the establishment of the State of Israel, terrorism had been virtually unknown to the international community. In the early days, a group of Jewish terrorists had attacked Palestinians who had been on the land for generations in an effort to force them to leave the country, committing massacres in the process. Those terrorists had not hesitated to attack the Administering Power; they had bombed the King David Hotel, murdered United Nations mediator Count Bernadotte and terrorized the international community and the United Nations. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hands were drenched in the blood of those who had died at Sabra and Shatila, and innocent children had been killed in the Qana massacre in defiance of the United Nations and of international opinion.

73. The United Nations operated on the basis of international law and was engaged in its progressive development. It must therefore acknowledge that the systematic murder of Palestinians constituted extrajudicial execution; dozens of women and children had died as a result of Israeli attacks on populated areas. Many delegations had stressed that the right of peoples to self-determination and resistance to foreign occupation was a fundamental tenet of the United Nations. Foreign occupation was one of the worst manifestations of terrorism, and resistance to occupation was a means of combating such terrorism.

74. All the Security Council members had noted the constructive role played by his delegation in the efforts to combat terrorism and to ensure compliance with Council resolutions, particularly resolution 1373 (2001). Israel, for its part, had violated 29 such resolutions and had no intention of complying with the recently adopted resolution 1435 (2002); Israeli tanks and soldiers currently encircled Ramallah and other Palestinian cities. The representative of Lebanon had already countered the Israeli delegation's remarks regarding Hezbollah, whose function was to remove the occupiers from Lebanese territory. Israel had expelled the Palestinians residing in Syria from their homes and forced them to leave the country; his

Government was providing them with support, refuge and the right to plead their cause until they could return, as called for in the relevant United Nations resolutions.

75. **Mr. Iskandarov** (Azerbaijan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that United Nations documents provided proof that Azerbaijan had unconditionally supported efforts to combat all forms of terrorism, including Armenian aggression, long before the events of 11 September 2001. He asked the representative of Armenia to tell the Committee how many terrorist attacks against its territory had been organized or perpetrated by Azerbaijanis, who had suffered from the mythical nests of Azerbaijani terrorists allegedly located in Armenia and what per cent of Armenian territory was affected. During the past ten years, Armenia had carried out 32 terrorist acts in Azerbaijani territory, causing the death of approximately 2,000 people, and 20 per cent of that territory was occupied by the Armenian armed forces.

76. **Mr. Hmoud** (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the right of peoples to self-defence did not apply to acts of aggression committed by an occupier against the population of the occupied territory. The occupying party was obliged to respect the principles of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the First Additional Protocol thereto, and to refrain from acts of collective punishment, target killings and transfer of the occupied population to points outside the occupied territory or of its own population to that territory.

77. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Azerbaijan's terrorist activities were well-documented. According to the Director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the United States of America, so-called charitable organizations had established military training camps in Azerbaijan; its Government had employed thousands of Palestinian mercenaries to fight in Nagorny Karabakh, portraying the conflict as a jihad against Christians. Azerbaijan's calls for war merely undermined the peace process.

78. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Lebanon, who had spoken of the need for international legitimacy, should heed his own rhetoric. The Lebanese

Government should fulfil its commitment to restore security to southern Lebanon and prevent terrorist groups such as Hezbollah from launching missiles across the border and from abducting and murdering Israeli soldiers and civilians. Lebanon allowed terrorists to build an infrastructure on its soil and failed to comply with Security Council resolutions. In particular, resolution 1373 (2001) required States to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts and to prevent the movement of terrorist groups by effective border controls; Lebanon had also refused to freeze Hezbollah's assets or to shut down the terrorist organizations operating in Beirut.

79. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan.

80. **Mr. Iskandarov** (Azerbaijan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had exercised its right of reply not to lead the Committee astray, but to set the record straight and to seek a clear answer to its questions; none had been provided.

81. **Mr. Diab** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Hezbollah was a political party which participated in the economic and social life of his country and was represented in Parliament; it was also involved in the legitimate resistance to Israeli occupation on the other side of the Lebanese border. The representative of Israel had spoken of respect for Security Council resolutions but had said nothing of her own Government's 20-year failure to comply with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). Lebanon fully observed the relevant United Nations resolutions; it condemned terrorism but supported the right of peoples to resist occupation. Israel spoke of respect for Security Council resolutions, yet its military aircraft routinely violated Lebanese airspace and, by flying over water, circumvented the direct surveillance of international forces.

82. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Azerbaijan was thwarting the desire of the people of Nagorny Karabakh for self-determination and denying their right to self-defence. Unfortunately, its response was a military onslaught against the Armenian population of that region; Armenia bore no responsibility for anything that took place in the territory under Azerbaijani control, but it

sought to use its influence with the people of Nagorny Karabakh in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Agenda item 22: Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations
(*continued*)

(h) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (*continued*)
(A/C.6/57/L.5)

83. **Mr. Molnar** (Hungary), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/57/L.5, announced that Argentina, Bangladesh, Denmark, Italy, Malta, Monaco and Viet Nam had become sponsors. At its most recent session in Geneva, the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union had reiterated that organization's desire to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer; he was convinced that wide support from all the regional groups would ensure the draft resolution's adoption.

84. **Mr. Ekedede** (Nigeria) said that his delegation too wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 165: Observer status for the Asian Development Bank in the General Assembly
(*continued*) (A/C.6/57/L.6)

85. **Mr. Su Wei** (China), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/57/L.6, announced that Bangladesh and the United States of America had become sponsors.

Agenda item 166: Observer status for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in the General Assembly (*continued*)
(A/C.6/57/L.7)

86. **Mr. Marschik** (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/57/L.7, announced that Australia, Finland, Norway and Slovenia had become sponsors.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.