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Chair: Mr. Afonso (Mozambique)

Contents

Agenda item 112: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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

Agenda item 112: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/77/185)

1. **Ms. Nze Mansogo** (Equatorial Guinea) said that her delegation condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. There could be no justification for terrorist acts. The ideologues, perpetrators, associates and financial supporters behind such acts must be held to account. In that regard, in 2022 Equatorial Guinea had approved a new Penal Code that included for the first time offences related to terrorism, and had operationalized institutions such as the National Financial Investigations Agency and the Court of Auditors, which would improve its existing mechanisms to prevent the financing of illicit activities through better control of capital flows and the consolidation of mechanisms for ensuring transparency and accountability of individuals and entities that handled or administered public funds.

2. Equatorial Guinea had also hosted the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes in Government, where her Government had stressed that eliminating funding streams would significantly decrease opportunities for terrorist groups to carry out their activities. It had also drawn attention to maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, in view of the fine line that existed between terrorism and piracy, since they were both perpetrated using the same methods of extreme violence. Equatorial Guinea proposed the convening of an international conference on maritime piracy to analyse cooperation strategies for combating that scourge and reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

3. While her delegation recognized the commitment and progress made by the United Nations, especially in Central Asia and Africa, to address the threat Da'esh posed to international peace and security, including its work with regional and subregional organizations to support Member States in addressing that threat, it remained concerned about the persistence of terrorist acts around the world, and in particular across Africa. Almost half of all deaths attributed to terrorism globally in 2021 were recorded in Africa, which indicated that there was a clear and present threat to the continent that created instability, weakened Governments and had a devastating effect on development and sustainable peace.

4. A comprehensive study of the terrorist threat and its context was therefore essential to devising a more

timely and effective response. That study should include an assessment of the political, economic and social conditions of the countries where terrorist acts originated; the actual aim of attempts and attacks; and especially the motivations of people, especially young people, that decided to join terrorist groups. All States should cooperate in order to effectively combat the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, in accordance with international law.

5. **Mr. Ancona Bolio** (Mexico) said that efforts to respond to the threat posed by international terrorism should focus on prevention and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The rise in discrimination and violence resulting from intolerance and xenophobia was cause for concern and should be addressed through measures to combat hate speech. Terrorism could only truly be countered through development, job creation and education, and by guaranteeing the full exercise of human rights and gender equality. Regarding the latter, the influence of notions of masculinity should be taken into account in strategies to prevent terrorism and radicalization.

6. All those efforts should go hand in hand with coordinated activities to strengthen national justice and law enforcement systems, with a view to punishing the perpetrators of criminal acts in accordance with due process standards. Under this approach, the General Assembly should play the leading role in coordinating efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. In practice, however, the General Assembly had been displaced by the Security Council, which had fashioned itself into a legislative body on terrorism by means of sanctions and use of force, thus perpetuating the cycles of violence while neglecting their root causes. In that respect, Mexico was concerned about the rise in the number of claims of self-defence to justify the use of force against non-State actors in a third State under the so-called unwilling and unable doctrine. Those broad and abusive interpretations of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations overstepped the limits of that provision and of the collective security system of the Organization.

7. The absence of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism weakened counter-terrorism activities and led to the undermining of international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The efforts of the General Assembly should therefore be prioritized in order to make progress in the negotiation of a comprehensive convention on terrorism that would provide legal certainty and put an end to the ambiguities surrounding unilateral designations. The Committee must urgently end its long-standing pattern of inaction on this matter.

8. **Mr. Dang** Hoang Giang (Viet Nam) said that his Government categorically condemned all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose committed, and welcomed the holding of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in September 2022. The United Nations should play a central coordinating role in a comprehensive approach to combating terrorism at the national, regional and global levels. Counter-terrorism efforts must be in line with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with increasing synergies within the United Nations system and the participation of all stakeholders, including regional organizations and local communities.

9. Terrorist groups could exploit the social inequities and structural challenges exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to expand their influence and drive recruitment. Member States must therefore continue to effectively address such challenges, including political, economic and social inequality and injustice, and enhance the resilience of local communities to violent extremism through poverty eradication, economic development and national reconciliation. Countries in need also required closer cooperation with and greater assistance from the international community during the pandemic recovery period.

10. All Member States should fulfil their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, to combat terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories; and refraining from encouraging such activities within their territories. Understanding and regulating the use of new technologies to prevent their misuse by terrorist and violent groups should also be a priority.

11. Viet Nam was committed to the strengthening of the international counter-terrorism framework, including international law, and had adopted a number of measures designed to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the international level, it worked closely with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to operationalize new technologies for border management and to prevent the abuse of the digital space for terrorism financing. It fulfilled its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and was also a party to 15 treaties pertaining to counter-terrorism and transnational crimes. At the regional level, Viet Nam was a party to

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and had concluded a number of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters and extradition. At the national level, it had incorporated counter-terrorism into its Penal Code and several of its laws, and had established a national centre to build the counter-terrorism capacity of law enforcement agencies. The Government had also made major development gains, which were part of its terrorism prevention effort.

12. **Mr. Leal Matta** (Guatemala) said that terrorism was a global phenomenon that should be tackled at its roots. All States were vulnerable to terrorist acts, which were a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights, in particular the right to life, and impeded the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental liberties. Terrorist acts represented a grave threat to international peace and security, undermined democracy and generated political instability. Furthermore, such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security; destabilized legitimately constituted Governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States; created adverse consequences for economic and social development; and caused the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States.

13. The second United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in 2021, had helped United Nations bodies to take the lead in the fulfilment of counter-terrorism mandates issued by the General Assembly and had led to improved coordination within the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, with a view to the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Guatemala looked forward to contributing to the eighth review of the Strategy in 2023 and welcomed the coordinated efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to support Member States' implementation of the Strategy.

14. The linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism posed a potential danger in that they fostered the use of financial assets for pernicious ends. As a result of its geographic location, Guatemala had been besieged by transnational networks that promoted crime in all its forms, in particular drug trafficking, laundering of money and other assets, contract killings, trafficking in persons and the indiscriminate and illicit use of and trafficking in firearms. Despite its extensive efforts to address those crimes, Guatemala continued to be victimized and overwhelmed by those networks as

they had both access to high-calibre weapons and other war materiel and inexhaustible financial power.

15. For those reasons, his Government believed that the existing international legal framework to prevent those linkages was a valuable tool for all States, and reiterated its strong support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the relevant Security Council resolutions. There should be even closer cooperation between Member States and United Nations institutions to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant international agreements and conventions. Cooperation should be enhanced at the international, regional and subregional levels to strengthen States' national capacity to prevent and suppress international terrorism. Guatemala unequivocally condemned terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose committed.

16. **Mr. Silveira Braoios** (Brazil) said that the repudiation of terrorism was enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a guiding principle of the country's foreign policy. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Its commitment to combating terrorism was also reflected in the country's laws, which were completely aligned with the Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Under those laws, Security Council sanctions, in particular those pertaining to terrorism, its financing and related acts, were directly and immediately enforceable, demonstrating the State's full compliance with the Charter and engagement with the Council, without prejudice to its belief that the representativeness and working methods of the Council required improvement. In particular, the process of listing individuals and entities should be made more transparent and evidence based. In order to discharge its primary responsibility, the Council needed widely accepted, clear rules from the international community to guide its actions.

17. A legal definition of terrorism that would distinguish it from other phenomena, such as organized crime, would facilitate a more effective response to that undeniable threat to international peace and security. In particular, counter-terrorism efforts would be more effective if there was an internationally agreed comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 could be reconvened to conduct the preparatory process, and a high-level conference should be convened under the

auspices of the United Nations to generate the political will necessary to end the stalemate in the negotiations and adopt the convention.

18. Brazil had relevant experience to offer, as it had incorporated the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism into its laws in 2005 and, following extensive debate across society, its legislature had passed a law on terrorism in 2016 that contained a definition of terrorism. Defining the objective and subjective elements of terrorism was critical in light of the essential role the principle of legality played in criminal law. A clear definition of terrorism was also necessary for the law to have legitimacy in the eyes of the public and to avoid the risk of misrepresentation in its application. The subjective element of terrorism differentiated it from other crimes that might have the same objective elements as terrorism.

19. Due attention should also be devoted to attempts to reinterpret the law regarding the prohibition of the use of force, except in self-defence, in the context of counter-terrorism. In that regard, his Government continued to believe that the exceptions to the prohibition of the use of force established in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations must be interpreted restrictively. The International Court of Justice had repeatedly indicated that the right to self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter only applied between States. If counter-terrorism efforts were outside the bounds of international law, including the Charter, human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law, they would defeat their purpose and could even foster extremism conducive to terrorism.

20. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism, including State terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motivation and wherever and by whomsoever committed. Over the past two decades, Pakistan had played a key role in the global fight against terrorism and had also been a principal victim of terrorism. More than 80,000 Pakistani civilians and soldiers had been killed or injured in terrorist attacks and the country had suffered some \$150 billion in losses. Terrorism must be defeated comprehensively, everywhere.

21. While international counter-terrorism efforts had led to the suppression of the "core" of the major terrorist organizations, their associates and affiliates had survived and terrorism had spread across the world, especially in Africa, manifesting itself in various new forms. An effective strategy had not yet been developed to address the challenges to terrorism in Africa. The underlying causes of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of

the right to self-determination in places such as Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, must be addressed.

22. Global counter-terrorism policies had failed to address State terrorism, the worst example of which was the brutal oppression of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, with a denial of their recognized right to self-determination. That State terrorism had intensified in August 2019, when India had taken unilateral and illegal measures to impose what it had ominously referred to as a “final solution” in Jammu and Kashmir. State sponsorship of terrorism was another manifestation of State terrorism. Pakistan was a victim of cross-border attacks by terrorists, including groups listed by the Security Council as terrorist entities that were financed and organized by hostile agencies to disrupt the development of western and southern Pakistan.

23. International counter-terrorism efforts must address terrorism promoted by right-wing extremist groups and extremist ideologies, as agreed during the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The supremacist Hindutva-inspired and Islamophobic Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was a fascist movement responsible for the death of thousands of Muslims in pogroms and through targeted killings across India. The RSS should be designated as a terrorist organization, as it previously had been, including by the Security Council.

24. Although the United Nations stated in all its resolutions on terrorism that terrorism should not be linked with any religion, since the attacks of 11 September 2001, some had used phrases like “jihadis”, “Islamists” and “radical Islam” to associate terrorism with Islam, which had led to the increase in institutionalized discrimination and violence against Muslims and the rise of Islamophobic, right-wing, extremist and fascist movements in several countries. Those extremists were responsible for most terrorist and violent acts in Western countries.

25. Pakistan supported the position of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the consensus-based comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The international community must come up with an agreed international definition of terrorism that differentiated between terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination, taking into account new forms of terrorism, such as acts perpetrated by racially, ethnically or ideologically motivated individuals and groups.

26. While his Government supported the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, it noted that the United

Nations counter-terrorism architecture needed to be reformed and made more transparent and equitable, including through changes to the Security Council sanctions regimes and further strengthening of the office and role of the Ombudsperson.

27. **Mr. Giret Soto** (Paraguay) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Given the global reach of terrorism and its nexus with transnational organized crime, all Member States had a responsibility to address it and the mechanisms that allowed terrorist organizations to spread their message of hate. His country’s commitment to combating terrorism in accordance with international law and national laws was enshrined in its domestic law and was a principle of its foreign policy. International cooperation in all its forms was essential in that regard. The dissemination of best practices and experiences and the exchange of information were keys to the effectiveness of the country’s policies. Cooperation between United Nations entities and competent national institutions, such as the work conducted between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and his Government, was critical to strengthening national counter-terrorism capacity. Paraguay was a party to a significant number of international legal instruments to combat terrorism and its financing under the auspices of the United Nations, which had been incorporated into its laws.

28. The United Nations should lead international counter-terrorism efforts, in strict accordance with international law and the Charter. In that regard, his delegation was committed to working with other States on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Paraguay supported measures aimed at finalizing and adopting a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would fulfil the need for an agreed broad definition of terrorism.

29. **Mr. Ly** (Senegal) said that his Government strongly condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices, in all their forms and manifestations. Such acts were on the rise everywhere, with individuals and groups taking advantage of the political, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities of Member States in the process. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should remain the primary framework guiding the global and multilateral response to such acts, and should be supported by all relevant United Nations entities. His delegation acknowledged the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to implement the Strategy and urged Member States to support their activities.

30. The extensive international legal framework to combat terrorism was insufficient to contain new forms of the scourge, including bioterrorism and cyberterrorism. More effective instruments and mechanisms were needed to prevent terrorist acts, punish their perpetrators and combat radicalization, with particular attention devoted to enhanced judicial cooperation, terrorism financing and its links to transnational organized crime, and the abuse of information and communications technologies. The eighth review of the Strategy should offer an opportunity to better understand the current challenges, and decisive progress on the draft convention on international terrorism should be made during the current session.

31. To be meaningful, the fight against terrorism must address the underlying causes of terrorism and be aimed at mitigating its causes. The humanitarian consequences of terrorist attacks, including in developing countries, were major and included the displacement of thousands of people and an increase in poverty and food insecurity. The pandemic had served as a reminder that poverty, exclusion and weak education and social protection systems paved the way for the indoctrination, exploitation and violation of the rights of the most vulnerable people. The climate emergency and its security repercussions had also showed that, to be holistic, the fight against terrorism must address the impact of climate change on the peace-security-development nexus.

32. Counter-terrorism efforts were particularly needed in Africa, given the ongoing threat in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa and the worrying developments in Central and East Africa. His delegation called upon the Security Council to engage further in combating terrorism in Africa through more appropriate mandates and more substantial resources. Africa would continue to do its part, together with its partners, to eradicate that phenomenon, which threatened the rule of law and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

33. His Government strove to ensure that its legal and political apparatus was in line with the current challenges. In that connection, it had established a counter-terrorism unit, a national financial information processing unit with the power to suppress terrorist financing, and an interministerial framework for coordinating counter-terrorism operations. The Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure had also been amended to strengthen efforts to combat terrorism, maritime piracy and transnational organized crime. In addition, a number economic and social programmes aimed at preventing terrorism by eliminating its underlying causes were under way.

34. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that international terrorism threatened to destabilize the world and undermine the well-being of its population. The serious threat it posed to democratic values and international peace and security could only be overcome through solidarity and collaboration. Measures to prevent, punish and eradicate terrorism needed to be developed through extensive cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels. 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.

35. It appeared that the lessons of history had been forgotten, as unilateralism was being imposed on the current world order. A renewed system that could respond to global problems, including terrorism, in which the United Nations would play a leading role, was needed. Member States should be committed to changing paradigms and aim for solidarity, dialogue and consultation rather than vying for the leadership role. The maintenance of peace and security as a fundamental mandate of the United Nations lay with the Security Council. However, the veto power should not be a mechanism or excuse for violating international law and the established order.

36. As part of the response to international terrorism, women should participate in formal peacemaking processes, in line with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). As a party to international and regional instruments 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.

37. 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 its pillars. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the preparations under way for the eighth review of the Strategy, in 2023.

38. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Mongolia) said that his Government recognized the growing linkages between new technologies and criminal activities. In cooperation

with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, in November 2021 the National Counter-Terrorism Council of Mongolia had held a workshop on protecting critical infrastructure from terrorist cyberattacks. In addition, his Government was participating in a joint initiative on new technologies of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, INTERPOL and the European Commission, which had launched in April 2022. Under the initiative, in October 2022 Mongolia would participate in a capacity-building training on the use of facial recognition technology for counter-terrorism investigations.

39. His Government was committed to enhancing its cooperation with the United Nations and its relevant bodies and regional and subregional organizations to combat international terrorism, and would continue to build a robust response to terrorism and its financing by implementing international instruments and recommendations.

40. **Mr. Nyanid** (Cameroon) said that terrorists used the differences of opinion that persisted among States concerning the definition terrorism to sow the seeds of despair around the world. Terrorist acts transcended borders and had become more violent and more frequent. The Internet had become a platform for both terrorist actions and propaganda and no country or region was spared. Terrorist acts were a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and human rights, in particular the right to life. They endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security; they destabilized legitimately constituted Governments and the constitutional order and political unity of States, affected the stability of nations and created adverse consequences for the economic and social development of States. Terrorism continued to pose a global threat to peace and security and was an affront to the common values enshrined in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Social media, encrypted communication tools and the dark web were used to spread propaganda, radicalize new recruits and plan atrocities.

41. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and those elements should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures. Given its transnational nature, terrorism, including its online manifestations, could only be addressed through multilateral and concerted action at the national, regional and global levels. His delegation called on all Member States, in accordance with the Charter, to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular international humanitarian law, to combat terrorism, specifically by

prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from or outside their territory or by organizations based in their territory; refraining from organizing, instigating, aiding, financing or participating in terrorist acts on the territory of other States; refraining from encouraging activities in their territory aimed at committing such acts; refraining from allowing the use of their territories as sanctuaries and refuges for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States.

42. Counter-terrorism cooperation must be improved. In that regard, it was vital to have prompt access to biometric data and information from intelligence services on terrorist activities and on suspected terrorists and their financing. Obstacles to information-sharing at the global, regional and national levels must be removed. In particular, States must fully implement Security Council resolution [2396 \(2017\)](#) so that security and intelligence services, armed forces and law enforcement authorities could receive timely information on foreign terrorist fighters. It was equally important to implement Security Council resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#), in particular the provisions concerning the strengthening of measures aimed at preventing the transit of terrorists. Any counter-terrorism response must reflect the overlap between violent extremism and terrorism. Measures to address the ideologies behind violent extremist movements must therefore play a major role in domestic counter-terrorism policies.

43. His delegation was concerned by the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters who travelled to a State other than their own for the purpose of perpetrating, planning, preparing or participating in terrorist acts, or provided or received terrorist training. It called on Member States to fulfil their international obligations to address that threat, and stressed the need for assistance, including capacity-building, from the United Nations at the national and regional levels.

44. **Ms. Alammadi** (Bahrain) said that her country participated in several international counter-terrorism initiatives, including the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center, the international counter-Da'esh coalition and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force, of which it was a founding member. The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence had endowed a chair for interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence at Sapienza University, Rome, and was implementing a cyber peace programme to foster

coexistence and combat extremism, violence and hate speech.

45. Her Government had put in place a comprehensive, practical and effective legal framework to combat terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations while taking into consideration human rights and dignity, with a particular focus on strengthening laws on combating the financing of terrorism. According to the Basel anti-money-laundering index rankings for 2021, Bahrain had the lowest risk score in the Arab world and the second lowest in the Middle East region. It was essential for all Member States and the United Nations to work together to eradicate violent extremism and terrorism and to confront all terrorist groups, which continued to jeopardize international peace, security and stability.

46. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba) said that the harmful practice by certain States of financing, supporting or promoting subversive regime change activities and transmitting messages of intolerance and hatred targeting other peoples, cultures or political systems through the use of modern information and communications technologies – such as the political communications campaign by the United States against Cuba – violated the principles of the Charter and of international law. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of the 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.

47. 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.

48. 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. Cuba rejected the use of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as a policy instrument against any country. 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.

49. 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.

50. Cuba commended the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and applauded the holding of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. It reiterated 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 holding of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

51. **Mr. Hikmat** (Tajikistan) said that there must be a comprehensive response to the growing unprecedented threat of terrorism and extremism, with the United Nations as a key coordinator. Tajikistan was at the forefront of countering terrorist threats, in particular emanating from Afghanistan, which had become more unstable and unpredictable. Protecting and controlling borders with Afghanistan was therefore of overriding importance for Central Asian countries. The expansion of the scope of operation of terrorist groups was closely connected to the amount of financing they received. Therefore, his delegation fully supported Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) on preventing and combating the financing of terrorism.

52. Tajikistan, in accordance with its international obligations, was taking measures to counter terrorism

and extremism. It was a party to all United Nations conventions and other fundamental international and regional instruments on those phenomena and had adopted and implemented a national strategy on countering them. Nonetheless, the platform for extremist propaganda had not yet been eradicated. As a result, there continued to be cases involving young people in the ranks of terrorist and extremist organizations and the emergence of new cells of radical movements and organizations. His Government's strategy to counter terrorism and extremism therefore involved promoting education, intercommunal tolerance, good governance, outreach to non-governmental actors and promotion of human rights, with a particular focus on the needs of traditionally underrepresented voices, such as young people, women and cultural minorities.

53. Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, would be hosting a high-level international conference on 18 and 19 October 2022 in Dushanbe on international and regional border security and management cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters.

54. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that his country maintained a policy of zero tolerance in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Acts of terrorism had been perpetrated in Bangladesh on a number of occasions, and the Government had taken timely action to launch a nation-wide movement to address the threat. Bangladesh was party to all international counter-terrorism instruments and had joined a number of regional initiatives to combat terrorism, violent extremism and the financing of terrorism.

55. At the national level, his Government had put in place laws and policies to counter and prevent terrorism, terrorism financing and related menaces. It was in the process of drafting the country's first national counter-terrorism strategy in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Technology gaps were one of the major obstacles faced by many Member States in complying with the Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The Organization's leadership in forging partnerships for the development of legal and policy frameworks in Member States and in implementing national and international regulations against terrorism was therefore critical.

56. At the international level, his delegation hoped that progress could be made on drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism based on a consensus on its root causes of terrorism, which included poverty, inequalities and factors that fomented exclusion and grievances. It was also

imperative to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law. As 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, it was important to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. His delegation called for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and Security Council resolution 2242 (2015).

57. Lastly, international support for victims of terrorism must receive priority attention. His delegation thanked the Office of Counter-Terrorism for convening the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in September 2022, which had highlighted the good practices of Member States and civil society organizations, while ensuring that victims' voices were heard and that their experiences would help shape the way forward in their own countries and across international borders.

58. **Mr. Mikhaylov** (Russian Federation) said that terrorism was one of the most serious threats to State and international security. Foreign terrorist fighters continued to be a pressing problem, in particular in regions with an unstable political and socioeconomic climate, with terrorist threats remaining high in the Middle East, the Sahel, West African and Southeast Asia. The fight against terrorism could only be successful if States united their efforts, with strict respect for the norms and principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, which played a leading coordinating role, and bearing in mind the primary responsibility of States in countering terrorism.

59. The Russian Federation had consistently supported strict compliance with the principle of accountability reflected in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It was important to make better use of agreements on mutual assistance and extradition and the principle of *aut dedere aut judicare* in cases involving terrorism, and to ensure that terrorism was not considered a political crime for the purposes of extradition.

60. Many factors contributed to the spread of terrorism, including illegal migration from States in the Middle East, northern Africa and Afghanistan, largely due to geopolitical adventurism under the guise of combating terrorism. Far from normalizing the security situation, such actions had led to the growth of the terrorist threat and the creation of terrorist quasi-State entities. Terrorists made active use of migration flows to cross borders and set up new terrorist cells. Increasingly, attempts had been made to interfere with the functioning of critically important infrastructure, including by

provoking accidents to disrupt the supply of natural gas. On 30 September 2022, a meeting of the Security Council had been called on the initiative of the Russian Federation in connection with the act of sabotage targeting the Nord Stream gas pipeline. His Government called for a full investigation to clarify all the circumstances surrounding that act of international terrorism.

61. Terrorists continued to seek access to information and material for the preparation of radiological and chemical weapons. The attempts by certain States to create and use a network of secret biological laboratories around the world did not help reduce that risk. Such research was not only questionable from the point of view of humanitarian and ethical norms, but also established the preconditions for dangerous viruses becoming accessible to terrorists and extremists, including neo-Nazis. Certain States continued to provide funding and weapons to radical structures under their control in various regions of the world in order to destabilize and overthrow “undesirable regimes”. Those weapons were actively sold on the darknet and could be used to perpetrate terrorist acts throughout the world. The United Nations and its specialized agencies must take immediate action to respond accordingly.

62. Information and communications technologies enabled terrorists to expand the reach of their destructive ideologies, recruit new supporters, attract funding and prepare attacks. Governments, in particular those that had many means at their disposal for applying pressure on leading information technology companies, must take timely steps to prohibit terrorist contents and to prevent the spread of radical ideologies and the financing of terrorism on the Internet. Currently, those companies misused their influence, imposed censorship and propagated fake news.

63. Once again, non-consensual concepts, such as “the prevention of violent extremism” and “racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism”, were being foisted upon States. His Government shared wholeheartedly the concerns about the growing popularity of extreme-right movements, including those inspired by Nazi ideology. That phenomenon was regional, not global, in nature and was characteristic of certain Western States, including some in Europe. Any joint efforts to address those issues should be guided by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including those on combating glorification of Nazism. The existing legal counter-terrorism regime should not be supplanted by mysterious rules developed unilaterally, which would be yet another attempt to foist a “rules-based order” on States. For the Russian Federation,

there was only one universally accepted body of rules: the Charter of the United Nations.

64. **Mr. Mainero** (Argentina) said that terrorism continued to be a grave threat to international peace and security. It could only be contained through the concerted actions of States, with an integrated and cooperative approach. His delegation therefore supported addressing the issue of terrorism at a multilateral level. Argentina condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its motivation or justification, and stressed that it could not be associated with any religion or ethnic group.

65. Argentina reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the fight against terrorism as a pillar of the multilateral system and an organization with universal membership and the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It supported the activities of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and stressed the importance of its role in assisting States through programmes to strengthen national counter-terrorism capacities.

66. There had been an alarming increase in hate speech and other forms of intolerance that could lead to terrorism. The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated inequalities and the grievances of the marginalized sectors of society in many countries. Violent extremists used that propaganda to propagate hate speech and violent discourse. To counteract that development, it was important to address the root causes of terrorism. However, none of those conditions could excuse or justify terrorist acts.

67. Argentina had suffered directly from international terrorism, having been the victim of two very serious attacks in Buenos Aires: against the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association in 1994. That experience had reaffirmed his Government’s conviction that the fight against terrorism must be conducted in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international treaties. Another necessary component of any strategy to combat terrorism must be the promotion and protection of the rights of victims. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

68. His delegation was concerned about the increasing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters to countries of origin, countries of transit and host countries alike. It was also concerned about the impact that the lack of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism might have on human rights or due process, especially since the contours of the words “terrorism”, “extremism”,

“radicalization” and “foreign fighters” continued to be blurred. Argentina appealed to all States to demonstrate flexibility and to redouble their efforts to resolve the outstanding issues for the prompt conclusion of an international convention on terrorism.

69. **Mr. Espinosa** (Ecuador) said that his country absolutely and unequivocally condemned all terrorist acts, in all their forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and for whatever purposes committed, as they constituted one of the principal threats to international peace and security. Counter-terrorism measures were legitimate only if they were consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law, and human rights.

70. His delegation was pleased that the Special Rapporteur’s report had addressed the measures taken by Ecuador to combat terrorism, including the enhanced efforts of its Financial and Economic Analysis Unit to identify money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, had been noted in the Secretary-General’s report (A/77/185). Although the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had helped to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, new strategies and tactics of terrorist groups, such as the use of new technologies, called for a multilateral response and greater cooperation between States and the international organizations concerned. His delegation commended the Government of India for organizing the upcoming special session of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which would focus on that issue, and reiterated its support for the work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

71. His delegation continued to be concerned, however, about the increasingly evident link between terrorist activities and organized crime, which represented one of the greatest threats to the democratic stability of States. It supported the decision by the General Assembly, set out in its resolution 76/121, to establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

72. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that terrorism was one of the gravest threats to global peace and security. All acts of terrorism were clear violations of international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. Sri Lanka was deeply concerned about the spread of terrorist organizations and the rise in terrorist attacks worldwide. As a country that had experienced terrorism for nearly 30 years, Sri Lanka condemned

terrorism in all its forms and expressions, regardless of the motivation, and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

73. Information and communications technologies were used by terrorists for recruitment, financing, propaganda, training, information-gathering and dissemination of their ideology. The growing threat posed by terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism, intolerance or religion was of particular concern requiring a coordinated global response. The root causes of terrorism must also be addressed by promoting religious dialogue and intercultural tolerance, with the United Nations and its specialized agencies at the forefront. Efforts to address the phenomenon must be in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

74. Post-conflict action, including rehabilitation and confidence-building measures, were an important component of the fight against terrorism. In that connection, Sri Lanka had successfully rehabilitated 12,000 former terrorists, including 594 child soldiers, and reintegrated them into society. It had also taken steps to assist recently internally displaced persons and to demine large tracts of territory, enabling civilian life to resume.

75. Sri Lanka stressed the importance of concluding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged Member States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. It welcomed the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism. As the only nation to have eradicated terrorism, Sri Lanka reiterated the need to take collective measures to counter terrorism, and was ready to share its experience and knowledge in devising responses and to cooperate on measures to protect against that scourge.

76. **Ms. Ali** (Maldives) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it posed a threat to her country’s vulnerable tourism-based economy. Maldives had a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorist acts. Her Government used a whole-of-society approach aimed at building a more cohesive and resilient society. Maldives had passed laws aimed at preventing terrorism, money-laundering and terrorist financing, and it had established a national counter-terrorism centre as part of the country’s holistic response. Her Government followed a “no one left behind” approach and worked to empower community leaders, young people and women, which enabled it to address miscommunication and stigma by promoting solidarity and to countering hate speech, xenophobia

and related intolerance through inclusive dialogue. As a country where Islamic faith defined most aspects of life and culture, Maldives had always maintained a policy of moderation and tolerance. There was no place for hatred and violence in Islam.

77. Maldives had proactively engaged with its international and regional partners on countering terrorism. It was working closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build capacity and to share information and best practices in its region. It had recently welcomed the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and collaborated actively with the regional Colombo Security Conclave.

78. **Ms. Bhat** (India) said that terrorism was an attack on the values that defined the international community and seriously impaired the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life. Women and children were particularly vulnerable to human rights abuses by terrorists. India condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorist acts could never be justified, regardless of the motivation.

79. India had been the target of State-sponsored, cross-border terrorism for several decades. It had had first-hand experience with crime syndicates venturing into terrorism. In 1993, a series of blasts in Mumbai had claimed the lives of more than 250 persons. Unfortunately, those responsible continued to enjoy State protection in a neighbouring country. Terrorist groups, their aliases, their leaders and their proxies continued to operate from across the border, perpetrating the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament, the 2006 Mumbai train blasts, the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, the 2016 Uri attack on a military camp and the 2019 Pulwama attack on security personnel, and enjoying the protection of a neighbouring State.

80. The past year had seen a number of terrorist attacks on places of worship of the minority Sikh community in Kabul and on the places of worship and schools of other minorities. There had been a significant increase in the presence of foreign terrorist organizations, including ISIL-K in Afghanistan, and in their capacity to carry out attacks. The linkages between terrorist groups listed by the Security Council and incitement to terrorism by groups operating out of Afghanistan posed a direct threat to the peace and stability of the region. New technologies and digital applications and platforms to move and store funds, including through virtual assets, online exchanges and wallets, and privacy coins, posed a risk relating to the financing of terrorism and other terrorism-related

crimes. There was a need for greater coordination and vigilance on the part of Member States and all stakeholders, including in the financial and digital sectors. Countering those threats had been a priority for her delegation at the United Nations, including in the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which it was chairing in 2022. In that connection, India would be hosting a special meeting of the Committee in Mumbai and Delhi on 28 and 29 October 2022 to deliberate on various facets of the issue.

81. Action would fail unless it was taken in a timely fashion. In 1996, India had piloted the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. States must unify their efforts to adopt such a convention, which would serve as a law enforcement instrument to strengthen the existing framework of global counter-terrorism conventions, and the United Nations should do more to achieve its early finalization. She hoped that the recommendation of the General Assembly, in its resolution [76/121](#), that the Sixth Committee establish a working group to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention would result in the completion of the task. Listing and delisting individuals and entities under the United Nations sanctions regimes must be done objectively, free from double standards and not for political or religious considerations. Linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be fully recognized and addressed vigorously.

82. The representative of one country had used the current meeting to propagate false and malicious propaganda against India. It was well known that that country had a history of harbouring, aiding and actively supporting terrorists. That country was globally recognized for openly training, financing and arming terrorists as a matter of State policy. It held the ignoble record of hosting one of the largest number of terrorists listed by the Security Council. Its leadership had glorified Osama bin Laden as a martyr. It made no sense to see that country claiming to be a victim of terrorism. That country nurtured terrorists in its backyard in the hope that they would only harm its neighbours. The region and, indeed, the entire world had suffered because of that country's policies, at the same time that they sought to cover up domestic sectarian violence as acts of terrorism. India hoped that that country would desist from its attempts to abuse and politicize the Committee's meetings. The union territories of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, had been, were and would always remain an integral part of India, a fact that could not be denied by any amount of rhetoric and propaganda from any country.

83. **Mr. Ali** (Iraq) said that Da'esh had repeatedly sought to undermine the security and stability of Iraq by destroying State facilities, killing civilians and committing horrific, inhumane acts of torture. The establishment of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL bore testament to his Government's determination to cooperate with the international community for the definitive eradication of terrorism and, in particular, Da'esh.

84. Iraq condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; all entities that adopted violence, terrorism or *takfirist* and hateful narratives were banned under its Constitution. His Government hoped to strengthen its bilateral and multilateral security and intelligence cooperation with other States and with international organizations. For instance, it worked closely with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to Security Council resolution [1526 \(2004\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#).

85. The national counter-terrorism strategy of Iraq was consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Its comprehensive approach included combating extremist ideology and organized crime, addressing the sources of terrorist financing, and taking resolute action on the ground. His Government was grateful to the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre for their assistance with capacity-building efforts.

86. Priority areas for his Government included ensuring the repatriation of foreign terrorist fighters, securing the borders, exchanging information and skills, preventing terrorists from acquiring chemical and biological weapons, and tackling cybercrime, terrorism-related crime and the financing of terrorism. With those aims in mind, it was important to strengthen the sanctions imposed on terrorist individuals and entities.

87. His delegation shared the concern raised in the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat ([S/2022/576](#)) that tens of thousands of terrorist fighters continued to be held in detention camps in Syria. Individuals and groups had been able to escape; one example was the major prison break following a Da'esh complex assault in Hasakah on 27 January 2022. His Government was gravely concerned at the security conditions in the camps and at the escalating attacks carried out by Da'esh remnants, which had claimed the lives of dozens of Iraqi soldiers. It urged Member States to repatriate their citizens held in the Hawl camp. Since

March 2021, Iraq had repatriated 1,950 foreign terrorist fighters held in Syria and 762 families comprising 3,090 individuals. His Government urged the authorities responsible for the camps to extradite all Iraqi foreign terrorist fighters for prosecution in Iraq. It hoped that the international community would help it to build capacities for repatriation and reintegration.

88. The experience of Iraq underscored the need for international cooperation to combat the financing of terrorism, cut off logistical supply chains, prevent the illicit trade in Iraqi and Syrian oil and cultural assets, prevent terrorists from crossing borders and deny them safe haven. Lastly, his delegation hoped that Member States would reach agreement on a definition of terrorism.

89. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his Government categorically rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It sought to address the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, economic exclusion and the illegitimate use of force. It was convinced of the need to confront terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and in accordance with international law, and to implement programmes to rehabilitate terrorists.

90. The Sudan had established a national counter-terrorism agency and a financial intelligence unit. Its national counter-terrorism strategy was based on smart cooperation between the Government and all sectors of civil society, with a focus on dialogue; conflict prevention; good governance, human rights and the rule of law; engagement with local communities; empowerment of women and young people; enhancement of gender equality; and promotion of education, capacity-building, employment and strategic communications, notably through the Internet and social media. In tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism, his Government focused on strengthening institutions and the rule of law, combating transnational organized crime, alleviating poverty and fostering social cohesion, religious consciousness and the values of moderation and dialogue. It endeavoured to build capacities to combat electronic crime, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Efforts to combat violent extremism should not be focused on security and military solutions alone. Instead, action should be taken to tackle the deep roots of the problem, especially by combating poverty, promoting sustainable development and fostering North-South dialogue.

91. In order to promote national counter-terrorism efforts and regional and international cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, national authorities needed

technical support and capacity-building in a spirit of mutual respect, something that should not detract from national ownership. The Sudan would continue to combat terrorism in accordance with its international obligations and in compliance with international law and human rights.

92. **Mr. Kafrawi** (Brunei Darussalam) said that his Government reiterated its condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. Although Brunei Darussalam had faced few direct terrorist threats, it remained vulnerable to extremism and radicalization, and also to other types of terrorist activity, including terrorism financing. Brunei Darussalam remained committed to supporting the global effort to combat terrorism and believed in a whole-of-nation approach to combat terrorism and recognized the need for bilateral, regional and international cooperation and coordination.

93. His Government had taken a number of measures to strengthen its ability to counter terrorism. It had passed legislation giving effect to its international obligations under the treaties and conventions relating to terrorism. It had made the financing of terrorism or the provision of assistance to terrorists a criminal offence. All financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions were required to report and freeze assets of individuals and entities suspected of providing support to terrorists and terrorist organizations listed under the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Government was also reviewing its current laws to ensure that they were in line with international standards. It had also set up a number of committees to coordinate national efforts, oversee security issues, increase public awareness of the dangers of terrorism and violent extremism, and monitor policies for combating money-laundering and terrorism financing, and also taken measures to help prepare for, prevent and protect against cyberattacks, including the establishment of a cybersecurity agency.

94. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam worked closely with other States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) through various platforms and remained committed to implementing the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. At the international level, Brunei Darussalam had ratified 11 United Nations counter-terrorism instruments. It recognized the importance of strengthening capacity-building in that area and welcomed the meetings, workshops and training organized by regional and international organizations.

95. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia) said that her Government reiterated its strong condemnation of the

unjustified and unprovoked military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of international law. It also firmly condemned the staged illegal “referendums” in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

96. Heightened and inclusive multilateral cooperation were required to address traditional and non-traditional security threats. International efforts to address the root causes of terrorism and to focus on prevention must be redoubled. Georgia remained committed to combating terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. Over the years, it had contributed to eradicating international terrorism through its participation in peacekeeping missions, and was developing coordinated responses to the continuously transforming landscape of terrorism.

97. Her Government had adopted a national counter-terrorism strategy and action plan which defined the full range of terrorist threats to which Georgia must respond and established objectives for preventing and combating terrorism and extremism, based on a whole-of-society approach that included central and local authorities, public-private organizations and civil society in the implementation process. A standing public-private dialogue platform set up in cooperation with civil society to implement the national strategy comprised law enforcement agencies, ministries of education, culture, health care and the economy, and representatives of non-governmental and civil society organizations. Georgia was committed to enhancing its cooperation with the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe.

98. The illegal occupation of the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia by the Russian Federation prevented her Government from carrying out its activities throughout the territory of Georgia. The occupied regions were beyond her Government’s control and inaccessible to international monitoring mechanisms. As a result, the grave security, human rights and humanitarian situation in those regions created fertile ground for illicit activities, including the spread of terrorism, and posed a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

99. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that terrorism continued to be a serious threat to international peace and security, human rights and the humanitarian efforts of the international community to help the most vulnerable. South Africa deplored all acts of terrorism,

which could never be justified, and it unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices associated with it. 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.

100. It had become critically important to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation supported the establishment of a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention. New international instruments and Security Council resolutions required an updating of domestic legislation. South Africa had benefited from the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for strengthening legislation on terrorist and related activities and from those of the Financial Action Task Force on ways of enhancing measures to combat terrorism financing.

101. **Ms. Hackman** (Ghana) said that terrorism and terrorist activities were a major security concern globally and especially in Africa, with an increase in violent extremism and terrorist activities in the Sahel and the sub-Saharan region. Despite the complex security and socioeconomic challenges posed by terrorist activities, Ghana was resolved to work with its neighbours and the international community to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Accra Initiative, an important counter-terrorism framework established by five States in September 2017, promoted cooperation on information-gathering and intelligence-sharing, training of security and intelligence personnel, and joint cross-border military operations in response to growing insecurity in the region.

102. States should realign their counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering measures to address the evolving nature of terrorism and the widening networks of terrorist organizations more effectively. State-of-the-art technology and strategies must be adopted to ensure that intelligence-sharing and early-warning systems employed by national and international security apparatus were not outpaced by the sophisticated operations of terrorist organizations. Member States must intensify their efforts to suppress and counter terrorism financing, paying particular attention to

emerging online payment platforms and illicit trade in natural resources.

103. The effectiveness of counter-terrorism strategies depended on robust international cooperation, which must include enhanced engagement with regional bodies. Her delegation therefore welcomed the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes in supporting Member States through capacity-building and training programmes.

104. The international community must step up action on the global sustainable development agenda as a means to address the socioeconomic factors that precipitated political defiance and radicalization, often resulting in violent extremism and terrorist activities. That should involve a reassessment and restructuring of international development financing to better assist struggling economies, especially in Africa, to meet all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

105. Lastly, Ghana stood by its position that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, for whatever purpose and by whomever committed, was unjustified and constituted a threat to international peace and security. It therefore urged Member States to comply with the relevant rules of international law and the many General Assembly and Security Council resolutions aimed at eliminating terrorism.

106. **Mr. Khaddour** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in order to take an objective approach to counter-terrorism, States must fulfil their legal obligations, particularly those set forth in Security Council resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#), by stopping the spread of extremist ideology; preventing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters; cutting off financial support for terrorists; combating violent extremism and incitement; promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development and social cohesion; and settling armed conflicts. For more than a decade, the Syrian Arab Republic had been subjected to the most horrific terrorist crimes. Because their States of origin had failed to take action, foreign terrorist fighters had become mercenaries who could be redeployed from one front to another, regardless of the effect on international peace and security or even the stability of their own societies. The illegal presence of the Turkish and United States forces in northern and eastern Syria provided cover for terrorists as they destroyed infrastructure, intimidated civilians and appropriated oil to fund their activities. In the absence of the Syrian State education system, terrorists had imposed extremist curricula on children and young persons, creating a new generation of terrorists. The only effective way to combat Da'esh, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist groups listed by the

Security Council was to restore the authority of Syrian State institutions in all areas of the country.

107. International cooperation was the cornerstone of counter-terrorism efforts. All States should support the efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic to restore its security, stability and territorial integrity, and reconstruct its economic, social and educational infrastructure with a view to tackling the root causes of extremism. The illegal presence of United States and Turkish troops in Syria must come to an end, and the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian people must be lifted.

108. **Mr. Al Barati** (Yemen) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism, regardless of its motivation. Terrorism could not be associated with any religion, culture or nationality. Recognizing the need for a determined international response to that criminal scourge, Yemen had acceded to all the international counter-terrorism instruments.

109. Terrorist groups had for years worked to undermine the security and stability of Yemen by attacking its infrastructure and committing inhumane atrocities. The Houthi militia was a racist, extremist religious group that rejected all modern values, including democracy and human rights. It had used violence to shred the social fabric and sow hatred, and had abandoned its allegiance to Yemen in order to become a proxy for the Iranian regime and Hizbullah. Its crimes, including systematic killings, abductions, sieges, reprisals and the destruction of homes and places of worship, were acts of terrorism no different from those of Da'esh or Al-Qaida. Notwithstanding those facts, his Government was committed to a comprehensive agreement based on the three agreed components of the Stockholm Agreement and had made numerous concessions in the interests of sparing Yemeni lives. Most recently, his Government had responded positively to the proposal made by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to extend the truce that had been in place for six months, something that would have saved lives and brought economic and social benefits. However, at the behest of the Iranian mullah regime, the Houthi militia had rejected that proposal and all other peace initiatives.

110. His delegation urged the Security Council to ensure that Member States complied with the arms embargo imposed under paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#), the provisions of which had been reaffirmed in Security Council resolution [2642 \(2022\)](#). The Iranian regime had flagrantly violated those resolutions by smuggling military technology and weapons to the Houthi militia, which used ballistic

missiles and drones to target civilians in Yemen and economic facilities in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

111. His Government was working to develop a comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategy adapted to emerging trends and consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The national strategy would include measures to raise awareness and combat extremist ideology, organized crime and the financing of terrorism. In 2012, his Government had adopted a comprehensive plan on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. It had also passed a law making it an offence to commit, participate in, incite or facilitate the commission of a terrorist act. Unfortunately, however, the country's counter-terrorism efforts had been affected by the Houthi coup. Despite the current crisis, his Government had been able to re-establish its specialized counter-terrorism units with support from the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen and international partners. It was now endeavouring to strengthen its counter-terrorism activities throughout the areas under its control.

112. His delegation urged regional and international partners to increase their logistical and technical support for his Government, and to broaden the scope of their coordination and information exchange, particularly with regard to the cross-border movements of terrorist groups.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.