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Chair: Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine)

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

Agenda item 105: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/67/158 and A/67/162 and Add.1)

1. **Mr. Sea** (Cambodia) said that his Government deeply regretted the recent acts of violence against the United States Consulate in Benghazi. While it sympathized with members of the Muslim community who had expressed legitimate outrage over the anti-Islamic film entitled “The Innocence of Muslims”, it condemned all acts of violence. It was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was cooperating with all countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations to that end. He welcomed the recent review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the efforts of United Nations bodies and other international, regional and subregional organizations to uphold the rights of victims of terrorism, described in the report of the Secretary-General entitled: “United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy” (A/66/762). At the 20th ASEAN Summit, held in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 April 2012 and chaired by Cambodia, the participants had endorsed the Global Movement of Moderates, which sought to drown out the voices of extremism by elevating the voices of moderation. He invited all States to join that initiative.

2. His Government had ratified all the key international counter-terrorism instruments and, in 2011, the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. It had adopted numerous laws in the areas of criminal justice, counter-terrorism, money-laundering, the financing of terrorism and arms control. It had had remarkable success in preventing terrorism and transnational crime and was implementing a policy aimed at engaging villagers and civil society organizations, including political parties, in ensuring the safety of villages and communes countrywide.

3. In addition to reforms and capacity-building for its law enforcement agencies, his Government had devoted much attention to inter-agency cooperation at the national level. It had established national committees on counter-terrorism, explosives and arms control, and maritime security and hoped to share best practices for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism with other countries. Lastly, it attached great importance to capacity-building and

would continue to cooperate with the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts.

4. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the States members of CSTO were committed to the principles of understanding, cooperation and tolerance, including religious tolerance. The emergence of new threats to global, regional and national security in the twenty-first century had increased States’ awareness of the need for a reliable system of collective security. The CSTO members would continue their efforts to promote tolerance and understanding in the international arena and to combat the spread of terrorist and extremist ideologies. They stood ready to respond to contemporary spiritual, ethical and moral challenges.

5. Conflicts stemming from political, social and inter-ethnic differences, attempts to use religion to justify terrorism and extremism, and religious intolerance and radicalism were leading to an escalation of violence around the world. CSTO supported the efforts of the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and religious leaders to promote tolerance and interfaith dialogue and called for concerted efforts to build a just, safe and prosperous world. It would continue its efforts to enhance mechanisms for cooperation among political leaders, international organizations, religious communities and civil society. In that context, it supported the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Kazakhstan, which, by joining the spiritual and moral capacities of the world’s religions, made a valuable contribution to international and regional security.

6. **Mr. Panin** (Russian Federation) said that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to peace and security throughout the world and could be eliminated only through the joint efforts of the entire international community, with the United Nations playing the central coordinating role. In particular, terrorist groups were taking advantage of instability in North Africa and the Sahelo-Saharan region to carry out cross-border recruitment and training of extremists. There was no room for double standards; terrorist acts could not be justified, whether they occurred in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Yemen or elsewhere. Talk of “good” and “bad” terrorists could set the world back decades to the era of the Cold War.

7. In order to stop the proliferation of new threats arising from the radicalization of public opinion and interreligious and intrareligious strife, it was vital for States to maintain their efforts, under United Nations auspices, to reduce the appeal of terrorist activities, curb the spread of ideologies of terrorism and violent extremism and prevent the use of the media and the Internet for terrorist purposes. There should be wide-ranging dialogue with civil society structures able to play a positive role in education, research, the fostering of tolerance and understanding between ethnic and religious groups, the promotion of human rights and the rejection of ideologies of hatred and violence. In cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), his delegation would promote partnerships with civil society as part of the Global Strategy. He hoped that the launch of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre would provide a fresh impetus to the work of CTITF and welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy.

8. His Government attached particular importance to the counter-terrorism activities of regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and CSTO. It had contributed to the drafting of the agreement on the CSTO collective rapid reaction force and the adoption of a CIS model law on countering terrorism. The organizations mentioned also conducted regular joint counter-terrorism exercises and training programmes for experts in various fields.

9. He emphasized the significant role of the Security Council in implementing the Global Strategy and expressed support for the measures taken, through the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1889 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), to help States implement those resolutions. The United Nations should continue to focus on reinforcing the legal basis of counter-terrorism efforts and should endeavour to increase the number of parties to the relevant international instruments. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, once finalized, would do much to consolidate the legal basis of international cooperation in countering terrorism. His delegation would continue to seek compromise solutions to the unresolved issues surrounding the draft.

10. **Ms. Arias Orozco** (El Salvador) said that her Government condemned all acts of terrorism, for which

there could be no justification of any kind. At the same time, counter-terrorism measures, whether preventive or punitive in nature, must always be consistent with the basic requirements of the rule of law, democracy, transparency and respect for human rights. Security should not be an end in itself but should serve as a guarantee of individual rights and freedoms; such an approach was the only way to combat terrorism effectively without diminishing human dignity.

11. Cooperation in the investigation of terrorist crimes was vital and all States, whether or not they had been directly affected, should adopt appropriate preventive and capacity-building measures. Her Government had hosted the thirty-fifth plenary meeting of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, held in San Salvador from 21 to 25 May 2012, which had addressed the issue of the prosecution of money-laundering and terrorist financing offences and had served as a forum for the exchange of experience and strategies, particularly those of a technical nature. At that meeting, her country's delegation had stressed the need to establish proper systems for the secure and prompt exchange of real-time intelligence information and the need to strengthen inter-institutional and regional cooperation to that end.

12. Her delegation attached great importance to finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the discussions on convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 should reconvene in early 2013; its efforts, combined with those of the Sixth Committee's Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, would enable further progress towards a unified international legal framework to be made.

13. **Mr. Al-Ateeqi** (Kuwait) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It must not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and efforts to combat it should address the conditions that led to its spread, such as poverty and hunger, while upholding the rule of law, good governance, peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights. Recent events had shown that incitement to hatred, racism and disdain for religion could lead to extremism and violence and destabilize international peace and security. All religions must be respected, and efforts must be made to maintain friendly relations

among States and peoples and to spread a culture of tolerance and moderation. His delegation therefore urged the adoption by the General Assembly of a pledge to respect the divine religions and their symbols.

14. His Government had ratified the majority of the international counter-terrorism instruments and numerous regional instruments, all of which had the force of domestic law. Concerted efforts by all States were needed in order to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should clearly define terrorism and distinguish it from the right of peoples to resist aggression and achieve self-determination. His Government was committed to implementing the Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism and urged the sanctions committees to be transparent in their listing of individuals and entities. He also commended the work of the Ombudsperson in implementing Security Council resolution 1989 (2011).

15. He reaffirmed the integrity and transparency of all Kuwaiti charitable associations, which should not be suspected of financing or supporting terrorism; indeed, they had recently been judged to be the most transparent in the Arab world.

16. His Government supported the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and international humanitarian law. The current events in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the daily killings of civilians and the targeting of cities and infrastructure, constituted gross violations of international law and human rights and fell within the category of State terrorism. In the interests of international peace and security, freedom and justice for all and the elimination of terrorism, the international community must ensure that there was no impunity for the perpetrators of those crimes.

17. **Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar** (Pakistan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomsoever and against whomsoever committed, along with the senseless killing of civilians in any part of the world. Pakistan was in the front line of the global campaign against terrorism and its success in that campaign, though lauded by the international community, had exacted a heavy toll: 7,000 Pakistani soldiers and policemen and over 37,000 innocent civilians had lost

their lives. His Government had deployed more than 150,000 troops along the country's border with Afghanistan and had set up more than 1,700 border posts in order to intercept members of Al-Qaida and the Taliban. It was committed to intensifying international cooperation in the ongoing campaign to eliminate terrorism.

18. Pakistan was a party to 11 international and two regional counter-terrorism instruments and had adopted a number of laws on drug and arms control, counter-terrorism and money-laundering. It was a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money-Laundering and was a party to the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Additional Protocol thereto.

19. The third review of the Global Strategy had underlined the unity of the international community on the issue of counter-terrorism. The Strategy's particular strength was that it broadened the global counter-terrorism effort by encompassing the root causes of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation and denial of the right to self-determination, and political and economic injustice and marginalization. It also addressed the unjust defamation of certain religions and communities in the context of counter-terrorism. Unfair and bigoted portrayals of Islam and hate speech against the Muslim faith exacerbated the divisions between the Islamic and Western worlds. Terrorism and extremism should not be associated with any particular religion, race, ethnicity, value system, culture or society; they required a comprehensive, long-term and multifaceted response from the international community that included dialogue among civilizations, economic development, cultural harmony and the settlement of political disputes.

20. The rule of law and due process should be respected in implementing the Global Strategy. To that end, his delegation supported continued reform of the procedures of the relevant Security Council committees. It welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the increased interaction between Member States and CTITF, whose credibility and legitimacy depended on balanced implementation of the Strategy.

21. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be adopted by consensus, which had thus far been thwarted by differences concerning, *inter alia*, the definition of terrorism and the scope of the convention, and must distinguish clearly between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of peoples living under foreign occupation. Questions of international humanitarian law should be addressed using wording appropriate to that context. The fact that the Ad Hoc Committee had not met in 2012 was indicative of real challenges in the negotiation of the draft convention. His delegation remained open to any proposal that did not compromise or constrain the legitimate right of peoples to struggle for self-determination and against foreign occupation.

22. Lastly, he reiterated his delegation's support for the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Egyptian proposal to convene a high-level conference on counter-terrorism under United Nations auspices.

23. **Mr. Advani** (India) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; no cause or grievance could justify it and a zero-tolerance approach must be taken. The scope of the relevant legal instruments must be constantly expanded in order to take into account the changing nature of the threat, and enforcement efforts should be enhanced in order to deny terrorists safe haven and cut off their financial flows and support networks.

24. His Government strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen international and regional cooperation, including the exchange of information, in order to implement the Global Strategy in an effective and balanced manner. He hoped that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre would supplement those efforts and that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be adopted.

25. As Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the "Counter-Terrorism Committee"), India had endeavoured to provide political direction, as well as greater momentum to efforts to strengthen Member States' ability to combat terrorism. The outcome document adopted at the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the adoption of

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee, held on 28 September 2011, had been a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the Committee's work.

26. India, and indeed the entire South Asian region, had suffered for over 25 years from the activities of major terrorist groups, which continued to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity. His Government had ratified the 1987 SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, the 2004 Additional Protocol thereto and the 2008 SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and was working with fellow SAARC countries to strengthen their counter-terrorism cooperation.

27. India was a party to 13 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and had adopted legislation dealing with all aspects of terrorism, including conspiracy and incitement, the financing of terrorism, the harbouring of terrorists and the unauthorized possession or use of explosives and lethal weapons. Other laws had been adopted to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists and to prevent the misuse of foreign contributions received by non-governmental organizations. The State had concluded more than 40 bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and was an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Government had established a national agency to investigate and prosecute offences against the country's sovereignty and security and had set up national systems for faster intelligence coordination on counter-terrorism and for the tracking of crime and criminals. India's financial intelligence unit had launched a project aimed at adopting best practices and appropriate technology in order to combat money-laundering and related crimes.

28. **Mr. Srivali** (Thailand) said that all terrorist acts were criminal and unjustifiable and that the perpetrators must be brought to justice. His delegation welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy and commended the work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in delivering technical assistance. The United Nations could make a further contribution in that regard by developing model legislation on the offences established in the international counter-terrorism instruments, as it had done with the Model

Legislation on Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

29. Successive Thai Governments had given high priority to countering the threat of terrorism, which required a comprehensive and concerted global response. Thailand was currently a party to more than half of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was committed to acceding to the remaining ones; indeed, it was currently in the process of ratifying the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. In addition, domestic law was being reviewed in order to bring it into line with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. His Government was also actively engaged in counter-terrorism activities within ASEAN and stood ready to cooperate at the international, regional and bilateral levels in accordance with international law and treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance.

30. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized in order to fill the gaps in the existing treaty regime and enhance efforts to bring the perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice. States must also prepare to address future developments, such as the threat of use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists; the continuing emergence of home-grown terrorism and radicalization; the spread of violent extremist beliefs among young people; and the growing threat of cyberterrorism. A finalized draft of the comprehensive convention was a prerequisite for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

31. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed in parallel with efforts to enhance the international legal regime and law enforcement. The timely establishment of a dialogue among civilizations could play an important role in that regard by increasing understanding of cultural differences.

32. **Mr. Loulichki** (Morocco) reaffirmed his country's condemnation of all terrorist acts, regardless of their motivations and by whomsoever committed. In asserting that such acts were criminal by nature, it categorically rejected any effort to link terrorism and extremism to a religion, belief or ethnic group; rather,

it supported all efforts to strengthen dialogue and understanding among civilizations.

33. While Member States had the primary responsibility for combating terrorism at the national level, the Global Strategy and related plan of action constituted the legitimate framework for dealing with it globally. His delegation was pleased with the results of the third review of the Strategy, particularly the General Assembly's affirmation of the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to assist Member States in implementing programmes of assistance and support for victims, as well as the references to the increased use of communications technologies by terrorists and the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions. It also expressed its support for and appreciation of CTITF and its satisfaction with the gradual progress in the Security Council's work in the field of counter-terrorism.

34. Morocco had long been involved in international efforts to combat terrorism and had turned its accumulated expertise into a multidimensional strategy that combined deterrent legal mechanisms with initiatives for addressing the economic, social and cultural factors that nourished extremism and violence. It had rendered its society more resilient through emphasis on the tolerant principles of Islam and on a culture of dialogue and respect for human rights and had broadened democratic participation and openness to civil society.

35. It remained clear that national efforts, however effective, were inadequate to cope with global developments in terrorism, especially when regions and subregions were beset by increasing terrorist activities financed by organized crime. Of particular concern was the area between the Arab Maghreb and Sahel regions, especially northern Mali, and its growing ties to terrorist groups in West Africa and the Horn of Africa, armed separatist movements, and drug, arms and human trafficking networks. That situation posed a threat not only to the stability of the region, but to international peace and security. The States concerned should take a resolute, participatory approach based on the preservation of State sovereignty and territorial integrity, cooperation, constructive dialogue, awareness of the overall security picture and shared responsibility. The international community and, in particular, the United Nations must

therefore move quickly to support those efforts, including within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

36. His delegation participated actively in all initiatives aimed at greater cooperation in combating terrorism, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its five working groups. The Forum was to be commended on its adoption of the Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector.

37. In the field of regional judicial cooperation, Morocco continued its efforts to promote the agreement on judicial cooperation adopted at the Fifth Conference of the Ministers of Justice of those States with a view to full implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments. It supported initiatives designed to strengthen the joint capacities of African States for countering security threats, including the annual Conference of African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean.

38. **Ms. Zarrouk Boumiza** (Tunisia) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The problems of the African Sahel, such as trafficking in arms and drugs and the emergence of new terrorist groups, constituted a threat not only to that region, but to international peace and security. The international community must therefore adopt a concerted and holistic approach, addressing the root causes of instability in the region and putting in place a comprehensive strategy for the dismantling of terrorist groups.

39. Her Government had always been committed to confronting the threat of terrorism; it had developed a national strategy to address the factors conducive to its spread while ensuring the right of individuals to dignity and prosperity. It had also adopted a number of laws designed to implement the provisions of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of updating its legislation in order to ensure that its counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering measures were consistent with the country's human rights obligations.

40. Tunisia was a party to all the regional counter-terrorism conventions: the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of

the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Combating International Terrorism. It was also a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was working to fulfil its obligations under the Global Strategy.

41. Terrorism was not exclusive to any one race, religion or nationality. Moreover, terrorists' methods were constantly evolving and their use of new communication technologies was increasing, as was cybercrime. Any counter-terrorism strategy, whether at the national, regional or international level, must take account of that trend. In addition, unilateral security measures had been shown to have limitations. The persistence of political injustice, the failure to resolve certain conflicts, economic disparities, exclusion and the defamation of religions helped to feed hatred and extremism and encouraged the indoctrination and recruitment of terrorists. Greater global efforts were required in order to ensure balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Strategy. She called for the holding of a United Nations summit in order to renew the contract of peace among peoples and curb the hatred perpetuated by certain irresponsible groups. Lastly, she drew attention to the importance of capacity-building in Member States in order to enable them to combat terrorism, money-laundering and the proliferation of weapons and to address the increasing use of new communication technologies by terrorists.

42. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that the decision to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee in 2013 had given delegations time to consider how to move forward on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. He hoped that the current session of the General Assembly would see renewed political will to finalize the draft on a consensual basis.

43. There was a clear difference between terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation, and terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, culture, ethnic group or nationality. He reiterated his delegation's support for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to address current and emerging challenges to global counter-terrorism efforts. Such a conference might help to resolve outstanding issues relating to the draft convention and thus should not depend on the conclusion of negotiations on the draft.

44. Malaysia had ratified nine of the international counter-terrorism instruments and had taken a number of measures to fulfil the obligations set out in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It was in the process of amending relevant national laws with a view to becoming a party to the remaining instruments.

45. His Government had established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), which, since its inception in 2002, had conducted more than 90 training courses, workshops and forums attended by over 3,000 local and foreign participants and had recently expanded its collaboration with other bodies, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and UNODC. The Government had also signed bilateral agreements aimed at enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation with partners both within and outside the region.

46. His delegation welcomed the recent review of the Global Strategy and stressed the need to place equal emphasis on all four pillars thereof; in order to achieve such a balance, more attention needed to be paid to the first and fourth pillars. With regard to the first pillar, relating to conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, it was often said that factors such as humiliation, despair and lack of economic development and education caused some to turn to terrorism. In that context, every effort must be made to resolve the conflict in the Middle East and to acknowledge the atrocities committed there. With regard to the fourth pillar, relating to measures to ensure respect for human rights, his Government had recently adopted a new law on security offences that sought to uphold human rights while safeguarding security.

47. In some cases, terrorism was used to pursue political agendas; by dominating the headlines and elevating levels of fear among millions of people around the world, small groups were able to wield global influence while the moderate majority, although appalled by the despicable acts of extremists and terrorists, remained silent. That situation must change. To that end, his Government had initiated the Global Movement of Moderates as a call for rational, peace-loving people of all races, cultures and beliefs to make their voices heard.

48. Lastly, his delegation looked forward to further discussions on the appointment of a United Nations

counter-terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

49. **Ms. Enersen** (Norway) said that her Government condemned terrorism, wherever, whenever and for whatever reason committed, as a serious crime and one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the starting point for all efforts to combat terrorism. Democracy, freedom of speech and other fundamental freedoms were also crucial to those efforts and dialogue was needed in order to ensure that the moderate majority, not the extremists at the fringes, could make its voice heard and have its political will realized.

50. Preventing terrorism required a comprehensive, long-term approach that made use of political, economic, legal and, as a last resort, military means. Such an approach was at the core of the Global Strategy, which her Government fully supported. The role of CTITF in implementing the Strategy must be further strengthened; her Government worked closely with the Task Force and supported it both politically and financially. The Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative, in particular, had produced positive results in terms of coordination at the country level. Her Government also supported the counter-terrorism activities of UNODC, such as building capacity in Member States' legal systems while promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights. The United Nations played an important role in promoting international cooperation against terrorism and providing a legal framework for those efforts. Nonetheless, it was the responsibility of each Member State to ensure that all the relevant international instruments were implemented.

51. CTED had visited Norway on 4 and 5 June 2012 as part of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's efforts to deepen dialogue with Member States. A broad range of issues had been covered and the discussions had been constructive and fruitful. Her Government looked forward to continuing its close cooperation with the Committee as it finalized its report on the visit. The Government also planned to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2012.

52. Lastly, her delegation hoped that Member States would demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to conclude the process of adopting a

comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In that regard, she welcomed the decision to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee in 2013.

53. **Mr. Al-Dahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its manifestations, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or States. Terrorist acts could not be justified under any circumstances. They were criminal acts against the lives and property of innocent persons and violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations; moreover, they threatened the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of States.

54. The Syrian Arab Republic, one of the first countries to suffer from terrorism, had drawn States' attention to the phenomenon as early as 1986 and had repeatedly stressed the importance of joint action by the international community to deal with its root causes and create international legal frameworks for combating it. His delegation reiterated the need for collective efforts towards a world free of terrorism, which required an approach devoid of politicization, selectivity and double standards and the development of an agreed legal definition of terrorism that eschewed all attempts to establish a link between terrorism and the struggle of peoples under occupation to exercise their right of self-determination and obtain their independence, a right enshrined in international law and the Charter and a cornerstone of the existing international order. Unfortunately, his country was currently suffering again from that scourge; armed terrorist groups had exploited citizens' legitimate demands for reform in an effort to destabilize the country through terrorist acts, which had caused great loss of life, destruction and suffering.

55. It was clear to everyone that foreign Al-Qaida elements had become active in the Syrian Arab Republic and that foreign extremists had begun to flow in to wage what they viewed as a holy war through sabotage and chaos. One Al-Qaida branch, known as the Al-Nusra Front, had claimed responsibility for a number of bombings, including the series of suicide bombings in Aleppo during the morning rush hour on 3 October 2012. Those acts, carried out in the selfish interests of certain States, were clear examples of the terrorist acts which the international community had agreed to condemn, taking action against both perpetrators and instigators.

56. His delegation had persistently emphasized the importance of the Global Strategy and the need to implement its provisions. Among those that had undertaken to do so were the very States that were harbouring, financing and arming terrorist groups to commit crimes in his country, in flagrant violation of their legal obligations and international pledges. The General Assembly must now assume its responsibility to put an end to the practices of those States since it was unacceptable that terrorism should be a tool of the foreign policy of any country.

57. Joint international efforts to counter terrorism would remain ineffectual so long as double standards were applied and a blind eye was turned to the most serious form of terrorism, namely State terrorism, which was practiced by Israel daily against the rights of the Arab people in occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan. Israeli practices constituted documented war crimes and clear examples of State terrorism, violating international law, international resolutions and human rights instruments. His delegation had tirelessly drawn the attention of the Office of the Secretary-General and all competent United Nations bodies and agencies to those practices.

58. The Syrian Arab Republic had signed and ratified 10 of the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and was considering accession to the remaining three. It was making vigorous, internationally acknowledged efforts in the area of combating money-laundering and terrorist financing: indeed, its Combating Money Laundering and Financing-of-Terrorism Commission had joined the Egmont Group and cooperated with evaluation teams. His Government had adopted important steps and legislative measures in keeping with the relevant international recommendations, including a legislative decree on banking secrecy and another aimed at compliance with the international standards on combating money-laundering and terrorist financing. In 2012, a new law on counter-terrorism and another calling for the creation of a special court to try terrorism-related offences had been adopted; both laws defined "terrorism" and set penalties for every related crime, including both terrorist acts and the provision of material or moral support to terrorism or terrorists.

59. His Government had also acceded to regional counter-terrorism conventions and concluded a number of bilateral agreements in that area. It continued to respect its commitments despite violations by certain

other parties, both Arab and regional, and would continue its earnest approach to combating terrorism in keeping with its position of principle, the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant international commitments. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism — which, despite the flexibility evinced by some delegations, had not yet achieved agreement owing to the lack of political will on the part of certain parties — would be completed and expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee.

60. His delegation reiterated its call for greater counter-terrorism cooperation and information exchange in order to cut off supply networks and prevent the arming of terrorist groups; it called on all States to honour their commitments in that regard. Encouraging ignorance and misconduct on the pretext of respect for freedom of opinion and sowing hatred among religions, civilizations and cultures could have painful consequences, as recently demonstrated in Benghazi; his delegation called instead for dialogue and peaceful ways of resolving differences. In that connection, it rejected any attempt to link terrorism to any religion, race, culture or nationality and stressed that measures taken to combat international terrorism must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, human rights instruments and international humanitarian law.

61. **Mr. Apakan** (Turkey) said that numerous social, economic, political and other factors were exploited by terrorist organizations in order to recruit supporters. Measures to prevent terrorism must cover a wide spectrum of activities at the international, national and local levels. Owing to a lack of political will or capacity, gaps in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to terrorism persisted. A uniform approach was needed in order to identify and bring to justice those responsible for terrorist acts. There must be full compliance with the 13 major international counter-terrorism instruments, which must be ratified and put into effect by all countries. All Member States must strive to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Another priority should be addressing corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through organized crime. International judicial cooperation was no less important than cooperation in security matters, and the “extradite or prosecute” principle must be paramount. In the absence of a global

convention on judicial cooperation, the United Nations should assume a more proactive role in that area. Action must be taken to deny terrorists safe haven and immunity from justice and the movement of terrorists and their supplies of weapons should be curbed through more effective border controls and improved cooperation in the exchange of information.

62. The United Nations was the linchpin of counter-terrorism efforts. In that sense, Turkey strongly supported the promotion and implementation of the Global Strategy. In order to counter the forces fuelling polarization and extremism, it was necessary to pursue dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations had been established at the initiative of Turkey and Spain in order to facilitate harmony and dialogue through the common values of different cultures and religions.

63. He drew attention to the need for closer and more effective cooperation between the General Assembly and the Security Council and welcomed the growing interaction between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and Member States. His Government intended to strengthen its own counter-terrorism efforts in the future.

64. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine) said that his Government firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation or objectives. It supported the central role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts and particularly appreciated the work of CTITF and UNODC in that regard. He welcomed the recent review of the Global Strategy and called on Member States to continue to implement it in full. Ukraine was a party to all the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and his delegation urged all Member States that had not done so to consider following suit.

65. His delegation supported the activities of the Security Council committees relating to counter-terrorism and commended the recent steps taken by the Council in order to reinforce fair and clear procedures in the United Nations sanctions regimes. He commended the Secretary-General for organizing the High-level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism, held in New York on 28 September 2012. His Government had taken a leading role in efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and promote non-proliferation

by implementing its pledge to eliminate its national stocks of highly enriched uranium.

66. His Government was continuing to improve its counter-terrorism laws and regulations. The Penal Code made it an offence not only to commit a terrorist act, but also to incite such acts or to provide related financial or material assistance; the State Committee for Financial Monitoring had entered into some 40 bilateral arrangements on those matters with its partners in other countries. In March 2011, the Government had adopted a national strategy for the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for the period 2011-2015, which was fully compliant with the Global Strategy and the country's human rights obligations. Successful counter-terrorism measures had been implemented in the context of the 2012 European Football Championship, which had been hosted by Ukraine and Poland.

67. Ukraine was a party to some 20 international counter-terrorism instruments and cooperated actively with the related efforts of many international and regional organizations and bodies, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and FATF. It cooperated in the subregion through the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. One of the most important remaining tasks was adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the proposals put forward in 2007 could form the basis of consensus. He called on all Member States to intensify their efforts to finalize the draft in the near future.

68. **Mr. Al-Haj** (Yemen) said that his country reaffirmed its position of principle: it rejected terrorism in all its forms as a plague that must be combated with the utmost resolve and force, whatever its motives. Terrorism must under no circumstances be linked to any religion, culture or nationality. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be finalized and must include a clear, broad definition of terrorism that distinguished it from legitimate resistance, which, under the Charter of the United Nations, was a right of peoples in repelling aggression.

69. His Government had ratified the majority of the international counter-terrorism instruments and, in 2012, had adopted a law approving the country's

accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Other recent steps included the adoption by the Council of Ministers, in September 2012, of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy aimed at eliminating the sources and financing of extremism throughout the country and educating the public on the dangers of extremism and terrorism; adoption of a law on money-laundering and terrorist financing that criminalized terrorist acts, attempts to perpetrate such acts and incitement to and participation in or assistance with them; amendment of the Penal Code to criminalize such participation and incitement; conclusion of a number of bilateral agreements on the exchange of counter-terrorism expertise and information; and media awareness-raising efforts to promote tolerance and moderation. In addition, a draft law on counter-terrorism aimed at supplementing the relevant provisions of the Constitution and taking into account related human rights aspects was currently before the Assembly of Representatives.

70. Despite scarce Government resources and scant international support, Yemen's armed forces and people's committees had dealt a severe blow to Al-Qaida in the Abyan, Shabwah and Al-Bayda' governorates. Its President, speaking at the current session of the General Assembly, had reaffirmed his firm commitment to uprooting terrorist elements and eliminating their sources of support and financing at home and abroad. In that context, his delegation appealed to the country's international partners in the field of counter-terrorism to support the Government's rehabilitation programme for extremists and its development projects, especially in deprived regions that offered a fertile environment for terrorism and extremism. It also called for increased logistical and technical support for the security forces and for enhanced cooperation and coordination in the field of information exchange.

71. **Mr. Tchiloemba Tchitembo** (Republic of the Congo) said that for some years, there had been growing consensus on the need to identify the political, economic and social factors that nourished terrorism; to condemn it in all its forms and manifestations; to take comprehensive and concerted action against it under the leadership of the United Nations; and to focus on the 2007 proposal relating to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. In that context, it was time to agree on a date for the

holding of a conference with a view to the adoption of the draft convention, bearing in mind that it would not be possible for the draft to accommodate all the preferences of any one delegation or regional group. All delegations must show flexibility and be willing to negotiate in order to reach consensus on key points and enable a historic decision to be taken.

72. **Ms. Lalić Smajević** (Serbia) said that her Government fully supported the Global Strategy, in particular the measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation, and all the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to counter-terrorism. It unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever, and for whatever reason committed. Serbia was a party to the majority of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was doing its utmost to implement the relevant resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It was also involved in efforts to combat terrorism under the auspices of OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

73. Her Government's strategic priority was membership in the European Union. In that context, it was working to develop national counter-terrorism initiatives and was making final preparations for a joint project with the European Union and UNODC aimed at strengthening Serbia's legal regime against terrorism, building the capacities of the relevant authorities and enhancing inter-agency cooperation, taking into account the relevant provisions and strategic commitments set out in European Union documents.

74. Her Government was also stepping up its efforts to enhance bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation against terrorism. In 2011, Serbia had hosted a workshop for South-East European Member States on countering the financing of terrorism, organized jointly by CTED, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and the Regional Cooperation Council in cooperation with UNODC. In April 2012, the Government had adopted a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). A draft law establishing a mechanism for freezing the assets of persons and entities designated by the Council was expected to be adopted in the near future.

75. Lastly, her delegation would continue to support swift finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

76. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his Government fully supported the Global Strategy and, in that connection, was in the process of drafting the country's first national counter-terrorism strategy. He welcomed the gradual institutionalization of CTITF and was pleased to note that the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate were now briefing Member States on a regular basis. The establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre was another welcome development.

77. With regard to the first pillar of the Global Strategy, Bangladesh was a party to all 14 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Government was implementing a national strategy to combat radicalization through education, the empowerment of women and the propagation of secular and moderate cultural values.

78. With regard to the second pillar, his Government had banned all terrorist groups appearing on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and was keeping a close eye on any suspicious activity. In 2012, the Anti-Terrorism Act had been adopted and the Money-Laundering Prevention Act had been updated to cover suspicious transactions and predicate offences.

79. Regarding the third pillar, Bangladesh, in partnership with CTITF, had hosted a regional workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Global Strategy in South Asia, held in Dhaka on 16 and 17 May 2012. The Government was also engaged in efforts to combat terrorism and terrorist financing through the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol and had initiated regional activities under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

80. Regarding the fourth pillar, Bangladesh was a party to almost all the international human rights

instruments and had been a member of the Human Rights Council since its inception.

81. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism must be finalized and its definition of terrorism must cover all terrorist acts, whether sponsored by States or non-State actors. A distinction must be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples against colonial domination and foreign occupation and for the right of self-determination. Any attempt to associate terrorism with a particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group should be avoided. The root causes of terrorism, including economic disparities and deprivation, political subjugation and exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts and climatically induced loss of livelihood, must be addressed. The United Nations should steer both global discourse and global action in combating terrorism. National capacity-building, proper application of the rule of law and the administration of justice, and the training of personnel, especially in the least developed countries, should be high on its agenda.

82. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and religious extremism. Its foreign policy was aimed at promoting democracy, secularism, freedom, human rights, good governance and social justice, a culture of peace and non-violence, interfaith and intercultural dialogue and ethnic and religious tolerance. It would continue to work towards the Millennium Development Goals, sustained economic growth, the empowerment of women, and education and job creation for all and would strengthen its legal and institutional regime to combat the causes of extremism and terrorism.

83. **Ms. Tijerino** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, to which its own people and Government had fallen victim. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, nor could membership in such groups be used to justify terrorist acts. Her Government, while rejecting terrorism, was concerned that the “war on terror” was being used as a pretext for attacks that violated the human rights or took the lives of thousands of people. Despite the international community’s efforts, the number of terrorist attacks was increasing year after year — hundreds had taken place in 2012

alone — and the methods used were ever more sophisticated and left behind ever more victims. The international counter-terrorism effort must be coordinated and transparent and must be kept within the bounds of international law and international humanitarian law. She condemned the double standards of certain countries, which, while claiming to support the eradication of terrorism and vaunting their counter-terrorist activities, were themselves harbouring known terrorists on their territory and supporting terrorists in foreign countries. Such immoral acts could no longer be ignored.

84. Much remained to be done; the international community should agree on a clear definition of terrorism rather than using the subjective ideas of certain countries or persons to justify criminal acts. It was regrettable that Governments which claimed to respect the Charter of the United Nations and human rights still would not agree to include State terrorism, which was still committed with impunity in the majority of cases, in the definition of terrorism. Having been a victim of that type of terrorism for many years, Nicaragua was particularly sensitive to the issue.

85. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that all countries bore a joint responsibility to protect current and future generations from the menace of terrorism through effective regional and international cooperation. Afghanistan had been struggling against terrorism for more than two decades. In the past 11 years it had made important progress in consolidating democracy, promoting and protecting human rights and enabling millions of children and adults to enrol in school. Thus, it was becoming a country fully in charge of its own future. Nonetheless, peace and security had yet to be realized and terrorists, funded and equipped from sanctuaries outside the country, continued to attack its people from all walks of life. Thousands of Afghan soldiers and officers had been killed and many more had been wounded in terrorist attacks or counter-terrorism operations.

86. Counter-terrorism efforts were a key component of the national security strategy, and thousands of terrorist plots had been averted. Yet the severity of the challenges which Afghanistan faced were such that its enemies were still able to conduct attacks and prevent stabilization of the situation in the country. Nonetheless, steps were being taken to implement the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments to which it was a party.

87. He welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy and stressed the need to pay appropriate attention to all four pillars thereof. In addition, full compliance with resolutions relating to counter-terrorism, including General Assembly resolution 49/60 and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), was vital. His Government had submitted its national reports on the implementation of those resolutions and fully supported the work of the relevant Security Council committees and of CTITF and CTED.

88. He welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which would help to consolidate cooperation and build State capacity. With regard to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, increased cooperation was needed in order to resolve outstanding issues so that the text could be finalized swiftly. It was also important to convene a high-level conference on counter-terrorism under United Nations auspices in order to formulate a joint, effective response to terrorism.

89. **Mr. Aljadey** (Libya), said that after years of efforts by the international community, including those of the General Assembly and the Security Council, to combat terrorism and eliminate its causes, it was clear that it had increased in intensity and that its causes had become even more diverse; it might be wondered whether those efforts had been inadequate and whether the means employed had been ineffectual. International effort was certainly necessary, but continual reassessment was important in order to remedy any shortcomings. In that regard, the Committee afforded an excellent opportunity for delegations to hear others' concerns and learn from their viewpoints. The reports of the Secretary-General under the agenda item (A/67/158 and A/67/162 and Add.1) provided valuable information and indicated many useful measures whose implementation required further discussion with a view to the creation of appropriate mechanisms.

90. Libya had passed through difficult circumstances; having been a source of anxiety and instability for decades, its dictatorial regime had been replaced, through a popular revolution, with a democratic State that would be a source of stability in the region and the world. The former regime had recruited and armed thousands of foreign nationals to serve as mercenaries in its security forces, using them to quell any uprising of the Libyan people. After the fall of that regime, many of those mercenaries had returned to their

countries with all their weapons and materiel and had begun to threaten those States, and indeed the entire region, by rebelling against the central authorities, cooperating with terrorist groups in the Sahel and Sahara region and engaging in cross-border crime, including arms and drug trafficking and illegal migration.

91. Clearly, the decades-long existence of a Libyan State without proper institutions and rule of law was still a source of concern. The Government was making every effort to change that situation and had made great strides along those lines. Now that the General National Congress charged with forming an elected Government and drafting a permanent Constitution had been elected, it was hoped that that process would be accelerated.

92. Libya would spare no effort in upholding all its international commitments concerning counter-terrorism and considered cooperation with the countries of the region to be the cornerstone of such efforts. In March 2012, it had hosted a regional ministerial meeting on border security, at which the Tripoli Plan of Action on combating arms and drug trafficking, illegal migration and terrorism had been adopted.

93. The killing of the American Ambassador and his three colleagues in Benghazi was grievous and reprehensible in the eyes of the Libyan people and Government and in no way reflected their convictions, their culture or their religious and moral values. His Government was committed to bringing the culprits to justice.

94. **Mr. Al-Dahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in light of the fraternal relations between his country and the United Arab Emirates, the latter's representative had spoken inappropriately at the previous meeting, going so far as to mention the Syrian Arab Republic in an extremely provocative manner in the context of remarks on Israeli terrorism. Those words reflected an incorrect and superficial assessment of the regrettable events that his country was experiencing; moreover, it involved a faulty reading of his Government's positions of principle in combating terrorism. He reminded the representative of the United Arab Emirates that, at a time when the Syrian Arab Republic was providing full support and assistance to his Government, the Israeli Government was carrying out acts of terrorism,

including the murder of the Palestinian, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, within the territory of that sister State.

95. When the United Arab Emirates had been seeking to grant the Taliban movement membership in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and had opened an embassy for it in Abu Dhabi, the Syrian Government had opposed the representation of the Taliban in the international community, and specifically in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The validity of that position from the counter-terrorism standpoint had subsequently become clear to all.

96. With regard to the remarks made by the representative of Kuwait at the current meeting, he would have liked to see that representative deliver a statement on action taken by the Kuwaiti Government to put a stop to the mobilization of funds and people for acts being carried out in broad daylight by Salafist and Takfirist organizations, some of which were represented in the Kuwaiti Parliament. Those campaigns, organized under the banner of “jihad”, constituted interference in Syria’s affairs and in matters to be decided by its people alone and contributed to the spread of terrorism and violence in Syria, from which everyone suffered. It was regrettable that what was taking place in his country should be treated in such a manner by the representative of Kuwait, a country in whose liberation the Syrian Arab Republic had taken part.

97. **Mr. Al-Ateeqi** (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his previous statement had drawn on a number of international reports, including those of the Human Rights Council. The perpetrators of the human rights violations to which he had referred should not be left unpunished, regardless of their identity. His Government was committed to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. It therefore lent no support whatsoever to either party to the conflict in question.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.