



# General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
30 October 2019

Original: English

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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 9 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Jaiteh (Vice-Chair) ..... (Gambia)

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Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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19-17393 (E)



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*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/74/151)**

1. **Mr. Mikeladze** (Georgia) said that, more than a decade after the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, all four pillars of the Strategy remained relevant and vital. The international community faced an increasingly diverse and unpredictable security environment. Addressing the global threats of terrorism and violent extremism required well-synchronized international cooperation.

2. His Government had taken several legislative and practical measures for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, including the signing and ratification of universal, regional and bilateral counter-terrorism instruments and their incorporation into national policy and laws. An inter-agency commission on the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions had been operational since 2011, covering three major areas: asset freezing, travel bans and arms embargoes in respect of individuals and entities associated with terrorist acts.

3. His Government had also adopted a national counter-terrorism strategy and three-year action plan in January 2019. Under the strategy, priority was given to preventive measures aimed at promoting deradicalization, countering the terrorist narrative, combating the financing of terrorism and addressing the issue of foreign terrorist fighters. The special role of women and girls in preventing terrorism and extremism was also emphasized.

4. His Government had appreciated the visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to Georgia in July 2018 for the purpose of promoting dialogue between Georgia and the United Nations, monitoring the country's implementation of the relevant resolutions and identifying areas in which Georgia could share best practices with other countries. Capacity-building in all States and a coordinated international approach were vital elements of the global counter-terrorism effort. Georgia therefore encouraged all Member States to step up their contributions to the relevant United Nations cooperation and technical assistance projects.

5. Lastly, he reiterated his delegation's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

6. **Ms. Villalobos Brenes** (Costa Rica) said that the best way of combating terrorism was through

prevention; accordingly, States should strengthen institutions involved in fighting crime and work to reduce impunity and ensure respect for the rule of law and human rights. At the same time, they should redouble their efforts to put an end to marginalization by providing education and health care and ensuring security in order to prevent radicalization, particularly among young people, and to deter criminality and extreme violence. Efforts should be made to promote a culture of peace and tolerance and to combat discrimination and hate speech, particularly on social media, while respecting the law and protecting human rights.

7. Security at both land and maritime borders should also be improved, since porous borders created opportunities for illegal activities conducive to terrorism, such as the trafficking of arms and the passage of foreign fighters. Although measures to prevent such illegal activities were the responsibility of each State and a matter of national security policy, terrorism did not respect borders and required an international approach. It was thus a major challenge for Governments and for the administration of justice.

8. Changes had recently been made to the laws of Costa Rica in order to strengthen the tools used to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In addition, the judiciary had launched a programme to provide training for judges, prosecutors and criminal investigation police with regard to cybercrime, money-laundering and trafficking in persons and other areas potentially linked to terrorism. Efforts were also being made to improve the processing and analysis of information.

9. Cooperation was vital in order to prevent extremist individuals and groups from imposing ideologies or religious beliefs and spreading irrational hatred. In addition to the provision of assistance between countries on a bilateral basis, regional and subregional organizations should also be involved in measures to eliminate international terrorism. Training and technology transfer were extremely important in that regard. Technological tools used for the tracking of terrorists and foreign fighters should be available to all countries. The standardization of database content in order to facilitate the exchange of information should be a shared objective. Insofar as their domestic laws permitted, countries should endeavour to establish public-private partnerships to improve access to technological advances that would support the prevention of terrorism and the gathering of evidence while respecting the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. In order to cooperate on an equitable basis and exchange information in an effective

manner, Member States should implement the relevant United Nations instruments and resolutions.

10. In the light of new developments in international terrorism, steps should be taken urgently to strengthen the detection of terrorist activities and raise the awareness both of the authorities and the general public. It was important to adopt appropriate laws and ensure that perpetrators were punished, but also to establish early-warning mechanisms in order to avert critical situations and major attacks.

11. **Mr. Ugarelli** (Peru) said that his country, which had suffered from the violence unleashed by terrorist groups for more than two decades, strongly condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stood in solidarity with all victims. His Government supported all multilateral action, including through the General Assembly and the Security Council, to address the scourge of terrorism in a systematic and balanced manner, in compliance with international law. Accordingly, it participated actively in the work of various relevant bodies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, of which it was the current Chair, and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, of which it was a Vice-Chair. The adoption of Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#), on the links between terrorism and organized crime, was an important development in that regard, since criminal activities such as trafficking in drugs, persons or cultural property constituted not only a source of money but also mechanisms for logistical support.

12. Despite suffering military defeat and losing control of territory, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to represent a grave threat to international peace and security and was seeking to maintain its global influence through its network of affiliated organizations. It was vital, in compliance with international law, to combat the abuse of information and communications technology by ISIL and its use of non-profit organizations to raise funds, recruit followers, justify its actions and promote its terrorist narrative. ISIL retained considerable wealth; priority was therefore rightly being given to efforts to restrict its financial and logistical capacities, including by combating money-laundering. Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) was an important instrument in that regard.

13. The serious threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters must be addressed by adopting effective prosecution, rehabilitation and

reintegration policies that respected international law, human rights and due process, incorporated a gender perspective and safeguarded the rights of children. The addendum to the guiding principles on foreign terrorist fighters (Madrid Guiding Principles) and the key principles for the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children with links to United Nations listed terrorist groups were excellent tools in that regard. While crimes, including those involving sexual violence, must not go unpunished, accountability must promote justice, reconciliation and non-repetition. In that connection, prisons must not become breeding grounds for radicalization and terrorist recruitment, and former fighters released from prison must be properly reintegrated into society. It was also important to recognize the courage of victims of terrorism; in that regard, his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to organize the first ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism as part of the celebrations of the Organization's seventy-fifth anniversary.

14. Lastly, Peru remained committed to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized the importance of duly implementing the 19 existing sectoral counter-terrorism instruments. The moral authority of the United Nations was being undermined by the failure to reach agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Member States should therefore resolve all outstanding issues preventing the finalization of a convention.

15. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that, in the era of digital technology, the spread of terrorism by means of the Internet and social media had become a major challenge, especially for a country like Indonesia with over 150 million active Internet users. In order to address that challenge, it was essential to strengthen legal measures and the rule of law. In addition to an updated anti-terrorism law, his Government had put in place measures to verify social media accounts and ensure the commitment of social media platforms and Internet service providers to dealing with terrorism-related content. In the future, public-private partnerships in that area would be strengthened.

16. International law was also important in overcoming international terrorism. In that connection, Indonesia was a supporter of the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online and had also ratified a number of international counter-terrorism instruments. However, there were persistent differences of opinion among Member States with regard to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His Government remained of the

view that the definition of international terrorism contained in the draft convention should be in compliance with international law, in particular international humanitarian law. At the regional level, his Government had promoted the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and had also been actively involved in the preparation of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism 2018–2025.

17. Collaboration among States, international organizations and other stakeholders, primarily within the framework of the United Nations, was of paramount importance, as was continued cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that context, capacity-building remained critical. Indonesia actively participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum, including as a co-chair of the South-East Asia capacity-building working group.

18. In efforts to combat terrorism, a balance should be maintained between hard and soft approaches. Dialogue, empowerment and reintegration should be the focus of counter-terrorism strategies in order to build trust and eradicate the ideology of terrorism. Deradicalization programmes should be complemented by counter-radicalization efforts involving important stakeholders such as civil society organizations, teachers, religious leaders, the media, including social media, families, women and young people. Lastly, the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts depended on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for the rule of law.

19. **Mr. Liu Yang** (China) said that the global counter-terrorism situation remained complex and challenging. ISIL, despite its defeats, was ramping up its efforts to build a global network of terrorism and violence. Terrorist activities were spreading to areas with weak security. In addition to growing extremism and cyberterrorism, States also faced other challenges such as the return, resettlement and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and their families. The elimination of international terrorism therefore required stronger international cooperation.

20. Uniform standards should be upheld and cooperation strengthened. States should put aside their geopolitical self-interest and unequivocally combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whenever, wherever and by whomever committed, regardless of the motivation. There should be no room for double standards and selectivity. Countries should embrace the idea of a shared future for humankind, foster a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and

sustainable security for all, and strengthen cooperation in all counter-terrorism-related fields, including criminal justice, law enforcement and combating the financing of terrorism.

21. Responses to terrorism should tackle both its symptoms and its root causes. The international community should give priority to the political settlement of regional conflicts, promote the peaceful resolution of disputes, adopt integrated measures to promote economic development and education and work to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable development so as to prevent social tension. It was important to build Member States' capacity with regard to counter-terrorism and deradicalization, promote dialogue among different civilizations and religions on the basis of respect for diversity and inclusiveness and adopt preventive measures to eliminate breeding grounds for terrorism. The international community should also focus on countering cyberterrorism, in particular the use of the Internet by terrorist organizations to spread extremist ideologies and incite attacks.

22. The role of the United Nations must be strengthened. The Organization should focus on promoting the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels. The expertise of the relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, should be fully utilized. Coordination among them and communication between them and Member States should be strengthened. In addition, the authority and effectiveness of counter-terrorism and sanctions regimes should be safeguarded.

23. Counter-terrorism operations must be conducted in strict compliance with international law and should be guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set out in the Charter, and by respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries. Universal counter-terrorism instruments and other rules of international law against terrorist crimes should be implemented. In that context, his delegation looked forward to the early conclusion and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

24. China strictly implemented the various resolutions of the United Nations concerning counter-terrorism. It was deeply involved in international counter-terrorism cooperation based on the principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit and had established bilateral and multilateral consultation mechanisms for that purpose with over 20 countries and regional organizations. It also participated actively in various forums such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the group comprising Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa, the Group of 20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Through the China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and other platforms, China was providing support within its means for counter-terrorism capacity-building in other States.

25. China was a victim of terrorism and extremism and had taken resolute law-based measures to prevent terrorism and promote deradicalization while ensuring the maximum protection of the basic rights of all ethnic groups. Those measures, which were supported and welcomed by all communities, formed part of the implementation by China of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and constituted an important contribution to international efforts to combat terrorism, in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and ensuring the protection of basic human rights.

26. The Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement – a terrorist organization listed by the United Nations Security Council – had become highly integrated with international terrorist groups in recent years and posed a rising threat to China and to international and regional security. The fight against the Movement and other Eastern Turkistan terrorist elements was the core counter-terrorism concern for China and constituted an important part of international counter-terrorism efforts. His Government hoped that the international community would continue to support its counter-terrorism efforts so as to jointly maintain global and regional security and stability.

27. **Mr. Oña Garcés** (Ecuador) said that terrorism was a serious threat to international peace and security, human rights, democratic stability and the economic and social development of the international community as a whole. Ecuador unequivocally condemned all terrorist acts committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Joint, concerted measures were needed to counteract terrorism. In that connection, Ecuador reiterated its support for a balanced application

of all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

28. In early 2018, Ecuador had been the scene of a number of violent acts perpetrated by irregular armed groups linked to transnational organized crime, resulting in deaths and injuries, population displacement and damage to national infrastructure. In response, his Government had set up a national committee for border security and had implemented a plan for the defence of the northern border to address the threat of transnational terrorism in all its forms. Ecuador had ratified almost all the universal and regional counter-terrorism instruments and had invited the Counter-Terrorism Committee to conduct a focused visit to Ecuador in the first quarter of 2019.

29. The prevention of terrorism was just as important as its repression, and it was therefore essential to identify factors that might promote acts of terrorism, including political, ethnic, religious and racial intolerance, and social and economic inequality within and between nations. It was also necessary to address the links of financing and support between terrorist groups and transnational organized crime groups. In that connection, his Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#) and would continue to support any initiative that could help to prevent terrorist groups from benefiting from national and transnational organized crime. In the joint communiqué of the second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on the Fight against Terrorism held in Buenos Aires in July 2019, the signatory countries had stated their commitment to denying safe haven to terrorists and those financing them so as to prevent their territories from being used for terrorist recruitment, radicalization and propaganda, and had also expressed their concern that terrorist groups could profit from situations of institutional weakness or internal conflict in order to step up their criminal activities.

30. The United Nations was the sole global platform from which terrorism could be combated effectively. In that connection, his delegation supported efforts to draft a framework convention on international terrorism. Consensus in that regard could be reached only with the political will of all Member States, through an open dialogue that took account of the concerns and interests of all.

31. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that terrorism and related criminal activities were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation; they constituted serious crimes and must be prosecuted. The shielding and glorification of terrorists must not be tolerated.

32. Azerbaijan had direct experience of the scourge of terrorism. Since the end of the 1980s, as a means of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and as a method of warfare, terrorist attacks had been repeatedly perpetrated in his country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens. It was curious that those responsible for terrorist acts, massacres of civilians and the destruction and desecration of cultural and religious sites in other countries now spoke about the targeting of ethnic and religious communities elsewhere. Such cynical selectivity must be resolutely rejected.

33. Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often afforded opportunities for terrorists and organized criminal groups and networks and any States behind them to benefit from the exploitation of natural resources, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in cultural property, money-laundering and other crimes. In addition, the accumulation of armaments and ammunition in those territories that were beyond international control and the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction posed a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

34. All States must comply with their international obligations, including under relevant Security Council resolutions, to ensure that their territories were not used for terrorist or related criminal activities, in particular for terrorist installations, training camps, the preparation of terrorist attacks against other States, and financing or providing, directly or indirectly, any support for such activities. Terrorist acts carried out in the context of armed conflict could amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, entailing individual criminal responsibility. In addition to measures that States were entitled to take at the national level to assert jurisdiction over crimes perpetrated by their nationals overseas, international cooperation in criminal matters, including through mutual legal assistance, was the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related offences.

35. The increase in terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance, extremism and racist ideology, required enhanced individual and collective counter-terrorism measures. The efforts made by the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations to promote cooperation and coordination and to strengthen the capacities of Member States in combating international terrorism and organized crime should be continued and expanded. His delegation reiterated its determination to actively contribute to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

36. The war on terrorism could not and must not be used to target any religion or culture. Azerbaijan welcomed the launch of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites. Support by the United Nations for successful initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the culture of peace and multiculturalism was essential for promoting tolerance and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

37. The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biennially by Azerbaijan in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, had become a key global platform for promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, as encouraged by the General Assembly in its resolutions [72/136](#) and [73/129](#). Azerbaijan was keen to continue actively contributing to global counter-terrorism efforts.

38. **Mr. Yedla** (India) said that terrorism threatened the existence of States and undermined the foundations of the democratic political and social order. Lack of unanimity on the issue of terrorism undermined the very principles that were the basis for the creation of the United Nations; it was therefore imperative for the world to stand as one against terrorism. India condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State-sponsored cross-border terrorism, which no cause or grievance could justify. The international community must adopt a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism. Democratic, secular and multicultural societies were the prime targets, as terrorists exploited the civil liberties and religious tolerance that were characteristic of such societies to foment sectarian divisions.

39. In view of the growing linkages between terrorist groups and cross-border terrorist financing networks and the exploitation of modern technologies to disseminate ideologies of hatred, the only effective response was concerted international cooperation, including through extradition, prosecution, information exchange and capacity-building. Although the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had had little impact on the ground and the Security Council sanctions committees had become selective tools owing to their opaque working methods and politicized decision-making, the United Nations was nonetheless best placed to lead that effort. The General Assembly, which represented the voice and the moral authority of the entire international community, must guide efforts to develop an international legal framework within which action could be taken against terrorism.

40. India was a party to all the major United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and firmly believed that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would provide a strong legal basis for the fight against terrorism. The inability to agree on such a convention had created one of the most significant gaps in the international legal framework for combating terrorism. States should therefore move forward with the adoption of the draft convention.

41. His Government's own counter-terrorism efforts included exchanging information, building capacity for effective border control, preventing the misuse of modern technologies, monitoring illicit financial flows and cooperating in investigations and judicial processes. The United Nations should increase its cooperation with bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in order to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism. His Government strongly condemned the provision by States of direct or indirect financial assistance to terrorist groups or individual members thereof. The fight against terrorism must be unrelenting and fought across all fronts, without selective approaches.

42. **Ms. Pejanović Đurišić** (Montenegro) said that the terrorist attacks taking place across the globe were a stark reminder that only limited results had been achieved thus far in addressing the threat of terrorism. She reaffirmed her Government's strong commitment to combating terrorism at both the national and the international levels through measures that were in full compliance with human rights standards and the rule of law.

43. Terrorism and violent extremism could not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. In that regard, States should make further efforts to combat xenophobia and promote inclusion. The fight against terrorism should not be misused to suppress political opposition or ideological dissent.

44. Montenegro had largely aligned its strategic and legal framework with international standards. Its laws on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and on international restrictive measures had been amended to comply with the recommendations of FATF and of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL). In addition, new strategies for the prevention of terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for the period 2019–2022, and for combating violent extremism for the period 2020–2023, were at the final stage of development.

45. Even though Montenegro had been only marginally affected by the issues of radicalization and foreign fighters, the Government had criminalized the relevant activities under the Criminal Code and was implementing anti-radicalization and awareness-raising activities, in cooperation with civil society organizations and local authorities. It was also developing measures for the reintegration of returnees and their families. It attached great importance to the Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism Initiative, launched in 2015 with the support of the European Union, and was actively contributing to the implementation of the Joint Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism for the Western Balkans, signed in October 2018.

46. Effective measures to combat terrorism must address not only security issues but also underlying problems relating to development, good governance, human rights and humanitarian concerns. Only through a multi-stakeholder dialogue, enhanced exchange of information and expertise among States, and criminal justice cooperation could results be achieved.

47. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations and by whomsoever committed. Terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida, Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram continued to inflict death and devastation on a large scale and to manipulate young minds by exploiting real or perceived injustices and grievances. The international community must be unwavering in its resolve to combat terrorism, including by addressing its root causes, such as poverty. It was also important to have a definition of terrorism that differentiated it from legitimate struggles.

48. His delegation supported efforts to improve the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to achieve a consensus regarding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It endorsed the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms.

49. Uganda had long been engaged in fighting various terrorist groups and had succeeded in driving the Lord's Resistance Army out of its territory. All States must cooperate to deny terrorists safe haven and eradicate their sources of financing. Under the auspices of the African Union Mission in Somalia, Uganda had played a central role in fighting Al-Shabaab. Efforts should be stepped up to assist Somalia in developing institutions capable of dealing with terrorist organizations that regarded that country as a safe haven for their activities.

Ultimately, recourse to the judicial process was imperative in combating terrorism. In that connection, he expressed appreciation to the Governments of neighbouring countries for facilitating the arrest of terrorist ringleaders such as Jamil Mukulu, who was currently on trial in Uganda.

50. His Government reiterated its concern that the toxic waste being dumped off the coast of Somalia might constitute an arsenal for terrorists in their quest for weapons of mass destruction. The dumping must stop, and those responsible must ensure that the waste was cleaned up.

51. **Ms. Lee Hyunseung** (Republic of Korea) said that terrorism could not be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. In order to effectively combat terrorism, mitigate the harm to victims and eradicate the root causes, all stakeholders, including States, regional bodies, international organizations and the private sector, needed to cooperate and to commit themselves to implementing the relevant norms under international law. Her Government welcomed the release by the Office of Counter-Terrorism of the consolidated multi-year appeal for 2019–2020, which would help enhance the Office's coordinating role and avoid the fragmentation of United Nations counter-terrorism activities.

52. The abuse of new technologies, the Internet and social media by terrorists was a growing challenge. As a country with a high level of digital connectivity and a vibrant cyberculture, the Republic of Korea attached great importance to preventing the digital space from becoming a hotbed of terrorism and violent extremism. It would also explore ways to update its laws and regulations to reflect the emergence of new technologies. It had been sponsoring the Tech Against Terrorism initiative and, as a member of FATF, had been collaborating with financial institutions and other non-State actors for an improved system to root out the illegal financing of terrorist acts.

53. The Republic of Korea was a party to most of the international conventions regarding counter-terrorism and was fully committed to implementing all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including Security Council resolutions [2462 \(2019\)](#) and [2482 \(2019\)](#). It had also been actively participating in regional meetings, including the ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, held in March 2019, and had enhanced its cooperation with other States through meetings of bodies such as the Republic of Korea-European Union special working group on counter-terrorism.

54. When implementing counter-terrorism measures, due consideration should be given to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Any restrictive measures, including the indictment and punishment of perpetrators of terrorist offences, should be stipulated in law. A number of laws were in place in the Republic of Korea to address terrorism and also money-laundering and other illegal financing. The adoption of an anti-terrorism law in 2016 had improved the coherence of national counter-terrorism efforts. Under that law, the Government had established a national counter-terrorism committee chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising representatives of relevant ministries and government bodies. In 2019, the committee had discussed counter-terrorism measures for important national events and had adopted a new ordinance on terrorism.

55. **Ms. Zohou** (Togo) said that, in the statement delivered on 7 August 2019 on behalf of the Security Council by its President ([S/PRST/2019/7](#)), the Council had reiterated its concern over the challenging security situation in West Africa and the Sahel, notably threats posed by terrorism; welcomed the leadership demonstrated by countries in West Africa and the Sahel in spearheading initiatives to address security challenges in the region; and commended the efforts of those countries and of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to strengthen security in border regions and regional cooperation and to address the impact of terrorism. The Council had also reaffirmed that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism complied with all their obligations under international law. In that regard, Togo had taken early action to implement the universal and regional legal instruments pertaining to counter-terrorism. It had established a financial intelligence unit and had adopted a law on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In addition, in view of the almost daily attacks in some of the countries neighbouring Togo, the Government had established an interministerial committee in 2019 to prevent and combat violent extremism. A new law on national security had also been adopted to deal with actual or threatened terrorist attacks and transnational crime.

56. The increasingly frequent terrorist attacks around the world required concerted action by the entire international community. In that connection, her Government had requested the assistance of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, whose visit to Togo in July 2019 had generated a number of recommendations and had provided an opportunity to assess priority needs for technical assistance. In



addition, the President of Togo had met the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism on the margins of the general debate at the current session and had taken part in the ECOWAS summit held in Ouagadougou in September 2019, at which the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS member States had announced their intention to adopt a priority action plan to combat terrorism by the end of 2019. On both of those occasions, Togo had reaffirmed its steadfast opposition to fundamentalism and violent extremism and had called for greater regional cooperation and intelligence-sharing. Lastly, her delegation hoped that the Committee would be able to resolve the outstanding issues preventing the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

57. **Ms. Pejic** (Serbia), reiterating her country's strong condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, said that in 2019 the world had continued to witness many horrific terrorist attacks, including those in New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Terrorism and violent extremism were global phenomena. In order to counter them, continued and widespread cooperation among Member States was needed. Serbia would continue to support the work of the Secretary-General, CTED and the Office of Counter-Terrorism and was fully committed to implementing all Security Council resolutions addressing international terrorism. It also supported the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and encouraged Member States to make the necessary efforts to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

58. The phenomenon of returning foreign terrorist fighters was a challenge necessitating regional cooperation. Serbia had undertaken numerous measures to address the problem, including operational activities carried out either independently or in cooperation with partners, especially in the Western Balkans and in South-East Europe. The country's Criminal Code provided for the punishment of Serbian citizens who participated in armed conflicts abroad, or in the organization thereof. A national strategy for the prevention and countering of terrorism for 2017–2021 had also been adopted. The law on the freezing of assets provided for effective regulation of questions relating to the list of persons designated by the Security Council and other international organizations, as well as the designation procedure itself, while the law on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism was aligned with the standards of the European Union and the recommendations of FATF.

59. **Mr. Nyanid** (Cameroon) said that terrorism continued to pose a threat to international peace and

security. Terrorists were increasingly using social media, encrypted communications and the dark web to spread propaganda, radicalize new recruits and plan atrocities. Concerted multilateral action was needed to combat terrorism and should involve all regions of the world, different levels of government and non-traditional partners such as the private sector. Measures should also be taken to remove obstacles to the exchange of information, including intelligence information, biometric data and traveller information, at the global, regional and national levels. His Government commended the work of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in identifying and arresting foreign terrorist fighters, in collaboration with States and international and regional partners. However, in order to make further improvements in that regard, it was vital for States to fully implement Security Council resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2396 \(2017\)](#).

60. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018. The fight against terrorism could not be won by military means alone; the root causes, including prolonged and unresolved conflicts, the absence of the rule of law, human rights violations, poverty and socioeconomic marginalization, must also be addressed. His delegation welcomed the decision to establish 21 June as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. International cooperation must be stepped up in order to bring terrorists to justice and dismantle their networks, while ensuring compliance with international human rights law.

61. Cameroon, which had been the scene of atrocities committed by Boko Haram, firmly condemned terrorism and reaffirmed its strong commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The fight against terrorism called for a combination of factors, including heightened awareness and the involvement of local communities and non-governmental organizations in the elaboration of strategies adapted to local situations in order to deconstruct the extremist narrative and ensure that young people and other vulnerable persons were not misled by the illusions propagated by terrorists. In Cameroon, which encouraged a culture of peace and tolerance and an interfaith dialogue, numerous educational programmes and development projects involving young people were under way to counteract the terrorist narrative of hate and to deradicalize persons attracted by it. In response to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, Cameroon had adopted a law in 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism and had ratified

numerous United Nations instruments on counter-terrorism.

62. The successes of Cameroon in combating Boko Haram were the result of action taken within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States, including its Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, and the synergy between the States of the subregion, in particular Nigeria and Chad. That cooperation, which included the establishment of a mixed multilateral force, should be strengthened and made permanent.

63. Violent extremism and terrorism were mutually reinforcing. In that connection, his Government welcomed the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and, as recommended in that document, was in the process of drawing up its own national plan of action. Measures aimed at destroying extremist ideologies should be given priority in counter-terrorism policies.

64. **Ms. Samarasinghe** (Sri Lanka), having expressed condolences to the victims of terrorist attacks and their families, said that the attacks of April 2019 against churches and hotels in Sri Lanka had ended a decade of peace following a 30-year civil conflict that had torn apart the fabric of the nation. During that decade, the people of Sri Lanka, who came from many ethnic and religious backgrounds, had taken steps towards reconciliation, transitional justice, development and sustained peace. Although the Government had swiftly restored normalcy after the attacks, they had been the country's first experience of international terrorism. Attacks on soft targets such as religious sites were particularly cowardly and inhumane; they presented few risks to terrorists but had a significant impact. Her delegation therefore welcomed the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites, launched in September 2019. The Organization and Member States must also draw on the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related resolutions to address the issue. Her Government was exploring the possibility of drafting a strategic plan to prevent and counter violent extremism and build community resilience nationwide.

65. The media, particularly social media, must foster a culture of peace rather than hate and bigotry. The April 2019 attacks had been carried out not by marginalized members of society but by affluent, foreign-educated local actors who had been radicalized abroad and on the Internet. The international community must find

innovative ways of countering the evolving threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

66. Sri Lanka welcomed the focus of the Office of Counter-Terrorism on the provision of capacity-building assistance to Member States. It was grateful for the engagement of the Office and of CTED following the attacks, and in particular for the visit of the Executive Director of CTED to Sri Lanka and the missions led by the Office to explore the establishment of a programme on countering terrorist travel and strengthen the capacity of relevant agencies to counter the financing of terrorism. She welcomed the plan to hold the second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies in 2020.

67. Foreign terrorist fighters presented an acute and growing threat. International networks linked to organized crime were essential to terrorist groups. Financial intelligence units, law-enforcement and intelligence agencies, the private sector and regional and international counterparts must strengthen the sharing of financial information. The scope of the activities monitored by financial intelligence units must be expanded to help track transactions that might have come from legitimate sources and that involved funds for terrorist activities.

68. Sri Lanka had proscribed the organizations that had carried out the April 2019 attacks under domestic terrorism prevention laws; they had also been listed pursuant to Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), together with 26 individuals suspected of terrorism and terrorist financing. Despite terrorists' attempts at dehumanization, the international community must uphold its common humanity and fight terrorism in a spirit of respect, responsibility, dialogue and solidarity. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism could not and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

69. Sri Lanka was a party to 13 counter-terrorism conventions and to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. It participated in global efforts to counter the illegal movement of funds for terrorist purposes and would continue to support the General Assembly and the Security Council in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and establishing legal norms. It was unfortunate that, despite broad support for the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the negotiations on it had not been successfully concluded; the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Organization in 2020 would be an opportunity for Member States to resolve their outstanding differences in that regard. They must send a

clear message regarding the international community's resolve to combat such terrorism.

70. **Ms. Ighil** (Algeria) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Collective efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism must be pursued, and terrorism must not be associated with any religion, civilization or geographical area. The struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must include efforts to combat xenophobia and Islamophobia.

71. No country was immune to the global threat of terrorism. In the face of such emerging issues as the spread of terrorist propaganda online, the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, border security and management, the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and the financing of terrorism, global efforts to counter terrorism must be intensified. Her delegation welcomed the strengthening of Secretariat action in that regard. It also welcomed the convening of a series of regional conferences as a follow-up to the 2018 United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and looked forward to the second High-level Conference, to be held in conjunction with the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

72. The General Assembly should finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In particular, States should agree on an accurate definition of terrorism in accordance with the Charter and international law and avoid confusion between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. Her delegation would welcome the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a conference would help to overcome the outstanding issues relating to the draft convention.

73. The prevention and combating of terrorism required multifaceted cooperation, encompassing not only repressive measures but also a coherent political strategy. Having experienced the devastating effects of terrorism in the 1990s, Algeria maintained a high level of vigilance in the fight against terrorism and radicalization. Her Government had implemented policies, strategies and development programmes to counter exclusion, marginalization and social injustice and promote democracy, national reconciliation, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance and

living together in peace. Securing the country's borders and fighting residual terrorism were also part of her Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

74. At the regional level, Algeria had developed strong bilateral cooperation ties with its neighbouring countries in key areas related to the fight against terrorism. In the Sahel region, the current context required both coordination and strengthening of the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of national ownership. Algeria was engaged in several cooperation mechanisms to strengthen border control measures as well as intelligence-sharing among the Sahel countries.

75. At the African Union Summit in February 2019, Algeria, in its capacity as the African Union Champion in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, had presented a report on terrorist threats and trends in Africa in 2018. It had stated in the report that terrorist groups remained active in parts of Africa and threatened peace, security, stability and social cohesion, particularly in the Sahel-Saharan region. Radicalization was increasing, particularly among young and economically disadvantaged people, and the relationship between terrorism and transnational organized crime was cause for concern. In addition, the number of foreign terrorist fighters had risen, particularly in areas affected by armed conflict.

76. Algeria had also presented a memorandum in which it proposed that the African Union develop the African framework for combating terrorism and violent extremism, address the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, eradicate the sources of terrorist financing, prevent and combat radicalization, and promote political, institutional and judicial frameworks that fostered democracy, good governance, human rights, the rule of law, social justice and socioeconomic development. African Union security initiatives, including the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL) and the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, both based in Algiers, were essential to strengthening the capacities of Africa in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime. Lastly, Algeria worked closely with such entities as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, particularly in its capacity as Co-Chair of the Forum's working group on capacity-building in the West Africa region.

77. **Mr. Alansari** (Bahrain) said that the spread of terrorism had become a threat to the entire international community; cooperation at all levels should be intensified to fight terrorism and achieve a more secure, prosperous future. Bahrain sought to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and had hosted

meetings on countering the financing of terrorist groups in Manama in 2014 and 2015, with the participation of representatives of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission, FATF and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, which had its headquarters in Bahrain. At the meetings, recommendations aligned with international law and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had been adopted on the need to investigate and prosecute the financing of terrorist organizations and individual terrorists, fully implement targeted financial sanctions and actively involve the private sector in efforts to counter the financing of terrorism.

78. His Government was fully involved in the international framework to counter the financing of terrorism through FATF-style regional organizations. In conjunction with the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United States of America, his Government had hosted the eighth Gulf-European workshop on combating terrorist financing and a workshop on charitable donations and combating the financing of terrorism and violent extremism. Bahrain had also participated in the tenth meeting of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group, held in Warsaw in September 2018, in its capacity as a member of the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre. In June 2018, FATF had adopted its mutual evaluation report on Bahrain.

79. Concerted efforts were needed to combat terrorist organizations and their extremist ideology and eliminate their financial resources. At the eleventh meeting of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group, held in Bahrain in April 2019, international efforts to combat ISIL had been discussed. His Government had set up a national committee to follow up on its commitments under all Security Council resolutions, such as the establishment of policies to prohibit and counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Subsequently, it had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and, in conjunction with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, had held a workshop in March 2019 to strengthen its capacity to protect the non-profit sector from exploitation by terrorists. Bahrain was committed to cooperating with its allies to combat extremism and terrorism, with an emphasis on tightening sanctions against the financing of terrorism and building a secure, hopeful future.

80. **Mr. Kim In Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorist acts continued unabated in various parts of the world, not only in such developing countries as Kenya, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka but also in such developed countries as New Zealand. Five years after the emergence of ISIL, that organization

continued to aggravate the situation in conflict areas even as it struggled to survive. The rapid spread of terrorist acts jeopardized world peace and security, and international cooperation was largely ineffective in stopping it. Although efforts to combat terrorism had been intensified through the adoption of multilateral instruments and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, little success had been achieved. The cause of that failure must be addressed. In that regard, the former Prime Minister of one country had stated that ISIL had been formed because of the invasion of Iraq by one particular country, which had also invaded Libya, was deeply involved in the internal conflicts of Syria under the pretext of counter-terrorism and had left no stone unturned in its quest for regime change.

81. State-sponsored terrorist acts intended to overthrow legitimate Governments were being committed elsewhere, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in which the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in States' domestic affairs and respect for international law were enshrined. State-sponsored terrorism was the underlying cause of the continual proliferation of terrorist acts; unless it was eliminated, international counter-terrorism efforts would not succeed, nor would it be possible to create a peaceful environment for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

82. His Government opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including support for terrorist acts. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had long been subjected to threats of State-sponsored terrorism by hostile forces intent on overthrowing its State and social systems. It attached great importance to counter-terrorism efforts, which safeguarded its sovereignty and protected its people's lives and security. His Government fully supported the Government and people of Syria in their struggle to defend their country's territorial integrity and the Government and people of Venezuela in their efforts to end interference by external forces and safeguard national sovereignty. His Government would fulfil its responsibility to eliminate all forms of terrorism and ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and elsewhere.

83. **Mr. Zenati** (Tunisia) said that terrorism was one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Brazen acts of terrorism were perpetrated across the globe, targeting human lives and destroying institutions and infrastructure. Tunisia condemned terrorism in the strongest terms and stood ready to contribute to regional and international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

84. Having suffered from terrorism, Tunisia attached great importance to intensifying collective counter-terrorism efforts in accordance with Security Council resolutions and international law. It had taken legal, institutional and operational measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism, following a holistic approach aligned with international standards. In 2015, in a comprehensive law on combating terrorism and money-laundering, it had criminalized acts of support for, incitement to and justification of terrorism, the training and recruitment of terrorists, and complicity in the financing of terrorism. In 2016, his Government had established a national commission on counter-terrorism and had adopted a comprehensive national strategy on extremism and terrorism. The strategy was inspired by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and governed the prevention of, protection against and response to terrorism and the prosecution of terrorists. In January 2018, his Government had promulgated a decree on the freezing of assets; it maintained a list of terrorist entities and individuals whose assets had been frozen pursuant to the decree. Because human rights and fundamental freedoms were safeguarded in the Constitution of Tunisia, the national approach to combating terrorism and violent extremism had been conceived with respect for the rule of law and human rights and freedoms, including the freedoms of expression and assembly.

85. To ensure that global counter-terrorism efforts were effective and to halt the spread of hatred, radicalization and violent extremism, the root causes of terrorism and violence, namely misery, ignorance, grievance, exclusion, injustice and despair, must be addressed. Cooperation must be enhanced and solidarity-based partnerships must be designed to improve livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion. The international community must improve understanding and rapprochement among peoples and disseminate a culture of solidarity, tolerance and dialogue by establishing constructive international relations based on moderation and respect. It must intensify common efforts to find lasting political solutions to the conflicts and tensions that terrorist movements exploited to recruit fighters. It must also cut off their sources of financing, such as organized crime and smuggling. Tunisia was committed to working closely with United Nations counter-terrorism entities, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism. His delegation looked forward to working with other Member States to eliminate international terrorism and hoped that progress would be achieved in the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

86. **Mr. Rai** (Nepal) said that terrorism inflicted heavy death tolls and devastation around the world, jeopardized the enjoyment of human rights and hindered sustainable development. Terrorists often attempted to destabilize society by disrupting peace and harmony and aggravating existing conflicts. By exploiting such new technologies as the Internet and social media, they transcended physical and virtual borders and manipulated young people into joining their ranks. Given the transnational characteristics of terrorism, no country could combat it alone. Nepal condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, whenever and for whatever purposes committed. His Government had taken the utmost care to prevent its territory being used to launch attacks against other countries.

87. Terrorism could not be defeated by guns alone. Prevention was also essential; the underlying conditions that drove young people to violence must be addressed. Governments and the international community should address poverty, unemployment and lack of education, which resulted in the radicalization of young people. Injustice and social exclusion must be eliminated, and issues related to women and girls, who were easily lured by extremist groups, must be resolved. The United Nations system and development partners should complement the efforts of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to create jobs for young people and improve their skills.

88. Nepal stood ready to participate in international efforts and initiatives to combat and prevent terrorism. It was a party to six international counter-terrorism instruments and the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be concluded quickly. Nepal supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and was committed to incorporating related strategies, policies and guidelines into its domestic implementation framework. It had established legal mechanisms to address the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism.

89. To combat terrorism, countries must establish partnerships to share information and technology. Developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, should be provided with financial and technical assistance to enable them to collaborate with other countries in curbing terrorism.

90. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that the Philippines condemned terrorism anywhere in the world, however inspired. It abhorred terrorism in all its manifestations, wherever, by whomever and against whomsoever committed. At the national level, the Philippines

addressed terrorism and violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach. Although there was a long-term need to address the root causes of terrorism, once terrorism had taken hold, the first priority was to destroy it. At the same time, human rights and the rule of law must be respected. Her Government was committed to protecting law-abiding citizens and innocent people. Terrorists, however, should not be given the benefit of the doubt.

91. In January 2019, 27 people had been killed and hundreds wounded by a bomb at a Catholic cathedral in the Philippines. ISIL had claimed responsibility for the attack. Two days later, a mosque had been bombed. Those episodes, together with the attack on the city of Marawi in 2017, had demonstrated the transnational character of terrorism and confirmed that it was the most pressing threat to world peace and security. Terrorism was a global problem that no country could solve alone.

92. The attack on Marawi had been the most destructive act of terrorism in her country's history; nonetheless, with the support of allies, the Philippine armed forces and police had liberated the city after five months of fighting. To eradicate terrorism, however, military and law enforcement operations must be complemented by efforts to address the underlying conditions that drove individuals to join violent extremist groups. Her Government had therefore developed a national action plan to prevent and counter violent extremism. The plan, finalized in May 2019, had been adopted in response to the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and had been drafted with the assistance of the Government of Japan and of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), following two years of consultations with government agencies, civil society organizations, religious communities, academic institutions and other stakeholders.

93. In November 2018, her Government had adopted, in accordance with the 40 recommendations of FATF, a strategy to prevent money-laundering and counter the financing of terrorism, the implementation of which was led by an anti-money-laundering council. She thanked the Government of Canada and UNODC for helping develop the strategy. The Philippines, in partnership with Australia, would host the fifth regional summit on countering terrorist financing in Manila in November 2019. Her Government had established a national task force to stop communist terrorists raising funds and committing atrocities. Broad cooperation was needed to

end terrorism, which was sometimes a means of foreign intervention in States' affairs. States that rejected the use of terrorism to advance foreign policy must fight terrorism globally using a wide spectrum of measures, from border control to countering extremist narratives and propaganda on the Internet.

94. Her Government attached great importance to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. For the Strategy to succeed, the Organization and its institutional architecture must be coordinated, coherent and comprehensive. The Office must work closely with CTED and the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, bearing in mind respect for national ownership and priorities. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was urgently needed but had been under discussion at the United Nations for over 20 years. The outstanding issues, particularly the definition of terrorism, should be resolved immediately. Her delegation supported the plan to hold a second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies in June 2020, in conjunction with the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

95. **Ms. Gaye** (Senegal) said that her country strongly condemned all terrorist acts and practices; they were all just as unlawful as they were unjustifiable, irrespective of by whom they were committed. She paid tribute to the victims of terrorism and to States, organizations and individuals that were involved in combating the threat. Terrorism was a stain on the conscience of humanity and profoundly affected societies. To effectively fight the terrorist threat, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, States must cooperate with each other and with international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

96. Terrorism was the absolute negation of humanity and must be combated in all its forms and manifestations. Her Government had hosted a high-level meeting in October 2019 on the financing of security in the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, at which it had argued for the mobilization of financial resources to fight terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel. In the preceding four years in the Sahel, terrorists had carried out 2,200 attacks that had killed 11,500 people, wounded thousands more, displaced millions, reduced economic activity and worsened tensions among communities. To eradicate terrorism, which was spreading to previously unaffected countries, the States members of ECOWAS, together with Chad, Cameroon and Mauritania, had decided, at a meeting in Ouagadougou in September 2019, to

mobilize \$1 billion over four years, an initiative that deserved the international community's support.

97. Senegal, which desired international peace, security and stability, was at the forefront of the struggle against terrorism, through political, security and diplomatic responses in accordance with the rule of law. Her Government had stiffened the penalties laid down in the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure for the advocacy and financing of, complicity in and failure to report terrorism, and for the recruitment of terrorists. It had established special rules to increase the powers of criminal investigation officers and enable them to conduct terrorism-related investigations more effectively and had taken administrative steps to withdraw travel tickets from foreign terrorist suspects and prevent them from entering or leaving the country. It planned to dissolve dubious associations and had conducted awareness-raising campaigns among civil society organizations, opinion makers, traditional and religious leaders, young people and women, to counter extremist discourse. Those measures had been taken while respecting human rights and due process.

98. With a view to preventing violent extremism, her Government had established programmes to reduce social inequality, combat poverty and promote youth employment, along with a programme to modernize education and oversee religious education. It had also taken operational measures to improve security based on lessons learned from events elsewhere in the world, with a focus on coordination of the activities of the defence and security forces, the provision of appropriate training and equipment, the organization of simulation exercises and the sharing of information. A high-level conference on terrorism should be held to expedite the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

99. **Ms. Syrota** (Ukraine) said that, over the decades, such regional groups as ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Taliban and Boko Haram had become global threats to international peace and security. Terrorist attacks resulted in huge numbers of casualties, disrupted societies and caused fear. Given the increasingly sophisticated methods of terrorists and their sponsors, the international community must address the threat posed by terrorists to its core values and principles, including human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equal opportunities and freedom.

100. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was essential to international efforts to fight terrorism, including by addressing the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of the phenomenon. In the light of emerging threats and evolving trends in international terrorism, all four pillars of the Strategy

must be implemented. Steps must also be taken to prevent and combat State-sponsored terrorism. Over the previous year, counter-terrorism standards had been improved and the international response to the existing risks had been consolidated. In addition, attention had been paid to evolving trends, including in the financing of terrorism, the return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters, and the enhancement of coordination among United Nations entities. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would supplement the existing international legal framework for counter-terrorism, must be finalized. The need to hold to account not only individuals and organizations but also States responsible for organizing, financing, encouraging or otherwise supporting terrorist activities, or training terrorists, should be duly reflected in the convention.

101. The worldwide proliferation of State-sponsored terrorism was detrimental to counter-terrorism efforts. Some countries had, with impunity, integrated terrorism and crime into their State policy, resulting in brutal violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. Ukraine, which had been countering Russian hybrid aggression for more than five years, continued to experience such violations. The reports of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine confirmed the continuous flow of ammunition, weaponry and military personnel from the Russian Federation into the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. More than 13,000 people had been killed, 30,000 had been wounded, and more than 1.5 million had been forced to leave their homes. Every day, the list of victims of Russian aggression grew longer. The current situation in Ukraine proved that appeasement bred further aggression; the aggressor State must therefore be held to account and the necessary instruments must be employed to restore respect for international law.

102. Member States should do more to engage civil society, women and youth in counter-terrorism. As a member of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, Ukraine advocated full respect for such victims' human rights and freedoms and support for their recovery. Member States must ensure that the victims and their families were given proper support and assistance, that the victims' voices were heard, and that all those who perpetrated, organized or sponsored terrorist activities, whether from mountain caves or government offices, were brought to justice.

103. **Ms. Maia Pereira** (Timor-Leste) said that the international community must continue its efforts to

combat terrorism, which threatened international peace and security and sustainable development. To counter the radicalization of young people, inequality and social exclusion must be urgently addressed, including by tackling their root causes. Poverty would be eradicated through the equal treatment of all citizens, so that the political, social and economic rights of all members of society were upheld.

104. To prevent violent extremism, the international community must consider not only security concerns but also the development-related causes of such extremism. Tolerance for diversity and intercultural understanding, which were at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 16, on building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, were essential to addressing the radicalization of youth and violent extremism.

105. Timor-Leste had a policy of zero tolerance of any type of terrorism. Acts of terrorism, money-laundering and extremism were prohibited under its Penal Code, and it was a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Timor-Leste was an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum and supported the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism, which had been updated at the eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime. At that Meeting, the ministers had also adopted the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, in which they had placed strong emphasis on the need for deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and information-sharing.

106. Timor-Leste also supported the initiative of Kazakhstan to develop the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which complemented the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Code of Conduct was designed to strengthen multilateral cooperation, enable the United Nations to provide enhanced support to Member States in implementing the Strategy, and help the international community take holistic, systematic measures to counter and prevent terrorism. Timor-Leste reaffirmed its support for any such measures.

107. **Mr. Shabaltas** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was regrettable that the technical character of the Secretary-General's report on measures to eliminate international terrorism had not prevented some delegations from promoting their own political agenda, unrelated to counter-terrorism and to the work of the Committee. He recommended that the delegation of Ukraine stop speculating on so-called terrorist operations conducted

against the civilian population in the east of that country and making propaganda statements that were not fit for substantive discussion under the current agenda item. Given the delayed start to the work of the Committee, it was inexcusable to distract other delegations from the substance of that work through such insinuations.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*