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Chairman: Mr. Prandler (Hungary)

Contents

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 160: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/57/37, A/57/183 and Add.1, A/57/66, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/88-S/2002/672, A/57/203, A/57/269-S/2002/854, A/57/273-S/2002/875 and A/57/341-S/2002/950)

1. **Mr. Kofod** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that terrorism was a continuing threat to security and democracy which must be met through steadfast international cooperation. The European Union categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms but, with the same resolve, emphasized that the fight against terrorism must be conducted with respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and under the auspices of the United Nations. It was firmly committed to implementing Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and to supporting the Counter-Terrorism Committee as it monitored the implementation of the resolution and acted as an intermediary between States requiring technical assistance and potential donors. It stood ready to assist those countries and, in consultation with that Committee, was currently identifying a number of countries which might be involved in a pilot project. The European Union also took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat.

2. In the normative field, the States members of the European Union attached great importance to the signature and ratification of the 12 international conventions on terrorism, as evidenced by the fact that six of them had ratified all 12 conventions and were doing everything possible to comply with their provisions. The European Union urged all States to become parties to those conventions, in particular the two most recent ones.

3. The fight against terrorism must be based on effective instruments. Resolution 1373 (2001) was extremely useful in that regard, but there were still gaps to be filled. The European Union therefore, remained committed to bringing to a successful conclusion the negotiations on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would

make it possible to bring to justice those who perpetrated and sponsored terrorist acts. The draft text submitted by India was an excellent basis for those negotiations and the European Union called on all Member States to work together to resolve the outstanding issues. It also remained committed to finalizing the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. With regard to the organization of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, the European Union was willing to discuss the issue after the conclusion of the work on the comprehensive convention, insofar as such a conference would contribute to the tangible strengthening of international cooperation. Consideration must, however, first be given to the rationale and expected outcome of such a conference.

4. **Mr. Hoffmann** (South Africa) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/57/183 and Add.1). He reiterated that international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations could only be eliminated through concerted and sustained international cooperation. The United Nations was at the forefront of international efforts to combat terrorism and the South African Government would continue to cooperate with the Organization.

5. With regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), the South African Government had submitted two comprehensive reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The national agencies involved in combating terrorism also met regularly to enhance their activities. The South African Parliament had recently ratified the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (which had been ratified by a sufficient number of States to enter into force) and was preparing to consider the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism with a view to their ratification. Following lengthy consultations, the South African Law Commission had prepared a draft anti-terrorist act, which took account of both the need to respect human rights and the need to step up the fight against terrorism and which would shortly be submitted to Parliament.

6. At the multilateral level, he pointed out that one of the first meetings held under the auspices of the African Union had been a meeting of experts to

consider ways and means of enhancing Africa's response to combating international terrorism. An outcome of that meeting had been the adoption of a plan of action intended to give concrete expression to the commitments entered into by the African States pursuant to the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted at Algiers in 1999. That plan of action included measures relating to the exchange of information regarding the activities and movements of terrorist groups in Africa, legal assistance, tighter border controls, monitoring mechanisms and the establishment of an African Research and Study Centre, which would, inter alia, centralize information, studies and analyses on terrorism and terrorist groups and develop training programmes. The plan of action would be submitted to the African Union Executive Council of Ministers and the Conference of Heads of State and Government at their next meetings for consideration and adoption. The African Union experts had also agreed on the need for a protocol to supplement the Algiers Convention. In addition, efforts to combat terrorism would be further strengthened when the Southern African Development Community adopted a declaration against terrorism at its summit meeting being held in Angola. Lastly, the Commonwealth Secretariat had been mandated to develop model legislation to assist States in implementing resolution 1373 (2001).

7. Nevertheless, there were still outstanding issues, particularly those identified in General Assembly resolution 56/88 relating to the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the convening of a high-level conference on the fight against terrorism. Work on those issues must be finalized in order to fill the gaps in the international legal framework in the area of terrorism.

8. **Ms. Geddis** (New Zealand) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum. It condemned terrorism in all its forms and remained determined to combat it at the national, regional and international levels by all means consistent with human rights and the rule of law.

9. In the Pacific region, New Zealand had provided practical assistance in the past year to help the Cook Islands and Niue implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). In August 2002, Pacific Islands Forum leaders had adopted the Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security. Consistent with that Declaration,

New Zealand was continuing to work with regional partners and other donor countries to ensure that the region had an effective counter-terrorism regime. It had also sponsored a workshop for the countries of the Pacific Islands Forum.

10. New Zealand was in the process of adopting legislation to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It hoped to deposit its instruments of ratification by the end of 2003. That would make it party to 10 of the 12 conventions on international terrorism. It was also taking steps to accede to the remaining two conventions: the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

11. A comprehensive convention to address all forms of terrorism would add value to the current normative framework by filling the existing gaps in some areas of the counter-terrorism regime. Good progress had been made in recent meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for elaborating the convention.

12. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Terrorism was a threat to international peace and security, adversely affected the stability of nations and jeopardized human rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere. A truly concerted international effort, under the auspices of the United Nations, was needed to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be prepared to make sure that no international terrorist who had killed in one country could walk free in another, particularly by seeking political asylum. His delegation welcomed the European Union's readiness to help countries which requested technical assistance.

13. In order to combat terrorism, Myanmar had strengthened its legislation and enhanced its law-enforcement activities. It had acceded to a number of major conventions, relating to the suppression of terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It had concluded bilateral cooperation arrangements with neighbouring countries

and, on 1 August 2002, had joined the other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in signing the United States-ASEAN Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

14. Myanmar remained committed to joining with the international community to find ways and means to strengthen and implement the legal regime against international terrorism.

15. **Mr. Qi Dahai** (China) once again condemned the barbaric terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. It was gratifying that the international community had demonstrated an unprecedented unity and spirit of cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the past year. The United Nations had played, and should continue to play, a leading role in combating terrorism. The Security Council, as the body most responsible for countering threats to international peace and security, had adopted resolutions to that end, and since the attacks, the General Assembly had considered the elaboration of international legal instruments to combat terrorism a matter of priority. As a result, apart from the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which had now entered into force and had become operational, two other conventions were being prepared: a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation would take an active part in that process, and looked forward to the early adoption of the conventions.

16. China had consistently opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whenever, wherever, against whomever and in whatever form terrorist acts were committed. Terrorism should be tackled with a comprehensive approach that included political, economic, diplomatic, social and other measures to address its causes and its effects. The international community should have a stronger sense of urgency and give higher priority to development and the eradication of poverty, measures which were vital in the fight against terrorism. All actions should be in compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the established rules of international law, and should contribute to the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. Terrorism should not be associated with any

specific ethnic group or religion; it was perpetrated by a handful of extremists; the fight against terrorism was a conflict between peace and violence not a conflict between nations, religions or civilizations. It was therefore important to acknowledge and respect the diversity of civilizations and to promote lasting and peaceful coexistence between different social systems, with an emphasis on common ground rather than on differences.

17. At the international level, China had supported the initiatives of various United Nations bodies, implemented resolutions adopted in the wake of the events of 11 September 2001, signed or ratified a number of conventions relating to the suppression of terrorism and participating actively in the ad hoc committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210. At the regional level, it had joined the other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in signing the Agreement establishing a regional counter-terrorist structure.

18. China welcomed the addition of the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) to the list of organizations and individuals responsible for terrorist activities, since it was a movement which had committed many acts of terrorism and violence inside and outside China, and was a serious threat to regional security and stability.

19. **Mr. Senanayake** (Sri Lanka) said that, despite the efforts of the international community, the threat posed by global terrorism remained undiminished. The global response must be concerted, comprehensive and based on each State's responsibility to uphold the rule of law and to give full support to the international community's efforts to combat international terrorism.

20. Sri Lanka, which had been ravaged by 20 years of war and terrorist violence, had always been in the forefront of global and regional efforts to combat global terrorism and organized crime, the links between which were well known. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), Sri Lanka had immediately adopted legislation criminalizing fundraising for terrorist purposes and had subsequently reported to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its legislative and administrative framework. It was a party to 10 of the 12 international counter-terrorism conventions and was finalizing the incorporation into domestic law of other international legal instruments. From the outset, it had pledged its unstinted support for

the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 (of 17 December 1996) and appealed to other delegations to consider the outstanding issues within the framework of a working group. It also expected that the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would soon be finalized.

21. Sri Lanka was also an integral part of the regional effort to combat terrorism, *inter alia* within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which, in January 2002, had reaffirmed its support for Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) at Kathmandu and whose legal advisers, in May 2002, had recommended the drafting of an additional protocol that would complement and update the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and facilitate its implementation.

22. Sri Lanka was currently embarking on a political process of dealing with a group that had engaged in armed conflict with successive democratically elected Governments for over two decades. It fully subscribed to the position, recognized in international legal instruments, that no cause could justify terrorist acts; however, it considered it essential to address the underlying grievances of minority groups at the political level in order to remove the seeds of discontent that led to conflicts within States.

23. **Mr. Abdalla** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) strongly condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including State terrorism. The international community must work together to prevent and eliminate all forms of terrorism through closer cooperation and coordination among States as part of a pragmatic, balanced, law-based and comprehensive approach led by the United Nations. The use of force must be a last resort and must take into account the ensuing humanitarian impact and the vicious circle to which it might give rise. Any response to terrorist acts must reaffirm the rule of law at the national and international levels.

24. In crafting a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, it was important to arrive at a clear and universally agreed definition of terrorism which would, *inter alia*, make a distinction between acts of terrorism involving attacks on civilian

populations and the legitimate struggle for self-determination and national liberation of people under colonial, alien or foreign domination, as recognized by the Charter of the United Nations, United Nations decisions and resolutions, the rules of international humanitarian law and other international declarations. While the most effective means of eliminating the threat of nuclear terrorism would be the total destruction of all nuclear weapons, the adoption of an international convention would be a major first step towards that goal.

25. International conventions and resolutions were a necessary means of prevention and deterrence. However, in the long term, the international community must address the root causes of terrorism, including the inequality of societies, exploitation and the denial of human rights. The convening of a United Nations conference on terrorism would galvanize international cooperation and achieve consensus at the highest levels and it would therefore be an important forum in which to examine the issue of terrorism and formulate a joint response.

26. **Mr. Quartey** (Ghana) said that the events of 11 September 2001, in which his country had lost nationals, had revealed the previously unknown existence of groups that were waiting in the shadows for an opportunity to commit acts which, in their eyes, were justified by the injustice of which they were the victims. In order to prevent such terrorist acts, which, despite the views of those responsible, could not be justified for any political reason, the international community must work earnestly to address those grievances which were at the root of terrorism. His Government was aware of the need for international cooperation in order to prevent, combat and eliminate international terrorism and was actively involved in the counter-terrorism effort; in the area of legislation, it was a party to 7 of the 12 relevant international instruments and had ratified 5 others. At the national level, a counter-terrorism intelligence centre had also been established. However, the struggle against terrorism must be multilateral and international in order to be truly effective. The international community must therefore work together to arrive at a legal definition of terrorism and must distinguish between terrorism and legitimate efforts to achieve self-determination and combat foreign occupation.

27. **Mr. Mejdoub** (Tunisia) expressed support for the statement made by the representative of the Sudan on

behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He welcomed the increased number of signatures, ratifications and accessions to international conventions relating to terrorism, and the forthcoming publication of a compendium of national laws and regulations regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

28. His Government condemned terrorism on two levels: first, as a criminal and unjustifiable practice and, second, as a threat to the peace and security of States. Tunisia had been among the first countries to denounce terrorism and would continue to cooperate in its prevention and final eradication.

29. In addition to its national counter-terrorist policy, Tunisia had signed bilateral conventions on judicial assistance and security with 30 States. It had also acceded to regional conventions adopted by the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as the 12 international conventions relating to various aspects of terrorism. His delegation had taken an active part in the drafting of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and had submitted reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Secretary-General. President Ben Ali of Tunisia had appealed for the signature of an international charter for peace and progress. His delegation believed that the time had come to hold an international conference in order to define a code of conduct applicable to all States which would reject the policy of double standards in regional conflicts and soothe the feelings of frustration and oppression among some peoples. The universal character of the United Nations made it an ideal framework for such a dialogue.

30. The fight against international terrorism depended on the political will of States. Despite considerable progress, there were still gaps in international law, particularly in the area of political asylum, which terrorists could take advantage of and which they exploited and abused with full impunity.

31. In the fight against terrorism, it was essential to combat the manifestations of poverty and underdevelopment since the security, stability and future development of the planet depended on the realization of the principles of equality, justice and solidarity among peoples. His delegation hoped that the current negotiations on the two draft conventions would produce consensus texts which would take into

account the concerns of all parties, particularly the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

32. **Mr. Aryal** (Nepal) commended the contribution made by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 to the development of an international legal regime to combat international terrorism, working within its mandate, which had been gradually expanded in order to meet the demands of the international community. That work should be continued by the Working Group of the Sixth Committee, with a view, inter alia, to the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

33. Nepal was a party to seven of the international legal instruments relating to different aspects of international terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and it had informed the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the measures it had taken to combat terrorism.

34. Terrorism could not be justified in any circumstances and constituted a threat to the fundamental freedoms and dignity of human beings. It had posed a serious threat to the peace, security and development of Nepal. In its efforts to protect its people and defend their freedom, Nepal relied on the moral and financial support of the international community, which should contribute to the prevention of terrorism globally and at the regional level, in particular by providing technical assistance to the developing countries. At the regional level, it should be noted that, at its eleventh summit meeting, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) had emphasized the need for the urgent conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The final Declaration of the summit meeting (A/56/784-S/2002/99) had emphasized the link between terrorism and other forms of transnational crime and the need for coordination at the national and regional levels.

35. **Mr. Hmoud** (Jordan) said that his Government attached particular importance to the fight against terrorism, which must be carried out at the international level because terrorism was a phenomenon which threatened international peace and security. Jordan, which had itself been a target for terrorist attacks, had taken measures to cooperate with other States and international organizations and had

strengthened those measures following the events of 11 September 2001 in order to take account of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and was ready to cooperate with other countries in order to settle the outstanding issues in relation to that convention. It was important to establish a precise definition of terrorist acts which would exclude the application of double standards and exploitation for political purposes; to ensure that the provisions of the convention were not contrary to international humanitarian law or to the Charter of the United Nations, which guaranteed the right of peoples to self-determination and to combat foreign occupation and colonialism; and to apply fully the provisions of international instruments relating to international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their two additional protocols, according to which no immunity could be given to the perpetrators of terrorist acts. The adoption of such a comprehensive convention would provide an effective mechanism to combat terrorism. His delegation also emphasized the importance of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and was prepared to work within the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 in order to bring about the adoption of such a convention.

36. **Mr. Mun Jong Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorism was a serious problem of concern to all countries, and that its elimination had become one of the priorities of the United Nations. The Member States must therefore determine the root causes in order to find ways and means to cope with it. The fight against terrorism should not, however, be abused for the strategic purposes of any one country. Expanding the "war against terrorism" to other parts of the world without justifiable reasons only further destabilized the world. Imposing the labels "axis of evil" and "terrorism sponsor" on certain countries in order to justify military intervention and designating them as targets of pre-emptive nuclear strikes represented State terrorism. It was important not to acquiesce in that anomaly, in which the opinions of the majority of Member States were rejected and one Member State dared to launch a unilateral military attack against other countries, using the war against terrorism as a pretext. The fight against terrorism should fully comply with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. His

delegation believed that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 should, in an objective manner, determine the root causes of terrorism, by first formulating a precise definition of terrorism and then redoubling its efforts to find ways to eliminate it. His Government reaffirmed its strong opposition to terrorism in all its forms and its conviction that the United Nations must play a central role in combating it.

37. **Ms. Cavaliere de Nava** (Venezuela) said that the painful memory left by the attacks of 11 September 2001 had been transformed into positive energy which the United Nations had used to launch a global strategy in the war against international terrorism and related offences, in collaboration with regional organizations and the specialized agencies. The coordination of that strategy by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) was crucially important for many countries, in that it allowed them to benefit from assistance and guidance in the implementation of that resolution. Venezuela had unflinchingly supported the war against terrorism, in particular by submitting in-depth reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, attesting to its willingness to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and its commitment to international peace and security. Within a regional context, it had ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, adopted by the Organization of American States in June 2002.

38. Her delegation believed that, in order to ensure the success of the strategy devised by the United Nations, particular importance must be paid to three factors. First, the war against terrorism should be conducted in accordance with the fundamental principles of international law. The international legal framework therefore needed to be strengthened. On that basis, Venezuela had become a party to various international conventions against terrorism and had begun the necessary formalities for ratifying most of them. Second, States should bring their domestic legislation into line with the international instruments relating to terrorism, as the General Assembly had requested in its resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994. Third, international cooperation was required in order to eliminate that scourge, the ramifications of which reached beyond national borders. Such cooperation must involve an exchange of information among States, and between them and international organizations, as

well as the rapid adoption, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. It was also important for States to agree on the manner of combating that scourge.

39. Lastly, she reaffirmed that such measures would not be sufficient unless the international community at the same time considered the causes and circumstances that fostered terrorism. It was therefore important to combat poverty and disease throughout the world, to promote access to education and housing, to foster tolerance, and to eliminate racism and all forms of discrimination.

40. **Mr. Samy** (Egypt) said that, since the events of 11 September 2001, an international consensus had formed in support of the war against terrorism, a scourge that had no borders and belonged to no particular culture or religion. Egypt was one of the countries that had been the target of terrorist acts, and it had therefore taken legislative and legal measures to deal with it. Experience had shown that the fight against terrorism could not be based solely on a political and security approach; it must also include the economic, social and legal aspects. Egypt was therefore calling for a high-level international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the purpose of examining the various ways and means of dealing with that phenomenon, an initiative that had found support with a considerable number of organizations and countries.

41. It was nevertheless essential to avoid any confusion between terrorism, which Egypt denounced in all its forms, and the legitimate right of peoples to fight against occupation and to defend themselves when their fundamental rights were violated or their cultural identity assailed. That right, which had been recognized by the peoples of Europe and America in their fight against occupation and had later been taken up by the African, Asian and Latin American countries, was enshrined in international law and in international instruments adopted by the United Nations. In that regard, his delegation supported the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on terrorism which would clearly distinguish between terrorist acts and the legitimate right to self-defence. Egypt had submitted an in-depth report on the measures and laws it had adopted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). With that resolution in mind, it had also

established a national committee to review all legislative and regulatory provisions that affected the fight against terrorism. Furthermore, the Egyptian Parliament had adopted a law on money-laundering with a special section devoted to the financing of terrorism.

42. **Mr. Akamatsu** (Japan) said that, in view of the serious threat posed to international peace and security by terrorism, which was unjustifiable regardless of its causes, his country was firmly committed to participating in the joint action that the international community must urgently take to prevent, combat and eliminate that scourge. In his view, first and foremost, the existing international legal framework must be strengthened so that the perpetrators of terrorist acts, in particular those who belonged to terrorist organizations forming part of international networks, were pursued and extradited and would not be able to find refuge in any country. It was also essential to ratify the conventions on counter-terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, Japan had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and, in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, it intended to offer its specialized and technological knowledge to States which needed support for capacity-building.

43. Stressing the importance of developing additional rules to complement and strengthen the existing legal frameworks, he said that his delegation welcomed the significant progress made in the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, thanks to the spirit of cooperation shown by the countries, and it would support the early adoption of the draft text submitted by India and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism submitted by the Russian Federation. He urged all States to cooperate and show flexibility so that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism could be adopted. Noting the high-level meetings which had taken place since 11 September 2001 and the renewed political will of the international community, he expressed the hope that tangible progress would be achieved in the fight against terrorism. Accordingly, he urged States to continue to make efforts to that end within the framework of the United Nations. A high-level meeting under the

auspices of the United Nations should not be convened unless it would produce concrete results.

44. **Mr. Ortúzar** (Chile) said that, since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, combating terrorism had become one of the main challenges before the international community and should be addressed as a matter of priority. Indeed, in view of the global dimensions of terrorism and the threat that it posed to international peace and security, it required a response which, in order to be effective, must be a global response within the framework of a multilateral strategy.

45. Chile once again rejected and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its perpetrators or their motives, but it nonetheless believed that the means of combating that scourge must be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, international law, respect for human rights and international humanitarian instruments. It would therefore continue to cooperate with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210. Noting that, in its resolution 56/88, the Assembly had decided that the Committee should continue to elaborate a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and resolve the issues relating to the elaboration of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, he said that efforts made in that regard should be aimed at reconciling the views of States on outstanding issues and developing language acceptable to all.

46. His delegation welcomed the entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, to which it was a party, and which it had incorporated into its domestic legislation. It had signed the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and would ratify it as soon as it obtained the approval of the National Congress. All its initiatives reflected the importance it attached to the conventions on various aspects of the suppression of terrorism and the key role it played at the regional level in consolidating the international legal regime. Having ratified those 12 conventions, it hoped that, once they were implemented by States, they would help to provide a legal framework for counter-terrorism. In order to promote their implementation, it would be necessary to develop cooperation and increase

assistance to developing countries in order to ensure that they had the necessary resources to support the action of the international community.

47. Taking note of the very broad coalition which had formed since 11 September 2001 to deal with terrorism, he expressed the view that it must consider all the problems related to the interdependence of the contemporary world and make every effort to promote interaction, a global perspective, democracy, equity and citizenship by placing the human being at the centre of government policies and defining new parameters adapted to the new reality of the twenty-first century.

48. **Mr. Elmessallati** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), supported the statement made by the representative of Sudan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and said that, since 11 September 2001, the international community had finally turned its attention to the phenomenon of terrorism, which continued to spread throughout the world, and was fighting that scourge, which posed a serious threat to international peace and security and to the development of peoples. His country fully supported that struggle, a struggle in which it had long been involved, for, in the past, it had been a victim of the activities of groups now of interest to the international community, and it had been one of the first countries to call on the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to arrest some of the elements implicated in the 11 September attacks. Noting that it had also repeatedly been the victim of other forms of terrorism, the most serious being State terrorism, it welcomed the fact that, aware of the seriousness of the problem, the international community was finally taking the approach it had been recommending for years. His delegation intended, in particular, to make a major contribution to the work being done with a view to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In order for that convention to be effective, it must cover all aspects of terrorism and, at the same time, provide a clear definition of terrorism and specify what would not be considered terrorism, such as armed struggle recognized by international law. Indeed, it made no sense at all to characterize such a struggle as terrorism and to place the victim and the executioner — those suffering from a form of oppression, destruction or expropriation and those inflicting it — on the same level. The best example of that was the Palestinian people, whose struggle could in no way be deemed illegitimate or terrorist by any

logic other than that of occupation and hegemony, which were the most hateful forms of terrorism.

49. His delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms but believed that State terrorism was the worst of all and, as such, must be the first to be prevented, criminalized and suppressed by the international community in accordance with international law. It continued to call for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to international terrorism in order to find ways and means of controlling that scourge and arriving at a clear definition of terrorism that would avoid any confusion with the legitimate struggle of peoples against foreign occupation and for the right to self-determination. In that connection, it reaffirmed the proposal put forward in the OIC draft text concerning article 18 of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and hoped that those provisions would be accepted, thereby eliminating one of the major obstacles to the adoption of the convention. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was proud of being a party to most of the conventions on various aspects of the suppression of terrorism, in particular, to the OIC and OAU conventions, and of having always fought against terrorism by every means and on all fronts, where necessary through strengthened cooperation with other States within the bodies created by the conventions and under bilateral agreements.

50. Lastly, his delegation hoped that an objective and lucid study would be made of terrorism and its effects and causes, and not only of its consequences. The recommendations formulated in the report of the Secretary-General containing the report of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism (A/57/273), which were rooted in an enlightened vision, might constitute an effective basis for such a study.

51. **Mr. Kone** (Burkina Faso) said that his country vigorously condemned the violent and unjustifiable acts that constituted terrorism and was preparing to become a party to all the conventions concluded in that regard under the auspices of the United Nations and to several regional legal instruments, including the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism of 1999. It had just ratified the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism recently approved at its capital.

52. Although the United Nations had neglected no areas, from the financing of terrorism to aircraft hijacking with hostage-taking to terrorist bombings, in setting legal norms to bring to book those who ordered or carried out terrorist acts like those committed on 11 September 2001, terrorists nonetheless continued to threaten, incite and operate. But terrorism was not invincible and could be effectively combated through consensus and concerted action. Rejection of terrorism should find expression in a comprehensive convention clearly defining the crime and addressing the issue in all its dimensions, taking into account the poverty and frustration that helped to sustain terrorist networks. However, it should be elaborated, not in haste, but in a calm and methodical fashion, in order to maximize the chances for success of the counter-terrorism efforts carried out under the auspices of the United Nations.

53. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin) said that, ever since the attack against its capital on 16 January 1977 by an armed group of foreign mercenaries, which had been recalled to mind by the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 on the United States, her country had not flagged in its efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms at the international level. It had therefore been quick to respond to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by immediately taking internal measures to tighten passport controls, monitor migration and collaborate with Interpol, and it had established a central counter-terrorism agency under the Ministry of the Interior.

54. With respect to the ratification of the conventions covering various aspects of terrorism, the National Assembly was currently considering the ratification of the four conventions and protocols concerning the safety of international civil aviation and of four other conventions and was also working on a new penal code that would include provisions on terrorism. Pending adoption of the new code, terrorism was treated as a form of criminal conspiracy, an offence under the existing Penal Code. In that regard, Benin hoped for a response to its request for assistance in completing that process.

55. In order to combat terrorism effectively, however, the international community could not afford to ignore its root causes, including poverty and frustration. The only way to eliminate terrorism was to counter both its causes and its manifestations.

56. **Mr. Kiwanda Putu** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that, without ignoring the need to address the causes of terrorism and to respond at all levels — political, diplomatic, economic and humanitarian — to such attacks, it was also important to strengthen the legal framework for the suppression of terrorism.

57. His country was firmly committed to combating terrorism on all fronts. It had supported all the urgent measures taken by the United Nations in 2001, including the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/1 entitled “Condemnation of terrorist attacks in the United States of America” and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) establishing the Counter-Terrorism Committee. His Government had also issued a decree creating the National Committee for Coordinating Efforts to Counter International Terrorism, which was responsible for taking the necessary steps at the national level to fulfil the obligations imposed on States by resolution 1373 (2001). In addition, it was in the process of signing the 12 conventions on various aspects of the suppression of terrorism and was preparing a bill to harmonize domestic law with the resolutions and conventions referred to and to fill gaps in domestic legislation.

58. Since his country had itself been the victim of State terrorism engaged in by neighbouring countries which had occupied its territory for four years, the Government was disposed to do everything in its power to facilitate the realization of the goal of the United Nations to promote cooperation in counter-terrorism at the international level. It was particularly crucial that the international community and the United Nations, as well as States, should cooperate fully in view of the possibility that the use of chemical or bacteriological weapons or other weapons of mass destruction for terrorist ends might increase the threat to international peace and security.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.