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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 114**Measures to eliminate international terrorism****Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 12 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative
of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Republic of Cuba at the Security Council open debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: international cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#)”, which was held 12 January 2021 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pedro Luis **Pedroso Cuesta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 12 January 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

[Original: Spanish]

Statement by Ambassador Pedro L. Pedroso Cuesta, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, at the Security Council open debate on the theme “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: international cooperation in combating terrorism 20 years after the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001)”

New York, 12 January 2021

Cuba welcomes this debate on a key issue on the international agenda. Facts confirm that terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge, which we can only face through international cooperation. Our country strongly supports the collective efforts of the United Nations in combating this scourge. Because of its universality, it is up to the Organization to lead such efforts, on the basis of respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We reiterate our strong condemnation of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, irrespective of their motivations.

The Cuban Government remains firmly committed to preventing and confronting terrorism, a commitment that was given constitutional status with the adoption of the country’s Constitution by referendum on 24 February 2019, after a process of broad popular consultation. The Constitution of the Republic, in chapter II, on international relations, article 16, paragraph (l), reaffirms the long-standing position defended by Cuba and establishes the “repudiation and condemnation of terrorism in any of its forms and manifestations, in particular State terrorism” as one of the principles of its foreign policy.

Our country strictly complies with the obligations arising from the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. It should be noted that, on 21 October 2020, the Republic of Cuba ratified the Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, becoming the fifth country worldwide to be a party to all 19 international counter-terrorism instruments.

Cuba, which has been the victim of terrorist acts that have claimed 3,478 lives and maimed another 2,099 people, has never allowed, and never will allow, its territory to be used for the organization of terrorist acts against any State.

On 13 May 2020, Cuba was arbitrarily included on the unilateral and spurious United States Department of State list as a country allegedly not cooperating fully in counter-terrorism efforts. Similarly, and without any basis, the Department of State, in an annual report on international terrorism, described our country as a “safe haven” for terrorists.

We denounce the recently announced inclusion of Cuba on the United States Department of State unilateral list of State sponsors of terrorism, which has become a personal campaign of outgoing Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and his discredited foreign policy. Meanwhile, the United States Government guarantees safe haven and impunity for terrorist groups acting against Cuba from its territory.

* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

The United Nations should speak out against such unilateral lists and certifications, which are politically manipulated and contrary to international law, and only serve defamatory purposes and represent coercion against countries that refuse, in their sovereign decisions, to abide by the will of the United States Government. It was that same Government that chose not to publicly reject or condemn the serious terrorist attack, committed using a firearm, against the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Washington, D.C., on 30 April 2020, which endangered the lives and safety of the personnel of the Cuban diplomatic mission and their families.

The record of violent and hostile acts against Cuban diplomatic premises in United States territory is well known. They include terrorist acts against Cuban diplomatic officials, which have even claimed human lives, both at the Embassy in Washington, D.C., and at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

We warn, once again, that the complicit silence of the United States Government may encourage similar acts against our diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C., or New York.

Twenty years after the adoption of Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#), we recall that all States must take the necessary steps to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, including by provision of early warning to other States and the exchange of information; as well as cooperate, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks, and take action against perpetrators of such acts.

Global efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations require an integrated approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and specific measures to eradicate its root causes.

International assistance and cooperation are essential to build and strengthen the capacities of developing countries to confront this scourge.

We urge the resumption, as soon as possible, of the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, covering all aspects of this abhorrent phenomenon, including acts in which States are directly or indirectly involved.

We strongly reject the use of supposed counter-terrorism activities as a pretext to commit acts of aggression, undermine national sovereignty, interfere in the internal affairs of other States and violate the human rights of their peoples.

Thank you.
