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Chair: Mr. Salinas Burgos (Chile)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/66/37 and A/66/96 and Add.1)

1. **Ms. Enerson** (Norway) said that her country, which had experienced its first terrorist attack in 2011, condemned terrorism wherever, whenever and for whatever reason committed as a criminal act and one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Her Government had made the protection of human rights and the rule of law a particular priority in its overall approach to counter-terrorism, believing also that such elements as democracy, freedom of speech, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, openness, understanding and tolerance were crucial to preventing the emergence of terrorism. The unity of purpose demonstrated in response to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which adopted that same approach, was encouraging insofar as it was only through concerted global efforts and closer international cooperation that terrorism could be countered. The Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held in New York on 19 September 2001, had provided an opportunity for fruitful discussion.

2. The role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in implementing the Global Strategy must be further strengthened, together with its role in capacity-building and international coordination in the field of counter-terrorism. Norway had worked closely with CTITF on deradicalization programmes and had also supported the legal capacity-building activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Amounting to some US\$ 2 million, its support for CTITF was channelled primarily through the unique Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative, aimed at coordinating counter-terrorism efforts at the country level and building capacity in partnering countries. Preventive action should similarly emphasize the regional approach.

3. Norway stood ready to continue its support for CTITF and was firmly committed to the implementation of all United Nations resolutions and conventions relating to terrorism. It commended the Security Council for its continuous focus on strengthening procedural rights for individuals listed as

terrorists, with particular reference to the adoption of Council resolution 1889 (2011). Its hope was that Member States would demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to conclude the process of adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should be followed by the convening of a high-level conference to take stock of counter-terrorism efforts, identify needs and pinpoint resources available for implementing the new convention.

4. **Mr. Alshemali** (United Arab Emirates) said that cooperation on all fronts should be intensified in order to tackle the scourge of terrorism, the complexity and impact of which had widened over the past two decades. His delegation supported all efforts to strengthen the regional and international systems in place to combat terrorism on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of law and international humanitarian law. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced, non-selective manner and should continue to undergo periodic review. He hoped that Member States would show enough political flexibility to agree on the outstanding issues with respect to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and renewed the call for the convening of an international conference, under United Nations auspices, with a view to clearly defining terrorism and the root causes of its spread. Plans should also be elaborated for supporting victims of terrorism, including State terrorism.

5. His country had developed its counter-terrorism legislation in order to tackle, among other things, money-laundering and transnational organized crime and also adopted a variety of other measures to pre-empt the ideological thinking that fostered terrorism. All available national resources and expertise were dedicated to coordinating and cooperating with the international, regional and subregional machinery in place for punishing acts of terrorism and criminality under international law. All points of entry to the country were rigorously controlled in order to prevent sensitive materials from falling into terrorist hands. Multilateral cooperation with regional and international partners to prevent the financing of terrorism had also been strengthened, as had military cooperation in the context of global counter-terrorism efforts. Other measures taken included the exchange of information and expertise with relevant regional and international organizations,

accession to all regional and international counter-terrorism conventions and entry into a number of regional counter-terrorism partnerships.

6. He voiced concern over the continuing provocative attempts to link acts of extremism and terrorism with religion, in particular Islam, which was grounded in respect for the human person and promoted peaceful coexistence among all nations and peoples, without exception. All States should take preventive action and seek, inter alia, to foster a culture of tolerance and peace, establish the principles of justice and international law and deepen respect for human rights in order to end the injustices exploited by terrorists to vindicate their actions. Victims of terrorism should also be afforded sympathetic treatment.

7. **Ms. Guo Xiaomei** (China) said that the counter-terrorism situation remained complex and serious, particularly given the new challenges posed by the diverse tactics and increasing variety of methods employed by terrorists. Terrorism must be countered in line with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the recognized norms of international law, with respect for national sovereignty and without double standards or the association of terrorism with any civilization, ethnicity or religion. International cooperation and the leading and coordinating role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism activities should also be enhanced, using as a guideline the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In order to eliminate the breeding ground for terrorism, its symptoms and root causes must be addressed with equal emphasis on prevention and punishment and poverty and social injustice must be eliminated.

8. To that end, her Government was committed to creating a harmonious social environment and achieving social equity, justice and stability. It was also intensifying its efforts to improve the legal framework and strengthen capacity-building in the area of counter-terrorism. It continued to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations counter-terrorism instruments to which it was a party and devoted much attention to advocacy and education in order to combat extremism. It had enhanced its mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism and engaged fully in the work of both the terrorism-related committees of the Security Council and CTITF.

9. In addition to playing a responsible part in listing and de-listing exercises, China had impressed upon the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) "Counter-Terrorism Committee" the need to respect Member States' choice of counter-terrorism strategies and make fair and reasonable recommendations during its review process, with due regard to the circumstances and difficulties of the countries concerned. It encouraged the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to mobilize resources from all channels in order to deliver technical and capacity-building assistance to developing countries for counter-terrorism purposes.

10. Her Government was actively involved in various bilateral and regional cooperation activities in the area of counter-terrorism and had signed a number of extradition treaties and agreements on criminal justice assistance. Her delegation looked forward to early adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and would continue its constructive cooperation in the effort to resolve the outstanding problems.

11. **Mr. Sefue** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the United Nations played a central role in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, which had continued to receive deservedly high priority. Further action was nonetheless needed to tackle the acts of terrorism that were taking place worldwide and creating a sense of insecurity. His Government condemned the recent attack on United Nations premises in Nigeria, a reminder that no country was immune from the scourge of terrorism. Such a serious global threat to international peace and security required a concerted, coordinated response.

12. His Government was committed to using all means at its disposal to combat terrorism and address its underlying causes. It was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument and was in the process of ratifying the remainder. Various domestic laws and other measures were in place for implementing those instruments and preventing the perpetrators of terrorist acts from operating in Tanzanian territory.

13. Adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was a top priority for his delegation as a universally accepted legal framework was the only means of ensuring effective coordinated action to combat terrorism. The stalemate on pending

issues should be ended without further delay through renewed cooperative efforts and the political will. The convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices would also facilitate the search for solutions to the broad political issues underlying the efforts to finalize the draft convention.

14. **Mr. Mokin** (Russian Federation) said that the Secretary-General's recent Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation was a welcome development as was the recent special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee. The terrorist threat was still high, and collective efforts against it must be continued with the United Nations playing the central coordinating role. He noted with concern the growing links between terrorism and organized crime and the involvement of terrorists in illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. In certain regions "piracy terrorism" also presented a threat, with pirate gangs profiting from the activities of terrorist groups.

15. States, international organizations and civil society must work together to combat terrorism in strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant principles and rules of international law. It was especially important to put into effect the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which combined traditional law enforcement mechanisms with measures to prevent terrorism and eliminate its causes. His Government strongly favoured that multi-faceted approach, through which the rule of law was observed and human rights were respected. The Global Strategy should be implemented in other areas too, such as combating terrorist ideology, preventing the radicalization of social groups, tackling violent extremism and recruitment, and combating incitement to terrorist acts and the use of the media and the Internet for terrorist purposes.

16. There should be wide-ranging dialogue with civil society structures able to play a positive role in education, research, the promotion of tolerance and understanding between ethnic and religious groups, the promotion of human rights and the rejection of ideologies of hatred and violence. In cooperation with CTITF, his delegation would promote partnerships with civil society as part of the Global Strategy. He welcomed the agreement on the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Combating Terrorism (UNCCT). The Commonwealth of Independent States

(CIS) had adopted a model law on combating terrorism and offered counter-terrorism training courses.

17. He emphasized the significant role of the Security Council in implementing the Global Strategy and expressed support for the measures taken, through the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Committees established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004), to help States implement the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). He welcomed the Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations, held in Strasbourg in April 2011.

18. His delegation intended to build upon its cooperation with the Security Council and the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The Assembly should continue to focus on reinforcing the legal basis of counter-terrorism efforts and should endeavour to increase the number of parties to the international counter-terrorism instruments. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, once finalized, would do much to consolidate the legal basis of international cooperation in countering terrorism. His delegation would continue to seek compromise solutions to the unresolved issues surrounding the draft.

19. **Mr. Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that he welcomed the measures taken at the international level to prevent and suppress terrorism, citing in particular the efforts of such institutions as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank. His Government was actively engaged in counter-terrorism activities at the regional and subregional levels, notably within the framework of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. It also worked in collaboration with the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and was committed to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) initiatives in the field of counter-terrorism, which included the inception of an Early Warning Centre for monitoring the terrorist threat in the region and the development of a model counter-terrorism law for Africa. His delegation supported the African Union's condemnation of the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. It commended the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region on the

establishment, at the initiative of the Kingdom of Morocco, of a Combined Operational Military Staff Committee and a liaison group to facilitate information-sharing.

20. Counter-terrorism activities should not come at the expense of human rights, nor did they provide any justification for ethnic and religious discrimination, political exclusion or socio-economic marginalization. Freedom of religious belief was enshrined in his country's Constitution, allowing for the peaceful coexistence of different confessional groups. Insofar as it was crucial to fostering security and prosperity, the rule of law stood in opposition to terrorist practices. Counter-terrorism instruments must therefore be incorporated into domestic law and the courts must be competent to prosecute the perpetrators of acts of terrorism and cooperate with other States and with international and regional organizations for that purpose. Cooperation with other States and with relevant regional and international organizations was essential in that regard, as was the provision of support to ensure that all rights of defence were respected, without discrimination. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism would complement and strengthen the existing body of instruments; full attention should therefore be devoted to bringing the negotiations on the draft instrument to a conclusion.

21. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) condemned all acts of terrorism and reaffirmed his delegation's commitment to contributing to the fullest extent to the international counter-terrorism effort, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies. His Government had ratified all 13 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and would continue its dialogue with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which had played a central role in that effort.

22. The time had come for the Sixth Committee to assess and, if necessary, reconsider its place in the ever-expanding United Nations response to international terrorism. Its contributions had thus far included the drafting of numerous international conventions in the field of counter-terrorism and it could provide further value added, in particular by finalizing negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The overwhelming majority of delegations should be in a position to support the compromise proposal currently on the table. The related legal issues had been

endlessly clarified, yet the Committee had been unable to generate the political will needed to strike a deal. If no tangible progress was made with regard to the draft convention at the current session of the General Assembly, it would serve no purpose to convene the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in 2012 and the Committee should instead consider the agenda item on a biennial basis, specifically by not considering it during the calendar years devoted to the biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Counter-terrorism would thus continue to be considered on an annual basis by the General Assembly, alternating between the plenary and the Sixth Committee.

23. **Mr. Omaish** (Jordan) said that the global threat of terrorism could be eradicated only by coordinated multilateral action. Terrorism was a global phenomenon with causes and motives that were religiously and culturally neutral. It was therefore vital to oppose attempts to link any religion, group or race with terrorism. No form or manifestation of terrorism was justifiable on any grounds. Security measures were not enough, however, to eradicate it; its root causes must be addressed, taking into account the need to respect human rights and the rule of law. A global and unified response was required; his delegation therefore reiterated its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

24. His Government would continue to combat terrorism and its perpetrators through all possible means and to cooperate fully with all partners to that end. It had taken concrete steps to fight terrorism at the national level, including the enactment of counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering laws. The concerned bodies were directed to ensure full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and stricter border controls had been introduced. A number of public institutions were also tasked with protecting the rights of, rehabilitating and creating new opportunities for victims of terrorism. He welcomed the establishment of UNCCT and looked forward to completion of the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism with a view to its adoption.

25. **Mr. Ahamed** said that the international community had no option but to confront decisively the enormous challenges posed by the globalization of terrorism. There could be no selective approaches to

dealing with terrorist groups or infrastructures. A global phenomenon required global solutions and the international community had invested considerable time and resources in developing a normative framework for countering terrorism. The Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (A/Res/49/60) provided a general framework, backed by the 12 international conventions and five protocols adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

26. India was fully committed to fulfilling its obligations under the 13 of those instruments to which it was a party and to contributing to the work of all the relevant Security Council committees, including in its current capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. At the national level, it had strengthened its strategic and operational framework for combating terrorism and enhanced its domestic legislation, which incorporated the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on individuals or entities associated with Al-Qaida and covered all aspects relating to terrorism, including conspiracy, incitement, funding and the possession or use of lethal weapons. It had concluded 40 bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and, in the absence thereof, was able to cooperate under the relevant international conventions on the basis of reciprocity. It also had established a financial intelligence unit and was an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

27. However, much remained to be done. His delegation fully supported the outcome document adopted by the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee, held on 28 September 2011, and particularly its two consensus benchmarks: the need for a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism and the reaffirmation that all terrorist acts were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations. The international community had expressed the political will to pursue counter-terrorism effort and, to that end, must further strengthen the existing legal framework and implement in an integrated manner the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which would remain incomplete until the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was concluded. That draft was now at an advanced stage and every effort must be made to finalize it during the current session.

28. **Mr. Sea** (Cambodia) said that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a vital instrument for promoting collective action and further cooperation to combat terrorism. Cooperation was also enhanced by the outcome of such events as the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, held in New York on 19 September 2011, at which the participants had called for continued endeavours to conclude negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism with a view to its adoption.

29. His Government was pursuing its efforts to prevent terrorist activities within its territory and it had adopted numerous laws and regulations, including in the areas of money-laundering, financing of terrorism and weapons control. It had acceded to all of the key international counter-terrorism instruments and had recently ratified the Convention on Counter-Terrorism of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It had had remarkable success in preventing and suppressing terrorism and transnational crime and was implementing a policy aimed at engaging villagers and civil society organizations, including political parties, in the process of ensuring the safety of villages and communes country-wide.

30. In addition to reforms and capacity-building for its law enforcement agencies, his Government had devoted much attention to inter-agency cooperation at the national level. It attached great importance to cooperation with other Member States and relevant international agencies in building the capacities of those mechanisms and sharing information.

31. **Mr. Srivali** (Thailand) said that his delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in its entirety and welcomed the regular intergovernmental review of its implementation. Thailand was in the process of ratifying and acceding to the few remaining international counter-terrorism instruments to which it was not yet a party and had established a number of measures to combat terrorism as a matter of high priority. Mutual efforts to monitor and prepare for future trends were crucial to addressing the severe challenges such as the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists; the continuing emergence of home-grown terrorism and radicalization; the spread of violent extremist beliefs among young people; and the growing threat of cyberterrorism.

32. His Government continually evaluated the implementation of international law and had taken steps to improve the efficiency of its compliance. In 2010, an inter-agency working group of legal experts from the public and private sectors had been established to propose amendments to the country's money-laundering legislation, with particular reference to the financing of terrorism; the authorities were empowered to gather witness testimony and evidence, initiate criminal investigations and freeze assets associated with terrorism.

33. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism would fill the gaps on the existing legal regime; an early conclusion was imperative. At the regional level, Thailand looked forward to the increased cooperation envisaged under the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism as part of a regime that could provide impetus for other regional groups to enhance State-to-State collaboration against terrorism. The parties to that Convention now faced the difficult task of harmonizing their laws and practices with its provisions in such areas as extradition and mutual legal assistance. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed with the promotion of an effective legal regime and law enforcement.

34. **Mr. Wada** (Japan) said that, notwithstanding the progress achieved, terrorism remained a serious threat worldwide and continued efforts were needed. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented and CTITF should continue its efforts to strengthen coordination and coherence within the United Nations system. His delegation looked forward to effective coordination between CTITF and the newly established Global Counterterrorism Forum, which, together with the Secretary-General's Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, constituted a welcome initiative. It attached great importance to the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011) and to early adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Its position with respect to the draft convention and to the convening of a high-level conference on counter-terrorism was as stated in April 2011 at the fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 2010 (1996).

35. **Mr. Nikolaichik** (Belarus) said that despite considerable progress in recent years, terrorism remained a grave threat to international peace and

security from which no country or region was immune. Further effort was needed in order to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects. Belarus continued to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and CTED, UNODC, INTERPOL and other relevant bodies. More attention should be given to strengthening national capacities, and strengthening the international legal regime for combating terrorism.

36. His delegation hoped that work on the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism would soon be completed and was prepared to consider compromise proposals on the text, together with any other measures needed to complete the work. Recent terrorist incidents, including those committed by individuals, underscored the vulnerability of even prosperous and politically stable States. The provisions of the future convention must therefore be up-to-date, unambiguous and not open to arbitrary interpretation. All States should show maximum flexibility and constructiveness, so that negotiations on the text could be completed on the basis of consensus.

37. The United Nations should help States ratify and incorporate into domestic law the various international counter-terrorism instruments, paying special attention to those that had been ratified by the fewest States. States should share their experience on measures taken in order to ensure the safety of transport, prevent chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism and combat the financing of terrorism and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. It was especially important to coordinate efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. Regional cooperation on counter-terrorism was the key to a system through which global mechanisms could be adapted to particular regions and new and effective ways to combat terrorism could be developed.

38. His Government cooperated actively in counter-terrorism efforts within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), CIS and other regional bodies. In 2009-2010, a number of CSTO cybercrime operations had been conducted in order to combat the dissemination of extremist propaganda through the Internet.

39. **Ms. DeRosa** (United States of America) expressed her delegation's recognition of and firm support for the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts to combat terrorism and bolster the

ability of States to prevent terrorist acts. Its contributions in that regard had been highlighted during the extremely productive Symposium on International Terrorism recently hosted by the Secretary-General. The evolution of the Organization's counter-terrorism policy and institutional framework over the past decade had been remarkable and should soon culminate in the announcement of a new post: the first-ever United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

40. The legal framework for combating terrorism was largely the product of the work of the Committee in elaborating 18 international instruments, the number of States parties to which was rising dramatically. Six further counter-terrorism instruments had also been developed to cover new and emerging threats involving civil aviation, maritime navigation and the protection of nuclear material. Only when they were widely ratified and fully implemented, however, would the work of the international community in that area be complete. In that connection, the United States Congress was holding a hearing on legislation that would enable her country to ratify three of the more recent instruments, and she urged other States that had not yet done so to follow suit.

41. The impasse that persisted, despite all best endeavours, in negotiations on the current proposals concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism underscored the dividing issues in the collective effort to combat terrorism. Her delegation remained willing to join in the efforts to finalize a text that built on and enhanced the existing legal framework.

42. **Mr. Johan** (Malaysia) said that despite outreach and capacity-building activities, countless prosecutions and the use of armed force, the world was still confronted by the deadly scourge of terrorism. The innovative measures introduced in 2001 in order to curb terrorist financing had achieved only qualified success; subsequent events had shown that minimal sums could cause disproportionate harm, and terrorist groups were increasingly leveraging kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom as sources of revenue. The use of force and criminal prosecution could not effectively counter terrorism; the key was to address its root causes, including poverty, disenfranchisement and foreign occupation.

43. Malaysia was collaborating with the United Nations to produce a documentary film on its

preventive and rehabilitation programmes in the area of counter-terrorism as a model for interested States. It was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and further legislative action was under way with a view to its accession to the remainder. As to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the various options on the table should be given serious consideration. His delegation supported the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to address current and emerging challenges, but it should not hinge on the conclusion of that draft since the political discourse at such a conference might resolve the outstanding non-legal issues in that regard.

44. The United Nations should lead the way in counter-terrorism initiatives, but without burdening Member States with multiple reporting mechanisms. In addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, including unresolved conflicts, the overriding principle was that counter-terrorism measures should not violate the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of States.

45. **Mr. Maza Martelli** (El Salvador) congratulated the Secretary-General on the recent Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be updated with a view to better cooperation and respect for human rights, State sovereignty and the integration of national, regional and international mechanisms. He extended his sympathy to the families of victims of terrorism, for which there could be no justification whatever.

46. El Salvador was a party to most of the regional and international counter-terrorism instruments and had adopted its own monitoring and cooperation measures. All necessary steps must be taken to prevent and punish acts of terrorism while respecting democracy, human rights and international law so that a proper balance could be struck between security and the rule of law. The United Nations must remain the chief forum for discussion of such efforts.

47. Lastly, he reiterated the position taken by his delegation during the fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996. There was undoubtedly a need for new legal instruments, and especially for adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

48. **Mr. Bonifaz** (Peru) said his country, which had itself been a victim of terrorist acts, unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism, which could only be eradicated through combined effort. He found it strange that after 10 years, there was still no agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and drew attention to the impact that the delay might have on victims and their families. The goal established in paragraph 83 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1), in which Member States had stressed the need to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, had almost been reached. He reiterated his delegation's position on the pending issues. First, the draft convention was based on the concept of individual criminal responsibility for terrorist acts. The attribution of a terrorist act to a State fell into a different legal category: the international responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts. Second, the draft convention did not modify the regime of international humanitarian law; it would safeguard it, through the inclusion of a new preambular paragraph and a new paragraph 5 in draft article 18, as proposed by the coordinator of the draft instrument, Ms. Maria Telalian, in 2007 (A/62/37), which were essential in establishing the scope of the instrument. Third, the right of peoples to self-determination, a pillar of the Charter of the United Nations, was not infringed upon, but rather confirmed, by the draft convention. That right must be exercised in conformity with international law, as stipulated in the exclusion clauses of draft article 18.

49. The adoption of the draft convention, although it would not eliminate terrorism, would send a clear message that the perpetrators would be punished in accordance with international law. It would also provide an essential legal framework for combating terrorism and preventing impunity. He urged all States, international organizations and civil society to work towards that goal.

50. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) voiced his country's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which continued to pose a threat to entire regions and to global security, spreading fear and panic. It was important to increase awareness of the suffering of its victims. Acts of terrorism must be firmly condemned by the international community and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. Enhanced international counter-terrorism cooperation was needed, with the United Nations at the centre of those

efforts. His delegation strongly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; welcomed the progress in implementing its four pillars; and endorsed its holistic approach, which addressed the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and provided for capacity-building measures and for strengthening the role of the United Nations. His delegation also welcomed the Strategy's mention of the need to respect human rights and the rule of law. Counter-terrorism measures must respect international law, particularly human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant treaties.

51. He welcomed the institutionalization of CTITF, which would allow Member States to provide policy guidance on matters relating to terrorism, and emphasized the importance of collaboration with international and regional organizations. Through its membership in the Organization of American States (OAS), his Government was an active participant in the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE).

52. The report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/66/96) gave a useful overview of measures taken at the national and international levels and of the Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. In that connection, he noted that the Chairman's summary of the Symposium mentioned the "growing need to build a culture of dialogue at all levels and amongst all groups" in order to prevent terrorism. It was essential to identify and eliminate the factors that gave rise to terrorist acts, including political, ethnic, racial and religious intolerance and the social and economic divide between countries and nations. All States should strengthen their mechanisms for judicial cooperation and the exchange of information between their police and financial intelligence units in order to combat the financing of terrorism.

53. He called on Member States to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as quickly as possible. With flexibility on the part of the negotiators, the instrument could be adopted during the current session of the General Assembly. Delegations must recognize that only a compromise text had the potential for adoption. Open multilateral consultations would ensure transparency and maximum progress. He hoped that substantial results would soon

be achieved so that a high-level conference on terrorism could be convened.

54. **Mr. Tladi** (South Africa) said that recent terrorist attacks across the globe had served as a reminder that the world would not be safe until terrorism had been eradicated. There was no need to resort to theoretical legal principles; the loss, pain and suffering produced by acts of terrorism provided full justification for action. The protection of human rights should drive counter-terrorism measures, which should in turn be consistent with respect for human rights and dignity.

55. His Government had insisted on the need to incorporate due process standards and the provision of effective remedies into the terrorism-related sanctions regimes. He therefore welcomed the Security Council's recent decision to enhance due process protection, including through the institution of "sunset clauses". Regrettably, however, those protections had not been extended to the individuals included in the List established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1988 (2001), whose protection under the Consolidated List established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) had been effectively removed. He hoped that the Council would continue to improve the fairness of the terrorism-related sanctions regimes and consider extending to other regimes the protections provided to the individuals listed pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). He also hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be adopted by the Committee during the current session of the General Assembly, on the basis of the text prepared in 2007 by the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996.

56. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said that despite the commitment of the international community to cooperation in the global counter-terrorism effort and, in that context, to respect for human rights and the rule of law, terrorist attacks continued to kill and maim civilians the world over. It was therefore time to complete work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. For its part, Monaco was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and was pursuing its dialogue with the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

57. **Mr. Sharifov** (Azerbaijan) said that his Government had developed a national counter-

terrorism action plan, harmonized its domestic law with the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments to which it was a party and established a legislative framework for coordinating the work of the relevant State agencies. It was active at the international, regional and bilateral levels, including through the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM). GUAM cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism and law enforcement, including with such international bodies as the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), had intensified in recent years, and his delegation intended to propose mention of that fact in the next draft General Assembly resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

58. The peaceful resolution of conflicts would help strengthen the global counter-terrorism effort insofar as unresolved conflicts created conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The lack of effective conventional arms control mechanisms in areas of armed conflict, especially in territories under foreign military occupation, was a matter of serious concern in that the accumulation of armaments and ammunition beyond international control posed a grave threat to regional peace and security. In particular, weapons such as individual anti-aircraft missile systems could fall into the hands of terrorists. It was therefore essential to address the root causes of terrorism and take more efficient measures to prevent Member States that had effective military and political control of occupied territories from acquiring conventional weapons and to expose their attempts to deny responsibility.

59. As a country that had endured State-sponsored terrorist attacks in the past and remained a potential target, Azerbaijan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and made sustained efforts to join the international community in preventing and combating it. All such acts constituted serious, unjustifiable and unacceptable crimes to be unequivocally condemned and prosecuted, especially when civilians were targeted or injured. At the same time, attempts to link terrorism with any specific culture or religion must be equally condemned. In recent years, unacceptable attacks on Islam in some countries had underscored the need to counter such defamatory manifestations and misconceptions. Distortions, messages of hatred, prejudices and bias

must be removed from educational materials, which should impart a basic understanding of other cultures, civilizations and religions. Initiatives such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations promoted a culture of peace and tolerance, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of counter-terrorism measures.

60. The absence of a clear definition of terrorism hampered efforts to bring to account not only individual terrorists and terrorist organizations, but also States that promoted, supported or financed terrorist activities. He looked forward to agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would strengthen the existing legal framework in that area. Lastly, the agreement to establish UNCCT was a welcome development that would ensure coordination in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

61. **Mr. Adi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that concerted, systematic international action against terrorism must proceed from a clear legal definition that differentiated between the loathsome crime of terrorism and the struggle of peoples for the right to self-determination and independence as guaranteed under the Charter of the United Nations. In 1986, after its own bitter experience of the phenomenon, his country had pioneered the call for an international conference to that end. The danger of terrorism was more than theoretical, however; instigated, financed and protected by outsiders, armed terrorist groups continued to operate against civilians and others in his country with the aim of disrupting stability and internal security.

62. Counter-terrorism objectives would be thwarted as long as terrorism endured in its most serious form, namely State terrorism, the most obvious example of which was seen in Israel's daily crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. Included among those crimes were its recent onslaught against Gaza, its raid on the Gaza-bound Freedom Flotilla carrying humanitarian aid, and its practice of nuclear terrorism against countries of the region. Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan Heights were no less spared from practices embodying Israel's State terrorism in violation of international law, resolutions of international legitimacy and human rights instruments, a situation to which his delegation had persistently drawn attention.

63. His Government was a party to 10 international counter-terrorism instruments and was considering accession to the remaining three. It was also a party to various regional counter-terrorism instruments. It was fulfilling its obligations under those instruments and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, including as a member of the Egmont Group. In that connection, it had taken steps to harmonize its legislation with global recommendations in such areas as banking secrecy.

64. The United Nations legal arsenal for combating terrorism would remain incomplete, however, in the absence of an instrument that dealt with State terrorism. His delegation continued to hope for finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which, despite tireless efforts, had thus far been impeded by a lack of political will. Care must be taken to ensure that counter-terrorism was not used as a pretext for violating the rights of peoples or sowing hatred among religions, civilizations and cultures. Any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, race, culture, language or nationality was to be rejected and all counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant human rights instruments and international humanitarian law.

65. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the establishment of international relations on the basis of sovereign equality, justice and fair play was instrumental in addressing the root causes of terrorism. All countries shared the responsibility for promoting international cooperation for common development and prosperity, while respecting one another's ideologies, political systems, cultures and traditions. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism currently under consideration should therefore clearly spell out that basis for international relations. Another fundamental principle of global counter-terrorism cooperation was respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and consistency with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

66. Under no circumstances must States use terrorism for political purposes. Persistent acts such as the arbitrary labelling of a "terrorist State" and the sanctioning or use of military force must be rejected. The aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq, Israel's occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories under the pretext of counter-terrorism, and the killing of

civilians were clearly acts of State terrorism in violation of human rights. It was therefore imperative for the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism to address the issue of terrorist acts committed by national armed forces. To that end, his delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference on terrorism with the aim of properly identifying the root causes of terrorism and taking joint counter-measures.

67. His Government was strengthening its counter-terrorism mechanisms by enhancing the related laws and taking practical measures in line with his country's unique situation in the Korean peninsula and the spirit of the international counter-terrorism instruments. Committed to strengthening international and bilateral cooperation in combating organized crime and terrorism, it had been actively involved in United Nations counter-terrorism activities and complied with all counter-terrorism-related resolutions and measures. It had also acceded to seven international counter-terrorism instruments and incorporated the relevant provisions into its domestic laws.

68. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel) said that terrorism transcended boundaries and nationalities and could exist only with the support and complicity of States. It was imperative to address incitement to terrorism, including in schools, houses of worship and the media. Terrorism began when individuals dehumanized others and encouraged martyrdom and a culture of death. Good governance was a strong safeguard against terrorist attacks, which were more successfully averted when the rule of law prevailed. State capacity-building for counter-terrorism must therefore simultaneously establish benchmarks for overall levels of governance and transparency. Israel was proud to be an active partner in and donor to the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations, providing funding and technical assistance and sharing its significant experience. The international community must be vigilant in ensuring that turmoil created by war, conflict and ineffective governance did not spawn terrorism and must work in closer cooperation to prevent terrorist groups from taking advantage of the vacuum of instability.

69. Calls to address the underlying causes of terrorism were too often a poorly disguised attempt to justify the unjustifiable. Such factors as incitement, intolerance and lack of democracy fed a culture of hate in which murder was glorified as martyrdom, driving the twisted logic that drove terrorists to wreak havoc

on innocent lives. Her delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) as a vital framework for confronting terrorism and was committed as a dedicated partner in that effort at the international, regional and bilateral levels. States that behaved as if neutrality were an option by granting sanctuary to terrorists and their supporters and permitting the free flow of terrorist funds and the traffic in weapons and equipment used in terrorist attacks were, in fact, accomplices to terrorism and must be made to pay the price. The international response in such cases must be forthright; sponsoring terrorism and permitting terrorist groups to act with impunity from the national territory were not among the prerogatives of sovereignty.

70. Her delegation supported the notion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would underscore the fundamental conviction that no cause or grievance justified terrorism in any form. The early conclusion of such a convention should not, however, come at the expense of diluting the principles that stood to make it an effective counter-terrorism tool.

71. Speaking in exercise of the right of reply, she said that it was a surreal experience to listen repeatedly to the ritual vilification of her country by some of the worst serial human rights offenders in the region, some of which — like the Syrian Arab Republic — continued to slaughter and repress their own people. Among other things, those States served as prime sanctuaries for terrorism and sought cynically to divert attention from their own abuses. They remained silent to terrible atrocities of unimaginable scope and magnitude occurring elsewhere in their region and failed to condemn murderous terrorist attacks on Israel. The real question was whether the present forum was designed to encourage politicization and extremism under the veil of professional discourse; the established practice was for it to remain a dignified environment for the exchange of legal views. She therefore urged that the debate should be conducted in a professional manner, without the degrading language and accusations heard on some occasions during the current session.

72. **Mr. Dahmane** (Algeria) said that, in a spirit of fraternity, he wished to make a factual correction to the statement delivered by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; it was the four

countries of Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger that had taken the initiative to establish a Combined Operational Military Staff Committee to deal with counter-terrorism matters.

73. **Mr. Adi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that the criticism of his country at the present meeting had been voiced by the representative of a State that was itself the epitome of terrorism. Indeed, there was no conversation about terrorism in his region in which Israel, with its long history in that area, was not brought to mind. The time allotted for exercising the right of reply was infinitely too short to recount all of Israel's terrorist activities against an entire people. It dispatched gangs into Palestine to kill Palestinians, whose land it had seized, occupied and populated with settlers; it had assassinated United Nations Mediator on Palestine, Count Bernadotte; and it had been the first to hijack a civilian airplane. Israel's violations of international law also included attacks on vessels in international waters and the murder of public figures in the territory of other States. No matter how it attempted to distort the facts, it remained a terrorist State in every sense.

74. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that a Government that stood ready to kill masses of its own civilians should be the last to preach about respect for the rule of law. The Syrian Arab Republic actively harboured, supported, financed and encouraged such terrorist organizations as Hizbullah and Hamas; it provided facilities for those organizations and permitted them to maintain their headquarters in Damascus and to transfer weapons through its territory. Its practices and deeds reflected its long-standing perspective on the sponsorship of terrorism. She wondered whether the Syrian delegation would advance the same arguments concerning self-determination and freedom from domination in the case of the thousands of protestors in numerous cities across its country.

75. **Mr. Adi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the comments made by the representative of Israel scarcely merited a response; his own country's experiences at the hands of Israel had been indicated in his statement. If the Israeli Government truly took a humanitarian approach towards civilians, it would not have killed so many tens of thousands of them during its long history of terrorism.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.