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Chair: Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)
later: Mr. Holovka (Vice-Chair) (Serbia)
later: Mr. Charles (Chair) (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/70/211)

1. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said the United Nations was the principal forum for the coordination of international efforts to eliminate terrorism. Since the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1972, dozens of statements had been delivered and 29 resolutions adopted. The Committee should therefore ask itself whether its effort had brought it any closer to the goal of eliminating terrorism. For the fifth year running, terrorism had continued its onslaught against the State, people and Army of Syria, targeting the country's infrastructure and economic, scientific and cultural resources with unprecedented criminality and savagery. After years of denial, the so-called international community had finally realized the gravity of the situation. Several other Member States had been subjected to barbaric attacks, which left no doubt that the terrorists and their sponsors were outmanoeuvring the United Nations.

2. The instruments and resolutions of the United Nations, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, had clearly been neglected in numerous cases, whether because of complacency, capacity gaps, lack of political will or certain States' direct or indirect involvement in supporting, glorifying or inciting terrorism. The world was well aware that certain Member States were providing terrorists with funds and weapons, extremist takfirist ideology and foreign mercenary recruits. Other States, some of which were members of the Security Council, had adopted a politicized and selective approach, turning a blind eye to the glaring violations committed by State sponsors of terrorism. Citing all-too-familiar pretexts, some States had let their territory become a safe haven for extremist groups, which had free rein to incite violence and terrorism, spread their hateful rhetoric and sow discord among religions.

3. The United Nations should fully and decisively enforce its resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), avoiding politicization, manipulation and double standards. It should hold State sponsors of terrorism to account and promote the peaceful settlement of conflicts. It should take genuine, determined and multi-faceted action to curb such terrorist organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the

Nusra Front, the Army of Emigrants and Supporters and other entities and groups associated with Al-Qaida that were active on Syrian territory, not to mention such groups as Boko Haram, the East Turkestan Movement, the Emarat Kavkaz, Ansar al-Sharia, Jund al-Khilafah the Army of the Caliphate and Al-Shabaab.

4. Counter-terrorism efforts must be consistent with international law and must take place in full coordination with the concerned States. Certain States had invoked Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations to justify military intervention in Syria, purportedly in order to fight ISIL. In so doing, they had failed to consult with his Government. That course of action distorted the provisions of the Charter and manipulated international law. Moreover, the actions of the so-called coalition had proved ineffective. In contrast, the Russian Federation had intervened at the request of the Syrian Government. Its counter-terrorism efforts were fully consistent with the Charter and international law, and deserved the support of other Member States.

5. The United Nations should take action to address the hateful rhetoric and destructive ideology of terrorist groups, which bore no relation to any religion or to human civilization. It was essential to prevent any form of repression on the basis of religion, nationality, ethnic group or gender. The Organization should also coordinate efforts to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, particularly by securing borders and preventing terrorists from using the media, the Internet and social networking sites for recruitment and fund-raising.

6. The people of the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories continued to suffer from the State terrorism of the Israeli occupation authorities. Israeli terrorism had deep roots in the terrorist groups of the 1920s and 1930s, such as Haganah, Irgun and the Stern Gang. Successive administrations had fostered such organizations. The current occupation authorities were supporting terrorist groups associated with Al-Qaida that were active in the area of disengagement, where they had repeatedly abducted members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

7. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism — which, despite the flexibility evinced by some delegations, had still not been adopted — would

be completed, and it expressed its appreciation for the Ad Hoc Committee's efforts in that regard.

8. Lastly, the United Nations should seek to involve younger persons, women, civil society, scholars, religious figures and journalism in the fight against terrorism. There was no shortage of United Nations reports and resolutions on terrorism; what was needed was a genuine determination to hold the perpetrators and their backers to account.

9. **Mr. Tessema** (Ethiopia) said that there was an urgent need to intensify efforts to combat terrorism through concerted counter-terrorism measures. While Ethiopia had been dealing with the problem of terrorism since the early 1990s, the threat had grown significantly since then, as demonstrated by the terrorist acts perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, Al-Qaida, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other affiliated terrorist organizations.

10. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should serve as a basis for enhancing efforts to combat terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations should continue to play a key role in promoting counter-terrorism cooperation. The international community's joint response should also be long-term and multi-pronged in nature and should address the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism, including through dialogue and measures to counter the appeal of terrorism.

11. His Government had taken a number of measures under the Global Strategy, including legislative measures on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and the enactment of a counter-terrorism proclamation establishing severe penalties for convicted terrorists. It had also established a financial intelligence centre to coordinate the various institutions involved in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and had put in place a legal framework for joint investigations at the inter-agency and international levels, including with neighbouring countries and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

12. Ethiopia was a party to many regional and international agreements on combating terrorism and had taken a number of legal and administrative measures to implement both those instruments and the

counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Security Council. It had cooperated with United Nations organs to follow up on the list of individuals and organizations subject to Security Council sanctions. He reiterated his Government's commitment to cooperating with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and regional bodies such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

13. It was a matter of concern that there was still no effective international cooperation to address the threat of terrorism and that double standards still prevailed. Those who supported terrorist groups, even indirectly, must be held accountable. Only collective efforts would be effective.

14. **Mr. Townley** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. His delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its commitment to the common fight to end it. United international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts and, in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in implementation of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

15. A number of recent resolutions adopted by the Security Council, including resolution 2178 (2014) concerning the foreign terrorist fighter threat, were good examples of the meaningful role that the United Nations could play in addressing new counter-terrorism challenges. His delegation supported the actions taken by various United Nations entities to enhance the global implementation of resolution 2178 (2014), including the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to identify good practices in addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the ongoing threat analyses being conducted by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004), and the capacity-building implementation plan being established by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office. Such a multifaceted approach would be critical in improving the political will and capacities of Member States to address the specific challenges posed by foreign terrorist fighters, prevent their radicalization and recruitment in the first place, and assist with the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

16. His delegation also appreciated the steps that many States had taken to implement resolution 2178 (2014), including through legislation to prohibit participation in or support for terrorist activity, laws relating to participation in foreign conflicts and laws that specifically addressed travel by foreign terrorist fighters. All Member States stood to learn from one another in that regard and his delegation would welcome continued exchanges on the subject.

17. In particular, an innovative area covered by that resolution related to the prosecution of those who attempted to travel to another State for the purpose of engaging in terrorist acts. It could be difficult to prove such an attempt to travel, given that many individuals claimed that the purpose of their travel was to provide humanitarian aid in destination countries; further exchanges of views on best practices in achieving triable cases, while not unduly inhibiting legitimate humanitarian travel, could therefore be helpful. With regard to the organization or other facilitation, including acts of recruitment, of travel, a number of defendants in the United States had recently pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support to terrorist organizations based on their plans to travel abroad and, in some cases, their attempts to recruit others to travel. His delegation urged States to consider how best to use laws to target those seeking to travel to become foreign terrorist fighters at the earliest possible stage, before they boarded aircraft or otherwise sought to complete their travel, as well as those who facilitated the travel of others.

18. His delegation supported the efforts of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to further the implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. It called for continued cooperation among United Nations entities and with external partners, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its related initiatives and platforms, which advanced practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through training, capacity-building and grant-making efforts for community-based projects on countering violent extremism.

19. His delegation encouraged all Member States to develop national strategies for countering violent extremism and looked forward to the Secretary-General's submission of the United Nations plan of

action on preventing violent extremism, which would provide an important opportunity for the United Nations system to articulate and implement a comprehensive, global approach to countering violent extremism based on the Global Strategy. It strongly welcomed the Organization's efforts to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law as central to counter-terrorism efforts, and recognized the role that victims could play in countering violent extremism. It also stressed the need to improve border management and to use financial measures to counter terrorism.

20. His Government continued to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for the development of research, assistance and training initiatives. It urged other Member States to join it in further building the Centre's capacity to provide assistance in the areas addressed by the Global Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions, including with regard to countering violent extremism.

21. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, much remained to be done. The 18 existing international counter-terrorism instruments would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. His Government had made significant progress in its own efforts to ratify those instruments. Having obtained the necessary legislation to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 Protocols to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, it had deposited its instruments of ratification and accession, as appropriate, for each of them.

22. He urged other States that were not yet party to those instruments to continue with their own efforts to ratify them. With negotiations on the current proposals concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism still at an impasse, his delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the

statements of other delegations as the Committee continued to deliberate on those challenging issues.

23. **Mr. Li Yongsheng** (China) said that there was an increasingly clear overlap between terrorism and regional conflicts. Furthermore, the greater flows of foreign terrorist fighters returning to their countries of origin, the higher frequency of terrorist attacks carried out by “lone wolf” terrorists, and the growing use of the Internet for terrorist activities all posed a major threat to international and regional security and stability. In the light of the extremely grave situation, the international community should work in close cooperation to combat terrorism effectively. The United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, should play a leading role in international counter-terrorism measures, which should be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. There must be no double standards or linking of terrorism with any particular ethnicity or religion.

24. While multifaceted measures were required to address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism, more targeted measures were also needed. First, attention must be given to eliminating the breeding grounds of terrorism, which included poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment, as well as religious and regional conflicts. The international community should help affected countries to eradicate poverty, promote development and improve people’s livelihoods, while also advocating dialogue on an equal footing among different civilizations, religions and ethnicities, and seeking to address regional conflicts appropriately. Second, pragmatic counter-terrorism cooperation at the multilateral and bilateral levels should be further strengthened.

25. The advantages of the United Nations and relevant international agencies should be leveraged in order to establish a counter-terrorism database and share intelligence resources among Member States. Countries should also scale up practical cooperation in the areas of intelligence exchange, law enforcement cooperation, personnel vetting and financial regulation. Third, the international community should remain highly vigilant about movements of foreign terrorist fighters, which risked spreading terrorism and posed a serious threat to the security and stability of countries of origin, transit and destination. International coordination should be strengthened and the countries concerned should reinforce border control and law enforcement cooperation, so as to cut off the flow of

terrorists. Fourth, the international community should take effective measures to combat attempts by terrorist and extremist groups to use the Internet for propaganda, recruitment, incitement, planning and financing purposes. All countries should implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, enhance cyberregulation and work jointly to shut down the channels through which terrorist and extremist ideas were spread.

26. In July 2015, a terrorist attack against the Chinese embassy in Somalia had killed one person and injured three others. In addition, the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement, which constituted a perennial threat to China, had grown in strength in recent years and had attempted to establish links with international terrorist forces in order to incite violent extremists inside China to go abroad for training. Some of those terrorists had subsequently returned secretly to China or gone to other countries or regions, where they posed a security threat. In order to address that situation, the Chinese Government had conducted special operations to curb violent terrorist activities, had improved the country’s counter-terrorism legislation and was expediting the drafting of a counter-terrorism act while making relevant amendments to its criminal law. It was also undertaking de-radicalization efforts and working to prevent the use of the Internet to spread religious extremism.

27. His Government attached great importance to international counter-terrorism cooperation. It had sought to improve institutionalized exchanges of information with countries and international organizations involved in the investigation of terrorism-related cases, intelligence and personnel training. At the multilateral level, it had actively participated in counter-terrorism cooperation within such frameworks as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, INTERPOL and the Global Counterterrorism Forum, as well as the United Nations, while at the bilateral level it had conducted counter-terrorism consultations with the United States, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Indonesia. In September 2015, it had successfully held a joint seminar with the United States on the topic of improvised explosive devices.

28. **Ms. Kanchaveli** (Georgia) said that her Government condemned all manifestations of violence and extremism and placed particular emphasis on the international community’s consolidated efforts to

effectively combat terrorism worldwide. Georgia was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism conventions and other relevant instruments, and her Government had taken robust measures to improve the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014), leading to the adoption of a substantial package of amendments to the Georgian Criminal Code. Separate provisions regulating cyberterrorism and the financing of terrorism had also been established. Her Government had enhanced its counter-terrorism capacities by establishing a solid inter-agency mechanism and a counter-terrorism working group. It had concluded bilateral international agreements, including on cooperation on terrorism-related issues, with 25 countries to date, and it used the secure channels existing within the framework of regional organizations such as the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, as well as police attaché channels, for the exchange of relevant information.

29. Her Government fully supported the cooperative effort led by the United States to counter ISIL and stood ready to participate in the provision of humanitarian relief to alleviate the suffering of those affected in Iraq and Syria. It actively cooperated with partner countries to identify foreign terrorist fighters and prevent their illegal activities. It had already joined the three working groups established by the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL to combat the financing of ISIL, its messaging, and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, respectively. It was to be hoped that the work of those working groups would further increase coordination and exchanges of views among the members of the Coalition. Her Government had also strengthened overall border security in order to counter the recruitment of Georgian nationals as foreign terrorist fighters by minimizing their ability to pass through border crossing points.

30. The greatest problem facing her Government was the risk posed by the occupation of 20 per cent of Georgian territory. Russian-occupied territories of Georgia, like other grey zones of the world where international control mechanisms were non-existent or very weak, were at serious risk of being used for various types of illegal activities, including those related to terrorism. The fact that in recent years there had been several attempts to smuggle nuclear and radioactive materials through the occupied Georgian

territory further increased the sense of danger. Such challenges should represent a matter of concern not only for individual countries, but for the international community as a whole.

31. Georgia was one of the largest non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) contributors of troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and continued to serve as a transit country for ISAF supplies. Bearing in mind the huge sacrifices made in Afghanistan, it did not intend to draw down its troops until the end of the ISAF operation. Her Government stood ready to cooperate constructively with other Member States to strengthen security and stability in a rapidly changing world and would continue to give priority to its efforts to combat international terrorism.

32. **Mr. Aminou** (Niger) said that the Niger had suffered more than 15 terrorist attacks between 2006 and 2014. Moreover, since 2014, Boko Haram had carried out repeated attacks in the Diffa region of the Niger, as well as in neighbouring countries of the Lake Chad basin; such terrorist activities were hampering development in those regions. Porous borders, particularly in the north of the Niger, combined with difficult terrain and a lack of resources and equipment for border control officers, had also facilitated the development of organized crime, including trafficking in drugs and arms, migrant smuggling and money-laundering, which seriously threatened the peace and stability of the region.

33. His Government unequivocally condemned international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever committed and regardless of motivation. All measures must be taken to combat violent extremism, in compliance with international law, human rights and humanitarian law. His Government supported the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had taken a number of important steps in that regard to combat terrorism, insecurity and trafficking as a national priority. The Niger had not only become a party to almost all international and regional counter-terrorism legal instruments but had also adopted several specific laws to combat terrorism and terrorist financing, money-laundering, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. Moreover, it had established an institutional framework for countering terrorism, which included, inter alia, a national strategy for development and security in the Sahel-Saharan areas of the Niger, a

National Security Council, a National Counter-Terrorism Committee, a National Committee for the Coordination of Action to Combat Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, and a National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Persons, as well as capacity-building for the defence and security forces, including training on techniques for preventing and combating terrorism and organized crime.

34. His Government had invested in consolidating security at the subregional level by contributing troops to peacekeeping operations in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram; signing military cooperation agreements with several countries, including Algeria and Nigeria; and holding meetings of senior military officers. The Group of Five for the Sahel (G5), which brought together Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger for the coordination and follow-up of regional cooperation in relation to development and security policy, had been established on 16 February 2013. Moreover, the sixth Flintlock exercise, an annual multinational exercise among African, European and North American counter-terrorism forces, had taken place in the Niger, with the participation of 10 Western and 9 African countries.

35. With regard to transnational organized crime, his delegation welcomed the development of a United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2056 (2012), and paid tribute to UNODC for contributing to its implementation through its programme strategy and Regional Programme for West Africa 2010-2014. It was to be hoped that enhanced assistance would be provided to the countries of the Sahel in the context of the implementation of the integrated strategy.

36. His delegation agreed with the General Assembly's recommendation that a working group should be established with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

37. **Mr. AlMowaizri** (Kuwait) said that his country rejected terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations. Terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Governments must cooperate in the international counter-terrorism effort and aim to establish measures that promoted the rule of law and respect for human

rights; address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty; support good governance, sustainable development and coexistence among religions; ensure respect for religious symbols and holy sites; and prevent incitement to hatred, extremism and violence.

38. Kuwait was a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments as well as a number of bilateral agreements. His delegation attached great importance to the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The final text should include a clear definition of terrorism, including State terrorism, and should distinguish it from the right of peoples to resist aggression and struggle for self-determination.

39. On 27 and 28 May 2015, his country had hosted the 24th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which had discussed the topic "Joint vision for the promotion of tolerance and denunciation of terrorism". That endeavour was consistent with his Government's foreign policy approach, which focused on fostering international action to combat terrorism and the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In that connection, his Government condemned the terrorist attacks and activities in violation of humanitarian law perpetrated by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria and Iraq. On 26 June 2015, a suicide bomber had targeted a mosque in Kuwait, killing 27 worshippers who had been attending Friday prayers during the holy month of Ramadan. Such despicable acts would not weaken his country's unity or its determination to confront terrorists and their sponsors.

40. Kuwait supported the peaceful settlement of disputes under the aegis of the United Nations and sought to promote respect for human rights, the right of people to self-determination and the right to sovereignty.

41. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives) said that her country condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever it was committed. Terrorism, which was not limited to any one region, ethnicity or religion, destroyed the values that Maldivian society held dear, namely the values of tolerance, compassion, rationality and peace. Since terrorism knew no borders, it must be addressed through a global strategy. Her Government stood ready to work with its regional and

international partners on a unified platform to contain and defeat terrorism. In particular, it believed that a renewed focus on the application and implementation of universal instruments was needed. It commended the work carried out by the working group on measures to eliminate international terrorism in drafting a comprehensive convention and supported its mandate to finalize the process as soon as possible. It was to be hoped that more progress could be made in that regard during the current session of the General Assembly. Her Government also welcomed such initiatives as Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), which emphasized the global will to jointly address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters.

42. As Islam dominated the Maldivian social fabric, societal values and culture, her Government could confidently assert that the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other such groups were not only un-Islamic but were in fact anti-Islamic. They were not religious groups but rather terrorist organizations. Terrorism posed a serious threat to the national security of the Maldives and had the potential to undermine its economy, which was predominately dependent on foreign tourism. The extremist ideologies preached by such terrorist groups could also irreparably damage its unified social fabric. Her Government was actively implementing a strategy aimed at raising awareness of the core principles and values of Islam, including moderation, tolerance and peace. It was also targeting other practices associated with radicalism, including under-age marriage, forced marriage, non-vaccination of infants and non-enrolment of girls in school. Furthermore, in order to guard against the radicalization of Maldivian young people, it was seeking to address the needs of the country's large youth population through education and empowerment.

43. Several national strategies, including legislative reforms to face the growing challenges of terrorism, had been launched. When enacted, the counter-terrorism and prevention bill currently before Parliament would provide a robust legal framework to take stronger measures against Maldivian nationals who travelled abroad with the intention of joining foreign terrorist organizations, as well as those who provided material support to such entities. The recently enacted Prevention of Money-Laundering and Terrorism Financing Act and amendments to the Religious Unity Act would also form part of that

framework. Furthermore, as part of its counter-terrorism strategy, her Government was enhancing the capacity and capability of national law enforcement agencies, civil society and the judiciary. Various programmes were under way in collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Global Center on Cooperative Security and UNODC; for example, the Maldives had recently hosted a national workshop on countering radicalization and addressing the foreign fighter threat, in collaboration with UNODC.

44. **Ms. Aldosari** (Bahrain) said that his country had a long-standing and successful record of combating terrorism at home and abroad. It was a party to numerous relevant instruments and initiatives and had contributed to the international coalition against ISIL. It was also a founding member of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, which promoted the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the relevant international resolutions and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. Bahrain had been instrumental in the adoption of the Gulf Cooperation Council security strategy to combat extremism and terrorism (2002), the Muscat Declaration on Terrorism (2002) and the Gulf Cooperation Council Convention on Combating Terrorism (2004). Her Government had adopted a range of relevant laws and had established a national counter-terrorism committee in 2001. On 9 November 2014, it had hosted the Manama Meeting on Combating the Financing of Terrorism. In November 2015, it would host a conference on preventing the use of improvised explosive devices. Bahrain would remain steadfast in rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motive.

45. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that her Government rejected and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No interpretation of religion or ideology could justify such atrocious crimes; indeed, there could be no justification for them whatsoever. The crime of terrorism must be comprehensively and effectively countered. Although the international community had undertaken a range of counter-terrorism measures for over a decade, terrorism had become ever more brutal and lethal, and continued to exploit sensitive political, ethnic and sectarian fault lines, while also threatening harmony among religions and their followers. Her Government fully supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Although progress had been made, more remained to be done, especially in addressing the root causes of terrorism and eliminating its breeding grounds.

46. As part of renewed efforts, the Global Strategy should sharpen its focus on countering the unjust defamation of certain religions and communities in the context of combating terrorism. The unfair and biased portrayal of Islam and Islamic beliefs was unacceptable. Acts of incitement and hate speech against Muslims, which fostered misperceptions between the Islamic world and the West, must be addressed through political, normative and legal measures as well as through dialogue and diplomacy. The international community must also address the root causes of terrorism, including protracted conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination, political and economic injustices, political marginalization and social exclusion. The fifth review of the Global Strategy would provide another opportunity for the development of effective counter-terrorism measures.

47. All countries must do more to combat the threat of terrorism, which had both regional and global dimensions. Fighting terrorism required a cooperative framework, which should not become an instrument to shift blame onto others. Having lost tens of thousands of innocent lives to terrorism, Pakistan had adopted a multi-pronged counter-terrorism strategy entailing a comprehensive national action plan and a military-led law enforcement operation involving 180,000 security forces, which had already successfully targeted many terrorists. Considerable progress had also been made in countering violent extremism under the national action plan announced in December 2014, which included police and security actions, political and legal measures, and social and economic policy packages.

48. In addition, her Government had focused on the dissemination of narratives to counter extremist ideology, the economic development of at-risk areas, job creation and skills development for youth, and loans for young entrepreneurs. Significant work had been undertaken to improve legislation; in particular, the law on countering the financing of terrorism had been brought fully into line with global standards. Her Government was building the capacity of prosecutors, police officials and judges dealing with terrorism cases to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were rooted in the rule of law and complied with international obligations; in that regard, it had benefited from

collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and CTED.

49. At the international level, her Government continued to support efforts aimed at promoting interreligious harmony. The association of terrorism with any religion, faith, race, ethnicity or culture must be rejected. Counter-terrorism measures must remain within the framework of international law. In that regard, Pakistan called for the cessation of drone strikes in its border areas as they violated its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Lastly, the provisions of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be consistent with international humanitarian law and the text should clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and legitimate struggles for the self-determination of people living under foreign occupation.

50. **Mr. Doucouré** (Mali) said that, as a country that had been attacked by terrorists and narco-jihadists, Mali condemned in the strongest possible terms any form of terrorism and violent extremism, which it considered among the gravest threats to international peace and security. Strong and coordinated measures should therefore be taken to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in accordance with the annex to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Religious extremism and terrorism were foreign concepts in Malian society, which was known for its openness, tolerance and peaceful and moderate practice of Islam. Terrorism was a scourge that was not related to any religion, race or colour, and that could never be justified.

51. The Malian Government had always taken measures to prevent and combat terrorism, including by developing a robust legal arsenal comprising, inter alia, legislation on suppressing terrorism and transnational organized crime and combating the financing of terrorism, while also promoting its development and poverty reduction agenda. It had also taken part in regional and international counter-terrorism initiatives and promoted dialogue and mutual understanding by discrediting the ideology of hatred, intolerance and rejection of differences, in an effort to dissuade young people from joining terrorist groups. In that regard, it was cooperating with the Government of Morocco to have young Malian Imams trained in

Morocco on how to promote the Islamic values of peace, tolerance and acceptance of differences.

52. With regard to foreign terrorist fighters, his Government reaffirmed the relevance of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and fully supported the efforts of the international coalition to combat ISIL and its associates in Africa and elsewhere. He called upon the international community to promote regional, international and multilateral cooperation to combat terrorism, focusing on prevention and repression.

53. **Mr. Nasimfar** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that combating terrorism was a priority for his country, which had long been a victim of terrorism. In the past year, it had hosted an international conference focusing on the multidimensional issues affecting victims of terrorism. State terrorism continued to endanger peace, security and human rights. Acts of State terrorism included the assassination of highly trained individuals in his country, including nuclear scientists, which in turn had hindered scientific and technological development. State terrorism also included cyberattacks against the industrial infrastructure of his country and attacks on civilian populations in recognized shelters in order to advance repressive policies. Double standards and selectivity in the international counter-terrorism effort remained a challenge.

54. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. Any attempt to do so would only be aimed at prolonging the occupation of a territory and the oppression of its people. That point must be taken into account in the definition of terrorism, including in any international legal instrument.

55. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/127, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism". The recent escalation of violent extremism in the Middle East had made the resolution more pertinent than ever, as it sought to promote a comprehensive plan to counter extremism and terrorism and to advance respectful, mutual dialogue.

56. Measures to counter terrorism should be taken in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law. Use of force in combating terrorism

by outside forces without the explicit consent of the State concerned would constitute a flagrant violation of the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, which in turn would endanger the rule of law at the international level.

57. His delegation strongly rejected the unilateral preparation of lists accusing other States of sponsoring terrorism and any consequences thereof, which was inconsistent with international law and was merely exploited as a political tool to advance other agendas and the political goals of enlisting Governments. Such unilateral actions would only undermine the urgently required joint efforts by all States to counter terrorism.

58. Moreover, there should also be genuine and factual criteria and integrity on the part of States when dealing with listing and delisting of terrorist groups and organizations. A notorious terrorist organization responsible for countless terrorist attacks targeting Iranian civilians for nearly 40 years had been delisted from the terrorist blacklist of some States in recent years. Though the listing itself did not stop them from committing terrorism, the delisting of terrorists for political considerations had not only undermined international cooperation in countering terrorism, but was also a blow to thousands of terror victims and their families in Iran, which continued to seek to bring perpetrators to justice. Through international cooperation, impunity must be ended for such terrorists either by prosecuting or extraditing them.

59. Speaking in exercise of the right of reply, he said accusations made by the representative of the Israeli regime had been false and baseless, and that it was unfortunate to have to respond to such nonsensical allegations by the representative of a regime with a long record of terrorism from its very inception. That regime had been built on the basis of intimidation, terror and occupation. There was no doubt that continued occupation of Palestine and the atrocities committed against its people over so many decades had fuelled extremism and other crises in the Middle East and beyond.

60. No one was surprised that a representative of an extremist warmongering regime tried to misuse the Committee to deflect blame. The Israeli regime was well known as the single most significant practitioner of "State terrorism" responsible for many terrorist acts. It was too early for the people of the world to forget the atrocities committed in Gaza during the summer of

2014, which included war crimes and crimes against humanity documented by the United Nations itself. Current news headlines about the violence being perpetrated against people in occupied territories were also telling.

61. The Israeli regime could not and should not be allowed to accuse others as a tactic to divert attention from its inhumane and terrorist policies. Its State terrorism network had conducted deadly operations all over the world. Just to name one example: innocent Iranian scientists who used to work for the development of their beloved country had been brutally killed in front of their families by agents of the Israeli regime in very recent years. The agents continued to threaten to kill more innocent people. Countering terrorism and addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism could not be considered separate from addressing the terrorist activities of that regime.

62. **Mr. Rao** (India) said that terrorism had emerged as a major destabilizing force and threat to world order and one that must be addressed using a zero-tolerance approach. No cause or grievance could justify it. The General Assembly also had an important role to play in the fight against international terrorism, and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly to develop more effective international instruments against terrorism was valuable in that regard.

63. His delegation welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee, which had led to the adoption of three international treaties. However, the Ad Hoc Committee's efforts to elaborate a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, first proposed by his delegation in 1996, had still not been successful, owing in part to disagreements over definitions. It was worth noting, however, that there was no distinction between acceptable and unacceptable or good and bad terrorism, and that terrorism should not be associated with any religion at all. His delegation supported the text submitted by the Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee in 2007 and hoped that all States would consider steps aimed at finalizing the text during the discussions in the Sixth Committee's working group at the current session.

64. His Government also supported all other efforts, particularly those made under the auspices of the United Nations, to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation, including through

information-sharing, in the fight against terrorism. As a participant in all major global counter-terrorism initiatives, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), India remained deeply concerned about the financing of terrorism; it strongly condemned direct or indirect financial assistance given to terrorist groups or individual members thereof by States or their organs, including in defending criminal cases involving terrorist acts. The fight against terrorism must be unrelenting and fought across all fronts without selectivity. The use of terrorism as an instrument of State policy must also not be tolerated.

65. **Mr. Nonomura** (Japan) said that his delegation joined others in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. International cooperation and comprehensive counter-terrorism measures were required to tackle the problem. His Government had therefore been implementing a variety of measures, including strengthening its counter-terrorism instruments, enhancing its diplomatic efforts to promote stability and prosperity in the Middle East, and assisting in the establishment of societies that were resilient to radicalization.

66. The Japanese Government had undertaken capacity-building projects with United Nations agencies with a view to strengthening border security in North Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East, and had engaged in bilateral cooperation for the placement of surveillance cameras in Tunisian and Moroccan airports. It was also making efforts to enhance counter-terrorism dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and to counter violent extremism.

67. **Mr. Ivezaj** (Montenegro) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism, which required an integrated global response. It was fully committed to contributing to the international fight against terrorism, including by cooperating with relevant United Nations bodies. Montenegro actively participated in multilateral and bilateral efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism, strongly supported the efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and recognized the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee in combating terrorism.

68. Fundamental freedoms, human rights and the rule of law were essential institutional pillars; efforts to combat terrorism must therefore be conducted in full

compliance with international law, including international humanitarian and refugee law. Although Montenegro had never experienced a terrorist attack, the Government recognized that terrorism and organized crime posed a serious threat to international peace and security and was therefore continuously improving its system for the prevention of terrorist activities.

69. Montenegro was a party to the major international counter-terrorism instruments and attached great importance to international cooperation in tackling the root causes of terrorism. It would continue to develop technical, scientific and educational measures to combat terrorism and ensure the security, well-being and prosperity of its citizens, and also improve its business environment.

70. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remained at the forefront of the global campaign against international terrorism. Violent extremism and conflict, which disproportionately affected civilians, especially women and children, not only threatened the collective security of all Member States but also posed a serious challenge to the fundamental values of equality, tolerance, justice and human dignity. Those threats, embodied by groups that misrepresented and abused religious edicts to achieve their objectives, were not constrained by international borders or limited to a single ideology. The rise of various non-State actors promoting extremism indicated that terrorist organizations were increasingly replacing traditional groups with more sophisticated forms of operations that included political structures, administrative units, social media propaganda, and new forms of technology-based coordination, in addition to access to funding and recruits.

71. Despite ongoing efforts by the international community, increasing conflicts worldwide, especially in the Middle East, Afghanistan and parts of Africa, and growing indoctrination and radicalization of impressionable young men and women, as evident from the sustained flow of foreign terrorist fighters to conflict areas in various countries, made it imperative to find political solutions to conflicts and ensure peace and stability for all citizens. All Member States should cooperate closely to address the issue; further implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) would be beneficial in that regard.

72. Militancy and extremism would never serve the long-term interests of any country. It was unfortunate that the terrorists fighting in Afghanistan still received support and guidance and found sanctuaries outside the country. The use of violent non-State actors and terrorists for proxy wars must come to an end. Rival States should not turn a third country into a battleground to advance their agenda.

73. Although States were undoubtedly concerned about advancing their national and regional interests, they had no right whatsoever to pursue those interests through violence and extremism. In the past 20 years, Afghanistan had been a victim of regional State-orchestrated violence leading to insecurity and suffering among its people. Unless the mentality of using violence in pursuit of political objectives changed, achieving peace in Afghanistan would be very difficult. Nonetheless, the Afghan security forces were at the forefront of the international war on terrorism, having defended Afghanistan, its region and the world at large against various international terrorists and groups such as the Taliban and the Haqqani Network, ISIL and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

74. Despite the success of its security forces, Afghanistan would continue to cooperate with its neighbours, in particular Pakistan, with a view to strengthening border cooperation, inter-agency coordination and confidence-building in the effort to defeat terrorism. A comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism should be long term and multilateral in nature, and it must deal with poverty, marginalization and economic inequality — which provided the enabling conditions for recruitment — and promote education and critical thinking.

75. His delegation stressed the need to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism in a timely manner and welcomed the fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

76. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines) reiterated in the strongest terms her Government's condemnation and rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Continued efforts must be made to enhance cooperation on combating terrorism at all levels, in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Intergovernmental and regional organizations were also instrumental in promoting such cooperation;

for example, the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had contributed to capacity-building and the exchange of information and best practices, especially among security and law enforcement agencies.

77. Even before supporting Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters, her Government had long supported efforts to counter violent extremism; it was continuing its grass-roots efforts to help communities protect themselves against extremist and terrorist propaganda, raise their security awareness and train them to prevent terrorist attacks. It had also put in place de-radicalization programmes in partnership with local religious leaders and religious schools.

78. Interfaith and intercultural dialogue, based on respect for human dignity, understanding and tolerance among peoples and rejection of extremism, was one of the primary ways to combat terrorism; there was a consensus in the Philippines for a “whole of society” approach, which required the engagement of all stakeholders. In that connection, the Government was working on a national consultation process for countering violent extremism that would draw broad stakeholder support, and had also established an inter-agency working group on persons of interest and foreign terrorist fighters in conflict areas.

79. National legislation against money-laundering and terrorist financing continued to be updated, and the country’s Anti-Money-Laundering Council had been able to obtain judicial writs of execution against bank deposits and real estate assets linked to terrorist groups. The South East Asia Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence had been established in Manila, and in August 2015 the Philippines had hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) workshop entitled “Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation”.

80. Despite 18 years of negotiations, the international community was still debating the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Political resolve was needed in order to conclude the negotiations. She reiterated her delegation’s support for the efforts to

finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention.

81. **Mr. Shapoval** (Ukraine) said that his Government condemned international terrorism unreservedly in all its forms and manifestations. Ukraine had become a party to all United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and his delegation urged all Member States that had not done so to consider following suit. It was actively involved in counter-terrorism cooperation with many international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Financial Action Task Force and the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. His Government had taken a leading role in efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and promote non-proliferation by implementing its pledge to eliminate its national stocks of highly enriched uranium.

82. Ukraine supported the central role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts and the promotion of international cooperation; in that regard, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remained vital for addressing evolving trends in relation to terrorism. His Government strongly condemned the crimes and acts of mass violence that ISIL was committing against civilians, including the most vulnerable minorities, in particular in Syria and Iraq. It commended the international coalition’s efforts to eliminate terrorist threats from the region.

83. However, as exemplified by the situation in the Middle East and in the Donbas region of Ukraine, terrorism could not be eliminated without addressing the issue of State sponsorship. Terrorist groups often claimed that their criminal acts were in the name of “national self-determination”, resistance to “oppressive political regimes” or a struggle for their rights. Any justification or motivation of terrorism, especially those based on a twisted and arbitrary interpretation of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles enshrined therein, in particular the right to self-determination and State sovereignty and territorial integrity, was completely unacceptable.

84. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters was posing a serious challenge to the fight against terrorism worldwide and had led to a dramatic increase in the

intensity and duration of conflicts. That threat required a comprehensive approach that took into account all its underlying factors. Ukraine was speaking from experience, with foreign militants and terrorists backed by a foreign country currently present in its Donbas region. It stood ready to contribute to the global and regional efforts to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

85. The need for a universal international instrument able to counteract terrorism in a comprehensive and consistent manner was not only urgent but long overdue. The negotiation process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be kept high on the agenda of the United Nations and should become one of the top priorities of the current session of the General Assembly. The role of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court in the fight against international terrorism should be expanded to ensure that perpetrators and instigators of acts of terrorism, including certain political leaders who supported and financed acts of terrorism in pursuance of their ill-motivated ambitions and narrow political interests, were brought to justice.

86. One of Ukraine's neighbours continued to blatantly violate its international obligations, acting through various State institutions and physical and legal entities under its direct control to sponsor terrorism in Ukraine. The unlawful actions of that neighbour had led to the occupation of Crimea and the destabilization of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, clearly showing that terrorism could be used for the purposes of hidden aggression against sovereign States. The international community should continue to take decisive action to combat State or State-sponsored terrorism against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent States.

87. Lastly, his delegation proposed the establishment of an international day to commemorate the victims of terrorist attacks with a view to preventing future generations from letting the dark chapters of history repeat themselves. He hoped the idea would enjoy broad support among Member States.

88. **Mr. Do Hung Viet** (Viet Nam) said that his Government shared the international community's grave concern at the rise of terrorism and reiterated its strong and unequivocal condemnation of the scourge in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorist acts were

unjustifiable, irrespective of form and motivation, and the perpetrators thereof must be brought to justice. A comprehensive and coordinated approach was needed in order to combat terrorism effectively at both the regional and the international levels. Counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the rule of law. At the same time, the root causes of terrorism, including political, economic and social inequality and injustice all over the world, should be addressed.

89. Viet Nam continued to engage in counter-terrorism activities at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels. At the national level, its law on counter-terrorism, which set out a comprehensive legal framework for combating terrorism and fostering the country's international cooperation in that regard, had come into effect in 2014. At the international level, Viet Nam was an active participant in United Nations-led efforts to promote counter-terrorism cooperation. In 2014, it had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, and was thus now a party to 12 international counter-terrorism instruments.

90. His delegation welcomed the establishment of a working group to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to discuss the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism.

91. Ms. **Kadra A. Hassan** (Djibouti) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of motivation. Terrorism should not be associated with any specific religion, race, culture, society or group. There were many factors responsible for the spread of terrorism, including cracks in the international security architecture, conflicts in the Middle East and Africa, economic difficulties, extreme poverty and the real or perceived feeling of marginalization, which might make certain groups or individuals vulnerable to terrorist rhetoric.

92. As a country located in a region that had been attacked by terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and Al-Shabaab, Djibouti was at the forefront of the fight against terrorism. It had transposed the relevant international legal instruments and General Assembly and Security Council resolutions into its counter-terrorism legislation and had hosted the second Gulf of

Aden Counter-Terrorism Forum, in February 2014. At that Forum, which had brought to light the importance of technical and material assistance in the identification of threats and of adopting a collective and strategic counter-terrorism approach, a decision had been taken to establish a mechanism for cooperation between Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti. Djibouti soldiers were also part of the African Union Mission in Somalia deployed to combat Al-Shabaab.

93. With regard to regional cooperation, in an effort to strengthen the resilience of States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, her Government had decided to establish a centre of excellence, involving government representatives, religious leaders, intellectuals and civil society organizations, to combat violent extremism. Her delegation wished to thank the United States Government for organizing various meetings on combating violent extremism, including the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, held in Washington, D.C. in February 2015, a meeting held in Rome in July 2015 to take stock of the achievements since that Summit, and the Leaders' Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, held on 29 September 2015 and hosted by the United States in the margins of the current session of the General Assembly.

94. **Mr. Rhee** Zha-hyoung (Republic of Korea) said that the recent savagery of terrorist groups such as ISIL and foreign terrorist fighters posed new threats extending well beyond the region in conflict. The Republic of Korea condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, especially in Iraq, Syria and surrounding areas. His delegation commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations organs in leading international cooperation to combat terrorism and called on all countries to faithfully and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions at the national level, while bolstering mutual cooperation with a view to bridging gaps and limitations.

95. His country was a party to all the existing major universal conventions against terrorism; it had already put in place necessary implementation measures and was accelerating its efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). The Government had started the national review process, including joint meetings of all relevant domestic authorities, aimed at strengthening information-sharing, border control and law enforcement. It was

also taking stock of best practices from other countries through bilateral outreach. With that groundwork soon to be completed, it looked forward to sharing its own lessons learned with other countries and strengthening relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

96. Terrorism bred on the ills of society, including discrimination, exclusion and inequality. A sustained and comprehensive approach was therefore needed to deal with the evolving scope and nature of terrorist threats and to reintegrate extremists into society. In that regard, his delegation supported efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aimed to address all key components of terrorism. It also emphasized the importance of fulfilling obligations under international law and respecting the fundamental values of the international community.

97. The persistence and severity of terrorist attacks against human life and dignity served as a reminder that countering terrorism was an essential part of promoting human rights and the rule of law. That was why developing a legal framework that reflected the shared values of the international community was so important. Although negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were still at an impasse, with substantial challenges remaining, current threats called for flexibility to bring the negotiations to a close.

98. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of motivation, and reiterated its determination to combat it. Terrorism should not be associated with any specific religion, civilization or geographical area. Agreement needed to be reached on a definition of terrorism, which should be in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and should make a distinction between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination, as set out in General Assembly resolution 46/51. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level United Nations conference to formulate a common position on eliminating terrorism. Such a conference would greatly contribute to resolving the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

99. The prevention of terrorism required continued vigilance, mobilization and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. Punitive measures alone were not sufficient; a coherent political strategy was also needed, including dialogue and efforts to understand what attracted people to terrorism. That approach had resulted in the adoption in 2006 of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which must be kept up-to-date in the light of emerging threats and evolving trends. The struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the fight against xenophobia and Islamophobia, which were emerging as the new faces of violent extremism. In July 2015, Algeria had hosted an international conference on violent extremism and de-radicalization, where it had been able to share with the participants, including those directly involved in the fight against extremism and radicalization, its experience in its constant battle against the phenomenon.

100. The increased incidence of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorist groups was worrying. His Government had a well-known and clear policy of not paying ransom or making political concessions to hostage-takers; it therefore welcomed the significant progress made towards prohibiting such payments and concessions during the fourth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

101. His country's efforts to combat terrorism and improve regional and international awareness and cooperation predated the manifestation of major acts of international terrorism. Algeria had pioneered many counter-terrorism initiatives and instruments that continued to play an important role in the African region. The African Union, for its part, had demonstrated its commitment to the fight against terrorism through its decision condemning the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, the appointment of a Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within its Peace and Security Council. At a meeting of the Council held in September 2014, a communiqué had been adopted urging member States to take measures to combat transnational organized crime and to ensure that terrorist groups did not benefit from the proceeds of criminal activities, including drug trafficking. The communiqué had also called for a high-level meeting of member States on the financing of terrorism, which Algeria had offered to host.

102. In view of the situation in the Sahel region, his Government was particularly focused on supporting forums and mechanisms that facilitated security cooperation between States through border control measures and intelligence-sharing. For example, with the Government of Canada, it co-chaired the Sahel Region Capacity-Building Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and also participated in the Joint Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit. The military deployments on the country's borders helped to ensure the national security not only of Algeria but also of its neighbours. His Government also continued to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Maghreb, northern Mali and the Sahel, while fully respecting the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

103. His Government welcomed the measures adopted during the fourth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in June 2014, which aimed to strengthen cooperation between all stakeholders by enhancing the mobilization of resources and the exchange of expertise and best practices. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force had an important role to play in that regard by coordinating those efforts and providing Member States with technical support in the areas of policymaking and capacity-building. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre had become one of the key counter-terrorism entities within the United Nations system. His Government was satisfied with the level of cooperation among the United Nations bodies involved in efforts to combat terrorism, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

104. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that his Government supported the many provisions that had been adopted to strengthen the legal and institutional arsenal for combating terrorist groups. Implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was now more pressing than ever. His delegation hoped that the fifth review of the Global Strategy would be used to consider all aspects that could help to strengthen synergies between regional and international instruments aimed at combating the scourge of terrorism.

105. In order to effectively counter terrorism, it was crucial to combat corruption and to stop ransom payments, which represented one of the major sources of terrorist financing. The international community

should further promote regional cooperation and the establishment of reliable networks for exchanging information on terrorist activities in order to cut off all sources of such financing. International cooperation and capacity-building assistance to States might help to prevent kidnapping for ransom. Likewise, efforts to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to convene a diplomatic conference on terrorism should be intensified.

106. His Government was fully engaged in regional and subregional efforts to defeat Boko Haram and other extremist groups that were wreaking havoc in West Africa. It was contributing soldiers and equipment to the multinational force set up by the Lake Chad Basin Commission to combat and neutralize Boko Haram. The Government was also promoting education and inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue to support the global counter-terrorism effort and the fight against violent religious extremism.

107. **Mr. Hissein** (Chad) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular violence perpetrated against innocent civilians on religious grounds. Many African States grappling with terrorism were being forced to spend a significant portion of their resources on security rather than on economic and social development. A case in point was Chad, which was waging a war forced upon it by Boko Haram. The despicable acts perpetrated by that group in Chad and Cameroon, especially its latest strategy of using children as suicide bombers, could not diminish the Chadian Government's resolve to combat terrorist groups, as it had shown in Mali and Nigeria.

108. Owing to its transnational ramifications, terrorism called for a collective and appropriate response, with an intensification of subregional, regional and international cooperation and the elaboration of relevant legal instruments. As President of the Security Council in December 2014, Chad had taken the initiative of resolution 2195 (2014) to highlight the growing link between terrorism and transnational organized crime and the urgent actions needed to address it. At the national level, it had ratified several international counter-terrorism instruments and also adopted legislation on the suppression of terrorist acts.

109. Chad stood ready to support all efforts to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It also proposed that 2016 should be declared "Counter-Terrorism Year".

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.