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Chair: Mr. Chindawongse (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.6/78/1; A/C.6/78/L.1 and A/C.6/78/L.1/Corr.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/78/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled “Organization of work” (A/C.6/78/L.1 and A/C.6/77/L.1/Corr.1).

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. He 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 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. He 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.

5. He encouraged 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 be announced in advance, including in the Journal of the United Nations. 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. He 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.6/78/L.1 and A/C.6/78/L.1/Corr.1) and said that, with regard to agenda item 86, “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”, it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/119, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Lagdameo (Philippines). The working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly would be invited to participate.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 9 of the note by the Secretariat, and said that, with regard to agenda item 109, “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/113, 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 its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. 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.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **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 3 November 2023. All other draft resolutions should be submitted by 10 November 2023 to allow for the necessary budget review, processing and issuance in all official languages of the United Nations.

12. He 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.

13. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 109: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/78/221)

14. 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, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. All terrorist acts were criminal and a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law 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; destabilized legitimately constituted governments and the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States; affected the stability of societies; and had adverse consequences for the economic and social development of States.

15. The Movement reiterated its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51. 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.

16. 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 territories to be used as safe havens or for the planning, training or financing of such

acts; and supplying weapons which could be used to commit terrorist acts in other States.

17. The 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 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. States should also ensure that claims that requests for the extradition of perpetrators were politically motivated were not recognized as grounds for refusing extradition requests.

18. The Movement had grave concerns 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. In that regard, the provision and facilitation of capacity-building for Member States, particularly those in the most affected regions, upon their request, by the United Nations were important. The Movement was also deeply concerned about the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religions by terrorist groups to justify terrorism and violent extremism and instil hatred in young people. It was therefore imperative to counter terrorist narratives and the root causes of terrorism through a comprehensive and international framework, including by engaging with community leaders and clerics of all denominations.

19. The Movement called upon all States to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and reaffirm their commitment to preventing human rights violations 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.

20. 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 comprehensive convention on international terrorism, noting the work carried out by the working group on the

topic, and called upon States to cooperate in resolving outstanding issues. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for its transparent and comprehensive implementation by Member States, including through cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office should help bring greater coherence and effectiveness to United Nations counter-terrorism activities by providing assistance to Member States, upon request, tailored to their specific realities, taking into account the centrality of national ownership. The Movement welcomed the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2023.

21. **Mr. Ikondere** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group strongly and unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Any act of terrorism was a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. The African Group recognized the non-derogable obligation of States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter.

22. The Group welcomed the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had covered topics such as the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries, the exacerbation of extremist narratives and hate speech, new and emerging threats, including the misuse of technology for terrorist purposes, and the importance of upholding human rights in the fight against terrorism. The Strategy was the reference for United Nations actions on counter-terrorism and required updating to reflect the concerns and challenges faced by Member States. In that regard, the Group called for more open negotiations during the ninth review of the Strategy, to be conducted in 2026, so that consensus could be reached on major points. It deplored the fact that the outcome text of the eighth review had not included a condemnation of the actions of racist and right-wing extremist groups, including the desecration of places of worship and sacred texts, or a reference to the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which the General Assembly had proclaimed by consensus in a recent resolution. The Group looked forward to the full implementation of the Strategy and strongly urged the United Nations and donor countries to provide the necessary assistance and

capacity-building to Member States to fulfil their obligations. The Group also welcomed the engagement of the Secretary-General in the review of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and reiterated its support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

23. The Group stressed the importance of concluding a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and in that regard took note of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution [51/210](#) to elaborate such a convention. The Group welcomed the resumption of informal consultations to discuss the outstanding issues on the draft convention and called on all Member States to cooperate in resolving them. The Group stood ready to work with other delegations to achieve a consensus on the draft convention and supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations for that purpose.

24. African States had long recognized the need to take concrete measures to counter terrorism and remained committed to the process that had led to the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. The commitment of the African continent to countering terrorism had been strengthened through the establishment of the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism in Algiers. The African Union remained committed to guiding, building the capacity and raising the awareness of relevant stakeholders by providing operational and technical advice, support and training to address terrorism-related issues. Africa was committed to developing a comprehensive continental plan of action for countering terrorism, premised on national and regional strategies.

25. The Group was concerned about the increased incidence of kidnapping and hostage-taking for ransom in its region and called on Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, which was one of the main sources of financing of terrorist activities and thus a matter of concern for the international community as a whole. It also urged Member States to take appropriate measures 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.

26. 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 Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, based in Djibouti, contributed to African initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries in the region to develop coordinated counter-terrorism approaches. The Group encouraged cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the fight against terrorism and 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, and the establishment by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in Rabat, of a programme office, which served as a training hub for West Africa and the Sahel and delivered specialized counter-terrorism and law enforcement programmes to requesting Member States. It also welcomed the establishment by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in Nairobi, of a regional programme office for the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism in East Africa, and the agreement by the Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community to establish a regional counter-terrorism centre in Tanzania. It was expected that upon its establishment, that centre would collaborate with the Office of Counter-Terrorism programme office in Rabat to enhance its capacities.

27. The devastating socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had exacerbated the conditions that were known to breed terrorism. That was a particularly worrying development in Africa, where there had been an increase in terrorist attacks and a proliferation of terrorist groups, including those affiliated with Da'esh. The United Nations and its Member States must work with Africa to prevent the threat of terrorism from derailing the region's hard-won gains towards a more prosperous and peaceful future.

28. The memories of the victims of terrorism and the suffering of the survivors of terrorist acts continued to motivate the common endeavour to fight terrorism. In that connection, the Group welcomed the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in September 2022 and looked forward to the counter-terrorism summit to be held in Abuja in March 2024.

29. **Mr. Felemban** (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, in accordance with the Charter, 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 polarization, hatred, discrimination, xenophobia 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.

30. 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 and socioeconomic opportunities, the unlawful use of force, foreign aggression and 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 reflected in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

31. OIC reaffirmed that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly, taking into account new and emerging trends, including the threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, Islamophobia and racism. 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.

32. OIC therefore regretted that consensus had not been reached during the eighth review of the Strategy on many proposals aimed at responding to recent events and emerging trends, including the proposal to condemn the recurring attempts and acts by racists and extremist right-wing actors to instigate violence and terrorism against Muslims through the desecration of mosques and burning of the Quran, their most sacred text. The failure to condemn those acts sent a clear message that incitement to terrorism against Muslims would be tolerated. OIC was also disappointed that the outcome text of the eighth review had not included a reference to the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, which the General Assembly had proclaimed by consensus in a recent resolution. However, OIC welcomed the decision to convene the ninth review of the Strategy in 2026 and hoped that Member States would be able to engage more effectively and in a spirit of consensus and compromise to adopt a text that better reflected the concerns and priorities of Member States.

33. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to the negotiation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need to make progress in that process. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of such a convention and its determination to make every effort to reach a consensus 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 peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts to be covered by the convention. A high-level conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to finalize the outstanding issues and enhance the international community's response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

34. **Mr. Ramopoulos** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, and, in addition, Georgia, Monaco and San Marino, said that the threat of terrorism and violent extremism continued to pose a major challenge in a geopolitical environment that was already affected by growing instability and multiple crises. Al-Qaida, Da'esh and their affiliates remained the most prominent threat and the alarming situation in parts of Africa was of particular

concern. Those challenges were compounded by the threats posed by politically motivated violent extremism and terrorism, including from the far right and the far left, as well as the potential exploitation of new technological developments for terrorist purposes. The European Union and its member States believed that international cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism, including its financing, was critical. They welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and reiterated their commitment to the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

35. The European Union and its member States were committed to achieving progress in the negotiations on the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the efforts of the working group on the topic. An agreed, clear definition of terrorism was crucial to that effort, and, in that regard, it was worth noting the relevance of the ongoing negotiating process on a pan-European legal definition of terrorism for the purposes of the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism. The European Union and its member States deplored the growing politicization of the fight against terrorism, including in international forums. The European Union directive on combating terrorism, adopted in 2017, included a comprehensive definition of terrorist offences that could serve as inspiration for the working group. Establishing a clear definition had allowed for the harmonized criminalization of offences across the European Union and had ultimately strengthened cooperation among its member States.

36. Efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism must be consistent with the values of the European Union and with international law and should never serve as a pretext for human rights violations. On the contrary, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and effective counter-terrorism measures were complementary and mutually reinforcing. Any measures taken to prevent and counter terrorism must be gender responsive and in compliance with the rule of law and all obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. It was paramount to safeguard civic space, including through the protection of civil society representatives and human rights defenders, thereby allowing for a meaningful partnership with civil society across all efforts, which should include the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women. It was important

to protect and ensure the rehabilitation of all victims of terrorism while approaching them as agents of prevention of further terrorist acts. The adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 2664 (2022) was an important step towards protecting the humanitarian space, as it exempted the provision of humanitarian assistance and support for basic human needs from the scope of United Nations sanctions, including counter-terrorism sanctions.

37. Non-compliance with the rule of law and human rights obligations had a direct impact on international law enforcement cooperation, for example, by hindering the exchange of information or preventing extraditions. Therefore, respect for international law, including international human rights law, also underpinned the efforts of the European Union and its member States to hold perpetrators accountable and to bring justice to victims of terrorism and violent extremism. The European Union and its member States would continue to support global efforts to fight terrorism and violent extremism, including through the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which the European Union was co-chairing with Egypt.

38. **Ms. Eat** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN firmly supported the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and found the progress that had been made in that regard to be encouraging. ASEAN commended the successful convening of Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023, in particular the holding of the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States on the theme of addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation. ASEAN also appreciated the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the provision of technical assistance to Member States. ASEAN welcomed the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was a unique global instrument to further enhance national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts.

39. In addressing the complex challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism, ASEAN was guided by the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, which set out a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to combat and curtail the growth of radicalization and violent extremism. The ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which had been ratified by all 10 ASEAN member States, also provided

a framework for regional cooperation among national agencies and between regional and international entities. Efforts in the region to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism, such as implementing border controls, combating human trafficking and addressing illicit drug smuggling, had continued unabated, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

40. Recognizing the significant threat terrorism posed to global peace, security and socioeconomic development, ASEAN stood firm in its support for international efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In that regard, it called on Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance information-sharing and coordination in order to identify and track terrorist networks, disrupt their financing and bring their members to justice. It also encouraged Member States to address the root causes of terrorism by investing in sustainable development, social inclusion and education, and to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were in keeping with the rule of law and did not lead to human rights abuses or the stigmatization of any particular group. ASEAN encouraged the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national counter-terrorism efforts, as well as community-based programmes, dialogue concerning religion and educational initiatives to counter extremist ideologies. ASEAN also called for strengthened cooperation to protect soft targets, such as public spaces and critical infrastructure, and to enhance public safety. Robust cybersecurity measures were important to preventing terrorist organizations from exploiting digital platforms for the purposes of recruitment and communication.

41. No terrorist act could be justified under any circumstance. ASEAN would continue to play an active role in addressing the growing threat of terrorism across the globe, exploring new forms of counter-terrorism collaboration and strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation with partners. ASEAN reiterated its long-standing position that terrorism must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. The fight against terrorism must be carried out in full compliance with the Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights law, and the principles of the independence and sovereign equality of States and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

42. **Mr. Biggs** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the three countries reaffirmed their absolute condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism, wherever they took place and in whatever form. Acts of terrorism remained a significant threat to communities around the world and to international peace and security. That threat was

persistent and dynamic, and the methods and tactics of terrorist groups continued to evolve and present new challenges, including their expanded global reach through exploitation of the Internet. The shared battle against terrorism could only be fought through global solutions. The recurring root causes of terrorism and violent extremism were better understood, identified, mitigated and reduced when States worked collaboratively with international and local partners. The effectiveness of such international cooperation was enhanced by ensuring that all efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism were underpinned by the rule of law and complied with international law, including human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

43. Australia, Canada and New Zealand urged all States to fully implement all Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism. The ability of terrorist fighters to travel to combat zones had been constrained by better coordination between States on border control, information-sharing and detection of extremist elements, consistent with Security Council resolutions 2396 (2017) and 2017 (2011). Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014) and successive resolutions, concerning the investigation and prosecution of all acts of terrorism, were equally important to deter and prevent terrorist acts. The sanctions regime established by the Security Council, including through its resolution 1267 (1999), remained an integral instrument in mitigating the potentially deadly impact of terrorist activities. The three countries welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2664 (2022) to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance and thanked the Secretary-General for his recent report on its implementation.

44. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to ensuring that their approach to countering terrorism and violent extremism engaged all levels of society and government, thus bolstering the resilience of communities to messages of hate, discord and disunity that could lead to violence. The narrowing of civil society space as a result of counter-terrorism measures was a concern, as civil society played a vital role in providing critical insights into local dynamics and solutions tailored to local communities. Understanding the differentiated drivers and impacts of terrorism enhanced the effectiveness of measures to eliminate international terrorism. Gender-responsive approaches must therefore be embedded in efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism. The three countries welcomed the establishment of a unit dedicated to gender and human rights in the Office of Counter-Terrorism and looked forward to its facilitation of a gender-responsive

approach across the counter-terrorism activities of the United Nations.

45. Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would continue to fully support the holistic and preventative approach of the Strategy, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. The work of the Committee must remain integrated and aligned with broader United Nations efforts in the global fight against terrorism. To ensure that the work of the Committee remained relevant and productive, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were of the view that the Committee should consider aligning its work on international terrorism with the new three-year cycle for reviews of the Strategy.

46. As founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Australia, Canada and New Zealand also welcomed the policy-setting role the General Assembly played in collective counter-terrorism efforts and valued the close cooperation and mutually reinforcing partnerships that underpinned the Forum's relationship with the United Nations. The three countries would continue to work with the international community to support a peaceful and stable international environment that prevented violent extremism and inhibited the resurgence and spread of terrorism. Terrorist groups and their support networks must not be allowed to find a safe haven anywhere in the world.

47. **Ms. Cupika-Mavrina** (Latvia), speaking also on behalf of Estonia and Lithuania, said that the three countries remained committed to international cooperation in the fight against global terrorism, which posed a grave threat to peace, security and human rights worldwide. They actively engaged in intelligence-sharing and worked closely with international partners to prevent any potential threats from emerging. They encouraged the international community to nurture strong legal and governance frameworks, which were indispensable tools in the fight against terrorism.

48. The growing threat posed by terrorists and terrorist groups, including Al-Qaida and Da'esh in Afghanistan and Central Asia, and affiliated groups in Africa, was a matter of concern. The ideologies of terrorists and violent extremists of all kinds threatened the shared values expressed in the Charter. Member States must adopt a strong collective response to terrorism, with the rule of law and human rights at its core. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would continue to support the work of the Secretary-General, the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and entities of the United Nations Global Counter-

Terrorism Coordination Compact to coordinate international efforts to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism. While the threat of terrorism was low in the Baltic region, the three countries were interconnected and impacted by multiple geopolitical shifts and growing instability. To respond to those challenges, they had established a legal foundation that facilitated the comprehensive application of legal instruments to counter radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism, and made full use of tools and resources to develop their capability and cooperate on issues related to counter-terrorism.

49. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania once again condemned the unprovoked, unjustified and illegal military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Russian aggression constituted a clear violation of the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, a peremptory norm of international law set out in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter. The actions of the Russian Federation undermined European and global security and stability and had increased the risks of unrest, radicalization and terrorist activity. Moreover, the Russian disinformation campaign further undermined vulnerable regions. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had advanced counter-terrorism proposals in their recent work on strategic documents within the framework of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The three countries called on all Member States to join them in supporting the efforts of Ukraine to uphold its sovereignty and restore its territorial integrity on the basis of its internationally recognized borders.

50. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore) said that terrorism remained a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and was contrary to the rule of law and the principles enshrined in the Charter. It constituted a complex challenge that no country could address alone; Member States must therefore continue their counter-terrorism efforts at the national, regional and international levels. In 2022, his Government had published its national strategy to counter the financing of terrorism, which set out planned prevention, detection and deterrence measures and was aimed at enhancing coordination between law enforcement agencies, policymakers, regulators and the private sector. At the regional level, Singapore was Co-Chair, with Australia in 2023 and Thailand in 2024, of the Senior Officials Counter-Terrorism Policy Forum, a regional initiative that held detailed discussions on shared regional counter-terrorism and security policy issues, identified gaps and developed new actions to enhance regional connectivity between interior

ministries and counter-terrorism agencies. At the international level, Singapore was a party to 15 global counter-terrorism agreements and would continue to support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and efforts by the General Assembly to update and implement it. His delegation looked forward to collaborating with the working group established with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

51. **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, including those pertaining to terrorism, its financing and related acts, were directly and immediately enforceable, demonstrating the State's full compliance with the Charter. However, the process of listing individuals and entities should be made more transparent and evidence based.

52. While the consensus on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a significant achievement at a time of increased polarization, it was unfortunate that the revision had been barely more than a technical update. Member States should seek to better understand their differences and identify common ground.

53. A legal definition of terrorism that would distinguish it from other phenomena, such as organized crime, would facilitate a more effective response to the threat. In that regard, a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations should be convened to promote progress towards the finalization of the process on the draft 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. The main challenge to the adoption of a comprehensive convention was the difficulty of achieving an agreed legal definition of terrorism. His country's own experience demonstrated that reaching agreement on a definition was possible. Brazil had domesticated the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism in 2005 but had adopted a law that included a definition of terrorism only in 2016, following extensive debate across society. 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.

54. The risk of politicization of the negotiations on a comprehensive convention must not be an excuse for the international community to shirk its responsibility to establish a more solid legal basis for combating terrorism. Moreover, the absence of a convention was creating a perception of double standards and hampered efforts to increase the coherence of counter-terrorism efforts.

55. His delegation reiterated its concerns over 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 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.

56. **Ms. Patton** (United States of America), expressing condolences to the people of Türkiye following the recent terrorist attack in Ankara, said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations. The United Nations played a critical role in strengthening the capacity of Member States to prevent and counter terrorism, while highlighting the value of gender-sensitive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law.

57. In its resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ([A/RES/77/298](#)), the Assembly had provided guidance related to the role of civil society, gender equality and respect for human rights and requested Member States to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support for the repatriation, rehabilitation, reintegration and, as appropriate, prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters and associated family members. Foreign terrorist fighters in inadequate detention facilities and their family members living in overcrowded camps in Syria and Iraq posed a serious security threat and

constituted a dire humanitarian crisis, raising human rights concerns. Repatriation would prevent a resurgence of Da'esh in Iraq and Syria and the uncontrolled return of fighters to their countries of origin in the future.

58. Together, the international community had taken steps to reduce terrorist threats, including by targeting financing and support networks, countering terrorist propaganda and preventing travel for the purposes of terrorism. The international community must remain united in its efforts to prevent and counter the increasing and evolving threat posed by racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism, which targeted religious and racial minorities, immigrants, women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons and other perceived enemies and were often inspired by transnational supremacist movements. Such extremism was currently one of the most pressing counter-terrorism challenges facing the international community.

59. An innovative and comprehensive approach was required to respond to the challenges posed by new and emerging technologies, such as generative artificial intelligence. The cultivation of critical thinking skills and media literacy and online public safety initiatives could help build resilience against terrorist narratives. Public-private partnerships and international cooperation had a key role to play in such efforts. The United States supported research into the conditions under which the consumption of content online led to physical harm and looked forward to working with other Member States in that regard.

60. To be successful, efforts to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism must be in compliance with human rights – including the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief – and the rule of law. Attempts to stifle human rights and fundamental freedoms under the guise of counter-terrorism were counterproductive and might even reinforce terrorists' narratives. As for the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, the United Nations must send united, unambiguous signals on terrorism to avoid undoing the progress that had been made. Her delegation's full statement would be published online.

61. **Ms. Rodríguez Mancía** (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.

62. The third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held in June 2023, 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 four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the adoption of resolution 77/298, which would ensure continuity of practical measures to strengthen the capacities of States to address terrorist threats.

63. 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, Central America, in particular 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.

64. For those reasons, her 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. Cooperation should be enhanced at the international, regional and subregional levels to strengthen States' national capacity to prevent and suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In that connection, her country had been participating in the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme since May 2023.

65. **Mr. Heidari** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed. The topic was becoming increasingly politicized, with some States applying double standards while accusing other States of supporting terrorism. Meanwhile, acts of terrorism were being brazenly perpetrated against civilians, scientists

and government officials by both terrorist groups and certain arrogant States. A few days previously, the General Assembly had witnessed one particular regime threaten to commit nuclear terrorism, in gross violation of the principles and rules of international law.

66. His country had long been a victim of terrorism. Examples from recent years included the terrorist attack against General Qasem Soleimani, a high-ranking official and prominent figure in the fight against ISIL in the Middle East, the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, an Iranian scientist and Deputy Minister for Defence, the terrorist attack on the peaceful Iranian nuclear facility at Natanz, and the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan against innocent people and pilgrims at the Shah Cheragh shrine. Attacks had also been carried out against his country's critical infrastructure. Accordingly, countering terrorism at the national and regional levels had become a priority for his country. It was cooperating closely with neighbouring countries and other Member States and had assisted affected States, upon request, in combating such terrorist groups as ISIL and the Nusrah Front.

67. His delegation opposed all attempts to equate terrorism with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to achieve self-determination and national liberation, which were simply aimed at prolonging occupation and oppression.

68. Unilateral coercive measures were tantamount to terrorism, as they were designed to affect the general population in order to put pressure on Governments. They represented flagrant violations of the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter. Moreover, they hindered international counter-terrorism cooperation and undermined the capacity of individual States to counter the threat. States must, therefore, refrain from the imposition, promulgation and application of such measures and terminate those that were already in place.

69. The fight against terrorism must be in full compliance with the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter, in particular sovereign equality, non-intervention and respect for the territorial integrity and independence of States. While emphasizing national ownership and the primary role and responsibility of States in combating terrorism, his Government also recognized the pivotal role of the General Assembly in that regard.

70. His delegation condemned the repeated attempts in certain European countries to instigate violence and terrorism against Muslims through the deliberate

desecration of mosques and the Qur'an. Governments should take all necessary measures to prevent and punish the perpetrators of such heinous acts. Acquiescence to deliberate acts of incitement to terrorism against Muslims amounted to complicity in those xenophobic and Islamophobic acts and in terrorism. Foreign terrorist fighters in the occupied Syrian territory posed a serious threat to regional peace and security and should be repatriated to their countries of origin. His delegation condemned the relocation of such fighters between conflict zones and reminded States of their obligation to deny safe haven to terrorists.

71. It was important to focus on finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations for that purpose, in order to send a unified and unambiguous signal to the perpetrators of terrorist acts. The comprehensive convention could also be of practical utility for enhancing international counter-terrorism efforts.

72. **Mr. Cappon** (Israel) said that the resurgence of terrorist activities over the past year and the proliferation of extremist organizations threatened the very foundations of the international order. The global community must transcend borders and differences to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Member States had a responsibility to undertake collective efforts, guided by a broad common understanding and shared principles, to put an end to the menace of terrorism. While the elaboration of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was not possible in the current global landscape, Member States should make every effort to establish a definition of terrorism that would promote the elimination of that phenomenon and lay the foundation for effective international cooperation.

73. There could be no justification for terrorism. The history of Israel and the Jewish people was one of resilience in the face of unrelenting acts of terrorism and violence. In the light of the troubling increase in antisemitism and attacks against Israelis in Israel and around the world in recent years, his delegation called for a stronger focus on countering acts of terrorism motivated by antisemitism. Moreover, the international community must condemn all attempted terrorist acts, regardless of their success, in the strongest terms.

74. Convinced that the strongest defence against universal threats was the sharing of knowledge, experience and best practice, Israel was engaged in both multilateral and bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. Its experts were involved in United Nations counter-

terrorism initiatives and provided capacity-building for other Member States.

75. While the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/298](#), on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, represented a significant step in equipping the international community with the tools to combat terrorism, the issue of incitement through social media platforms was not adequately addressed in the Strategy. The rise in attacks in the Middle East carried out by children, some as young as 13, who had been indoctrinated by extremist groups through social media underscored the urgency of addressing that serious issue. Jews were a particular target of terrorist attacks resulting from online recruitment, incitement and indoctrination. His Government was eager to collaborate in devising strategies to eradicate those reprehensible practices, and to participate in initiatives such as the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online. The Strategy must also address the challenges associated with the continuously evolving methods used to finance terrorism. Current practices were inadequate, as they were focused only on obvious, direct methods of funding.

76. Terrorism could not be fought in isolation; the unity, collaboration and collective determination of the global community was required to protect the vulnerable, ensure that justice was done and bring about a world free of the threat of terrorism.

77. **Mr. Escobar Ullauri** (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, democracy and the rule of law. Counter-terrorism measures were legitimate only if they were consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law, and human rights. His delegation welcomed the successful eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which sent a signal that the international community was united in preventing and combating terrorism.

78. His delegation was concerned about the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, the nature of which varied by country. Increased international cooperation was needed to strengthen the capacities of Member States in relation to criminal justice, border control and combating money-laundering and arms trafficking.

79. His delegation supported the efforts of the working group established by the Committee with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive

convention and was in favour of convening a high-level conference in order to reconcile diverging views.

80. Addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism by promoting development should be a priority. As could be inferred from the United Nations Development Programme report entitled “Journey to extremism in Africa: Pathways to recruitment and disengagement”, the hope of employment was the primary driver of violent extremism.

81. **Mr. Laursen** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that terrorism and violent extremism jeopardized national security and the well-being of citizens. Cooperation through and with the United Nations was key to addressing the threat effectively. The primary focus should be on prevention, giving particular consideration to the root causes of terrorism. Failure to respect human rights, the rule of law and international law, including international humanitarian law, in counter-terrorism efforts undermined the legitimacy of Governments and global institutions and was thus counterproductive.

82. The Nordic countries unequivocally rejected and condemned in the strongest terms all forms of terrorism, including violent right-wing extremism. ISIL and Al-Qaida continued to pose significant threats to global peace and security. While ISIL had suffered territorial defeats in Iraq and Syria, and some progress had been made in countering Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan, there were concerns about its longer-term trajectory in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, as well as in the West. Al-Qaida and ISIL had demonstrated a clear strategic interest in Africa, where they had been expanding their networks of affiliates in fragile States and capitalizing on weak governance, local grievances, poverty and conflicts. In that connection, the deteriorating security and governance situation in the Sahel and the risk of spillover into coastal States in West Africa gave particular cause for concern. Military rule undermined the legitimacy of the State and represented a significant risk to the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. The Russian Federation was adding another layer of concern in Africa through its reported interference in political processes and involvement in disinformation campaigns, as well as through the disruptive activities of the Wagner Group.

83. The Nordic countries attached great importance to preventing violent extremism. As the United Nations Development Programme had indicated in its report entitled “Journey to extremism in Africa: Pathways to recruitment and disengagement”, there were compelling

reasons – including financial ones – for investing in prevention as a priority, rather than focusing disproportionately on security-centred actions. It was important to listen to the voices of young people and children, who held key insights into ways to prevent radicalization and diminish the influence of violent extremist ideologies at the local level and online. Children’s resilience against violent extremism must be increased. Member States had a duty to prevent and respond to violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups, which included recruitment and the use of children in armed conflict. Vulnerable children must be protected, and schools must be protected from attacks.

84. A whole-of-society approach was essential to preventing violent extremism, as experience had shown that Governments could not eliminate terrorism without collaborating with local communities. Civil society actors, community leaders, schoolteachers, youth workers and religious leaders, among others, were the first line of defence against hate. The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, the Strong Cities Network and the International Civil Society Action Network were to be commended on their efforts. The Nordic countries would continue to support the work of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities in their efforts to coordinate an international response for countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism.

85. The Nordic countries welcomed the retention of wording on the rule of law, gender and respect for international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy following the eighth review. However, further efforts were needed to ensure that all United Nations entities truly delivered as one.

86. The Nordic countries reiterated their resolute condemnation of the unprovoked and illegal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The brutal aggression constituted a clear violation of the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, as set out in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, which was a peremptory norm of international law. The Nordic countries urged all States Members of the United Nations to support the efforts of Ukraine to uphold its sovereignty and restore its territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

87. **Mr. Shatil** (Bangladesh) said that his country maintained a policy of zero tolerance in countering

terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, including State-sponsored terrorism. At the national level, his Government had put in place comprehensive laws to combat terrorism and money-laundering. 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, and would not allow the territory of Bangladesh to be used to incite or carry out acts of terrorism or any other harmful acts against its neighbours.

88. Current development efforts might be in vain if the response to terrorism and violent extremism was not effective. The United Nations should steer global discourse and action in a more coordinated manner, in close coordination with Governments and other stakeholders, taking into account local contexts and the needs of Member States.

89. His delegation hoped that progress could be made on drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It welcomed the successful eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular the emphasis that had been placed on engagement with community leaders and women-led civil society organizations. While his delegation supported the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy, it stressed the importance of enhancing capacity-building and the provision of technical support to assist developing countries in implementing the Strategy.

90. Terrorism could not be linked to any religion, and profiling on the basis of religion had no place in counter-terrorism policies or actions. His delegation vehemently condemned the despicable acts of burning the Qur'an that had been taking place in many parts of the world, which not only deeply wounded the sentiments of Muslims but also fostered an environment of discrimination, hostility and potential violence. Such unwarranted provocations could also result in social division and contribute to acts of terrorism.

91. As the top troop- and police-contributing country to United Nations peacekeeping missions, Bangladesh was greatly concerned by the trend of increasing terrorist attacks against peacekeepers around the world. The United Nations, with the support of its Member States, should take the lead in ensuring that peacekeepers had the resources necessary to ensure their own safety and security and provide adequate protection to civilians.

92. Member States should make greater investments in addressing the root causes of terrorism, which included economic, social, and political exclusion, and in halting the flows of arms and financial resources to terrorist

groups, while taking care to uphold human rights at all times.

93. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that as a country that had experienced the devastating consequences of terrorism first hand, Sri Lanka was committed to upholding the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all nations while working with them to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

94. The terrorist threat was evolving rapidly, as non-State actors found new ways to use technology. Strategic plans were needed to address current and future threats. To achieve sustainable peace, the root causes of terrorism must be addressed through a holistic approach encompassing not only security measures but also initiatives to promote dialogue, reconciliation and the protection of human rights. Member States should enhance their international cooperation, intelligence-sharing and capacity-building efforts to counter transnational terrorist networks, while always respecting international law and human rights. States should also counter the financing of terrorism through robust financial monitoring and regulation. His Government remained committed to developing legislation that addressed national security needs while respecting international standards and best practices.

95. Sri Lanka reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism strategy and encouraged all Member States to support its implementation. The international community should also consider elaborating a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, in order to bridge gaps in the international legal framework and facilitate international cooperation. Sri Lanka stood ready to collaborate closely with all Member States to eliminate international terrorism and remained confident in the pivotal role played by the United Nations in coordinating and supporting global counter-terrorism efforts.

96. **Mr. Diome** (Senegal) said that his Government strongly condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices, in all their forms and manifestations. Terrorism undermined sustainable development efforts and was an attack on the very foundations of the rule of law. His delegation welcomed and remained ready to support the efforts of the various United Nations entities to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provided a framework for a coordinated and holistic response to the complex and evolving threat of terrorism. His delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution [77/298](#) following the eighth review of the Strategy and called on all States to continue focusing on the consensual

goals of the exercise, avoiding controversial or insufficiently proven concepts.

97. Addressing the terrorist threat required both neutralizing terrorist groups and addressing the underlying social, economic and cultural factors that drove radicalization and recruitment to such groups, in particular among young people. In that connection, efforts to combat extremist and terrorist narratives must be accompanied by efforts to address religious intolerance which led to the desecration of religious texts and places of worship. Those two elements should continue to form the foundation of a holistic approach in which due emphasis was placed on prevention and victims received support and justice. Such an approach would make it possible to better address the links between terrorism and its related challenges, namely border control, transnational organized crime, intercommunal relations, climate change and promotion of the rule of law. Furthermore, it was crucial to cut off the sources of financing of terrorist groups, as that was the only way to destroy their operational capabilities, given the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and to cripple their subversive potential. Efforts must be cooperative, inclusive and tailored to the specificities of different countries and regions.

98. Terrorism was continuing to gain ground in Africa, particularly in the Sahel. At the Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa, held in May 2022, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union had issued a declaration concerning the finalization of the memorandum of understanding relating to the African Standby Force; the establishment of a counter-terrorism unit; and the operationalization of the African Union Special Fund on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa. The international community should continue to support the counter-terrorism efforts of the African Union and the regional economic communities. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to build capacities and assist in the development of national policies, and its recent establishment of programme offices in Rabat and Nairobi. His Government continued to encourage the Security Council to be more engaged in the fight against terrorism in Africa, including by adopting more appropriate mandates and allocating more substantial resources. Sufficient, predictable and sustained funding was crucial to enabling the African Peace and Security Architecture to effectively combat terrorism and other security challenges.

99. Africa would continue to do its part, alongside its partners, to eradicate terrorism, which posed a bigger

threat than ever to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. At the national level, his Government was careful to ensure that its legal and operational framework remained adequate to address current challenges and continued to develop economic and social programmes to eliminate the root causes of terrorism.

100. **Mr. Prytula** (Ukraine) said that over the years, the threat posed by groups such as ISIL, or Da'esh, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram had expanded to become global. The Wagner Group, a State-sponsored terrorist organization, was now also posing an increasing threat. Terrorists continued to wreak havoc around the world, as their methods became more sophisticated and their sponsors crueller and more ambitious. Some countries had even integrated terrorism into their national policies, which had led to flagrant violations of international law.

101. Ukraine recognized the role of the United Nations in suppressing international terrorism and promoting international cooperation to that end. It welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution on the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and focused on tackling the root causes of terrorism and building States' capacities to combat the phenomenon. Ukraine remained fully committed to fighting terrorism and violent extremism. On its initiative, the Security Council had adopted resolution [2341 \(2017\)](#), the first-ever resolution on the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks.

102. The aggression against Ukraine launched in 2014 with the temporary occupation of Ukrainian Crimea and a number of areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine had led to numerous terrorist acts. One of the first had been the downing by pro-Russian militants of Malaysian Airlines flight MH 17 in the territory of Ukraine in 2014. Unfortunately, that act had not been recognized as State terrorism. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine launched on 24 February 2022 had brought the horror of terrorism to the country's entire territory, with the aggressor State using terrorist methods of warfare such as the missile shelling of critical infrastructure; ecocide, including the destruction of the Kakhovka dam on 6 June 2023 and the mining and destruction of smaller dams; and nuclear blackmail targeting various countries and the international community as a whole, in the form of open threats to use nuclear weapons, the reported delivery of nuclear warheads to a third country bordering Ukraine and the mining of power units at the

Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Such acts, targeted at the civilian population and critical infrastructure of Ukraine, should be considered acts of State terrorism.

103. The Wagner Group served as a military tool for the achievement of political goals, having been involved in looting, torture and barbarous murders. Despite its attempted coup against the Government of the Russian Federation and the alleged assassination of its leadership in response, the Group's operations in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa continued to present a threat to global security.

104. The legal qualification of the actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine would be determined by the International Criminal Court. His delegation maintained that all persons participating in the armed aggression should be prosecuted. His country's judicial authorities were working continuously, in cooperation with international partners, to ensure that justice was done. Since 2017, the International Court of Justice had been considering applications filed by Ukraine for serious, documented violations of international law by the Russian Federation, the alleged facts pointing to the violation in particular of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

105. All terrorist acts, wherever and by whomever they were committed, must be resolutely condemned and prosecuted. Ukraine fully supported all efforts of the international community in that regard, including the initiative to draft a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

106. **Ms. Jiménez Alegría** (Mexico) said that addressing the constantly evolving global threat of international terrorism required the highest level of coordination between States and the support of the United Nations. The absence of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism and the resulting lack of legal certainty regarding the limits of counter-terrorism activities was creating additional challenges. In that regard, it was crucial to bring the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to a successful conclusion. The General Assembly should play a leading role in debates, negotiations and the coordination of efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. Her delegation, which had participated actively and constructively in the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, called for greater flexibility and political will in the review process so as to ensure that the Strategy remained adequate to address the current challenges.

107. Terrorism could not be eliminated through military means alone; prevention measures focused on development, in particular the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, were also necessary. Given that most recruits to extremist organizations were young men, it was also crucial to take gender into account in all measures to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism.

108. **Mr. Clark** (United Kingdom) said that his country stood resolute in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism and recognized the pivotal role of international cooperation and partnerships in confronting those challenges. Its partnerships were based on respect and reciprocity and were in line with the Charter and international law.

109. The terrorist threat was becoming more diverse, dynamic and complex. His Government's priorities were to degrade and defeat Da'esh and its affiliates, the senior leadership of Al-Qaida and their affiliates and address growing threats such as extreme right-wing terrorism. Frameworks such as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided the structure that was vital to tackling global challenges effectively. His Government had recently updated its counter-terrorism strategy to ensure that its response remained agile, integrated and aligned with the strategies of its allies.

110. Recent developments had highlighted the links between terrorism, State actors and organized crime. Terrorist groups attempted to exploit weak States as sanctuaries, while some States sought to use terrorist groups to advance their national interests. At the same time, terrorists engaged in organized crime to raise funds and establish networks. Member States must unite to combat that multifaceted threat.

111. States must fully respect human rights in their counter-terrorism efforts. In so doing, they strengthened their credibility and legitimacy and denied terrorists a propaganda tool that could be used to recruit and radicalize others. The United Kingdom regularly raised its concerns about human rights violations in the context of counter-terrorism through the United Nations system, including the Human Rights Council.

112. **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.

113. 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.

114. Prevention was a crucial aspect of the fight against terrorism. To counter the alarming global increase in xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, it was necessary to address the root causes, such as protracted conflicts, the absence of the rule of law and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. At the same time, while those underlying factors created a breeding ground for terrorism, they could not excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

115. 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, 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 in 2022. His delegation was concerned about the increasing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters to countries of origin, countries of transit and host countries alike.

116. Terrorism and transnational organized crime were different problems, each regulated by a different legal framework. While the two phenomena might be related under certain circumstances, there were no automatic or intrinsic links between them.

117. His delegation was 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. The establishment of an internationally agreed legal definition was crucial to strengthening the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. 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.

118. 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.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.