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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 5 October 2021, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Al-Thani ..... (Qatar)

## Contents

Organization of work

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Organization of work** ([A/C.6/76/1](#); [A/C.6/76/L.1](#))

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document [A/C.6/76/1](#), and to the note by the Secretariat entitled “Organization of work” ([A/C.6/76/L.1](#)), in particular paragraphs 3 to 7 concerning the status of documentation and the proposed programme of work. She said that, although the Committee, during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, had adopted a provisional programme of work for the current session, the Bureau had recently circulated its recommendation for a revised programme of work in the light of the special working arrangements that had been put in place by the Organization in response to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Under the revised version of the proposed programme of work, the Committee would seek to consider all the agenda items allocated to it at the current session and would hold its plenary meetings in person during the time slots allocated to it for such meetings. Working group meetings would be held virtually, using an online platform with remote simultaneous interpretation, and informal consultations on draft resolutions would also be held virtually, without interpretation. Such arrangements were being implemented on an exceptional basis and were not intended as a change to the traditional pattern and format of the Committee’s meetings.

2. The Committee would need to use its time and resources efficiently in order to complete its work. The Bureau had once again recommended that the Committee approve time limits for the delivery of statements and that delegations make the full versions of their statements available online. She took it that it was the wish of the Committee to limit statements delivered in a national capacity to 7 minutes and statements by regional groups to 12 minutes for all agenda items, except for that on the report of the International Law Commission, without prejudice to future sessions.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with established practice, the proposed programme of work would be applied with flexibility in the light of the progress made by the Committee. When the Committee had exhausted the list of speakers on an item on its agenda, and conference services were still available, it would begin consideration of the next item on its agenda.

5. She encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to use the e-deleGATE portal to circulate

texts of draft resolutions as early as possible and to submit them for processing in good time, preferably no later than one week after the completion of the debate of the Committee on each item or the completion of the work of the relevant working group, as the case might be. She encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to prepare zero draft versions of their proposals for draft resolutions, and in the interests of time, to circulate them in advance of the debate on the respective agenda items. Coordinators were encouraged to convene at least one open-ended meeting for informal consultations after the plenary debate. All informal consultations would take place virtually and be announced in advance, including in the *Journal*. The Committee would continue its previous practice of taking action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. Such action would always be announced, in advance, in the *Journal*. She took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 8 of the note by the Secretariat ([A/C.6/76/L.1](#)) and said that, with regard to agenda item 111, “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, it was her understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/145](#), the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka), with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in General Assembly resolution [54/110](#) concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Two working group meetings had been suggested for that purpose. The working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chair** said that in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no resolution involving expenditure should be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it was accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. It was therefore imperative that the Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation and consideration of estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. In that connection, all draft resolutions with financial implications should be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 5 November 2021. All other draft resolutions should be submitted by 11 November 2021

to allow for the necessary budget review, processing and issuance in all official languages of the United Nations.

10. She took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to representatives of regional groups or other groups of States; it was also understood that delegations that were aligned with statements already made by the representative of a group of Member States should, where possible, focus additional interventions on points that had not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question.

11. *It was so decided.*

#### Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/76/201)

12. **Ms. Ershadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorist acts were a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security, and had adverse consequences for the economic and social development of States.

13. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling of suspects and intrusion on privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned.

14. States should fulfil their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should themselves refrain from encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and

supplying weapons which could be used for that purpose.

15. The Non-Aligned Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism. It also firmly rejected the unilateral establishment of lists of States accused of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism. States should condemn and refrain from extending political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status.

16. The Movement expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and emphasized the need for States to address the issue, including through the fulfilment of their international obligations. The Movement was also deeply concerned at terrorist groups' misrepresentation of religion to justify terrorism and violent extremism. It was therefore imperative to counter terrorist narratives through a comprehensive and international framework and to address terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner, including by engaging with community leaders and clerics of all denominations.

17. The Movement called upon all States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law and their obligations under international law. It called upon the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures by making the position of the Ombudsperson independent, transparent and permanent.

18. The Movement reiterated its call for the convening of an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. It once again noted the importance of concluding a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and called upon States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the primary responsibility of States for its implementation, including through cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should help bring greater coherence and effectiveness to United

Nations counter-terrorism activities, in particular by addressing, upon request, the capacity-building needs of States through assistance tailored to the specific realities of the States concerned, taking into account the centrality of national ownership. The Movement welcomed the second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in June 2021, and looked forward to the holding of the first ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

19. **Mr. Agyeman** (Ghana), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group strongly and unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever they were committed. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

20. The Group welcomed the recognition by the General Assembly, in resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, of the detrimental effects of terrorism on the full enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, the call for Member States to ensure that their territories were not misused for the planning and incitement of terrorism against other countries, and the expression of concern at the transfer of foreign terrorist fighters to and between conflict zones, a phenomenon from which Africa was suffering. The General Assembly had also recognized in that resolution the need to build the counter-terrorism capacities of Member States, including their law enforcement institutions, and the importance of national ownership and systemic coordination within the international community. The Group looked forward to the full implementation of the Strategy and urged the United Nations and donor countries to assist Member States in meeting their obligations in that regard. It also reiterated its support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the convening of the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.

21. The Group reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It stood ready to work with other delegations to achieve a consensus and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism and remained committed to preventing and combating that scourge. The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force in 2002. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism

established by the African Union provided relevant stakeholders with training and other forms of capacity-building to help them address terrorism-related issues and fulfil their regional and international obligations in that regard.

22. The Group urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, which was one of their main sources of financing. It also called upon Member States to prevent perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts from abusing refugee status and to ascertain, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker had not planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts. In addition, Member States should work together to develop and implement effective counter-narrative strategies, including through the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives.

23. More attention should be given to the further strengthening of inter-State counter-terrorism cooperation, and States should expand the range of assistance available for apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. To that end, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Djibouti participated in African initiatives to enhance the capacity of countries in the region to develop coordinated counter-terrorism approaches. The Group noted with appreciation the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa, the establishment by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in Rabat, of a programme office for counter-terrorism and training in Africa and, in Nairobi, of a regional programme office for the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa. It also welcomed the agreement by the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community to establish a regional counter-terrorism centre in Tanzania.

24. Counter-terrorism assistance and capacity-building was needed more urgently than ever during the current COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating socioeconomic effects of which were expected to exacerbate the conditions that were known to breed terrorism. There had already been an increase in terrorist attacks and a proliferation of terrorist groups, including those affiliated with Da'esh, throughout Africa.

25. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were constrained by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international

community for assistance in that regard. The United Nations and its Member States must work hand in hand with Africa to prevent the threat of terrorism from derailing the region's hard-won progress.

26. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that the members of the Organization condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivations and by whomever and wherever committed. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Terrorist acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security. OIC reiterated its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States and reaffirmed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, culture, ethnicity or society. It strongly condemned all attempts to link Islam with terrorism, as such attempts played into the hands of terrorists and promoted hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims. OIC reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world, and welcomed all international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

27. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to adopt a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including lack of sustained economic growth, the unlawful use of force, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, and political marginalization and alienation. It was also necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction. Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting their narratives and ideologies. OIC reiterated the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction duly reflected in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

28. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. It was important to enhance capacity-building to assist Member States in fulfilling their

obligations under United Nations resolutions by increasing the resources for United Nations entities and departments entrusted with that task and by enhancing bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer. OIC recognized the role played by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in that regard.

29. OIC welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 75/291 on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which reflected the deep concerns among Member States regarding the rise in discrimination, intolerance and violence, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, and the increased risk of terrorist attacks on cultural property and religious sites. The General Assembly had made clear in the resolution that terrorism posed a threat to the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life, and had reaffirmed the central role of national institutions, including law enforcement agencies, in countering terrorism. It had also highlighted the phenomenon of the transfer of foreign terrorist fighters to and between conflict zones.

30. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to the negotiation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need to make progress in that regard. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of such a convention and its determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement on the draft convention by resolving the outstanding issues, including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination by people under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts to be covered by the instrument. A high-level conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to finalize the outstanding issues relating to the draft convention and enhance the international community's response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

31. **Ms. Tolstoi** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, Liechtenstein and Ukraine, said that terrorism and violent extremism presented a constantly evolving threat that had not diminished during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its member States had shifted resources away from counter-terrorism efforts in order to respond to the pandemic, making international cooperation in countering terrorism more important than ever.

32. Terrorism needed to be addressed in all its forms, whether the threat came from terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaida and Da'esh, politically motivated violent extremism and terrorism, or the far right and the far left. Recent events in Afghanistan had shown the urgent need for greater cooperation within the United Nations, the international counter-Da'esh coalition and the Global Counterterrorism Forum to ensure that Afghanistan did not become a base for the hosting, financing or exporting of terrorism to other States. It was also important to engage in all phases of counter-terrorism, by reducing vulnerabilities, eliminating root causes, enhancing national capacities to protect citizens and bringing terrorists to justice. Such an approach mirrored the four pillars of the Union's counter-terrorism agenda: anticipate, prevent, protect, respond. Counter-terrorism efforts must never serve as a pretext for human rights violations, however. All such measures should comply with the rule of law and all obligations under international law, including international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

33. The European Union supported a whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and, in that connection, called for strengthened collaboration and cooperation among Governments, the private sector and civil society. The Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online, which had been launched by France and New Zealand in 2019 and was supported by a growing number of States and online service providers, was a good example of what could be achieved by such an approach. In that regard, the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism was especially important, as were measures such as addressing gender inequalities and any other form of discrimination, investing in education, fostering intercultural and interfaith dialogue and developing programmes aimed at preventing radicalization and enhancing resilience to terrorist propaganda.

34. Victims of terrorism were entitled to specialized gender-sensitive assistance, protection and support. They could also play an important role in countering terrorist narratives by sharing their experiences. The European Union had established a centre of expertise for victims of terrorism to provide guidelines and training and had also recently adopted a five-year strategy on victims' rights that was aimed at ensuring that all victims of all crimes, including victims of terrorism, could exercise their rights, no matter where and under what circumstances the crime had taken place.

35. States needed to work harder to ensure that counter-terrorism measures did not impede humanitarian action. The European Union, together with a number of countries, had hosted a discussion series on the protection of humanitarian and medical workers in armed conflict and was committed to stepping up its efforts in that regard and safeguarding the humanitarian space in counter-terrorism contexts.

36. The European Union welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly resolution on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was committed to implementing the Strategy, which was essential for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. Meaningful partnership with civil society was important in the design, implementation and monitoring of the Strategy and change was needed to ensure that that objective was fulfilled.

37. Earlier that year, the European Union had adopted a regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online, which required hosting service providers to remove or disable access to such content within one hour of issuance of a removal order by a competent authority. The regulation would apply to all platforms, regardless of the size of the service provider, and included safeguards to ensure that the fundamental right to freedom of expression was protected.

38. The European Union would seek to address the threat of terrorism at its origins, including by drying up sources of terrorist funding. More could be done to improve the sharing of operational information and best practices in that regard. The European Union fully supported the Office of the Ombudsperson of 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, and noted that the legitimacy and efficiency of sanctions relied on the existence of fair and clear procedures for all sanctions regimes. The European Union remained committed to the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

39. **Ms. Chea** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that international terrorism undermined international peace and security, hindered sustainable development and undercut global economic prosperity. ASEAN members strongly condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and were committed to eradicating it in their region and globally.

40. The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the ensuing economic recession, had exacerbated conditions conducive to terrorism and had disrupted the provision of vital services for victims of terrorism as Governments had focused their attention on fighting the pandemic. Strengthening international cooperation in combating terrorism and supporting survivors of terrorism had become more crucial than ever. ASEAN reiterated its strong support for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which would propel the global economy while addressing the root causes of violence. Counter-terrorism efforts would also benefit from enhanced policy coordination and information-sharing, particularly with regard to travel monitoring and border controls and in preventing the spread of violent extremist ideas on digital social networks. ASEAN members were working closely together to prevent and counter the rise of radicalization and violent extremism in and beyond their region by developing integrated, evidence-based approaches.

41. ASEAN members fully supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the Strategy. The resolution reflected the will and determination of the States Members of the United Nations to prevent and counter terrorism as a common threat. ASEAN, whose members had participated actively in the second Counter-Terrorism Week appreciated the technical support provided to Member States by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

42. The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism provided a framework for regional cooperation to prevent and suppress extremism while deepening counter-terrorism coordination. ASEAN had been actively promoting at the regional and national levels the view that no terrorist act could be justified under any circumstances and that terrorism could not and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. At the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum in September 2020, the Ministers had encouraged engagement with local communities with a view to developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremist narratives and tailored approaches that promoted social inclusion. ASEAN members were also committed to deepening regional cooperation to combat money-laundering and counter the financing of terrorism. ASEAN would continue to play an active role in addressing the growing threat of terrorism across the globe. It was prepared to work with other delegations in refining and improving

the global counter-terrorism architecture, including as part of the Committee's continued deliberations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism with a view to achieving consensus on that important instrument.

43. **Mr. Kvalheim** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that the ideologies of intolerance and violence espoused by terrorists and violent extremists posed a challenge to shared values of peace, security, human rights and the rule of law. The restrictions, economic hardship and social isolation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic had fuelled a mistrust of Governments in some countries and had exacerbated social tensions, increasing the threat of violent extremism and terrorism. In spite of the pandemic, violent extremists of all types, including right-wing extremists, had continued to carry out attacks and recruit new followers; ISIL and Al-Qaida were increasingly present in Africa; and terrorist groups might use the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan to bolster recruitment and inspire terrorist attacks across the world.

44. The terrorist threat remained, although it had changed in the 20 years since the horrific attacks of 11 September 2001 and the adoption of Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#). The response to the threat must be based on global cooperation, with human rights, democracy and the rule of law at its core, and with the United Nations playing a leading role. The Nordic countries attached great importance to preventing violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations. As members of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism they sought to raise awareness of the conditions that drove the spread of violent extremism and terrorism and to ensure that the prevention of violent extremism was integrated across the United Nations system. The Nordic countries would continue to support the work of the Secretary-General, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and to ensure that issues relating to gender, terrorism and violent extremism were placed on the Organization's agenda.

45. A whole-of-society, gender-sensitive approach needed to be taken to preventing terrorism and violent extremism. In particular, while women participated in the work of terrorist organizations as campaigners, recruiters, financers and perpetrators of terrorist acts, the strengthening of women's political and economic rights could empower them to play a vital role in countering violent extremism. Effective and sustainable solutions to the global terrorist threat could often be found at the local level. Community leaders,

schoolteachers, youth representatives and religious leaders were the first line of defence against hate. The Strong Cities Network, Nordic Safe Cities, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and similar platforms at the local level were to be commended on their efforts. It was important to listen to the voices of young people and children, who played a key role in preventing radicalization. The way young people perceived their own grievances could hold the solutions to key challenges. Young people should be engaged in meaningful discussions on how to diminish the influence of violent extremism at the local level and online.

46. The Nordic countries were, on the whole, pleased with the outcome of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, stronger mechanisms for evaluating the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism would be beneficial. All United Nations entities needed to do more to coordinate their counter-terrorism and prevention activities. Human rights and gender should be included as cross-cutting issues in all United Nations counter-terrorism activities; in that regard, the wording on those issues used in the resolution could have been stronger.

47. The Nordic countries attached great importance to ensuring full respect for human rights and international law in the counter-terrorism context. Not only had the Security Council repeatedly underscored that all counter-terrorism measures taken by Member States must comply with their obligations under international law, but numerous studies had shown that failure to fulfil international obligations contributed to increased radicalization. Human rights must therefore be at the centre of any strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

48. **Mr. Roughton** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that the three States firmly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. Terrorism continued to threaten global peace and security, and the COVID-19 pandemic had deepened inequality and many other key drivers of radicalization to violence. As the threat continued to evolve and new challenges arose, a coordinated response from the international community was required. Australia, Canada and New Zealand had all been directly affected by terrorism within their borders and all had also felt the effects of terrorism abroad. They had worked closely through international coalitions and partnerships to combat the scourge of terrorism and would continue to support efforts to counter violent extremism and the networks that supported it.

49. The three delegations reaffirmed their support for the comprehensive approach of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. They recognized that the strongest weapon against terrorism was a resilient, diverse and inclusive society, where all members could thrive and where violent extremist ideologies could not flourish.

50. The international community had a responsibility to uphold the rights of victims of terrorism. Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, which took a comprehensive approach to the advancement and protection of victims' rights, including by enhancing their visibility at the international level and promoting their role in countering and delegitimizing terrorist narratives. The three delegations underscored the importance of integrating a gender dimension and the women and peace and security agenda when analysing and responding to the threat of international terrorism, especially given the exploitation of gender by violent extremist and terrorist organizations. Women played a powerful role as buffers against violent extremism and terrorism and in front-line efforts to protect their families and communities.

51. Technologies and online social networks could be exploited for terrorist purposes, to espouse ideologies, build networks and facilitate financing. A collaborative approach involving Governments, online service providers, civil society and non-governmental organizations was crucial to addressing terrorist and violent extremist use of the Internet. In that connection, Australia, Canada and New Zealand noted the significant progress made in delivering commitments under the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

52. Member States continued to grapple with the challenges presented by the return of their citizens who had travelled abroad to associate with terrorist groups. Those challenges demanded a comprehensive approach that included preventive, security, law enforcement, and rehabilitative and reintegration measures. Member States should tailor their responses to each individual, while ensuring that laws were upheld, human rights were protected and society was kept safe. Particular care must be taken to consider the welfare and best interests of children of such individuals.

53. All Member States had an ongoing obligation to effectively investigate and prosecute all acts of terrorism, pursuant to Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [2178 \(2014\)](#) and successive resolutions. It was critical to incorporate that obligation into domestic

law in order to address terrorism effectively and strengthen international law enforcement cooperation. It was also essential to ensure that all actions taken to combat international terrorism were in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law and other international obligations. Australia, Canada and New Zealand reiterated their commitment to working with United Nations bodies, Governments, civil society, victims and the private sector to counter terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms.

54. **Ms. Tang** (Singapore) said that, even during the global pandemic, international terrorism had remained a scourge threatening global peace and security. Terrorists continued to undermine social cohesion and radicalize and recruit members by instilling fear and hatred. Singapore strongly condemned all forms of terrorism and reiterated its commitment to global counter-terrorism efforts.

55. Singapore had deployed a whole-of-government approach in order to maintain close coordination among government agencies to identify the key risks posed by international terrorism. One outcome of that inter-agency effort had been the publication of a terrorism financing national risk assessment in December 2020, which had shown that Singapore remained vulnerable to terrorism financing threats posed by terrorist groups both regionally and internationally, in particular as a result of the radicalization of individuals sympathetic to the cause of such groups. A national strategy would be drawn up to counter the financing of terrorism. Her Government had also adopted strategic frameworks to prevent and detect the financing of terrorism from within Singapore. The domestic legal framework enabled law enforcement authorities to take swift and effective action against terrorists, terrorist groups and their supporters, including financers of terrorism. Singapore had a zero-tolerance policy with regard to any terrorism financing activities. It also leveraged public-private partnerships to enhance operational efficiency and understanding of the risk landscape. Stakeholders were required to adhere to robust requirements to prevent money-laundering and counter the financing of terrorism; those requirements were aligned with the Financial Action Task Force standards and international best practices. The national payment services legislation had been updated in 2021 with a view to improved mitigation of money-laundering and terrorism financing risks. Her Government had also enhanced surveillance and supervisory activities and conducted targeted outreach

to raise awareness of the risk of terrorism financing and the need to adopt appropriate mitigation measures.

56. Singapore engaged actively in counter-terrorism cooperation efforts at the regional level, including through participation in regional forums and projects organized under the auspices of ASEAN. In 2021 it had established a multilateral counter-terrorism information facility bringing together like-minded countries to share intelligence and provide early warning, monitoring and analysis capabilities. Singapore was a party to 15 global counter-terrorism agreements. It firmly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the Strategy, as well as the convening of the second United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism. Her delegation supported the work on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and looked forward to working closely with the Chair and members of the working group to resolve outstanding issues relating to the draft convention.

57. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that terrorism threatened to destabilize the world and undermine the well-being of its population. The serious threat that it posed to democratic values and international peace and security could only be overcome through solidarity and collaboration. Honduras was committed to the maintenance of international peace and security and condemned any and all forms of terrorism as being manifestations of human cruelty, for which there could be no political, ideological, religious or cultural justification. It was important not to overlook the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime, which also had an adverse impact on international peace and security and on the protection of human rights. A holistic analysis of the relationship between the two phenomena should be undertaken, in accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution [2482 \(2019\)](#).

58. As a party to international instruments against terrorism, such as the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, Honduras reiterated its commitment to combating terrorism, with full respect for the Charter of the United Nations and other rules of international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. In that connection, it supported the call for a high-level conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

59. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the convening of the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.

60. **Mr. Al-Edwan** (Jordan) said that Jordan condemned all forms of terrorist acts, irrespective of the perpetrator, and considered them to be violations of international law and international humanitarian law. His Government had adopted an awareness-raising strategy to confront extremist ideas and foster the values of moderation and tolerance. It had promoted several relevant initiatives, including the Amman Message, A Common Word and the World Interfaith Harmony Week. At the domestic level, security measures had been introduced to prevent the spread of extremist ideology and address its root causes. Action had been taken to promote social justice, tackle unemployment, foster democratic values, curb the propagation of extremist ideas, combat money-laundering by terrorist groups, and monitor charitable donations and travel by extremists. Terrorist fighters returning to Jordan could be subject to legal and administrative measures but were eligible for rehabilitation and reintegration programmes that included family care, financial support and work opportunities. Terrorist acts and the establishment of terrorist groups had been criminalized under the Criminal Code. The country's Counter-Terrorism Act (Act No. 55 (2006)) was fully consistent with other domestic laws and the relevant international instruments. It was preventive in nature and did not impinge on civil liberties.

61. His delegation hoped that the Committee would reach consensus in order to adopt the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism, which would provide a specific, depoliticized definition of terrorism for use by States and international organizations. Such a convention should not, however, include provisions for the criminalization of activities such as resistance against foreign occupation that were legitimate under international law, including international humanitarian law. Nor could it allow States to invoke counter-terrorism as a pretext for perpetrating terrorist acts.

62. **Ms. Gobeh-Kamara** (Sierra Leone) said that her Government unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. It continued to implement its 2005 anti-money-laundering law, which it had amended in 2012 to cover the prohibition and punishment of the financing of terrorism, and had enhanced the work of the financial intelligence unit established in 2013 to prevent and suppress terrorism

financing. Further steps being taken to counter terrorism included biometric identification and verification processes at points of entry to identify individuals on the global terrorist list.

63. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) on the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and noted with satisfaction the measures identified in the Strategy to counter terrorism, violent extremism, hate speech and new and emerging threats such as the misuse of technology and the Internet for terrorist purposes. Sierra Leone urged the Organization and donor countries to provide the necessary capacity-building assistance to Member States to enable them to implement the obligations set out in the Strategy. Sierra Leone required support particularly in implementing the goTravel software for monitoring the movements of known and suspected terrorists. Her delegation commended the Office of Counter-Terrorism for the successful organization of the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.

64. Sierra Leone reiterated its support for the urgent finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and for the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. Following negotiations that had started in 2000 the draft convention was almost complete. Sierra Leone called for renewed commitment and cooperation in order to reach consensus on the outstanding issues.

65. The spate of cowardly terrorist acts in the West African subregion represented a clear and present danger to its stability and socioeconomic development. Such acts were also hindering efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic. Sierra Leone urged support for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its efforts to address the scourge of terrorism, and called for equally strong support for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Extremist violence, terrorism and transnational crime should be addressed in an organized and comprehensive manner. Counter-terrorism responses must always be gender-sensitive and in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

66. **Ms. Fatima** (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism constituted a flagrant violation of human rights and remained one of the gravest challenges to international peace and security. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated inequality, poverty and other drivers of terrorism, thereby compounding the threat. At

the same time, the pandemic had severely disrupted efforts to prevent and counter terrorism, as resources allocated for that purpose had been diverted to pandemic mitigation measures.

67. Her delegation welcomed the new recommendations approved during the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in relation to the four pillars of the Strategy. It was concerned, however, that growing resource and capacity gaps might pose serious challenges to the Strategy's implementation, and called for greater solidarity and international cooperation, especially for capacity-building in developing countries. Greater coordination and coherence of United Nations programmes in Member States was also needed, especially in support of national efforts and priorities.

68. Bangladesh maintained a policy of zero tolerance in countering terrorism. Her Government had put in place laws and policies to counter and prevent terrorism, violent extremism, terrorist financing and related menaces, and it worked closely with relevant United Nations entities, bilateral partners and civil society organizations to strengthen its response to those threats. It also had a good partnership with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

69. All international efforts to counter terrorism should be based on the premise that it could not and should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, culture, ethnicity, nationality or society. It was essential to identify the root causes of terrorism, including poverty and factors that fomented exclusion and grievances, and invest in their elimination. It was also imperative to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law at the national and international levels. During the pandemic, the world had seen a rise in violence, intolerance, hate speech and xenophobia, which, if not addressed immediately, could lead to further violence, terrorism and violent extremism. It was vital to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery process in which no one would be left behind.

70. Action must be taken to stem the abuse of new technologies and social media platforms for malicious and terrorist purposes, including the use of gaming technologies for recruitment, particularly among youth and children. Young people should be educated to recognize and reject manipulative content online.

71. Terrorism had a disproportionate impact on women, who were often forced to act as recruiters and were also subjected to sexual violence by terrorist groups. Her Government recognized the particular role of women in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and had included relevant action

points in its national action plan on the women and peace and security agenda. Her delegation called for the implementation of that agenda and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It also urged renewed efforts to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism through a Member State-driven, consensus-based negotiation process.

72. **Mr. Takht Ravanchi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism and economic and medical terrorism in the form of unilateral coercive measures. The Islamic Republic of Iran had been the target of various forms of State terrorism, including the assassination of several government officials and nuclear scientists and terrorist attacks against the peaceful nuclear facility in Natanz. In January 2020, a prominent figure in the fight against Da'esh in Iraq and Syria, Major-General Qasem Suleimani, had been assassinated in a terrorist attack perpetrated by United States forces.

73. While emphasizing national ownership and leadership in combating terrorism, his Government also recognized the pivotal role of the General Assembly. In that regard, it welcomed the successful conclusion of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Assembly's adoption of resolution [75/291](#). Regrettably, however, the review had ignored some important emerging terrorist threats. The countries that had been most affected by terrorism should be accorded a more prominent role in norm-setting and leadership in counter-terrorism efforts within the United Nations system and at the global level.

74. Terrorism could be countered only through international cooperation and measures to address its root causes, which included socioeconomic problems and foreign military intervention and occupation. Resistance against occupation and foreign intervention in the exercise of self-defence and the right to self-determination could not be considered terrorism. A clear case in that regard was the struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation of their territory by the Zionist regime. No State had the right to commit acts of aggression, interfere in the internal affairs of other States or condone flagrant violations of human rights and humanitarian law under the pretext of combating terrorism.

75. Unilateral coercive measures continued to undermine the counter-terrorism efforts of targeted countries. Furthermore, since such measures mainly targeted ordinary people, they greatly contributed to the root causes of terrorism. Unilateral coercive measures imposed with the intention of inciting insurgency and

dissatisfaction among ordinary citizens were tantamount to acts of terrorism. The absence of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, with a universally agreed definition of terrorism, had led, among other consequences, to the unilateral listing of States Members of the United Nations, or their constitutionally established institutions, as terrorist entities. The Islamic Republic of Iran therefore strongly supported the finalization of the draft comprehensive convention and the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

76. **Mr. Penaranda** (Philippines) said that, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, States had made some progress in addressing international terrorism. As part of a whole-of-nation approach, the Philippines had taken steps to strengthen its legal framework for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism, including through the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, which penalized foreign terrorists who travelled to a State other than their State of residence or nationality and those who facilitated travel for the purpose of committing terrorist acts. At the same time, the Act ensured that humanitarian activities were not unduly affected by counter-terrorism measures. Steps had also been taken to counter the financing of terrorism, enhance law enforcement and border control and secure cyberspace, with due respect for human rights.

77. The siege of Marawi had underscored the need to address the underlying conditions that drove people to join violent extremist groups and to expand partnerships with local stakeholders. To that end, his Government had adopted a national action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism. With a view to ensuring that terrorists would find no safe haven anywhere, it was participating in the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and was working to enhance its capabilities to collect and analyse passenger data in order to detect travel by terrorists.

78. The Philippines continued to support the four-pronged approach of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly the measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. The hard-won consensus that had emerged from the seventh review of the Strategy gave his delegation measured optimism concerning the prospects for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Through constructive engagement, with respect for sovereignty and for people's agency, Member States could work collectively towards a long-overdue convention.

79. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba) said that Cuba condemned terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by and against whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorism could not and should not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated holistically, including through measures to eradicate its root causes. Cuba forcefully rejected the use of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as a policy instrument against any country.

80. The practice by certain States of financing, supporting or promoting harmful regime change activities and transmitting messages of intolerance and hatred through the use of modern information and communications technologies – such as the political communication campaign by the United States against Cuba – violated the principles of the Charter and of international law. Cuba condemned any unilateral acts of certain States that took it upon themselves to establish politically motivated lists that were contrary to international law and undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The international community could not accept that, under the guise of countering terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law.

81. For decades, Cuba had suffered the consequences of terrorist acts, including the downing of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 45 years earlier, which had resulted in the death of 73 persons. Cubans were outraged that justice had still not been done for the victims of that horrendous crime. His Government vigorously condemned the attack on the Embassy of Cuba in Paris on 28 July 2021. That attack had been the result of a brutal campaign of incitement to hatred and violence unleashed with total impunity on social media and digital platforms from the territory of the United States in open violation of international law. His country's Embassy in Washington, D.C. had been the target of another terrorist attack in 2020, in which an individual had fired at the building with a semi-automatic weapon. To date, the Government of the United States had issued no statement on the matter. Impunity for such acts could not be tolerated. They must be rejected in the strongest possible terms by the international community and by the United Nations.

82. Cuba reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized that the responsibility for its transparent implementation lay with Member States. Cuba also supported the

multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the General Assembly in the Strategy's implementation. His delegation regretted, however, that during the seventh review of the Strategy, there had been insufficient political will to address issues of particular relevance in the current international context, such as the use of unilateral mechanisms to intimidate or overthrow legitimate Governments. Cuba commended the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and applauded the holding of the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the virtual event for the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill lacunae in the existing legal framework. To that end, it favoured the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

83. **Mr. Almansouri** (Qatar) said that it was essential for counter-terrorism efforts to keep pace with emerging threats, including cyberattacks and bio-terrorism. His delegation welcomed the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It commended the Office of Counter-Terrorism for examining the strategic and practical challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and for convening the second Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism in June 2021.

84. Qatar condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed and whatever its justification. Member States should redouble their efforts to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on the topic. Such an instrument should provide a specific definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. It should distinguish between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples under foreign occupation.

85. His Government had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism approach consistent with the Strategy and worked proactively to implement its obligations under the relevant international instruments and resolutions. It was an active participant in international events on the topic and had established bilateral cooperation with counter-terrorism agencies in several allied States. It had contributed \$75 million to support the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism for the years 2019–2023, and had worked with the Office to implement the Global Programme on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. The International Hub on Behavioural

Insights to Counter Terrorism, which had been established in Doha in December 2020, helped facilitate the formulation of model laws on victims' rights and extremism. The International Centre for Sport Security, a Doha-based non-profit organization, protected large sporting events and used sport to prevent extremism conducive to terrorism. His Government would continue to work with the Office and other international counter-terrorism entities.

86. **Mr. Evseenko** (Belarus) said that his Government unequivocally condemned terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism were a flagrant violation of international law and posed a global threat to international peace and security, sustainable development and economic prosperity.

87. Belarus was systematically implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had adopted legal, institutional and operational measures aimed at combating terrorism in line with Security Council resolution [1373 \(2001\)](#). It had also allocated extensive resources in most of the areas highlighted in the resolution. In line with Security Council resolution [2253 \(2015\)](#), Belarus had established a list of individuals whose entry into its territory was prohibited or undesirable and had taken other legal measures to prevent the entry into, or the transit through, its territory of listed individuals and organizations associated with the Al-Qaida terrorist network, the Taliban movement and the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), Belarus was also maintaining a list of organizations subject to international sanctions and a list of individuals implicated in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or controlled by such individuals. Belarus was party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments.

88. Although the United Nations played a leading role in fostering cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, it was important to encourage regional cooperation between States and other organizations that also played an important role in shaping the global counter-terrorism response. To that end, in 2019, Belarus had co-hosted the International High-level Conference on Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies, bringing together the members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and ASEAN. At the Conference, Belarus had proposed the establishment of a digital good-neighbourliness zone through the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral treaties on information security. The treaties would build trust among States with regard to

cyberspace and new technologies and help to combat their use by terrorists.

89. Belarus had worked closely with the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States and law enforcement agencies in partner countries to implement medium-term programmes aimed at combating terrorism and violent extremism. Belarus also regularly took part in regional counter-terrorism exercises organized within the Commonwealth of Independent States and by the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

90. It was unfortunate that certain States were using counter-terrorism instruments to meet political ends, thereby undermining key counter-terrorism objectives. His delegation rejected the way in which some countries fulfilled some of their obligations under counter-terrorism cooperation agreements, but not others. The refusal of certain States, for political reasons, to cooperate with designated bodies of other States to identify and prevent terrorist activity or to provide international legal assistance constituted a gross violation of international law and the principles governing civilized relations.

91. His delegation encouraged greater international cooperation, including through United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, with regard to sharing information about new challenges and threats related to international terrorism, including in cyberspace; exchanging best practices for the identification, prevention and mitigation of terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism; and technical cooperation related to training of personnel for national counter-terrorism units.

92. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that the upsurge in acts of terrorism globally made it clear that terrorism remained a threat, not only to international peace and security but also to human rights. No country could address that complex threat on its own, and terrorism could not be defeated by military means. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which enjoyed the political support of all Member States, remained the most credible and relevant international counter-terrorism mechanism. Its strength lay in the fact that it was a product of the collective efforts of Member States to counter the scourge of terrorism in a holistic manner.

93. South Africa supported a balanced approach to the Strategy's implementation. Alongside the actions taken to prevent and counter terrorism, the international community should maintain its commitment to ensuring the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives to eradicate poverty and promote

sustainable economic growth and sustainable development. Efforts to strengthen the international legal architecture, the rule of law and the criminal justice system must form the basis for the common approach to counter-terrorism. The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms was essential to all components of the Strategy.

94. South Africa had put in place awareness-raising programmes to familiarize government officials and civil society with the Strategy and had also adopted its own national counter-terrorism strategy, which provided a comprehensive and proportionate response to the threat of international terrorism and extremism, taking into account both local and international best practice, while upholding human rights and the rule of law. Efforts under its national strategy were aimed, *inter alia*, at fostering understanding of terrorism and extremism, preventing new recruits from joining terrorist groups and improving the Government's capability to respond to and manage the consequences of terrorist attacks.

95. Renewed focus on the relationship between international counter-terrorism laws and international humanitarian law was needed in the face of widespread concern that the former were being misapplied to criminalize the provision of humanitarian assistance envisaged under the latter. It was encouraging to see that the Security Council had begun to consider the issue, but difficult questions of law and fact remained. Those questions had significant practical implications for humanitarian agencies and those they sought to assist, as well as for States that must weigh different, and possibly conflicting, legal obligations. Much of the analysis of the issue to date had paid insufficient attention to the specifics of each legal regime.

96. In the plan of action annexed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had undertaken to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on terrorism, which would address gaps in the current international legal framework. His delegation believed that the adoption of a convention would enhance the implementation of the Strategy. Member States should therefore make every effort to break the current deadlock.

97. **Ms. Weiss Ma'udi** (Israel) said that her Government remained committed to eliminating international terrorism through all the means at its disposal, including, importantly, legal means. The COVID-19 pandemic had not stopped the ongoing pandemic of global terrorism and, in many ways, it had left fertile ground for it to increase. The international community had a responsibility to put an end to the troubling phenomenon of terrorism. Her delegation

welcomed the continued efforts of United Nations entities in that regard and applauded the steps taken by Governments that, like her own, had adopted robust and comprehensive counter-terrorism laws and had designated terrorist organizations at the domestic level. Israel had adopted a comprehensive anti-terrorism law in 2016 that offered a holistic approach to combating terrorism within the law. It encouraged other countries to do likewise and stood ready to share best practices, as decisive action at the national level was key to a successful global counter-terrorism strategy.

98. Her delegation welcomed the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the adoption of General Assembly resolution [75/291](#). A key provision of the latest version of the Strategy was the condemnation of the use of human shields by terrorist organizations, one of the main modes of operation of terrorist organizations in the Middle East region and beyond. Terrorists' use of innocent civilians as shields, in brazen violation of international law, posed heart-wrenching dilemmas for law-abiding nations. It was critical for the international community to condemn the practice and give States the requisite legal and other tools to address it. Israel welcomed the condemnation in the Strategy of terrorist attacks targeting religious and ethnic communities, including language explicitly condemning the upswing in acts of terror motivated by antisemitism.

99. Another worrying trend was the growing abuse by terrorists of information and communications technologies to spread their ideologies, incite violence and recruit members, a phenomenon that had been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her delegation embraced the approach adopted in the Strategy, which recognized that both Governments and the private sector had a crucial role to play in curbing that ongoing threat to international peace and security. Israel called upon the international community, whether in the framework of the next version of the Strategy or in a future comprehensive convention on international terrorism, to embrace a “zero tolerance” and “zero excuses” policy with regard to terrorism and to reject the selective application of legal principles in clear instances of terrorism. Acts of terrorism should never be misrepresented as noble acts and should be unambiguously condemned.

100. **Mr. Abdelkhalek** (Egypt) said that his Government had, in August 2021, shared on the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform a second report on the efforts of Egypt to combat terrorism. His Government took a comprehensive approach that included supporting national institutions, confronting all terrorist organizations without exception, holding

accountable States that were involved in terrorist activities or gave safe haven to terrorists, tackling terrorist and extremist narratives, fostering socioeconomic development and alleviating poverty.

101. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and, in particular, its recognition that terrorist activities were aimed at impeding the enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to life, liberty and security; the removal of any mention of Islam in reference to the terrorist group Da'esh; the reference to the rise in instances of racist extremism motivated by xenophobia, racism and Islamophobia; the reference to the role of national institutions, including law enforcement agencies; the call on the international community to help States in building those institutions; the call on States to ensure that their territories were not used for incitement to commit a terrorist act against other States; and the expression of grave concern at the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

102. His Government was working to implement the Strategy, including pillar IV (human rights). Counter-terrorism was essential for the realization of human rights and it had therefore been incorporated in the country's national human rights strategy for 2021–2026, which included due process guarantees.

103. His delegation believed that the General Assembly in plenary, the Security Council and the Sixth Committee had complementary roles to play in combating terrorism. It was important for the Committee to engage in substantive discussion of the topic with a view to resolving contentious issues and adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would provide added value to the international legal framework. Convening a high-level international conference on terrorism would help to resolve outstanding differences in that regard.

104. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Mongolia) said that his Government had taken all necessary measures to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and international conventions and treaties against terrorism. It was participating in the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, had developed a comprehensive implementation road map. Mongolia had also requested support from the Office of Counter-Terrorism under its Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme. His Government commended the Office for organizing the second United Nations High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, in which the Director-General of the National Counter-Terrorism

Council of Mongolia had participated. The Conference had provided an opportunity to share assessments and good practices in relation to new and emerging threats. His delegation also congratulated the facilitators for the consensus achieved in the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As the Secretary-General had said, that consensus must be translated into practical action.

105. Everyone was aware of the economic, social, educational, medical and other benefits of digital technologies. However, allowing those technologies to fall into the hands of terrorists and transnational organized crime organizations was a risk that Member States could not afford. To counter that threat, the international community should work together to share knowledge, exchange information, deliver capacity-building assistance and build strong cooperation.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*