



# General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
3 November 2009

Original: English

---

## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Benmehidi . . . . . (Algeria)  
*later:* Mr. Böhlke (Vice-Chairman) . . . . . (Brazil)

## Contents

Agenda item 106: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

09-54611 (E)



Please recycle The recycling symbol, a triangle of arrows forming a circle.

*The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.*

**Agenda item 106: Measures to eliminate international terrorism** (*continued*) (A/64/37 and A/64/161 and Add.1)

1. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his Government was opposed to terrorism of any kind and determined to root it out. Bangladesh had ratified all 13 universal instruments related to terrorism and also the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention and Protocol on Suppression of Terrorism and had adopted counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering legislation. Committed to a regional as well as international approach, Bangladesh would in the following month be hosting a United Nations-sponsored regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism.

2. Terrorism had many facets: it could be inspired by political or religious ideologies or could be sponsored by States. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism — the early adoption of which must be the next target — must address the issue of State-sponsored terrorism. The definition of terrorism should be crafted so as not to exclude any type of terrorist activities, whether sponsored by a State or religious sect, a non-State actor or an individual demagogue. Acts of terrorism against innocent civilians were always to be condemned and their perpetrators prosecuted. A clear distinction should be drawn between terrorism and legitimate struggles for independence. Attempts to capitalize politically on anti-terrorist sentiments in order to suppress genuine popular movements, expressions of just grievances or a society's legitimate struggle for freedom and self-determination were bound to backfire.

3. No country was free from terrorism. The growing tendency to associate terrorism with certain religious beliefs was unfair and divisive, and was setting back international efforts to combat it. With a focus instead on building bridges, Bangladesh each year sponsored a General Assembly resolution on a culture of peace, which it hoped would soon gain universal support. Bangladesh endorsed the Saudi Arabian proposal for the establishment of an international centre, under United Nations auspices, to combat international terrorism, as well as the Tunisian proposal for the development of a global code of conduct on counter-

terrorism, and it favoured the convening of a high-level conference on counter-terrorism.

4. **Mr. Daou** (Mali) said that his delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was firmly committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and attached great importance to the conclusion of a comprehensive convention. His Government had taken a number of steps to further the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Mali had ratified nearly all of the international instruments related to terrorism adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Civil Defence Organization. The remaining instruments were in the process of ratification, as was the Convention on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in Counter-Terrorism adopted at the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking African Countries.

5. Mali had adopted a counter-terrorism law covering the full range of offences and had established an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate counter-terrorism activities and a national financial intelligence unit. A follow-up visit to Mali by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in February 2009 had been helpful in assessing the country's progress and the remaining challenges and needs.

6. Because no country acting alone could deal with the serious global threat of terrorism, the President of Mali had taken the initiative of organizing a conference on peace, security and development in the Sahelo-Saharan region, which would coordinate action to combat transborder banditry, terrorism and trafficking of all kinds. Better regional and international cooperation and more operational assistance to the developing countries were essential in order to combat terrorism effectively.

7. **Mr. Al-Touqi** (Oman), condemning terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, said that his country pledged its continuing support for and cooperation in the international efforts to combat and eliminate terrorism. It had acceded to 10 of the 13 universal instruments relating to terrorism and had also enacted a counter-terrorism law. A precise definition of terrorism was essential to the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on the subject. It was

also essential to identify and address the motives for and root causes of terrorism and to make a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. As for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it embodied the ongoing collective endeavour in those areas and would consequently benefit from a periodic review.

8. Terrorism was an international phenomenon unconfined to any one people, race or religion; to associate it with a particular faith or group was liable to fuel hatred and violence among cultures and religions. International efforts should therefore be stepped up to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were not only effective but also equitable. His Government favoured the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism and supported the Saudi Arabian proposal to establish an international centre under United Nations auspices to combat terrorism.

9. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that his country had succeeded in defeating a long-standing terrorist threat to its democratic heritage and its established order. As a global challenge with transnational linkages, terrorism required a compelling international response. Counter-terrorism operations meticulously carried out on the battlefield must be supported by well-coordinated international action against the multifaceted criminal networks of terrorist groups, which conducted a vast range of activities from overseas bases to sustain them on home soil. There was emerging evidence, for instance, that the remnants of the terrorist group defeated in Sri Lanka had begun to focus on related criminal pursuits such as the smuggling of persons and drug trafficking.

10. The transportation of large consignments of sophisticated arms and equipment to provide logistical support to terrorist groups threatened maritime security, and in recent years Sri Lanka had been a victim of such maritime terrorism, in the process developing new techniques to allow its navy to counter the threat. At the global level, there was a need for the amendment of existing law pertaining to the boarding and search of vessels on the high seas, and a comprehensive legal framework to address all aspects of the safety and security of maritime navigation, going beyond the current concerns about the transport of weapons of mass destruction.

11. It was urgent to complete the long drawn out negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on

international terrorism. His delegation believed that the new text of draft article 18 prepared by the Coordinator offered an excellent basis for consensus. The adoption of a convention would send a strong message that terrorists would not enjoy safe haven in any part of the world and would be brought to justice.

12. At the regional level, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), currently chaired by Sri Lanka, had taken several steps to combat terrorism: the SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, which included provisions against the financing of terrorism, had been concluded in 2008, and the Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, addressing issues of extradition, prosecution and prevention of terrorist training and financing, had been adopted in 2009.

13. The United Nations was the appropriate forum for coordinating the concerted global campaign against terrorism, supported by national and regional measures. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the various international legal instruments related to terrorism should be implemented without further delay to make it clear to terrorist groups that there would be no space for terrorism to flourish. There should be more interaction between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other programmes and agencies, and the Task Force should have a broader-based membership.

14. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group; nor should terrorist acts or counter-terrorism measures be justified on that basis.

15. **Mr. Shin** (Myanmar) said that, despite the notable body of legal instruments, both international and regional, to combat terrorism, all legal avenues must continue to be explored. His delegation appreciated the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 to finalize a draft comprehensive convention on terrorism.

16. Myanmar took an unequivocal stand against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and opposed the use of terrorism to achieve political ends. It was a party to 11 of the universal instruments and a signatory to another. It reported regularly, to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to 1373 (2001) (Counter-Terrorism Committee). It was

also a signatory to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) instruments against terrorism.

17. At the national level, its Penal Code and special legislation contained provisions sanctioning terrorism, and the sanctions were applied in practice. It had recently adopted legislation to control money-laundering and to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters; its implementing regulations, drafted with the cooperation of UNODC, met international standards. Moreover, a comprehensive law on terrorism was being drafted. Central control bodies and a financial intelligence unit provided institutional support. Myanmar was also a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

18. His country attached importance to the role played by the United Nations and regional organizations. Terrorism was a criminal activity that could be stopped only if the entire international community stood against it.

19. *Mr. Böhlke (Brazil), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

20. **Mr. Al-Muharraqi** (Bahrain) said that joint action to combat terrorism and its grave consequences was essential to ensuring regional and international security. Also essential was the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and faiths so that terrorism was not associated with certain cultures, religions, ethnicities or national groups. The measures adopted by Member States to eliminate terrorism were amply supported by the work of the United Nations system, as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/161). For its part, Bahrain cooperated closely with the counter-terrorism efforts of the international community and had acceded to 11 of the 13 universal instruments related to terrorism, as well as to the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism. It also coordinated further efforts with its fellow Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members in the context of the GCC Counter-Terrorism Agreement adopted in 2004.

21. Bahrain supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the full implementation of which was crucial, and urged the Secretary-General to continue working in a coordinated fashion with Member States and with the member entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including the Security Council's counter-terrorism-related bodies. It also endorsed the Saudi Arabian

proposal to establish an international centre, under United Nations auspices, to combat terrorism; the initiative to convene an international conference on counter-terrorism, also under United Nations auspices; and the Tunisian proposal for the elaboration of an international code of conduct on combating terrorism. Bahrain would strive to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) during its forthcoming visit to the country and to follow up on the outcomes at the national and regional levels. Lastly, it reaffirmed the need for progress towards a definition of terrorism with a view to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the current session.

22. **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia) said that his delegation viewed with concern the terrorist incidents occurring around the world despite the concerted counter-terrorism measures taken at the international, regional and national levels. Clearly terrorism could not be defeated by the use of force alone; the root causes of the dissatisfaction that led to recourse to violence against civilians and civilian property must be addressed.

23. Malaysia had strengthened its domestic legal framework to fulfil its obligations under international counter-terrorism instruments and protocols, and it continued to cooperate with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and foreign law enforcement authorities. It was a party to nine of the international conventions and protocols and was working to ratify several others. At the regional level, it had signed the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, had helped to draw up the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism in 2009, and was following that integrated Southeast Asian approach to counter-terrorism.

24. While the Coordinator's new text of draft article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had helped advance the negotiations, the overall package solution must still satisfy the legal concerns of Member States. Delegations could build on the basic principles set out in paragraph 44 of A/C.6/63/SR.14. The draft text should preserve the approach to the draft convention as a law-enforcement instrument to ensure individual criminal responsibility on the basis of an extradite-or-prosecute regime, without prejudice to the merits of dealing with the issue of State-sponsored terrorism carried out through agents. The convention must

underscore the primacy of the rule of law, regardless of the identity of the perpetrator of a terrorist act. If a high-level conference were to be held to address the broad political issues underlying global counter-terrorism, as Egypt had proposed, the negotiations on the draft convention would in no way be compromised by parallel discussion of other issues, and, indeed, a two-track discussion might ultimately yield more well-rounded solutions.

25. In implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the overarching principle must be to ensure that measures taken did not infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and that they were consistent with international law.

26. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel) observed that the United Nations, and the Sixth Committee, could take satisfaction in some important achievements in the international effort to confront terrorism, including the conclusion of a series of counter-terrorism instruments, two more of which Israel had ratified in the past year, the establishment of important coordinating bodies such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and the issuance of repeated statements of the principle that no perceived cause or grievance could ever justify the deliberate murder of civilians.

27. The terrorists themselves, however, had not been standing still. In a cynical mockery of international cooperation, terrorist groups, even those from entirely different parts of the world with entirely different agendas, had begun to work together to train operatives, trade expertise in death and cooperate in the perpetration of atrocities. Their only common bond was a willingness to murder the innocent in pursuit of their goals. The international response to that network must be renewed, resolute cooperation between States leading to practical action. Israel was pleased to have engaged in an intensive bilateral counter-terrorism dialogue with a number of States facing similar threats, and would expand that crucial cooperation.

28. Beyond that support the terrorist groups received from each other, there was the even more dangerous support they received from State sponsors; the result was that groups with no respect for humanitarian principles were empowered with military capabilities previously found only in the arsenal of some States. The international response must be forthright; sponsoring terrorism and permitting terrorist groups to act with impunity from one's territory were not among

the prerogatives of sovereignty. Even passive acquiescence to the operation of terrorist groups within one's borders, or to the transit of arms, ammunition and funding, was not being neutral, it was being an accomplice to terror.

29. Terrorism did not take root in a vacuum. Incitement to perpetrate acts of terrorism, especially suicide terrorism, fostered the kind of culture in which terrorism could flourish, and too little attention had thus far been paid to the phenomenon of incitement. The calls to address the underlying causes of terrorism were too often a poorly disguised attempt to justify the unjustifiable. Any honest discussion of the underlying factors must address the problems of incitement, extremism, intolerance and the lack of democracy, which fed a culture of hate that glorified murder as martyrdom. The fight against terrorism must focus not only on the immediate threat of weapons but also on the no less real threat posed by schoolbooks filled with vicious hatred, television programmes rife with bloodthirsty songs, and official indoctrination that dehumanized and demonized, and deprived a new generation of the possibility of even contemplating peaceful coexistence. Only by confronting extremism and rejectionism could an environment be created in which terrorism would not find fertile soil.

30. **Mr. Aboua** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, although there were still differences to be reconciled, there was cause for optimism that the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism could soon be concluded. It should be recalled that the draft convention had been designed to serve as a law enforcement instrument that would ensure that terrorists faced criminal responsibility for their acts. The text should specify the obligations of States to cooperate in preventing and suppressing terrorism, but compromise should be achieved through dialogue and negotiation. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the Egyptian proposal to convene a high-level conference on counter-terrorism; and its convening need not await the conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention, since a high-level conference could serve as an ideal forum for smoothing over the remaining differences over the draft text. Côte d'Ivoire also supported the Tunisian proposal to develop a code of conduct and the Saudi Arabian proposal to establish an international centre to combat terrorism. Terrorism was a multidimensional phenomenon; to eliminate it one must analyse the economic and social conditions likely

to engender it and take into account that the issue was closely linked to education, human rights and the rule of law.

31. His Government was ready to cooperate with any State or international organization to prevent and combat terrorism. Côte d'Ivoire was a party to 11 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was implementing Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and all subsequent resolutions related to terrorism. At the national level it was continuing its efforts to improve its own legal and regulatory framework. It had established specially trained counter-terrorism units within both the National Police and the National Gendarmerie, a national financial intelligence unit to combat money-laundering, and an information and investigation unit within the Customs Department that was alert to dangerous flows of persons and goods into the country. At the subregional level, a financial control service within the Central Bank of West African States monitored suspicious financial operations; and Côte d'Ivoire regularly took part in bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives to ensure its nation's security against terrorist threats in the subregion.

32. **Mr. Al-Ateeqi** (Kuwait) said that his delegation condemned all forms of terrorist activity, rejected extremism and violence, and affirmed the need to avoid any linkage of terrorism with religion. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism remained elusive, despite time-consuming and less than constructive discussions, particularly on an internationally agreed legal definition of terrorism, which should draw a distinction between criminal acts and the right to resist occupation and aggression, as well as the right to self-defence and self-determination. Kuwait had been among the first to call for the strengthening of intercultural and interfaith dialogue and tolerance, to advocate moderation and compromise, and to urge respect for religions and their symbols in place of the derision that fuelled hatred and in turn terrorism. It also favoured prompt implementation of all components of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with emphasis on comprehensive and non-selective follow-up.

33. As for its own counter-terrorism efforts, Kuwait had enacted a law to combat money-laundering that complied with the international standards and requirements set in that connection, including in the area of monitoring the collection of charitable

donations. On that score, the country's charitable organizations were in fact exemplary, providing humanitarian assistance without which the recipients might otherwise be driven by poverty and hunger into the arms of terrorist groups. Kuwait was eager to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism and develop methods for exchanging security information at the regional and international levels. It fully implemented the Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism and monitored and disseminated information on persons named in the Consolidated List of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

34. Kuwait supported both the Saudi Arabian proposal to establish an international centre, under United Nations auspices, to combat terrorism and the idea of convening a high-level conference on terrorism, also under United Nations auspices.

35. **Mr. Wada** (Japan) said that Japan welcomed the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an unequivocal message that the Organization and its Members were united in combating terrorism. Japan had contributed to implementation of the Strategy as one of the sponsors of the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation launched by Switzerland in 2007. Following a series of 2008 workshops organized in that framework, Japan would shortly be participating in the International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points aimed at more coordinated national and global counter-terrorism efforts.

36. The early adoption of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would significantly strengthen the common legal framework. The Coordinator had made a constructive proposal to bridge the gap between Member States, and every State should be prepared to show flexibility. As to the proposal to convene a high-level conference, Japan was of the view that the question should be taken up once agreement had been reached on a draft Convention.

37. Japan had already become a party to 13 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and had held seminars annually in cooperation with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to promote accession by other States.

38. **Mr. Laram** (Qatar) said that his delegation condemned terrorism as the gravest threat to

international peace and security and called for the systematic pursuit of a sound strategy for its elimination, consisting in a legal system founded on justice and equality, entailing no linkage between terrorism and any religion, culture or group and demonstrating impartiality, credibility and objectivity. The definition of terrorism so far drafted was regrettably flawed, since it failed to distinguish between the legitimate right to struggle for self-determination and to resist foreign occupation and acts by which innocent people were killed and civilian facilities destroyed. Under those circumstances, the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on combating terrorism was a challenging task.

39. In promoting the avoidance of violence and conflict, Qatar followed the approach of strengthening intercultural dialogue and understanding, as evidenced by its establishment of the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue. Equal treatment of all States and respect for their independence and sovereignty were similarly vital factors in addressing the main causes of terrorism. Peaceful settlement of disputes and compliance with international human rights law and conventions were also to be encouraged, in which context the media had an important role to play in broadening mutual understanding and tolerance.

40. Qatar had signed various bilateral agreements on cooperation in security, legal and judicial matters and had acceded to numerous international counter-terrorism conventions. It had also actively participated in the counter-terrorism activities of the Security Council during its term as a non-permanent member and had adopted a series of domestic counter-terrorism laws and measures, in addition to organizing and participating in relevant training courses. As recently as May 2009, for instance, it had hosted a regional workshop designed to raise awareness of legal issues in the context of counter-terrorism, human rights and related international cooperation.

41. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The fight against terrorism must be persistent and transparent and must be carried out in a framework of mutual cooperation in accordance with international norms. His Government had ratified and fully implemented the universal and regional instruments in that regard and had met all its reporting and monitoring obligations arising out of those

instruments. It was undertaking legislative reforms to ensure the effective suppression of terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

42. In order to succeed in combating terrorism, States must urgently adopt effective measures to penalize those States that justified what were clearly terrorist acts on unacceptable pretexts, improperly claiming the right of self-defence under article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The international community should promote cooperation among States to ensure that those responsible for terrorist acts, whether individuals, groups or States, were brought to justice. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy could be an important tool for combating a scourge that was undermining the foundations of civilization.

43. He recalled that 6 October had been the thirty-third anniversary of the bombing of a Cuban airliner travelling from Venezuela, which had resulted in the deaths of 73 innocent civilians. The mastermind of that attack, Luis Posada Carriles, had never been brought to justice and remained at liberty in the United States of America, where he was being prosecuted, ironically, for immigration violations. Posada Carriles had admitted his involvement; the Venezuelan Government had submitted ample proof of that involvement; and the facts had been confirmed by recently declassified reports from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

44. Luis Posada Carriles had escaped from a Venezuelan prison in 1985. The Venezuelan Government had requested his extradition from the United States in 2005 in accordance with the existing bilateral extradition agreement between the two countries. It was unacceptable that the United States continued to refuse to extradite Posada Carriles, and he reiterated his Government's request for extradition.

45. His delegation supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. State terrorism was the most reprehensible form of terrorism; it violated the principles of national sovereignty, the rule of law and respect for human rights and was therefore tantamount to genocide. A definition of terrorism must strike a balance between the right of peoples to struggle for self-determination and the quest for international peace and security. Furthermore, respect for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in domestic affairs and equal rights and self-

determination of peoples, all enshrined in the Charter, was essential for peaceful coexistence among States and for success in combating terrorism.

46. **Mr. Onemola** (Nigeria) said that terrorism was a threat to international peace and security; as a global threat it required a comprehensive global response. His delegation therefore welcomed the progress made towards the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged all States to exhibit a spirit of compromise. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy presented a welcome opportunity to fill gaps in the fight against terrorism by offering a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response. The Strategy took into account the need to address the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as poverty; prolonged unresolved conflicts; dehumanization of victims of terrorism; ethnic, national and religious discrimination; political exclusion; socio-economic marginalization; and lack of good governance. It also stressed the imperative of respecting human rights and promoting the rule of law. His delegation welcomed the review of the implementation of the Strategy and urged speedy implementation of the resolution adopted following that review.

47. Nigeria was a multi-ethnic and multireligious society; in accordance with its Constitution and State policy, its Government untiringly promoted tolerance and dialogue through the media and targeted programmes. His delegation would continue to participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Nigeria had ratified nine of the universal instruments against terrorism, and the remaining instruments were at various stages of ratification. A comprehensive terrorism prevention bill was currently before the National Assembly; pending enactment of the bill, relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Act, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act and Money-Laundering Act were invoked to prosecute terrorist offences.

48. His Government had implemented the African Union Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and in February 2007 had established pursuant to that Plan a National Focal Point, comprising the Government departments and agencies responsible for counter-terrorism, to coordinate counter-terrorism-related activities. The Focal Point

had established an internal mechanism for cooperation and coordination with a view to facilitating the sharing of intelligence and information. Robust perception management and counter-radicalization programmes were being carried out to prevent the radicalization of youth and extremism. A Cyber Working Group had been established in 2006 to protect critical infrastructure from cyberterrorism and cybercrime.

49. His delegation would continue to support the strengthening of the Organization's peacekeeping and peacebuilding capacity, mindful of the fact that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underscored that peaceful resolution of conflicts contributed to combating terrorism. In that regard, his Government had contributed both troops and financial resources to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and had supported the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, particularly in Guinea-Bissau, and the efforts of UNODC to strengthen justice, integrity and the rule of law, especially in post-conflict societies in Africa.

50. **Mr. Al-Sheikh** (Yemen) said that his delegation emphatically condemned terrorism as a serious threat to international peace and security, and one that demanded more concerted international efforts than ever to eliminate. It was a phenomenon unconnected with any ethnicity, culture or religion, including Islam, stemming instead from the fertile soil provided by such circumstances as poverty, unemployment and disrespect for human rights, not to mention a perceived lack of international justice and the pervasiveness of misguided views about others and their beliefs. That being so, terrorism would be difficult to eradicate without tackling its true causes and differentiating it from the right to resist occupation.

51. In its efforts to promote intercultural understanding, Yemen systematically pursued the path of enlightened dialogue with receptive individuals with the aim of imparting the Islamic values of tolerance, moderation and compromise. In that same vein of nipping terrorism and extremism in the bud, it had also closed down unofficial and fanatically inclined religious schools and centres in order to protect youngsters from the ideas that they propagated. It had introduced practical deterrents against the terrorist activities from which it persistently suffered, including a four-point strategy encompassing a variety of administrative, legal and institutional measures. It had furthermore enacted laws criminalizing terrorism and



concluded bilateral and multilateral agreements with relevant bodies and organizations.

52. Such efforts ate into resources that were otherwise intended for development and infrastructural projects. Yemen nevertheless reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with the international community in fighting terrorism on the basis of shared responsibility; it reported regularly to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and was a party to 12 international and regional counter-terrorism instruments. It was also committed to the current negotiations to resolve the differences in connection with the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, in particular concerning the definition of terrorism, urging greater efforts on that score in the interest of strengthening the existing legal framework. Qatar believed that all counter-terrorism endeavours would be advanced by the convening of an international conference on terrorism and it supported the Saudi Arabian proposal to establish an international centre, under United Nations auspices, to combat terrorism. Lastly, it stressed the need for comprehensive and non-selective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which should be periodically reviewed and updated in line with international developments.

53. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that visible progress had been made in international efforts to combat terrorism. In that regard, the holding in 2008 of the first International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 at its thirteenth session had made significant contributions.

54. Her delegation strongly condemned all terrorist acts, which could never be justified. At the national level her Government continued to combat the terrorist activities of illegal armed groups. Under the Justice and Peace Act, its reintegration programmes had resulted in the demobilization of 51,783 combatants since 2005, leading to a 52 per cent reduction in the number of acts of violence in Colombia. Victim compensation programmes had been expanded and provided with significant resources with a view to ensuring that victims could once again lead a normal life. Victims had the right to seek the truth, justice and full compensation and to expect that they would never again be victimized. In that regard, Colombia had accepted the recommendations made by the Human

Rights Council in the context of the universal periodic review process.

55. National efforts to combat terrorism must, however, be complemented by efforts at the international level, particularly in the areas of combating the financing of terrorism, mitigating the consequences of terrorism and eliminating illegal armed groups. International efforts to combat money-laundering, arms trafficking and drug trafficking could not succeed without a clear commitment from Member States to implement a global strategy. That strategy should include such mechanisms as exchange of information and best practices and terrorism prevention programmes. The training courses on terrorism prevention offered by the Organization as well as the International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism were positive steps in that direction.

56. Although the international community already had a significant framework of entities and legal instruments related to counter-terrorism, the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be made a priority. Her delegation favoured the convening of a high-level meeting in that regard. Discussions should focus on areas of consensus, including absolute condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the shared responsibility of all States to combat terrorism and meet the needs of its victims. Older legal instruments such as the Charter, international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law formed the essential framework for that effort and must be respected, defended and promoted as part of a clear, predictable and coherent regime against terrorism.

57. **Mr. Adouki** (Congo) said that terrorism was one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. His delegation supported all initiatives to eliminate terrorism, including efforts to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His Government had made combating terrorism one of its priorities and was working to ratify all relevant legal instruments. At the domestic level it had established in 2008 the Financial Investigation Agency, which had full powers to make inquiries of public or private institutions or individuals for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting, if necessary, those involved in transactions suspected to be related to money-laundering or the financing of terrorism. In order to ensure better coordination at the domestic

level the Agency had liaison focal points in all relevant government agencies and ministries.

58. The Agency had a mandate to establish a constantly updated database of information on suspicious transactions. It prepared quarterly and annual reports on its work and the types of money-laundering activities encountered and on recommendations to strengthen the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Its reports were submitted to the national authorities as well as to the Action Group against Money Laundering in Central Africa and the Bank of Central African States.

59. **Mr. Abani** (Niger) said that his delegation firmly condemned terrorist acts wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of motivation. His Government met all its reporting obligations pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and had hosted a visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in February 2008. At that time it had introduced a bill to include in the Criminal Code a new title on terrorism and the financing of terrorism that would include the terrorist offences defined in the international counter-terrorism instruments signed or ratified by the Niger and allow for the incorporation in domestic legislation of the pertinent provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constituted an important step forward and should be further strengthened.

60. Terrorist acts continued to occur and it was clear that the approach to combating terrorism must be constantly adjusted. While his delegation fully supported the steps already taken by the international community to combat terrorism, it believed that every effort must likewise be made to arrive at a clear and precise definition of terrorism and to address its root causes, including intolerance, despair and poverty, because terrorism thrived on injustice and inequality. Development and the eradication of poverty should be promoted in regions where conditions made certain groups willing converts to terrorism. A spirit of compromise and consensus should prevail in discussions on a legal definition of terrorism that drew a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination, in order to achieve consensus on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

61. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that terrorist attacks remained one of the most serious threats to all States and peoples. Efforts to combat terrorism should include measures to eliminate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as hunger and poverty, as well as illicit drug trafficking, which provided financing for terrorism. Her delegation therefore supported the strengthening of international drug control efforts.

62. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had been an historic event: for the first time all States Members of the United Nations had agreed on a common approach. The work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should be stepped up and made more transparent for Member States. The Task Force should be integrated into the Secretariat, and its capacity should be expanded. Her delegation looked forward to early consensus on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which could deal with issues not covered by existing instruments, and underscored the importance of including a clear definition of terrorism in the text. To date Kazakhstan had signed all 13 of the existing universal conventions related to terrorism.

63. At the national level, the relevant State bodies were working to suppress terrorist activity and had succeeded in neutralizing such Al-Qaida-linked groups as the Islamic Party of Turkistan and the religious extremist party Hizb ut-Tahrir. An inter-agency anti-terrorist centre coordinated the work of 11 law enforcement agencies and was responsible for cooperation with regional and international organizations. At the regional level, in 2009 Kazakhstan had signed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism and its agreement on training for counter-terrorism units. It welcomed the creation of Collective Rapid Response Forces in the context of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to combat terrorism, extremism and separatism. It also coordinated closely with the members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

64. Terrorism was a shared problem of the international community that no State could successfully counter on its own. Constructive cooperation among the States Members of the United

Nations would strengthen regional and international security and eliminate international terrorism in the future.

65. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that his delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; terrorism could never be justified. Since terrorism was a universal threat, measures to eliminate it must be coordinated at the international level. The United Nations, working in partnership with subregional groups, remained the best option for international action against terrorism. There was an urgent need to finalize the draft of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must include an agreed definition of terrorism.

66. To be successful, the fight against terrorism must be guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. He commended the work of the Security Council committees and bodies dealing with the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001). Since terrorism was not confined within national borders, no single nation could fight it individually. As a member of the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Uganda would share information on individuals and entities identified as having links to terrorism or in breach of Security Council resolutions.

67. The international community must address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, build States' capacity to combat terrorism and strengthen the role of the United Nations in that regard. His delegation called for support for the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia so that institutions could be rebuilt, failing which Somalia could easily become a safe haven for terrorists. A stable Somalia would be able to patrol its ports and territorial waters and contain piracy.

68. His delegation was concerned about the dumping of toxic waste off the coast of Somalia, a situation largely ignored by the international community as a local Somali problem. In addition to the obvious environmental hazards, terrorists could recycle the toxic waste to fabricate weapons of mass destruction.

69. **Mr. Gaumakwe** (Botswana) said that the United Nations and other regional and subregional organizations played an important role in supporting national, bilateral and multilateral efforts to fight terrorism. The United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC) made commendable efforts to strengthen national legal and administrative frameworks against terrorism through capacity-building workshops. His Government had hosted a subregional workshop, under UNODC auspices, on terrorism and the financing of terrorism, which had assisted it in implementing relevant Security Council resolutions and giving effect to national legislative measures to reinforce domestic controls aimed at deterring activities that could facilitate the commission of acts of terrorism. It looked forward to hosting a workshop on training for criminal justice officials in order to strengthen prosecution and reporting capability.

70. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was to be commended for its efforts to better coordinate and streamline the Organization's efforts to combat terrorism. However, the goals of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had not yet been fully attained. The challenge ahead was to address the outstanding issues identified during the review of the Strategy in September 2008 and to eliminate the duplication of mandates within the United Nations system in order to concentrate efforts on the prevention of terrorism. In addition, agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism containing a consensus definition of what constituted a terrorist act would go a long way towards strengthening the global counter-terrorism architecture.

71. **Ms. Pino Rivero** (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United States of America had failed to respond to her delegation's convincing arguments concerning the protection offered by the Government of the United States to the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles. Posada Carriles was still at liberty in the United States, merely under so-called "supervision", although under prosecution for immigration-related violations. In effect, he was free to roam the streets of Miami. The United States representative had acknowledged that Posada Carriles was accused of terrorism. The United States Government possessed sufficient proof, including the documentary evidence provided by Cuba in 1998, for the United States authorities to prosecute Posada Carriles for terrorist acts.

72. Furthermore, the previous day the United States national security archive had released documents showing that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had

identified Posada Carriles as the mastermind behind the bombing of de Aviación flight 455, resulting in the deaths of 73 persons in October 1976. Luis Posada Carriles had admitted his involvement in that bombing, as well as a series of bombings in Cuban hotels in 1997 and a plot to attack a hall in Panama where President Fidel Castro was to give a speech.

73. Her delegation stressed the importance of having the necessary political will to combat terrorism without selectivity or double standards and urged the new United States Administration to heed the calls of the international community and the families of the victims of the those terrorist acts and to act vigorously and without delay against criminals like Posada Carriles, who continued to walk the streets a free man.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*